



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 19, 2024

Mr. Garrett Harencak  
President  
Mission Support and Test Services, LLC  
Nevada National Security Site  
232 Energy Way  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Dear Mr. Harencak:

This letter serves as notification of the Office of Enforcement's decision to conduct an investigation into the facts and circumstances associated with the Mission Support and Test Services, LLC (MSTS) June 2, 2023, indoor experiment that involved the planned detonation of an explosive test article inside a clear polycarbonate RF Boom Box containment vessel (containment vessel), which resulted in the unanticipated destruction of the containment vessel and minor damage to other items in the room at the National Nuclear Security Administration, Nevada National Security Sites' Special Technologies Laboratory (STL) located in Santa Barbara, California. MSTS management at the STL did not report this significant safety event to the Facility Manager until March 16, 2024. MSTS reported potential noncompliances associated with this event into the Department of Energy's (DOE) Noncompliance Tracking System under NTS-NA-NFO-MSTS-CO-2024-0010977, dated August 1, 2024.

The Office of Enforcement will conduct this investigation pursuant to the authority set forth in 10 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 851.40(a), *Investigations and inspections*. Although investigating the destruction of the containment vessel and delayed reporting of the event will be the general purpose of this investigation, additional issues relating to the scope, nature, and extent of compliance by MSTS 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 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 by the requested date is appreciated.

For covered contracts according to 41 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 4301 and under the Major Fraud Act (MFA), as amended, (41 U.S.C. § 4310), this investigation may be a proceeding commenced by the United States that relates to a violation of, or the failure to comply with, a federal regulation. Costs incurred in connection with such a proceeding are subject to the reimbursement restrictions of the MFA implemented at 48 C.F.R. § 31.205-47. As a result, any costs incurred that are directly attributable to supporting

DOE's investigation should be tracked, subsequent to receipt of this letter, and segregate them from other potentially allowable costs.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me at (301) 903-7707, 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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

cc: Barry Thom, Mission Support and Test Services, LLC  
David Bowman, NA-NV