

## Regents Information Item

In May, 1948, the Regents of the University of Michigan resolved that "*the University of Michigan create a War Memorial Center to explore the ways and means by which the potentialities of atomic energy may become a beneficent influence in the life of man, to be known as the Phoenix Project of the University of Michigan.*" Construction of the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Project (MMPP) laboratory was completed in 1951. The Ford Nuclear Reactor became part of the project when it went critical in 1957 and served researchers until it was deactivated in July of 2003.

Since the establishment of MMPP, significant progress has been made in putting atomic/nuclear energy to use for peaceful purposes. Today nuclear science is used routinely in medicine, engineering, geology, anthropology, and a host of other fields, to advance knowledge and improve the human condition. Such progress notwithstanding, two major challenges embodied in MMPP remain as relevant and intractable today as they were in the late 1940s: the need for a viable, long-term energy policy and the continued need to find ways for people and nations to live together peacefully.

To assure that its WW II memorial remain a relevant and lasting tribute to those who fought and gave their lives during the War, the University will refocus the mission of MMPP to include research on the development of energy sources and energy policies that will promote world peace, the responsible use of the environment, and economic prosperity. In doing so, it is envisioned that MMPP will become the coordinating center for research activities from a variety of disciplines that are presently dispersed across multiple schools and colleges. Research areas will include energy generation from sources such as nuclear, hydrogen, solar, wind, and geothermal, as well as energy storage, energy management, and energy policy. Research perspectives will continue to encompass the natural and social sciences, engineering, medicine, and the arts and humanities.

The broadened MMPP mission is recommended by an *ad hoc* committee with representation from the campus energy research faculty. The Executive Committee of the MMPP has reviewed and endorsed the action.