

James F. Decker

Principal Deputy Director, Office of Science

James F. Decker is the Principal Deputy Director of the Office of Science (SC) in the Department of Energy (DOE). He has held this position since 1985, and has concurrently served as Acting Director for approximately six years on five separate occasions between April 1987 and March 2002. As Principal Deputy Director, Dr. Decker is the senior career executive who directs the day-to-day technical and management activities of an organization that is the third largest Federal sponsor of basic research in the United States and is viewed as one of the premier science organizations in the world. The SC fiscal year 2002 budget of \$3.3 billion funds programs in high energy and nuclear physics, basic energy sciences, magnetic fusion energy, biological and environmental research, and computational science. SC, formerly the Office of Energy Research, also provides management oversight of the Chicago and Oak Ridge Operations Offices, the Berkeley and Stanford Site Offices, and the ten DOE nonweapons laboratories. Dr. Decker has held several other positions within DOE. In 1973 he joined the Office of Fusion



Energy, Office of Energy Research, as a plasma physicist. He subsequently became the Director of the Division of Applied Physics, where he was responsible for all theoretical fusion and basic experimental plasma physics research, the magnetic fusion energy computer network, and evaluation of novel fusion concepts. Dr. Decker later served as a Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Energy Research, and as the Director of the Scientific Computing Staff. Before joining DOE, Dr. Decker was a physicist at Bell Telephone Laboratories where he conducted research in plasma physics and worked on ion implantation for integrated circuit development. He received a B.S. degree from Union College in 1962, a M.S. degree from Yale University in 1963, and a Ph.D. in physics, also from Yale University, in 1967. Dr. Decker has received several awards from DOE as well as two Presidential Meritorious Rank Awards. He also is a member of several high-level domestic and international science policy advisory committees. Dr. Decker was born near Albany, New York. He is married and has two children.