

From: Charles Swartwood [mailto:Charles.Swartwood@trade.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2010 12:55 PM
To: Secretary, The
Cc: Kerry, Cameron
Subject: Special Master Investigation

Hon. Gary F. Locke
Secretary of Commerce
thesecc@doc.gov

Re: Special Master Investigation

Dear Secretary Locke:

This is a brief interim report of my proposed process for and progress to date of my investigation, as Special Master, of complaints previously identified by the OIG and sent to me for review.

First, my two legal assistants and I have reviewed the relevant OIG case files.

Next, I have contacted all complainants and/or their counsel to schedule interviews in connection with each of these complaints. To date, I've conducted one interview and have scheduled several more over the next two weeks. Three complainants are located outside of New England (Virginia, North Carolina, and Oregon). I have contacted one of these complainants, who has agreed to come to Boston to be interviewed and have sent letters to counsel for the other out of the area complainants to discuss arrangements for interviewing their clients.

Fairly soon, I expect to receive for review additional case files from the OIG which it received during its investigation but which were not included in its September 2010 Report. Once I've reviewed those case files, I will request relevant documents from both complainants and NOAA. After a review of the documents, I'll schedule interviews with complainants and relevant NOAA personnel.

Once I've completed these tasks, I will then prepare my report.

Very truly yours,

Charles B. Swartwood, III

Cc: Cameron F. Kerry, General Counsel
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