

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

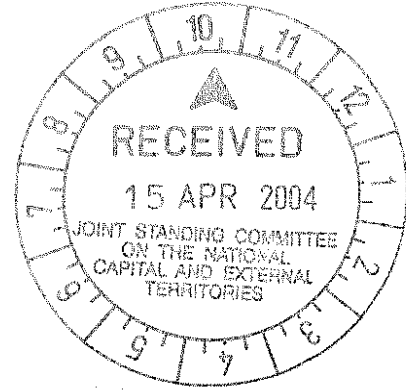
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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

April 1, 2004



OFFICE OF POLAR PROGRAMS

SUBMISSION ..... 26 .....



13 APR 2004

Ross Lightfoot KSJ JP  
The Commonwealth Parliament  
Joint Standing Committee on the  
National Capital & External Territories  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Senator Lightfoot,

Attached please find a copy of a presentation I made recently in Canada, which addresses many of the questions posed in your recent letter to me (undated).

Supplementing this attachment, I offer the following additional comments about the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP).

- My office within NSF is responsible for overall management of the USAP.
- The research we support is carried out by scientists at universities and other non-governmental research institutions (a small fraction of U.S. Antarctic research is separately supported and carried out by employees of other federal agencies, such as NASA, but always under NSF auspices).
- Much of our on-ice logistics support is provided by private firms under contract to NSF. Heavy life Air transport is provided under NSF management and oversight by the Air National Guard and the Air Force. Twin Otter and helo support is provided by private firms.
- The operations and logistics budget is separate, but decisions re funding are made in consultation between our science and logistics sections. As the Director, I allocate the annual budgets and adjudicate any differences between the science and logistics sections.
- Our policy is to reserve 2/3 of our annual research budget for "new" projects, i.e., for projects that would result from newly submitted proposals.

I hope you find this to be adequately responsive to your inquiry. I would be happy to answer any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl A. Erb".

Karl A. Erb  
Director

Attachment: PowerPoint presentation to Canadian Workshop.