

What's up with the Senior Review?

OR:

Has Michael lost his mind?

MOST IMPORTANT POINTS

- Preparations for the Senior Review should **not** stop.
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So what's got Michael bothered?

- There are a number of features of the current acquisition approach that are...um...er...highly unusual:
 - Grants were issued following the 2004 NRA. Then new grants were issued after the Senior Review. Yet another new set of grants would be issued after the upcoming Senior Review
 - That would make *15 years* without open competition.
 - Grants are supposed to be issued for research (mostly) but AFAIK, performing research is not the primary goal of the nodes.
 - Grants are not supposed to have deliverables yet here we all sit... and every month I am emailed score cards, *etc.*
 - Grant budgets are usually fixed for the term of the award at the time of award. The nodes participate in the annual PPBE.

So what's Michael going to do?

- **Moved to next Monday**
At 1:00 PM (PST), Michael, Bill, Ed, and Tom will be having a teleconference with NASA HQ's Office of Procurement (Veronica Lansey) and the Office of the General Council (Vincent Salgado) to see what is legally possible.
- It's not likely that any major change will come out of this, for now.
 - It's quite possible that the terms of the awards coming from the up-coming Senior Review will be shorter than 5 years and that a more open competition will have to be held.
 - Grants? Cooperative agreements? Contracts? Stay tuned.

Questions?

Applause? Brickbats? Rotten Fruit?