

To: Physics Division Staff and ATLAS Users

From: Don Geesaman, Physics Division Director

As you probably have heard, Congress has not passed appropriation legislation for the Department of Energy Office of Science and we are currently operating under a continuing resolution. One of the scenarios being discussed would be to extend the continuing resolution to the end of the year, and the FY07 operating funding of ATLAS and the low energy experimental program would be the same as in FY06, which indeed represented a cut from FY05. In contrast, the FY07 appropriation bills which emerged from the congressional committees included the President's American Competitiveness Initiative with a \$500 million increase for the Office of Science and a substantial increase for ATLAS.

We have been asked to provide an analysis and a contingency plan for operation under a constant budget at the FY06 level. I feel I should share this with you. Many of you are receiving mailings about the corresponding impacts at other DOE facilities, including JLab and FNAL.

After productive operation this fall, ATLAS is currently undergoing a major maintenance period which includes an upgrade of the capacity of our liquid helium cryogenics systems in preparation for the ATLAS Energy upgrade. This shutdown is scheduled to be completed in mid-February. Under a constant budget at the FY06 level, the contingency plan we sent to DOE involves a shut down of ATLAS, warming up to room temperature for the remainder of the year. This would be accompanied by major reductions in travel and all other expenditures. Progress on CARIBU would likely be delayed by about six months.

At present this is a contingency plan, and any decision to act on it will only be made with great care. We have a serious responsibility as a national user facility to deliver beam for the community. One of our issues for FY07 is that we chose to support the science program by running an extra 1500 hours in FY06, knowing that we were planning significant shutdowns for upgrades in FY07.

The administration and Congress have expressed considerable bi-partisan support for investment in the physical sciences. I do remain optimistic that these unfortunate budget scenarios will not come to pass and am ready to try to answer your questions, though we will know little more for certain until Congress acts.

Don Geesaman
Physics Division Director
geesaman@anl.gov