

Notes from the UEC

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This was an important year at the NSLS. Several meetings and workshops were held to gather user input on the specific requirements they would like to see at the proposed new light source, NSLS-II. The Department of Energy has indicated its likely support for this project, and a strong application has been submitted. We hope this proposal will soon be approved, enabling design work to begin soon. The construction of NSLS-II is critical to the future of great synchrotron-based science in the Northeast and worldwide, and we must support this effort in every way we can.

In this critical period, the Users' Executive Committee (UEC) will have two significant responsibilities: First, and of immediate importance, we must ensure that the existing NSLS continues to run reliably so that we can maintain scientific excellence. Second, we must educate our elected officials on the importance of NSLS-II for enabling new science that cannot be done today, in order to ensure that NSLS-II will become a reality. These two key goals will define the direction of the UEC for 2005 and beyond.

The NSLS Annual Users' Meeting, held May 17-20, 2004, was a great success, with more than 390 participants. Scientists came from all over the country and overseas to attend our annual gathering, including an exciting main meeting and eight excellent workshops. The meeting was a sign of the continuing vitality of NSLS users and their research.

In 2004, safety issues continued to demand attention at the NSLS and other facilities. In the wake of the serious electrical accident at SPEAR3 in October 2003, increased attention to maintaining safe operations is absolutely necessary. The UEC, NSLS administration, and the NSLS Scientific Advisory Committee are committed to improving and refining NSLS safety guidelines and assisting with implementation. Our goal is that the NSLS safety record will match its long history of great scientific achievement. The NSLS user community is a large and remarkable group of scientists from some of the world's greatest universities and corporations, and the NSLS has

been an essential resource for us for two decades. In that light, I know that we will pull together to make the NSLS as safe as possible.

Additionally, we must use the current and upcoming budget constraints as an opportunity to demonstrate the value of the NSLS to the Department of Energy (DOE) and our elected officials. I hope you will join me in these efforts so that these key decision-makers will see the NSLS as we do: as an extraordinary and productive facility, and an indispensable component of science in the Northeast and beyond.

