

Special Report

to

The Inspector General, DOE

on

Dr. P. L. Mascheroni's "Q" Access Authorization

by

DOE Los Alamos Area Office

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NAS's review of the ICF program commissioned by the Secretary of Energy." It should be noted that Mascheroni did not sign the July 21, 1989 letter from the LANL which stated the he would not receive pay for his work during the NAS review. In addition DOE never stated to him that DOE will not pay his work for the NAS. It is also clear that the DOE used the NAS report which used Mascheroni's work, and all the participants were paid.

Determination and Recommendation


On September 1984, LANL decided to terminate the CO2 Antares program without evaluation in the long pulse multiline regime in favor of the Aurora KrF target shooter program. Mascheroni had a theory developed several years earlier showing that high efficiency multiline lasers could have significant advantages over the low efficiency short wavelength approach to fusion. Muellers data in the long-pulse, double-line Antares experiments confirmed Mascheroni's theory. Mansfield believed that Antares could reach energies at the same level as NOVA today. Hence, Mascheroni, Mansfield, and Mueller were a natural team. LANL made a decision which proved to be in error, namely, to pursue only the KrF Aurora laser and to destroy Antares without evaluation. The reasons for this decision were given in the memo of March 24, 1986 by Associate Director Browne: That ICF funding should go to the KrF Aurora target shooter program and that the Antares hall space was needed for CTR. Both programs have been cancelled, and the data from the Japanese HF laser, Mueller's long-pulse experiment, and Centurion-Halite support Mascheroni's case. This is consistent with the fact that the Canavan panel recommended funding for the Mascheroni/HF program. However, the LANL ICF management opted to pursue only the KrF Aurora target shooter program and the X-Division Management chose to fire Mascheroni, before the Canavan panel issued its recommendation, regardless of whether HF could receive funding.

Thus LANL used false reasons to RIF Mascheroni. This was discovered in Laboratory grievance hearings, where the hearing officer recommended deletion of all the RIF-related memos about Mascheroni. Wilson and Henderson brought trumped-up security issues against Mascheroni and put false information into the security system. After he was RIFed, they pursued security through OS and the LANL OS-Division Leader put security flags on Mascheroni's file that would bring about the suspension of his access. Because of the nature of this false, derogatory information from LANL management, DOE decided to suspend Mascheroni's access without following guidelines. After a successful review of his proposed program by the Canavan panel, Mascheroni was blocked from pursuing funding through DOE. While

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Mascheroni tried to pursue HF funding from a lower level job at the Lab, with his access suspended, any RIF meant termination for him, not only from the Lab, but also from ICF. Without a job and with suspended access, Mascheroni helped to generate the request by Congress for the ICF review by the NAS. His technical input helped to correct LANL's error in pursuing the KrF/Aurora target shooter. By cancelling the KrF Aurora program, the nation now has a better ICF program than it had a few years ago. Unfortunately, considerable funds were lost with this mistake. In the process, Mascheroni earned the respect of the ICF community with his defense of the HF laser technology without funds or access. In a field which is 90% classified with only one major funding agency, however, the security issue produced by false information and the conflict with LANL has been devastating for him. Furthermore, during the national ICF review, under such conditions, it was impossible for the NAS to perform a thorough evaluation of the HF/Mascheroni proposal. This fact hurts the credibility of the national ICF program, especially because it has become evident that Mascheroni is a first class scientist.

Currently, the NOVA Upgrade program at LLNL is under fire because of Mascheroni's objections to this low efficiency, expensive, short wavelength technology that cannot afford the punch to reach ignition and low gains. Regardless, of the funding limitations, the ICF program would be better off incorporating a technology that could reach those higher energies economically due to the fact that it has, historically, been short of energy. The correct solution is evident in Mascheroni's case. DOE should reinstate his clearance immediately because the information used to suspend it was false, in order for him to continue the scientific discussion on a legitimate level. In view of the fact that there are no show stoppers for his HF proposal, but a lack of institutional support, DOE and Congress should help Mascheroni with funding for this program. DOE should pay Mascheroni for the work he has already done during the NAS review, in view of the fact that DOE severed his salary for nearly 4 years by suspending his access. His work has been of consistently high quality and has been very useful in the preparation of the NAS report and, thus, to DOE. The very slow administrative remedies will take care of rest. Certainly, the alternative--to force him out of our nation because of false information pertaining to security and his scientific skills--is the worst alternative.


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