

Dr. Thomas Ludlam
Physics Department
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Building 510A
Upton, NY 11973-5000

Dear Dr. Ludlam:

Enclosed is the report of the Science Review of the Heavy Flavor Tracker (HFT) detector upgrade proposal held at Brookhaven National Laboratory on February 25-26, 2008, together with a document containing excerpts from individual reviewer reports.

The scientific merit of the proposed research on D meson production by the STAR collaboration was deemed to be important by the review panel. The HFT detector upgrades have the potential for making high quality measurements that could yield significant physics results. The feasibility of many measurements not associated with D mesons or the RHIC spin program identified in the HFT proposal are yet to be demonstrated through simulations. Consequently, the impact of the D meson program on its own may be limited.

The report identifies two recommendations which require your timely response so as to not negatively impact the path forward for implementation. In addition, a Research Management Plan needs to be developed and communicated to this office to ensure that the HFT upgrade has strong commitments from STAR researchers to enable quality measurements in the first year of the operation of the HFT. A delay in the development of the Research Management Plan will delay the timing of a technical review.

Based on the peer review results, the STAR collaboration has proposed a scientific program for the HFT that has sufficient merit and significance to move forward in the planning of the HFT project. The Office of Nuclear Physics staff looks forward to

working with you in defining a path forward towards the initiation of the HFT project.

Sincerely,

Eugene A. Henry
Acting Associate Director of the
Office of Science for Nuclear Physics

Enclosures

cc: Steven Vigdor, BNL
Michael Holland, BHSO