



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

October 15, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES A. RISPOLI
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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

SUBJECT: CH2M WG Idaho, LLC, Request for Variance to Title 10,
Code of Federal Regulations, Part 851, "Worker Safety and
Health Program"

In response to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety Management and Operations, Office of Environmental Management's (EM) memorandum of September 11, 2008, concerning the variance request from CH2M WG Idaho, LLC, this office concurs with your view that a variance is not necessary for hoisting and rigging operations in hostile work environments. Provisions of Chapter 5, "Hostile Environments," of the Department of Energy (DOE) Hoisting and Rigging Standard (DOE-STD-1090-2007), if properly implemented, adequately address the hazards of such operations.

As noted within the EM memorandum, employees are not exposed to the hazards of hoisting and rigging operations within hostile environments as these areas are inaccessible during crane operations. Furthermore, the required Hostile Environment Plan must describe compensatory measures addressing those specific inspection and maintenance requirements that cannot be achieved due to the hoisting equipment's location within a hostile environment. These compensatory measures must account for any increased operational risk associated with deviations from prescribed inspection and maintenance requirements.

Staff from the Office of Health and Safety and the Office of Enforcement, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security, will work together with the Office of the General Counsel, and your office to develop a position paper on this issue and post it on the title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, part 851, Web site for broader use across the DOE complex. Should you have further questions please contact me at 3-3777 or your staff may contact Mr. Pat Finn, of my staff, at 3-9876.

cc: Dae Y. Chung, EM-60

