



**The Secretary of Energy**  
Washington, D.C. 20585

June 15, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter dated June 14, 2007, concerning a recent unintentional security incident involving an individual working for the Los Alamos National Security (LANS) board.

While I cannot go into great detail here about the specific circumstances of the incident referenced in your letter, I can affirm that an individual did in fact unintentionally transmit sensitive information through an unsecured email system. The incident was immediately recognized and reported, fully investigated and the responsible officials have reported that appropriate measures have been taken to address the situation.

While serious, the incident in question was the result of human error, not a failure of security systems. The Department makes every effort to minimize inadvertent human error, but we recognize that such errors may occur from time to time. Therefore, we have a robust system in place to report and investigate potential violations. In my opinion this is a circumstance where those systems worked well.

I appreciate your ongoing interest in the safety and security of Los Alamos National Laboratory and the important national security work that the men and



women perform there. I have directed that appropriate officials at the Department, including the National Nuclear Security Administration meet with you and your staff to provide you with any additional information regarding this incident that was not provided in a previous briefing on the subject of Los Alamos security practices, including answers to your specific questions, and which is responsive to your request.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Eric G. Nicoll, Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel W. Bodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "S".

Samuel W. Bodman

cc. Ranking Member