

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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August 22, 2013

The Honorable Gregory H. Friedman
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Friedman:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Wednesday, July 24, 2013, to testify at the hearing entitled "Department of Energy Oversight: What is Necessary to Improve Project Management and Mission Performance?"

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions by the close of business on Thursday, September 5, 2013. Your responses should be mailed to Brittany Havens, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to brittany.havens@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachments

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield

1. Since 90 percent of the DOE's budget is spent on contractors, it is clear that oversight of contractors is an important responsibility of the Department. **You mention in your testimony that improvements are needed to ensure that federal staffing is sufficient to provide effective contract and project oversight, is that correct? What impact has sequestration had on the ability of the DOE to provide sufficient staffing for improving oversight of contractors? Will proposed cuts in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill further complicate the ability of DOE to continue to improve contractor oversight?**
2. The Presidential directive reducing DOE employee travel by 30 percent will go a long way towards saving taxpayers money. However, it seems that most trips—about 85 percent—are taken by contractors. **Is it true that the DOE could save up to \$15 million per year by reducing contractor travel by 30 percent? What changes would need to be made to realize these savings?**