



November 14, 1988

U.S. Department of Energy
Dr. R. Gajewski ER-16
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874

Dear Dr. Gajewski:

We are now enclosing our replies to the Reviewers #1 to 5 of our proposal "The Behavior of Electrochemically Compressed Hydrogen and Deuterium". As some of our replies to Reviewer #1 and one reply to Reviewer # 3 are relevant to some of the comments made by other Reviewers, we are attaching spare copies where appropriate.

We were very glad to be able to have the extended conference call with you last Monday. During this call you raised with us the question as to what our intentions might be regarding publication and we equivocated. Perhaps we should explain to you that we approach this project with a mixture of excitement, skepticism, and trepidation. Trepidation because of the following scenario: just suppose that the project is successful, then how would one react to the ready production of neutron sources using easily available laboratory components? Clearly, controls might have to be imposed. However, we are quite sure also that if we are successful, then others may stumble on such a device. Because of this we are naturally concerned that it should be us (us and U.S.) who should get there first.

The questions to be raised are complicated by a further issue. A first assessment of a likely device indicates that there might be no defense application but one can soon see that this is not necessarily so. This problem was approached obliquely by Reviewer #5 in his question #4 and we did in fact allude to the problems in an obscure (deliberately so) way in item #6 of the section "Discussion and Proposed Plans" of the proposal. Clearly this item might raise issues of national security and we would prefer not to carry out any research at this stage on such defense-related topics. However, we are quite willing to discuss the modification of nuclear devices which might be used to test our hypotheses--admittedly under rather different conditions than the ones we have primarily in mind. This would constitute rapid, if expensive, tests of our proposal.

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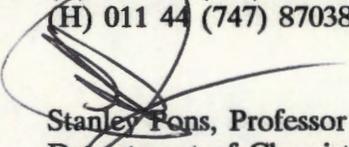
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We hope that the comments will satisfy the Reviewers so that we may be able to proceed with this work. We look forward to hearing from you. Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Martín Fleischmann

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