



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 28, 2008

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SUBJECT: Special Review of Workplace Monitoring, February 2008

To facilitate improvements across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex, the Office of Independent Oversight, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security, periodically conducts special reviews of select environment, safety, and health programs. The attached report provides results from a special review of non-radiological workplace exposure monitoring based on evaluations performed at eight sites during the period January 2006 to June 2007.

As discussed in the report, requirements within DOE for assessing, documenting, and controlling workplace exposures have been mostly unchanged since 1995. In February 2006, DOE published 10 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program*, which incorporated workplace monitoring requirements previously included in DOE Order 440.1A, *Worker Protection Management for DOE Federal and Contractor Employees*. Although all sites reviewed were aware of the workplace monitoring requirements and had established a work control process for the identification of workplace hazards, much work remains to meet the requirements and expectations of 10 C.F.R. 851.

The review found that increased attention is needed in the performance and rigor of baseline exposure assessments for both existing and planned work. Several sites did not have sufficient policies, procedures, or guidance to ensure that workplace monitoring data was incorporated into work control documents. Many exposure-related documents contained errors, lacked a defensible technical basis, and were not easily retrievable. In addition, the requirements for sub-contractor workplace exposure monitoring were not clearly defined or monitored at the work activity level.



This report provides examples of both strengths and weaknesses in workplace exposure monitoring programs along with several opportunities for improvement that can help strengthen site compliance with the worker safety and health program rule.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 903-3777, or your staff may contact Thomas Staker, Director, Office of Environment, Safety and Health Evaluations, at (301) 903-5392.

Attachment: *Independent Oversight Special Review of Workplace Monitoring, February 2008*

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