



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 16, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR THOMAS P. D'AGOSTINO
ADMINISTRATOR
NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

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

SUBJECT: Fundamental Classification Guidance Review

In reply, please refer to HS92-10-N1-0073.

Executive Order (E.O.) 13526, *National Security Information*, which was signed by President Barack Obama on December 29, 2009, establishes requirements for classifying, safeguarding, and declassifying National Security Information. This E.O. became effective on June 29, 2010. The E.O. requires each Agency to complete, on a periodic basis, a "comprehensive review of the agency's classification guidance, to ensure the guidance reflects current circumstances and to identify classified information that no longer requires protection and can be declassified." Each agency's initial comprehensive review of classification guidance must be completed by June 29, 2012.

The Office of Classification, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security, has examined all current Department of Energy classification guides (including joint guides shared with other Executive Branch agencies) and has determined that over 2,500 topics require review as a part of the comprehensive look at National Security Information (NSI) classification. This Fundamental Classification Guidance Review (FCGR) is an opportunity to take an in-depth look at why and how NSI is



protected, and whether it should be exempt from a future automatic declassification. With a critical and in-depth review of NSI classification guidance, the Department will ensure necessary protection is retained and that information that doesn't require protection will be characterized as unclassified and be made available to the public as appropriate.

The Office of Classification has developed an execution strategy in order to complete these reviews, which will begin with formation of a Steering Committee to guide the overall conduct of the review. Over the next 18 months, Subject Area Working Groups will be formed to complete the detailed review and analysis within approximately fifteen Subject Areas across the current NSI classification guidance topics.

Because of the importance of the FCGR, I am asking that you provide a senior staff member, who possesses a breadth of experience (technical expertise, operational experience, or experience in classified programs) to participate on the Steering Committee, which is expected to meet no more frequently than once every two or three months for the duration of the FCGR. I ask that your staff member nominations be identified to Andrew P. Weston-Dawkes, Director, Office of Classification, no later than November 15, 2010.

Additional questions may be directed to Dr. Weston-Dawkes at (301) 903-3526.

cc: Michael L. Ulshafer