

LIGO-M010351-00-M

May 21, 2001

Dr. Victor Cook
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National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 1015
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Dear Vic

Enclosed is the final report of the LIGO Review Panel for the NSF Review of LIGO, conducted at Caltech on April 30 – May 2, 2001. The final report represents the consensus views of the panel and these views were unanimously agreed to by all members of the panel. The focus of the review was on the technical progress of detector installation and commissioning and on the data analysis system for the LIGO project.

All committee members will receive copies of the final report but any further distribution is under the control of the Foundation.

Since the last review, the LIGO Scientific Collaboration has played an increasingly significant role in the continued development of analysis software. As LIGO moves from its construction phase to an operating scientific laboratory, the LSC is now responsible for the science that comes from these exquisitely sensitive observatories. As a result the Committee recommends that a copy of the final report be officially forwarded to the Collaboration Spokesperson, Prof. Rai Weiss.

The locking of the full configuration of the 2 kilometer interferometer at the Hanford Observatory and the expected first lock of the full configuration of the 4 kilometer interferometer at the Livingston Observatory in the very near future bodes well for early science from LIGO. The panel feels confident that the first science runs with all three interferometers operating in coincidence will take place early in 2001.

On behalf of the panel, I want to thank you and your colleagues for making our job as easy and pleasant as possible. Please express our thanks also to the LIGO team for their clear and complete descriptions of their progress on the commissioning of LIGO and the implementation of their acquisition plan for their data acquisition and analysis system.

Sincerely yours

Don Hartill
Professor of Physics