



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 19, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR INGRID A. C. KOLB
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

THROUGH: WALTER HOWES
ACTING DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES

FROM: GLENN S. PODONSKY 
CHIEF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICER
OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Develop a Notice for the Safe Handling
and Transfer of Nanoscale Materials

PURPOSE: This Notice will provide specific expectations for the
implementation of the Department of Energy (DOE)
Policy (P) 456.1, "Secretarial Policy Statement on Nanoscale
Safety," across the DOE complex. This Notice is based on a
need for policy in the emerging nanotechnology area.

JUSTIFICATION: Public Law 108-153, "21st Century Nanotechnology
Research and Development Act," 15 U.S.C. 7501 assigns
DOE the mission of providing the physics, chemistry, and
computational tools needed to make nanotechnology possible.
In keeping with this mission, DOE supports research
activities spanning a broad range of nanotechnology. In fiscal
year 2007, at least \$258 million will be spent on
nanotechnology at DOE (nearly \$100 million in construction
and operation of scientific user facilities, and over
\$150 million in basic research). DOE user facilities,
currently moving into full operations, provide state-of-the-art
resources to the science and technology community via
allocation of instrument time, staff support, and collaboration.

Uncertainty with respect to the health and safety risks
associated with nanoscale activities has prompted a call for
increased research and funding into these risks and the
development of appropriate health and safety policies. To
address these concerns, the Office of Health, Safety and
Security (HSS) published DOE P 456.1 in September 2005.



DOE P 456.1 provides, general guidance for the use of nanoscale materials at DOE and contains no requirements. In order to demonstrate the Department's continued commitment to health and safety in the area of nanoscale activities, HSS is planning to develop a departmental Notice for the use of nanoscale materials. The Notice will leverage current consensus standards and existing DOE guidance. This Notice will provide minimum health and safety expectations for departmental nanoscale activities. The Notice will include a conservative assumption based on the degree of risk for an unknown hazard and will be modeled on Integrated Safety Management.

We are requesting a processing time of 90 days (Track 3) and have attached a proposed development schedule.

IMPACT: This Notice will leverage the best practices currently being used by Nanoscale Science Research Centers (NSRC). Some non-NSRC laboratories performing nanoscale activities may have to implement new best practices for their programs. There should be little noticeable adverse impact based on this Notice.

Failure to put into place a minimum set of nanotechnology safety requirements could lead to a loss of confidence in the use of this new technology.

CONTACT: Point of contact for this Notice is Bill R. McArthur, Director, Office of Worker Safety and Health Policy, at 3-9674.

DECISION:

Concur: _____

Nonconcur: _____

Timeframe: ___ 30 days ___ 60 days ___ 90 days ___ 120 days

Date: _____

**Proposed Development Schedule
Notice for the Safe Handling and Transfer of Nanoscale Materials**

Milestone	Date
Send Justification Memorandum to Office of Information Resource Management, MA-44	April 19, 2007
Invite stakeholders (include MA-44 analyst, DNFSB and/or CTA, as appropriate) to participate in developing proposed directive	April 24, 2007
Begin developing proposed directive	April 30, 2007
Send draft directive to management for review	June 15, 2007
Send draft directive to MA-44	June 30, 2007
Post to RevCom	July 13, 2007
Target approval date	October 15, 2007