

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

February 4, 2009

The Honorable Gregory H. Friedman  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Inspector General:

We are writing to request that your office update the June 2005 inspection report entitled *Review of Security at the Strategic Petroleum Reserve*. The inspection report noted that the Department of Energy (DOE) had determined that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) was a part of the Nation's "critical infrastructure and . . . a key resource for national energy and economic security." However, the inspection report indicated that DOE's security measures may be inadequate. Specifically, the inspection report recommended that steps should be taken to ensure the level of protection against insider threats and the SPR's deadly force policy are consistent with the SPR's critical infrastructure designation.

The inspection report found that the DOE contractor responsible for site security at SPR facilities and its subcontractors did not include Federal law enforcement or intelligence record checks when conducting pre-employment background checks of prospective employees and did not conduct rechecks after employees were hired.

At the time the inspection report was issued, DOE was in the process of implementing a plan to comply with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HPSD 12), *Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors*, which would require a minimum level of background investigation in connection with the issuance of identification badges to DOE and DOE contractor employees.

The inspection report also found that the rules governing the use of deadly force at the SPR and at nuclear facilities (10 C.F.R. §§ 1049 and 1047 (2008)) were inconsistent. While both types of facilities are designated as critical infrastructure, the SPR protective force could only use deadly force to protect personnel, while deadly force is allowed to protect personnel and property at nuclear facilities.

Your updated inspection report should evaluate whether DOE has adequately addressed these concerns and if additional matters have developed that may compromise security at SPR facilities. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions related to this request, please contact Alan Slobodin of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Republican staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,



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Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



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Greg Walden  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations