

August 25, 2021

**TO:** Brenda Murdoch, Chair NRSP8  
Jack Dekkers, Incoming NRSP8 Chair

**FR:** Doug Buhler, NRSP Review Committee Chair



The NRSP Review Committee reviewed your July 29, 2021, correspondence as your submission of a NRSP8 Transition Plan. This was a supplement to the original midterm review white paper, as it was not included, as requested, in the initial project renewal approval for NRSP8 in 2018. The supplement described several on-going activities that NRSP8 is exploring to provide alternative funding. To be clear, while the NRSP Review Committee was impressed with the scientific accomplishments, the Committee was disappointed in the lack of progress in response to the 2018 charge and the dearth of plan details. Nevertheless, the NRSP Review Committee will recommend to SAES directors at the Fall Annual Meeting that the remaining two years of NRSP8 budget continue as originally approved based on the scientific progress.

If NRSP8 submits a renewal, it must adhere to the new NRSP Guidelines (<http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/NRSP-GUIDELINES-NRSP-RC-Two-Track-FINAL-20200824.pdf>) in their entirety. Most importantly, the NRSP Review Committee expects the associated renewal budget for the entire proposed project period to be reflective of a significant infusion of alternative funding sources such that the budget request is significantly reduced based upon the above efforts outlined in the Transition Plan. This would start with the initial budget year and continue for each of the remaining years.

As previously stated, NRSP8 has a high level of innovation and productivity in this second project period. The NRSP Review Committee has clearly acknowledged and appreciated your scientific performance. However, the NRSP Review Committee firmly reiterates the need to secure alternative funding to support NRSP8 activities in the future. If there is a renewal project, the budget from beginning to termination must request significantly reduced funding.

If you have any questions, please ask.

**C:** NRSP8 AAs (Archie Clutter, John Kirby, Steve Lommel, Noelle Cockett)  
NRSP8 Review Committee (Mark McGuire, Steve Lommel, Matt Wilson, Shirley Hymon-Parker, Mike Schmitt, Don Latham, Bret Hess, Tom Bewick, Jeff Jacobsen)