The Deputy Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 6, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTAL ELEMENTS

FROM: DANIEL B. PONEMAN

SUBJECT: Quarterly Notification of the Department of Energy's Differing Professional Opinion Process

Department of Energy (DOE) Order (O) 442.2, *Differing Professional Opinions for Technical Issues Involving Environmental, Safety, and Health Technical Concerns*, was issued on July 29, 2011. This Order requires that all DOE employees (including contractors and subcontractors) be notified quarterly of the Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) process to ensure that they are aware of the process, including the DPO Web page address and the contact information for submitting DPOs.

The DPO process may be used by all DOE employees, including DOE contractors and subcontractors, for technical issues related to environment, safety, and health. Most issues can be resolved through routine discourse and processes and this DPO process is not intended as the first step to report concerns or to be used as a way around those local processes. Employees should first use those local processes, including discussions with management, review and comment processes, local Employee Concerns Programs, and local DPO processes or the equivalent to bring attention to the concern. However, if the routine work processes do not adequately resolve a concern or an issue, the employee should submit the concern to this DPO process. We have recently had real-world examples of employees invoking the DPO process under DOE O 442.2 to raise technical issues, resulting in the identification of valid and important concerns which needed to be addressed. This in turn can help the Department more effectively achieve its missions. DOE commends employees who step forward to ensure technical safety concerns are fully reviewed.

The DOE DPO Web page, found at http://www.hss.doe.gov/nuclearsafety/qa/dpo.html, lists the DPO Managers to whom DPOs should be sent, depending upon the scope of the issue. In addition, the Web page provides an online DPO submittal process. Alternatively, DPOs may be e-mailed or mailed to the DPO Managers identified on the DPO Web page, also included on the attached table.

I am requesting that Heads of Department Elements ensure that all of your employees, including those in the field, receive a copy of this memorandum or inform me of what alternate process was used to ensure each employee was informed of the DPO process. Because of the importance of this matter, I am also issuing this memorandum via the DOE DOECAST system.

If you have any questions regarding the DPO process, you or your staff may contact Mary Haughey at (301) 903-2867, or by e-mail at mary.haughey@hq.doe.gov.

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Table of Assigned DPO Managers				
	If your DPO involves…	***Submit your DPO to…***	***By email to…***	***Or by mail to…***
For National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) facilities	Any NNSA facility	Don Nichols	don.nichols@nnsa.doe.gov (202-586-3885)	Don Nichols, Associate Administrator Safety and Health National Nuclear Security Administration U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20585
For DOE Office of Science (SC) facilities	An SC hazard category 1, 2, or 3 nuclear facility[1]	Carol Sohn	carol.sohn@pnso.science.doe.gov (509-375-2320)	Carol Sohn, Chief of Nuclear Safety Office of Science U.S. Department of Energy P.O. Box 350, MS K9-42 Richland, WA 99352
	An SC facility *other than* a hazard category 1, 2, or 3 nuclear facility	Kelli Markham	kelli.markham@science.doe.gov (301-903-6800)	Kelli Markham, Director Environment, Safety and Health Division Office of Science U.S. Department of Energy 19901 Germantown Road Germantown, MD 20874
For DOE facilities under the Office of the Under Secretary of Energy[2]	A nuclear facility	Ray Furstenau	fursterv@id.doe.gov (208-526-0193)	Ray Furstenau Deputy Manager for Nuclear Energy U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403
	A facility *other than* a nuclear facility	William Eckroade	william.eckroade@hq.doe.gov (202-287-5403)	William Eckroade Principal Deputy Chief for Mission Support Operations Office of Health, Safety and Security U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20585
For DOE facilities under the purview of the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security other than NNSA facilities[3]	A nuclear facility *other than* an NNSA facility	Richard Lagdon	chip.lagdon@hq.doe.gov (202-586-0799)	Richard Lagdon, Chief of Nuclear Safety U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20585
	A non-nuclear facility *other than* an NNSA	William Eckroade	william.eckroade@hq.doe.gov (202-287-5403)	William Eckroade Principal Deputy Chief for Mission Support Operations Office of Health, Safety and Security U.S. Department of Energy

[1] See Title 10 Code of Federal Register Part 830, *Nuclear Safety Management*, for the definition of nuclear facility. See DOE-STD-1027-92, Change Notice 1, *Hazard Categorization and Accident Analysis Techniques for Compliance with DOE Order 5480.23, Nuclear Safety Analysis Reports,* for the definitions of hazard category 1, hazard category 2, and hazard category 3 nuclear facilities.

[2] Office of the Under Secretary includes facilities and activities under the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Office of Fossil Energy, and the Office of Nuclear Energy.

[3] Office of Environmental Management and Legacy Management facilities

	facility			1000 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20585
***For DOE facilities* other than *under the purview of SC, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, or Office of the Under Secretary of Energy*[4]**	All facilities	William Eckroade	william.eckroade@hq.doe.gov (202-287-5403)	William Eckroade Principal Deputy Chief for Mission Support Operations Office of Health, Safety and Security U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20585

[4] i.e., All other DOE facilities