Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

FEB 13 2009

Sharon Theimer
The Associated Press
1100 13th Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

Re: FOIA-2009-000070

Dear Ms. Theimer:

This is in final response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552. You asked for copies of correspondence between the DOE and Steven Chu that are maintained in three specific correspondence folders of the Office of the Executive Secretariat. The correspondence folders you identified were: 1) EXEC-2005-007251; 2) EXEC-2005-007644; and 3) EXEC-2007-004762.

A search was conducted of the files of the Office of the Executive Secretariat. The search identified the enclosed documents as responsive to the request. The documents are provided to you in their entirety.

Your letter did not state a willingness to pay fees associated with processing the request. Fees to process the request, however, did not exceed $15.00, the amount at which the Department assesses fees. Therefore there are no fees associated with processing this request.

Your letter did, however, request expedited processing of the request. Since we are providing you with a final response within the 10 calendar days allotted to provide a response on whether to grant or deny expedited processing, a decision is not necessary in this case.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter. If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact me at (202) 586-3159.

Sincerely,

Alexander C. Morris
FOIA Officer
Office of Information Resources

Enclosures

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Index

EXEC-2005-007251

1. Letter to The Honorable Samuel Bodman, Secretary of Energy, from Steven Chu, Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, dated July 18, 2005. Subject: Draft memorandum. 1 page. FOIA-2009-000070

2. Letter to Dr. Steven Chu, Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, from Rosita Parkes, Chief Information Officer, DOE, dated August 8, 2005. Subject: Draft memorandum. 1 page. FOIA-2009-000070

EXEC-2005-007644

3. Letter to The Honorable Clay Sell, Deputy Secretary, from Steven Chu, Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and representatives of other laboratories, dated July 18, 2005. Subject: Draft memorandums. 3 pages including fax cover sheet. FOIA-2009-000070

4. Memorandum for distribution from Rosita Parkes, Chief Information Officer, DOE, dated August 8, 2005. Subject: Draft Memorandum – Responsibilities of the Department's Chief Information Officer. 2 pages. FOIA-2009-000070

EXEC-2007-004762

5. Letter to The Honorable Samuel Bodman, Secretary of Energy, from Steven Chu, Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Robert Rosner, Director, Argonne National Laboratory, and Jeff Wadsworth, Director, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, dated April 30, 2007. Subject: Exaflops. 2 pages. FOIA-2009-000070

6. Letter to Dr. Steven Chu, Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, from Samuel Bodman, Secretary of Energy, dated May 31, 2007. Subject: Exaflops. 1 page. FOIA-2009-000070

2005-007251 7/19/2005 10:03 AM

(1)

Steven Chu
Director

July 18, 2005

The Honorable Samuel Bodman
Secretary
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

On July 12, I was pleased to join Bruce Alberts and Ralph Cicerone and talk with you about energy issues. I was also gratified that you want to make the Department of Energy operations more effective and that you welcomed our input.

You may recall that we touched briefly on the Information Technology (IT) area. Since returning home I have learned about a draft memo to Deputy Secretary Sell which proposes to transfer line management responsibility for IT to the Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO), bypassing DOE program and site offices, lab contractors and lab management for all IT in the Department. This approach would be counter to the philosophy that I believe we share--giving Lab Directors the responsibility for managing cybersecurity effectively, and holding us accountable to the highest standards of performance. There are several IT issues in addition to cybersecurity that are causing all of the Office of Science Lab Directors great concern.

When we spoke on the 12th I wasn't aware of the cybersecurity memo, and I thought you would want to know about it since you indicated you were taking care of these issues.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

cc: Director Raymond Orbach, Office of Science

2005-007251

(2)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

August 8, 2005

Dr. Steven Chu, Ph.D.
Director
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
1 Cyclotron Road
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Dr. Chu:

Thank you for your July 18, 2005, letters to Secretary Bodman and Deputy Secretary Sell regarding a draft memorandum that is currently in coordination within the Department relating to the responsibilities of the Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO). We appreciate your comments and your concerns.

We will carefully consider your comments. If you have additional comments, we would be pleased to receive them.

Thank you for writing. Please contact me at (202) 586-0166 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Rosita O Parkes

Rosita O. Parkes
Chief Information Officer

cc: Raymond Orbach, Director, Office of Science

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(3)

July 18, 2005

The Honorable Clay Sell
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Deputy Secretary Sell:

Our laboratories are committed to achieving the DOE missions, and, as a critical component of all aspects of mission work, to having effective and appropriate information security.

Two as yet undated and unsigned memos have been brought to our attention that give us great concern for their potential impact on the management and operation of the DOE laboratories. These memos are titled "Authority of the DOE CIO," and "Centralization of Information Technology Authority." They would give the DOE CIO the authority and directive to establish technical, procurement, implementation, operational and policy controls over all IT across the entire DOE complex, including the laboratories.

Our primary concern with these memos is that establishment of such controls would effectively bypass the line management of DOE program offices, DOE site offices, lab contractors and lab management. As a consequence, the labs would no longer be accountable for the performance of their information systems, which are themselves directly tied to the labs' delivery of mission. It is therefore unclear how the labs could be accountable for the delivery of their missions and who would be responsible for IT risks. This is a fundamental issue: IT is interwoven into all areas of DOE advanced science and engineering, including data acquisition systems, accelerator controls, and high performance computing.

As indicated in the memos, one of the motivations for proposing these drastic measures is to improve the Department's unclassified cyber security program. The laboratories support the improvement of cyber security across DOE, but we advocate a different approach, one that takes advantage of the strengths of the Department and the labs. The Department must have a world-class cyber security program based on federal requirements, sound policy, risk management, performance-based metrics, sound implementation, mission support, and line management accountability. Many of the labs have demonstrated national excellence in implementing such programs. We suggest that the DOE CIO work with the program offices, the labs, other contractors, and the Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance to support existing plans in the program offices to develop an agency-wide program that builds on these established strengths.

We urge you not to sign these proposed memos. We fully support the creation of an effective, mission-enhancing, agency-wide cyber security program based on sound management principles.

Sincerely,

Thomas Barton
Ames Laboratory

Robert Rosner
Argonne National Laboratory

Praveen Chaudhari
Brookhaven National Laboratory

Piermaria Oddone
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

John J. Grossenbacher
Idaho National Laboratory

Steven Chu
E. O. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Dan Arvizu
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Jeffrey Wadsworth
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Leonard K. Peters
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Robert J. Goldston
Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

Jonathan Dorfan
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

Christoph Leemann
Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility

CC: Douglas L. Faulkner, Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
David K. Garman, Under Secretary for Energy, Science and Environment
R. Shane Johnson, Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology
Raymond L. Orbach, Director, Office of Science

ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY
Office of the Director, Building 201
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

DG has a copy

This transmittal consists of 3 page(s) including cover sheet.

Date:	July 18, 2005
TO:	David Garman
FAX:	202-586-0148
FROM:	Robert Rosner Office of the Director Phone: 630/252-2481 Fax: 630/252-7923 E-mail: r-rosner@anl.gov

Message:

2005-007644

(4)

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

August 8, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: ROSITA O. PARKES Rosita O Parkes
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

SUBJECT: Draft Memorandum – Responsibilities of the Department's Chief Information Officer

Thank you for your July 18, 2005, letter to Deputy Secretary Sell regarding a draft memorandum that is currently in coordination within the Department relating to the responsibilities of the Department's Chief Information Officer. We appreciate your comments and your concerns.

We will carefully consider your comments. If you have additional comments, we would be pleased to receive them.

Thank you for writing. Please contact me at (202) 586-0166 if you have any further questions.

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DISTRIBUTION

T. Barton, Ames Laboratory
R. Rosner, Argonne National Laboratory
P. Chaudhari, Brookhaven National Laboratory
P. Oddone, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
J. Grossenbacher, Idaho National Laboratory
D. Arvizu, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
J. Wadsworth, Oak Ridge National Laboratory
L. . Peters, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
R. Goldston, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
J. Dorfan, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center
C. Leemann, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility

cc:
Douglas L. Faulkner, Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy
David K. Garman, Under Secretary for Energy, Science & Environment
R. Shane Johnson, Acting Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science & Technology
Raymond L. Orbach, Director, Office of Science
Bruce Carnes, Associate Deputy Secretary

EXEC-2007-004762
4/30/2007 4:00 PM

(5)

Argonne NATIONAL LABORATORY

BERKELEY LAB

OAK RIDGE National Laboratory

April 30, 2007

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
7A-257 / FORS
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

We are writing you to indicate our support for the "Exaflops" initiative being developed in the Office of Science by Ray Orbach and Michael Strayer.

This initiative aims to further the American lead in high-performance computing and computational science. It will also pioneer the application of computational approaches to emerging global challenges, such as climate, renewable energy and sustainable economic development.

Furthermore we believe the initiative can lay the foundation for the development of a whole new generation of "integrative" computer models that will couple human, economic and energy factors in ways not previously possible to enable the investigation of coupled "what if" questions, critical for improving our understanding of complex human interactions in the loop systems.

As you well know, high-performance computing is a critical capability for the nation and is recognized as a key competitiveness issue in Asia and Europe. Maintaining and extending the US lead in this area is critical to sustaining US economic growth and scientific preeminence.

The proposed DOE initiative will work closely with US industry to dramatically extend our lead in the development of new HPC architectures including the development of an Exascale (10^{18} operations per sec) capability by 2018, and to do so with a focus on architectures that promise significant improvements in the power efficiency of processors. It will support the national laboratories and universities working together to develop the system software to make these systems usable and it will address the problem of broadly increasing the domain of application for HPC by reaching out to new communities to grow a next generation of codes and teams.

A major goal is to attack a defining set of "Global Challenge" problems, including the development of a new generation of climate models that incorporate energy and economic components, the development of new computational approaches to support research in the development of sustainable energy and new methods to investigate the global carbon cycle and the microbial ecosystems that underpin the biosphere.

We believe that this is the right initiative at the right time and that our Office of Science laboratories are well prepared to execute this mission on the behalf of the Department.

Sincerely,

Robert Rosner	Steven Chu	Jeff Wadsworth
Director	Director	Director
Argonne National Lab	Lawrence Berkeley National Lab	Oak Ridge National Lab

(6)

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 31, 2007

Dr. Steven Chu
Director
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear ~~Dr. Chu~~ Steve:

Thank you for your letter reflecting your support for the proposed "Exaflops" initiative being developed in the Office of Science.

Your letter is very timely, because as you know, Town Hall Meetings are currently being held to identify and document specific advances that can be made at the scale of the proposed "Exaflops" initiative. The Town Hall Meetings are also expected to provide insight into the key challenges that must be overcome to successfully harness such unprecedented computing power.

The proposed "Exaflops" initiative will lay the foundation for transformational approaches in the computational sciences. As they become available, these new approaches will accelerate advances throughout the scientific disciplines attacking major societal challenges throughout the world, such as climate change, energy sustainability, and economic security.

The President's American Competitiveness Initiative is supporting efforts such as this to ensure continued scientific leadership in areas that sustain U.S. economic strength. Your laboratory has made significant contributions in the past, and we will need such innovation and focus to sustain the scientific leadership necessary to realize the full potential of exascale computing.

Thank you for supporting these efforts, and I look forward to working with you as we formulate detailed plans.

Sincerely,

Samuel W. Bodman

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