Fusion Power Associates

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To the Editor
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If Science wishes to publish essays criticizing the U. S. Fusion Program, it should at least insist the author does not base his criticisms on fusion power plant designs completed in 1975 and 1991, as cited in the article. None of the data quoted are valid today. Fusion power plant designs today are not "20 m in major dimensions" but less than 10 m.

Projected cost of electricity is not "far outside the competitive cost range" but nearly competitive with the cost of coal plants in Europe today. Fusion temperatures have been reached and surpassed in the laboratory by several methods. While there is much engineering/technology development still required for commercial fusion, there is every reason to believe that fusion can compete in a future marketplace.

For the past decade, however, the U. S. Department of Energy has insisted that the fusion technology effort be drastically reduced in favor of fusion physics research. Hopefully, one day the U. S. government will wake up and fund fusion engineering development at a rate that will allow success in a reasonable amount of time because, at some unpredictable point in the not too distant future, the world is going to need all the energy sources it can find, including fusion.

Stephen O. Dean, President
Fusion Power Associates
Gaithersburg, MD 20879