

November 18, 1988

Professor L. M. Falicov
Department of Physics
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Professor Falicov:

Your review of the Pons/Fleischmann proposal, "The Behavior of Electrochemically Compressed Hydrogen and Deuterium," has been forwarded to the authors for a rebuttal. Their response is enclosed. In the correspondence, you are being referred to as Reviewer #4.

It will help us in deciding whether or not to support the proposal if you could provide us with your comments on the rebuttal. Do you believe, based on the totality of the arguments offered in the proposal and in the rebuttal, the proposed project should be supported?

Your response, by return mail if possible, will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ryszard Gajewski, Director
Division of Advanced Energy Projects
Office of Basic Energy Sciences, ER-16

Enclosures

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Reviewer's Report to the Department of Energy
Proposal by Prof. Stanley Pons
University of Utah
The Behavior of Electrochemically Compressed Hydrogen and Deuterium

This is a truly maverick proposal; it is also an outstanding one.

It proposes to study the feasibility of obtaining nuclear fusion in Deuterium by electrochemical compression in a Pd electrode.

There is some very interesting and high-class electrochemistry involved here. And, even though the probability of finding the ideal conditions of particle density / temperature / volume / lifetime is very small and the chances of success remote, the possible pay-off is so large that support in small scale to this project should be given.

Both principal investigators seem to have the necessary qualifications to carry out high-quality research and to be able to judge their results coolly and impartially.

It is a long-shot, with small probability of success. But it involves good science and the remote possibility of enormous pay-off.

Recommendation: support the research on a one-time-only basis. (No renewal unless positive results are CLEARLY obtained)

Reply to reviewer #4

We would like to assure the reviewer that we fully understand the outrageous nature of our proposal. This is why we spent considerable personal funds to try to obtain some preliminary evidence that the concepts were worth pursuing.

Thank you for your support!

We need one clear year of experimentation after the apparatus is assembled (about 6 months), basically due to the fact it will take about this long to saturate the large rods with D_2 . We therefore think that the feasibility question could certainly be answered within 18 months.