

**From:** [Phil Rutherford](#)  
**To:** [IGHOTLINE](#); [foiaig@hq.doe.gov](mailto:foiaig@hq.doe.gov); [em@hq.doe.gov](mailto:em@hq.doe.gov); [the.secretary@hq.doe.gov](mailto:the.secretary@hq.doe.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: DTSC and DOE Should Agree to Terminate the 2010 AOC  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026 6:11:56 PM

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Dear OIG Hotline,

I consent for OIG to disclose my identity and contact information to any third party.

EM may contact me by email, text or cell phone at any time. I presume that EM or the Office of the Secretary will provide a written response to my April 6 letter to the Secretary.

Given that the OIG will not disclose the results of the OIG (or EM) complaint investigation, I also request that the DOE OIGFOIA office will provide me with a written response to complaint 26-0500-C when concluded.

Phil Rutherford

Sent from my iPhone  
+1 (818) 912-1501  
[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)  
[www.philrutherford.com](http://www.philrutherford.com)

On May 6, 2026, at 9:07 AM, IGHOTLINE <[ighotline@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ighotline@hq.doe.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Phil Rutherford,

Thank you for speaking with an intake coordinator at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Inspector General (OIG) on 27 Apr 2026. The status of your case, 26-0500-C, is open. Per our policy, we may only provide whether your complaint is open or closed. For more information, please see [IG Hotline | Department of Energy](#).

Additionally, as the DOE continues to review your concerns, it may be necessary for Office of Environmental Management (EM) officials to speak with you directly. Do you consent to disclosing your identity and concerns outside the OIG? If so, what is the best way for EM officials to contact you and your availability?

Thank you,  
Hotline Coordinator  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Inspector General  
<http://energy.gov/ig/services>  
KA

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**From:** Phil Rutherford <[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 25, 2026 4:47 PM  
**To:** IGHOTLINE <[ighotline@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ighotline@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: DTSC and DOE Should Agree to Terminate the 2010 AOC

I did not receive a call from you last Tuesday 21st of April. If you still have questions, please call me between 9:00 am and 12:30 pm Pacific time on Monday, April 27,

Phil Rutherford

Sent from my iPhone  
+1 (818) 912-1501  
[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)  
[www.philrutherford.com](http://www.philrutherford.com)  
[www.otphiker.com](http://www.otphiker.com)

On Apr 20, 2026, at 7:46 PM, Phil Rutherford <[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)> wrote:

My schedule has changed again. Anytime in the morning between 9:00 am and 12:30 pm PDT is OK.

Phil Rutherford

Sent from my iPhone  
+1 (818) 912-1501  
[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)  
[www.philrutherford.com](http://www.philrutherford.com)  
[www.otphiker.com](http://www.otphiker.com)

On Apr 20, 2026, at 3:41 PM, Phil Rutherford  
<[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)> wrote:

After checking my calendar for the 21st, I see that I have appointments between 9 and 10 PDT and 1 and 2:30 PDT.

I am therefore available between 10 and 1 PDT or 1 and 4 EDT.  
Please call then.

Phil Rutherford

Sent from my iPhone

+1 (818) 912-1501  
[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)  
[www.philrutherford.com](http://www.philrutherford.com)  
[www.otphiker.com](http://www.otphiker.com)

On Apr 20, 2026, at 1:14 PM, Phil Rutherford  
<[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)> wrote:

I consent. My phone is in my signature block. Time is good for tomorrow.

Phil

Sent from my iPhone  
+1 (818) 912-1501  
[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)  
[www.philrutherford.com](http://www.philrutherford.com)  
[www.otphiker.com](http://www.otphiker.com)

On Apr 20, 2026, at 1:02 PM, IGHOTLINE  
<[ighotline@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ighotline@hq.doe.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Phil Rutherford,

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Inspector General Hotline. This serves to acknowledge receipt of your message. The Hotline facilitates the reporting of allegations of fraud, waste, or abuse concerning Department of Energy programs and/or operations. You may obtain additional information regarding the Hotline at <http://energy.gov/ig/services>. The "Complaint Processing" section explains the actions the Office of Inspector General may take regarding your complaint.

We are reviewing the details of your complaint. If after reviewing your complaint and we still have additional questions, we would like to speak with you. Please provide a good contact number and availability for tomorrow, 21 Apr 2026 between the hours of 3pm -5pm EST.

Lastly, please provide a response to the two statements below. Additional information can be found at <http://energy.gov/ig/services>

1. Acknowledge the below.

I acknowledge that I have read the Office of Inspector General Hotline section of the OIG website regarding issues which should be reported to the OIG, complaint processing, anonymity, and the OIG confidentiality policy.

**YES or NO**

1. Confidentiality Information. Please read the below and annotate your preference.

**Consent to Disclosure:** I consent to disclosure of my identity outside the OIG on a need-to know basis.

**Non-Consent to Disclosure (Confidential):** I do NOT consent to disclosure of my identity outside the OIG. I understand that if the OIG determines the allegation(s) I report cannot be investigated without disclosing my identity on a need-to-know basis to organizations outside the OIG, my lack of consent may prevent further action from being taken on my complaint. I also understand that even if I elect confidential status, my identity may be disclosed if required by applicable legal authority or if the Inspector General determines that such disclosure is unavoidable.

Thank you,

Hotline Coordinator  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Inspector General  
<http://energy.gov/ig/services>  
KA

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**From:** Phil Rutherford  
<[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 9, 2026 1:57 PM  
**To:** Secretary <[the.secretary@hq.doe.gov](mailto:the.secretary@hq.doe.gov)>;  
IGHOTLINE <[ighotline@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ighotline@hq.doe.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: DTSC and DOE Should  
Agree to Terminate the 2010 AOC

It appears that the email below failed to reach several DOE recipients, including Secretary Wright.

Secretary Wright, please consider opening a dialogue with the California DTSC with the view of terminating the 2010 AOC.

The Inspector General should also consider this a formal complaint of wasteful expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,

*Phil Rutherford Consulting*  
Mobile: +1 818-912-1501  
[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)  
[www.philrutherford.com](http://www.philrutherford.com)

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**From:** Phil Rutherford  
<[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 5, 2026 10:19 PM  
**To:** [secretary@hq.doe.gov](mailto:secretary@hq.doe.gov); 'Butler, Katherine@DTSC'  
<[Katherine.Butler@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Katherine.Butler@dtsc.ca.gov)>

**Cc:** [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov);  
[EM@hq.doe.gov](mailto:EM@hq.doe.gov);  
[ighotline@hg.doe.gov](mailto:ighotline@hg.doe.gov); 'Mengers,  
Joshua'  
<[Joshua.Mengers@emcbc.doe.gov](mailto:Joshua.Mengers@emcbc.doe.gov)>;  
[etec@emcbc.doe.gov](mailto:etec@emcbc.doe.gov);  
[yana.garcia@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:yana.garcia@calepa.ca.gov); 'Becker,  
Steven@DTSC'  
<[Steven.Becker@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Steven.Becker@dtsc.ca.gov)>;  
[DTSC\\_SSFLCleanup@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:DTSC_SSFLCleanup@dtsc.ca.gov);  
[Mindy.Mathias@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Mindy.Mathias@dtsc.ca.gov); 'Brosnan,  
Tanya@DTSC'  
<[Tanya.Brosnan@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Tanya.Brosnan@dtsc.ca.gov)>;  
[patrick.movlay@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:patrick.movlay@dtsc.ca.gov);  
[julie.lincoln@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:julie.lincoln@dtsc.ca.gov); 'Minas  
Masihi, Anaeis@DTSC'  
<[Anaeis.MinasMasihi@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Anaeis.MinasMasihi@dtsc.ca.gov)>;  
'Miller, Elena@DTSC'  
<[Elena.Miller@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Elena.Miller@dtsc.ca.gov)>; 'Higginson,  
E. Paige@DTSC'  
<[Paige.Higginson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Paige.Higginson@dtsc.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** DTSC and DOE Should Agree to  
Terminate the 2010 AOC

Dear Secretary Wright and  
Director Butler,

I write to you today to raise  
your awareness of the  
unacceptable conflict  
between the State of  
California and the federal  
government over radiologic  
cleanup requirements for the  
DOE's Energy Technology  
Engineering Center (ETEC) at  
the Santa Susana Field  
Laboratory (SSFL) in Ventura  
County, California.

For over 15 years ETEC has  
conducted environmental  
remediation and nuclear  
decommissioning under a  
state-ordered Administrative

Order on Consent (AOC). This AOC is in clear conflict with both past federal practice and with current federal actions resulting from Presidential Executive Order 14300.

I respectfully request that DTSC and DOE agree to terminate the 2010 AOC and replace it with more conventional remedies in line with the rest of the U.S.

Please see attached or online letter at [https://philrutherford.com/SSFL/2010\\_AOC/2026-04-06\\_Open\\_Letter\\_to\\_Wright\\_and\\_Butler.pdf](https://philrutherford.com/SSFL/2010_AOC/2026-04-06_Open_Letter_to_Wright_and_Butler.pdf)

Sincerely,

*Phil Rutherford Consulting*  
Mobile: +1 818-912-1501  
[email@philrutherford.com](mailto:email@philrutherford.com)  
[www.philrutherford.com](http://www.philrutherford.com)

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Use caution if this message contains attachments, links or requests for information.

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