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Meeting with GAO [General Accounting Office], Ms. McAffrey 6/14/94

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U.S. General Accounting Office
Kristine Gebbie Interview
June 14, 1994

1. The SPEERA panel made over fifty recommendations to DOE regarding their epidemiology program. Several of the recommendations related to DOE's workers' health surveillance and to the provision of worker data to outside researchers. GAO has evaluated DOE's efforts in these areas and has found some deficiencies. In your opinion, how well is DOE implementing other SPEERA recommendations?

2. Several outside reviewers, including GAO, have stressed the importance of a strong independent internal oversight function to ensure the safety of workers at DOE sites. Recently, Secretary O'Leary has indicated that she wants the ES&H Office not only to perform independent oversight but also to provide technical assistance to line management in an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation. In response, the ES&H Office is placing more emphasis on helping line management to solve safety and health problems. Do you think the scenario of technical assistance and oversight within the same office will compromise the function of independent oversight within ES&H?

3. The reporting and resolution of safety and health occurrences at DOE sites has been mentioned to us as a continuing problem. That is, while safety or health incidents may be reported to DOE, often systematic analysis and followup of these incidents are not performed. Thus, the opportunity for "lessons learned" is not provided to site management. What is your understanding of DOE's system of occurrence reporting and feedback?

U.S. General Accounting Office
Energy and Science Issues
Germantown

GAO

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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR
KRISTINE. LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU ON TUESDAY.

Anne

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

DOE's Implementation of a Comprehensive Health Surveillance Program Is Slow

