

SEP 22 2017



Homeland
Security

The Honorable Scott Perry
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Management Efficiency
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Perry:

Thank you for your June 26, 2017 letter. Acting Secretary Duke asked that I respond on her behalf.

In your letter you expressed concerns with how a geomagnetic disturbance (GMD) or an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack could affect our Nation's critical infrastructure. In response to your letter, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided a briefing to your Subcommittee staff on July 21, 2017 regarding the Intelligence Community's assessment of the EMP threat and our EMP/GMD strategy development effort.

As we noted at the briefing, DHS is in the process of responding to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requirements that were cited in your letter. These requirements include "an intelligence-based review and comparison of the risks and consequences of EMP and GMD facing critical infrastructure" and "a recommended strategy to protect and prepare the critical infrastructure of the homeland against threats of EMP and GMD."

The requirement for completion of the strategy is one year following enactment of the FY 2017 NDAA. We have every expectation of meeting this deadline. As we continue to work on the strategy, DHS will carefully consider the risk of electromagnetic threats and hazards to the homeland, including the latest threat assessments available from the Intelligence Community. I look forward to maintaining frequent contact with you and your staff on this issue and will provide any additional information as it becomes available.

Thank you again for your letter. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James D. Nealon".

James D. Nealon
Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans