



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

MAR 16 2009

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding scheduled conversions of Department of Defense civilian employees to the National Security Personnel System (NSPS). You urged the Department to delay additional conversions until the Administration and Congress can review NSPS and address its future.

We are committed to operating fair, transparent and effective personnel systems. Toward that end, the Department will be conducting a comprehensive review of NSPS. Further conversions of organizations will be delayed pending the outcome of this review. This affects roughly 2000 employees in organizations scheduled to convert to NSPS this spring. Those organizations are adjusting their plans accordingly. During the review, those organizations currently under NSPS will continue to operate under NSPS policies and processes.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns on this important matter. A similar response is being sent to Chairman Ortiz.

cc:
The Honorable John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. J. ...".

