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Although the Council of the APS has the final responsibility for Physical Review C, the Council has delegated some of the responsibilities to its Publications Oversight Committee, to the Editor-in-Chief, and to the Editor of the journal. The journal has an Editorial Board whose members are appointed for three-year terms by the Editor-in-Chief upon recommendation of the Editor, after consultation with the APS Division of Nuclear Physics. They advise the Editor on editorial matters.

Editorial policy is guided by the following statement adopted in April, 1995 by the Council of the APS:

It is the policy of the American Physical Society that the Physical Review accept for publication those manuscripts that significantly advance physics and have been found to be scientifically sound, important to the field, and in satisfactory form. The Society will implement this policy as fairly and efficiently as possible and without regard to national boundaries.

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In addition to regular articles, Physical Review C publishes Rapid Communications, Brief Reports, and Comments. These are limited in length; five printed pages for Rapid Communications, four for Brief Reports, and two for Comments and Replies. Short Paper sections may not be used for serial publication.

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A Comment is usually sent to the authors of the work to which the Comment refers for their opinions. If these authors consider the Comment useful, we usually publish it. If they feel that it should not be published or if they recommend revisions before publication, they should not regard themselves as anonymous referees. Their opinions will be sent over their signatures to the authors of the Comment and, when appropriate, to an independent referee.

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**EDITORIAL GUIDELINES**

Papers must contain new results. The question occasionally arises whether confirmation of previously published results justifies publication of a manuscript. This depends on the importance of the measurement, whether there has been a controversy involving the earlier measurement or other measurements by the same authors, the length of the manuscript (a Brief Report may be acceptable where a long article is not), whether the repetition is a small part of the manuscript or all of it, and whether the same authors have previously published similar information. Material previously published in a Letters journal, as a Rapid Communication, or in a Conference Proceedings is acceptable for publication in
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Submission of a manuscript is a representation that the manuscript has not been published previously and is not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. If the Editors find that this is not the case, the manuscript is considered withdrawn and will not be considered further by Physical Review C.

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transmitted by the Editors to the authors, and so should be written in a collegial manner. The Editors may withhold or edit these reports for cause. If in the judgment of the Editor a paper is clearly unsuitable for Physical Review C, it will be rejected without review; authors of such papers have the same right to appeal as do other authors.

Authors may request that a particular person or that people at a particular institution not be chosen as referees. We usually honor such requests although we try to give authors whose work is criticized in a manuscript an opportunity to respond to the criticism. Authors may suggest a list of experts whom they consider especially suited to referee their paper. Such a list is particularly welcome when a manuscript treats a highly specialized subject on which we rarely publish papers.

Authors may request that their identities not be revealed to the referees (‘‘double-blind’’ reviewing). If such a request is made, it is the authors’ responsibility to furnish a copy of the manuscript without the authors’ names, addresses, and the acknowledgment section.

Any resubmittal should be accompanied by a summary of the changes made, and a brief response to all recommendations and criticisms. This material will normally be forwarded to reviewers, and so should be written in a collegial manner. Remarks that authors wish to address solely to the Editors should be clearly identified and separated from the summary and response.

If the authors conclude, after having made efforts to respond to the criticisms of a referee, that they and the referee cannot agree, they may request that the paper be sent to a second referee. If the Editors agree to this request, the second referee will be sent previous correspondence on the manuscript, but not the identity of the first referee. Sometimes the Editors decide to consult a second referee or a member of the Editorial Board even if the authors do not request it.

Occasionally authors request that we accept a manuscript in spite of the adverse comments of the referee. Since the referees are chosen because of their familiarity with the subject matter of the manuscript, they are usually better qualified than the Editors to evaluate its scientific merits. The authors must persuade the referee, not the Editors, that a paper should be accepted. We do not publish manuscripts without a favorable recommendation from a referee. However, the Editors do not necessarily accept a referee’s recommendation to publish a manuscript. They may obtain the opinion of another referee or a member of the Editorial Board in cases, for example, where a referee has questioned important points in the paper or has said that the quality of the work is poor or marginal, or where questions of editorial policy have arisen.

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Authors may appeal a rejection of their paper by the Editor. In the case of a formal appeal, the paper and all relevant information, including the identities of the referees, will be sent to a member of the Editorial Board. The Board member may review the case on the existing record or may seek additional expert opinion. The Board member will present a signed advisory opinion to the Editors.

If a Board member has provided a referee report on a paper prior to appeal, another Board member must review the paper on appeal. Authors may suggest those Board members they feel are appropriate (or not appropriate) to conduct the review, but the Editors are not bound by such suggestions. If there is no suitable Board member available, the Editors may appoint an appropriate scientist to consider a paper under appeal as an ad hoc Board member.

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**DATE OF RECEIPT**

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