



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 6, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR INES R. TRIAY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

FROM: GLENN S. PODONSKY
CHIEF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICER
OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

SUBJECT: Review of Allegations of Retaliation
for Raising Safety Issues at the Waste Treatment and
Immobilization Plant

We have received your memorandum dated July 30, 2010, regarding Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of River Protection Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP) located at the Hanford Site in Richland, Washington. As we had discussed and agreed upon, the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) will conduct a management review of nuclear safety concerns to evaluate the processes in place to collect, track, evaluate, and correct identified nuclear design and engineering safety concerns and issues for WTP. The review will also examine the condition of the work environment to determine whether it encourages the reporting of nuclear safety issues by all employees, including workers, engineers, supervisors, and managers. The review will be conducted in accordance with DOE directives, including DOE Order 470.2B, *Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance Program*, which establishes the foundation for the Independent Oversight Program. Field work is anticipated to be completed in early September with a final report to be issued in late September.

The Preliminary Review Plan is attached and includes the schedule, major milestones, and scope and team composition. I have designated Dr. Patricia Worthington, Director, Office of Health and Safety, as the team leader for this important review. The full team will be onsite next week for a scoping visit and for final preparation for the review. Information gathered during the scoping visit will be used to complete and issue the final review plan by August 20, 2010. The open and ongoing communication regarding the coordination and status of activities between the Office of Environmental Management and HSS at both the senior management and staff levels will continue throughout this review.

We look forward to working closely with you as we conduct the Management Review of Nuclear Safety Concerns at WTP. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly or you may contact Patricia Worthington, Director, Office of Health and Safety, and Team Leader at 3-5926 if you have any questions or want a more detailed discussion on any aspects to the planned management review.

Attachment

