



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 8, 2023

Mr. Devin Deathridge
President
East Tennessee Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
109 N. Bertrand Street
Knoxville, Tennessee 37917

Dear Mr. Deathridge:

This letter serves as notification of the Office of Enterprise Assessments, Office of Enforcement's decision to conduct an investigation into the facts and circumstances associated with a worker's fatal injury that occurred when the worker was struck by a tree branch during clearing operations on August 11, 2023, at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Reservation Central Training Facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. After the event occurred, the worker was hospitalized, provided life support, and later succumbed to the injury on August 18, 2023. The DOE Oak Ridge National Laboratory Site Office - Reservation Management reported this event into DOE's Occurrence Reporting and Processing System under SC-RsMg-ORNL-ETMC-99G-2023-0001, dated August 22, 2023.

The Office of Enforcement will conduct this investigation pursuant to the authority set forth in 10 C.F.R. § 851.40(a), *Investigations and inspections*. Although investigating the fatal injury will be the general purpose of this investigation, additional issues relating to the scope, nature, and extent of compliance by East Tennessee Mechanical Contractors, Inc., with DOE's worker safety and health requirements specified in 10 C.F.R. Part 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program*, may be pursued as issues arise during the course of the investigation. The investigation will include an onsite visit and interviews with contractor personnel.

Any requests for documents to support this investigation will be provided separately via one or more e-mails. Your cooperation to ensure timely submission of all documents is appreciated.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (301) 903-4033, or your staff may contact Ms. Shannon Holman, Director, Office of Worker Safety and Health Enforcement, at (301) 903-0100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony C. Pierpoint".

Anthony C. Pierpoint
Director
Office of Enforcement
Office of Enterprise Assessments



cc: Johnny Moore, SC-OSO
John Shewairy, SC-OSO