Feder, T., *DOE Warms to Cold Fusion*. Physics Today, 2004. **April**: p. 27.

DOE Warms to Cold Fusion - Summary

Physics Today reports on the 2004 DOE cold fusion review panel. The author apparently doubts that cold fusion is real. Here is the first paragraph:

"The cold fusion claims made in 1989 by B. Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann didn't hold up. But they did spawn a small and devoted coterie of researchers will continue to investigate the alleged effect. Cold fusion diehards say their data from the intervening 15 years merit a reevaluation – and a place at the table with mainstream science. Now they have the ear of the US Department of Energy."

The author quotes chemist Allan Bard:

"The critical question is, How good and different are [the cold fusion researchers'] new results?" says Allen Bard, a chemist at the University of Texas at Austin. "If they are saying, 'We are now able to reproduce our results,' that's not good enough. But if they are saying, 'We are getting 10 times as much heat out now, and we understand things,' that would be interesting."

That author fails to note that Bard's standard is unprecedented, unheard of, and contrary to common sense and the traditions of science. If this standard had been applied to previous discoveries such as electricity, photography, transistors or cloning, these discoveries would never have been accepted. These discoveries, along with most others, were at first very difficult to reproduce and they did not produce practical levels of output (or useful products) until they were accepted by other scientists, researched and improved.

See:

http://www.physicstoday.org/vol-57/iss-4/p27.html