

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

March 23, 2016

Admiral Richard W. Mies
CEO
The Mies Group, Ltd.
10505 Beaver Pond Court
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Dear Admiral Mies:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, to testify at the hearing entitled "DOE for the 21st Century: Science, Environment, and National Security Missions."

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 with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Friday, April 6, 2016. Your responses should be mailed to Greg Watson, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Greg.Watson@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

Attachment

Attachment — Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Tim Murphy

1. Your New Foundation for the Nuclear Enterprise report recommends amending the relevant statutes to clarify that the Secretary “owns” the nuclear enterprise missions. One essential provision of DOE Organization Act maintains that the Administrator of the NNSA is subject to the Secretary’s “authority, direction, and control.”
 - a. Would you please explain how your recommendations will enhance the Secretary’s “authority, direction, and control” over the person (whether the Administrator or a newly created Director of Nuclear Security) responsible for executing the nuclear security missions for the Department of Energy?
 - b. A complaint has been that NNSA’s statutory semi-autonomy has impeded communications across DOE components. Explain how your proposed structure would enable fuller communication?
2. Under the NNSA Act, the limitation on the Secretary’s delegation authority effectively prohibits the exercise of authority, direction, or control by non-NNSA DOE personnel.
 - a. Would you explain whether or not you agree the statutory limitation on the Secretary’s delegation authority impedes or potentially impedes the Secretary’s ability to ensure sound and effective management?
 - b. To the extent you believe this is an impediment or potential impediment, please explain how your recommendations address this or otherwise enhance the Secretary’s ability to ensure sound and effective management of the Department.
3. Under the current set-up, NNSA has its own mission support offices, which your report indicates contribute to duplicative DOE mission support and separate lines of direct accountability and reporting either to the Secretary or to the Administrator. Would you explain specifically what is necessary to reform the mission support functions of the Department to ensure more effective and efficient support of the Secretary’s legal, security, management, and oversight responsibilities?