

From: DOECAST [mailto:DOECAST@hq.doe.gov]
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Subject: Personnel Notification Alert

Due to an attack on an unclassified Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration computer system, personal information of approximately 1,500 DOE Federal and contractor employees was unlawfully obtained from that system. This theft of information began in June of 2004 but was not discovered until more than a year later.

DOE officials contacted appropriate law enforcement authorities when the intrusion was discovered, and DOE has fully assisted those authorities with their investigation. Because the criminal investigation is still ongoing, we are unable to provide any further details about the incident or the investigation at this time. However, the law enforcement authorities involved have authorized DOE to notify affected employees of the misappropriation of their personal data. Personal information that was unlawfully obtained includes names, social security numbers, level of security clearance, when that clearance was last updated, and a code identifying where the affected individuals worked.

The individuals affected by this act of theft were primarily employees of DOE contractors, but approximately 68 Federal DOE employees were affected as well. DOE is taking steps to directly inform all impacted Federal employees, as well as the relevant DOE contractors so that they can notify their affected employees immediately. We hope to have all notifications sent out by Monday, June 12, 2006. The notification from DOE will also include information that explains how to ensure that personal information has not been misused.

DOE's computer systems are attacked thousands of times a day, and the Department is taking aggressive steps to improve cybersecurity and minimize the potential that electronic information can be compromised or stolen. We very much regret any inconvenience this unlawful attack on the Department's computer system may cause any member of the DOE family.