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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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August 22, 2013

David C. Trimble  
Director of Natural Resources and Environment Team  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Trimble:

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](mailto: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 Tim Murphy

1. During the hearing, you expressed that GAO may disagree with DOE about how robust the requirements under directive 413-B are. Would you please elaborate GAO's view on DOE's requirements for cost estimating at critical decision points in project management?

### The Honorable G. K. Butterfield

1. In your testimony you mentioned situations where workers at National Nuclear Security Administration facilities have been reluctant to raise safety problems for fear of retaliation. **Does this problem remain? Has the DOE taken sufficient steps to change the procedure of reporting safety concerns? Are adequate whistleblower protections in place for DOE employees and contractors?**
2. You mention in your testimony that DOE has implemented most of the recommendations made by GAO and you highlighted a number of those. **In your opinion, will the reorganization of the DOE with a renewed emphasis on management continue to uphold the GAO's recommendations and improve management and contractor oversight?**