



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

July 28, 2020

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Connolly:

This is in response to the letter you sent on June 15, 2020, requesting that I examine the Department of Energy's (Department) plan to return to federal offices in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

The safe return of Departmental employees and contractors to the workplace is one of DOE OIG's paramount concerns. We are actively engaged with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and we have dedicated resources to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, as well as several of its subcommittees. We are also in communication with additional groups within the federal oversight community. This engagement allows us to keep abreast of developments regarding this topic and contribute to government-wide efforts in this regard.

In accordance with our internal procedures, we focus our efforts based on risks we identify throughout the Department. Our risk-based process allows us to ensure we allocate resources where we will have the greatest impact. We have, among other things, been continually monitoring our Hotline and other sources of information for concerns with respect to the return schedule. We will continue to watch this situation closely and take further action if necessary.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Your staff is welcome to contact my Chief of Staff, Ryan Cocolin, at 202-586-8672 or Ryan.Cocolin@hq.doe.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Teri L. Donaldson", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Teri L. Donaldson
Inspector General