Elizabeth Montoya

At our meeting on Thursday you requested a short paragraph explaining the interface I have with the DOE Chief of Staff. Below is an unclassified paragraph describing some of the interface I would normally have; there are, however, other areas which I cannot discuss/mention due to classification issues.

Thanks

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The DOE Continuity Program consists of two major programs. The first is called Continuity of Operations (COOP) and the second is called Continuity of Government (COG). These programs are mandated by the recently updated National Security Presidential Directive-51 /Homeland Security Presidential Directive-20 (NSPD-51/HSPD-20), "National Continuity Policy." The National Continuity Policy seeks to ensure the preservation of our form of government under the Constitution and the continuing performance of National Essential Functions under all conditions.

COOP is a department wide program in which I work with DOE, NNSA and the program/site offices to develop departmental procedures for responding to an event that affects the continued operations of DOE/NNSA. The Continuity of Government program is a Highly Classified program that involves the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Energy and involves a coordinated effort within each Branch of the Federal Government that supports the President of United States in accomplishing those tasks outlined in the National Continuity Policy. I work closely with the Chief of Staff to ensure the Department of Energy supports this mission.

To perform these functions, I attend various interagency meetings representing the Department, including the continuity elements of the White House Military Office, the Homeland Security Counsel and the Department of Homeland Security. I also meet with the Chief of Staff on various policy issues relating to the program. I attend various meetings for the Department in which the interagency senior leadership discusses training and exercise activities. Based on the type of upcoming exercise, I will discuss with the Chief of Staff who should attend the exercise, secure relevant background materials for the participant(s), and provide any additional training, if needed.

In another part of the program, DOE maintains a covert site to which the Secretary would be relocated to during a continuity event. This site is secure and requires special permission to access. The Chief of Staff and I are the only personnel authorized to provide access to this facility.

Once the new administration is on board, I will receive a tasking from the White House Military Office to provide a political appointee to represent the Department at our covert site, in addition to the Secretary. The Chief of Staff and I will need to discuss the selection and then I will forward the recommendation. I will also be discussing various policy issues relating to Special Communications for the Secretary and Deputy Secretary.