



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 12, 2024

Dr. James S. Peery
Laboratories Director
National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC
Post Office Box 5800, MS-0101
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185

Dear Dr. Peery:

This letter serves as notification of the Office of Enforcement's decision to conduct an investigation into the facts and circumstances associated with unplanned worker doses from radiation that was emitted during a June 5, 2024, experimental tritium shot at the Z Machine, which is located in building 983 at Sandia National Laboratories.

The Office of Enforcement will conduct this investigation pursuant to the authority set forth in 10 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 820.21, *Investigations*. Although investigating the unplanned worker doses at the Z Machine will be the general purpose of this investigation, additional issues relating to the scope, nature, and extent of compliance by National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC with DOE's nuclear safety requirements specified in 10 C.F.R. Part 820, *Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities*, 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 segregated from other potentially allowable costs.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact me or your staff may contact Mr. Jacob M. Miller, Director, Office of Nuclear Safety Enforcement, at (301) 903-7707.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. C. Pierpoint', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

cc: Daryl Hauck, NA-SN
Maria Braem, National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC