

Kohlenberger, James C.

From: Holdren, John P.
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 8:07 PM
To: Weiss, Rick
Cc: Kohlenberger, James C.; Larson, Phillip P.
Subject: Sci Integrity Blog Answer
Attachments: Scientific Integrity Blog_6-18-10.doc

Rick –

I have combined much of your draft with some talking points I prepared some months ago on this issue for Jane Lubchenco to use at a presentation when she expected this to come up. Those early talking points bring the great benefit of pointing out that strong scientific integrity principles have been in place all along, courtesy of the President's March 2009 memorandum. Please see the attached. I think it is fine to go – much better than leaving all this crap unanswered for weeks more.

Cheers,
John

JOHN P. HOLDREN
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Executive Assistant Karrie Pitzer
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There should not be any doubt that these principles have been in effect – that is, binding on all Executive departments and agencies – from the date of issue of the Memorandum on March 9, 2009. All that has been awaiting the requested action by the Director of OSTP is recommendations to the President on what further instructions he might issue in augmentation of these principles in order to advance the goal of achieving the highest level of scientific integrity across the Executive Branch.

Pursuant to that request, my staff and I have been engaged since the date of the Memorandum in development of such recommendations, which as specified in the Memorandum has included consultations with “the heads of executive departments and agencies, including the Office of Management and Budget and offices and agencies within the Executive Office of the President”. Indeed, OSTP began the process by creating an Interagency panel with representatives from all of the major science offices and agencies. That group launched an unprecedentedly open, Web-based process to accept detailed input from stakeholders inside and outside government. Based on that input and internal discussions, the group developed draft recommendations for consideration by OSTP and OMB. And over the intervening months representatives from those two offices have been honing a final set of recommendations.

I am the first to admit that the process has been more laborious and time-consuming than expected at the outset. Determining how to elaborate on the principles set forth in the Memorandum in enough detail to be of real assistance in their implementation, while at the same time retaining sufficient generality to be applicable across Executive departments and agencies with a wide variety of missions and structures, has been particularly challenging. And other demands on the participants over this time period have also been much greater than expected. But I am pleased to report here that the process, though slower than many (including myself) had hoped, has resulted in what I believe is a high-quality product that I anticipate finalizing and forwarding to the President in the next few weeks.

In addition to the strong scientific integrity principles that, as noted above, have been in effect since the President’s memorandum of March 9, 2009, there has been other important activity on transparency and integrity ongoing in parallel with the process of developing the supplementary recommendations that the memorandum requested. In particular, OSTP and OMB have spearheaded an array of Open Government initiatives that have, together, made a record-breaking amount of government data available to the public and, more generally, have unveiled many previously hidden workings of the Federal government. Indeed, I believe no Administration has pushed as hard as this one to restore integrity in general—and scientific integrity in particular—to the Federal enterprise. I am confident that with the completion of OSTP’s recommendations on scientific integrity these already high standards will be strengthened and assured well into the future.

Where Are We on Scientific Integrity?

John P. Holdren
18 June 2010

President Obama's "Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies" of March 9, 2009, on the subject of scientific integrity stated clearly and unconditionally the fundamental principles of the Administration's stance on this subject. These clear and unconditional statements begin, in the document's second paragraph, with the following:

Political officials should not suppress or alter scientific or technological findings and conclusions. If scientific and technological information is developed and used by the Federal Government, it should ordinarily be made available to the public. To the extent permitted by law, there should be transparency in the preparation, identification, and use of scientific and technological information in policymaking. The selection of scientists and technology professionals for positions in the executive branch should be based on their scientific and technological knowledge, credentials, experience, and integrity.

This set of principles is augmented later in the Memorandum, in connection with the President's request to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology for recommendations for further Presidential action "to guarantee scientific integrity throughout the executive branch". As formulated there, the principles on which these recommendations for further Presidential action are to be based are as follows:

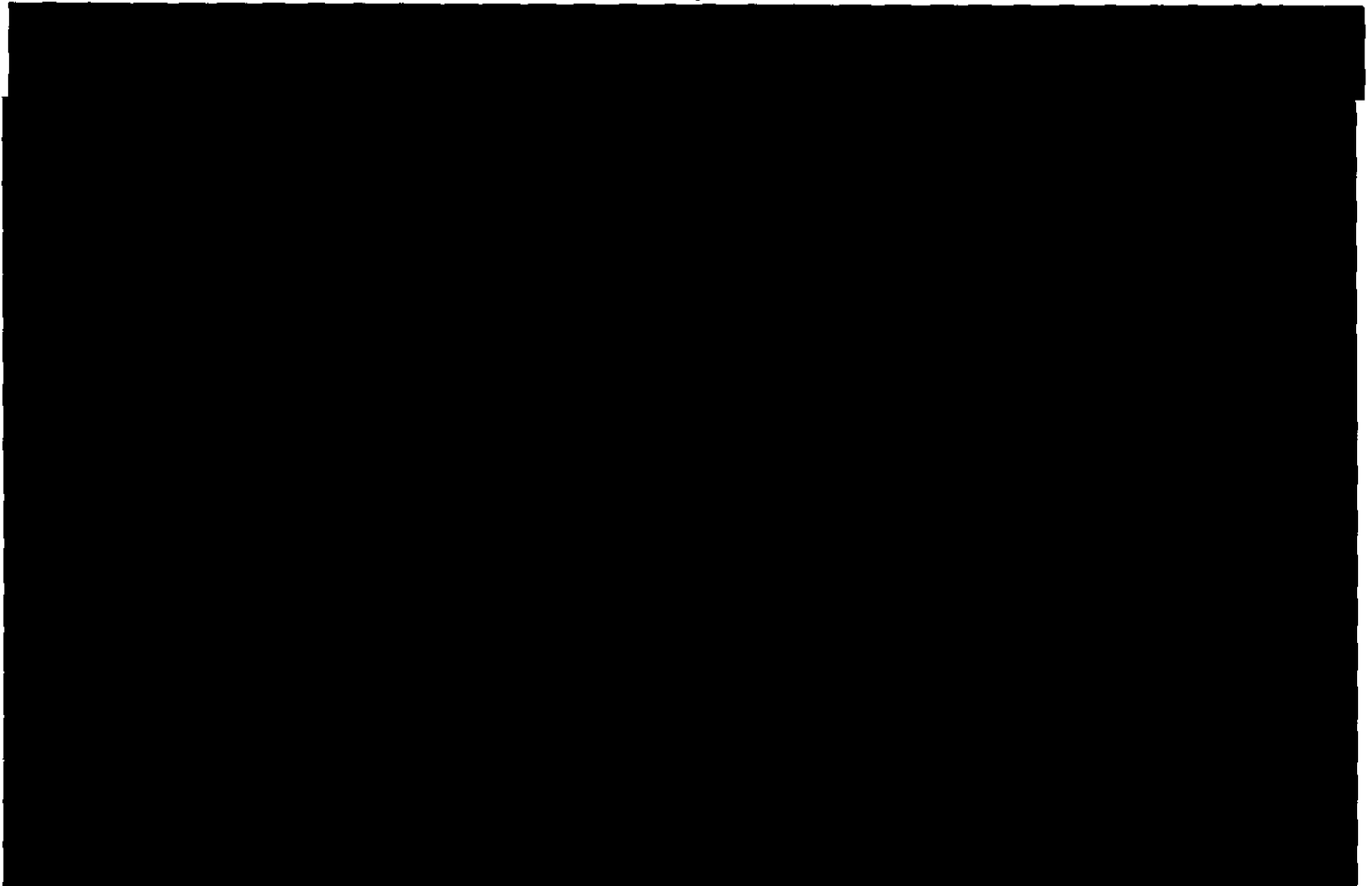
- (a) The selection and retention of candidates for science and technology positions in the executive branch should be based on the candidate's knowledge, credentials, experience, and integrity;*
- (b) Each agency should have appropriate rules and procedures to ensure the integrity of the scientific process within the agency;*
- (c) When scientific or technological information is considered in policy decisions, the information should be subject to well-established scientific processes, including peer review where appropriate, and each agency should appropriately and accurately reflect that information in complying with and applying relevant statutory standards;*
- (d) Except for information that is properly restricted from disclosure under procedures established in accordance with statute, regulation, Executive Order, or Presidential Memorandum, each agency should make available to the public the scientific or technological findings or conclusions considered or relied on in policy decisions;*
- (e) Each agency should have in place procedures to identify and address instances in which the scientific process or the integrity of scientific and technological information may be compromised; and*
- (f) Each agency should adopt such additional procedures, including any appropriate whistleblower protections, as are necessary to ensure the integrity of scientific and technological information and processes on which the agency relies in its decision-making or otherwise uses or prepares.*

Leonard, Rachael L.

From: Weiss, Rick
Sent: Friday, July 02, 2010 1:45 PM
To: Leonard, Rachael L.
Subject: Scientific Integrity - legal interpretation

Rachael,

No rush on this, but it would be cool to settle this today if it is simple...

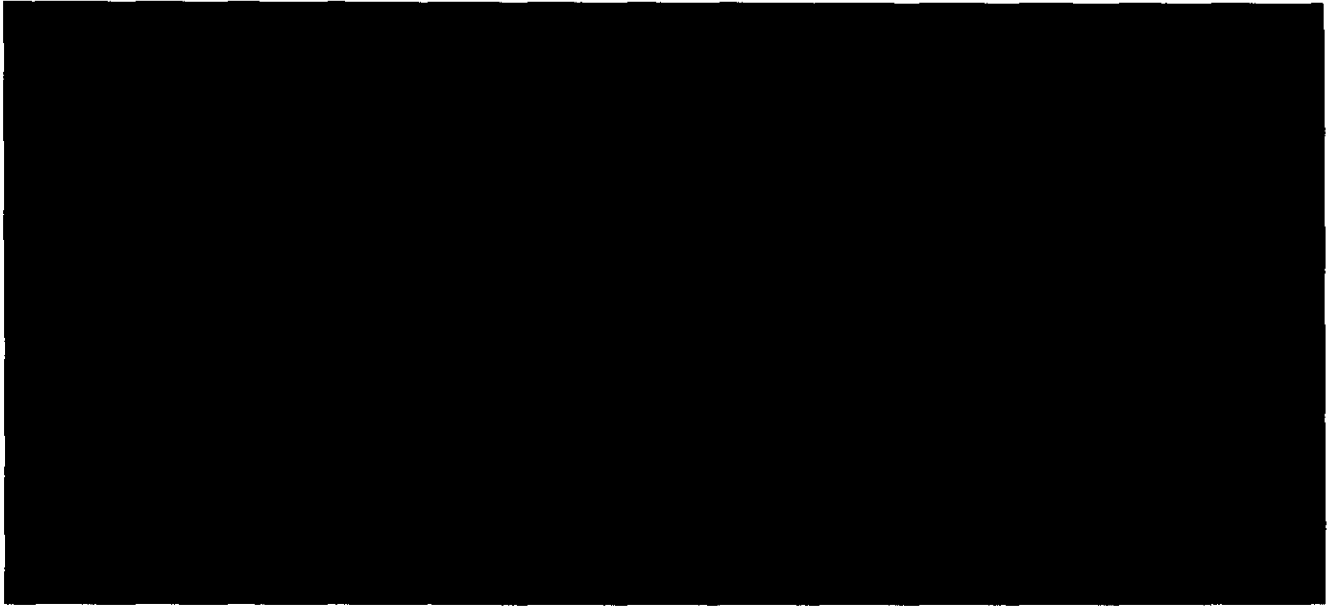


Rick Weiss

Kohlenberger, James C.

From: Kail, Thomas A.
Sent: Thursday, July 08, 2010 9:24 PM
To: Holdren, John P.
Cc: Kohlenberger, James C.; Weiss, Rick
Subject: Talking to Orszag in senior staff meeting

Dear John:



THE WHITE HOUSE

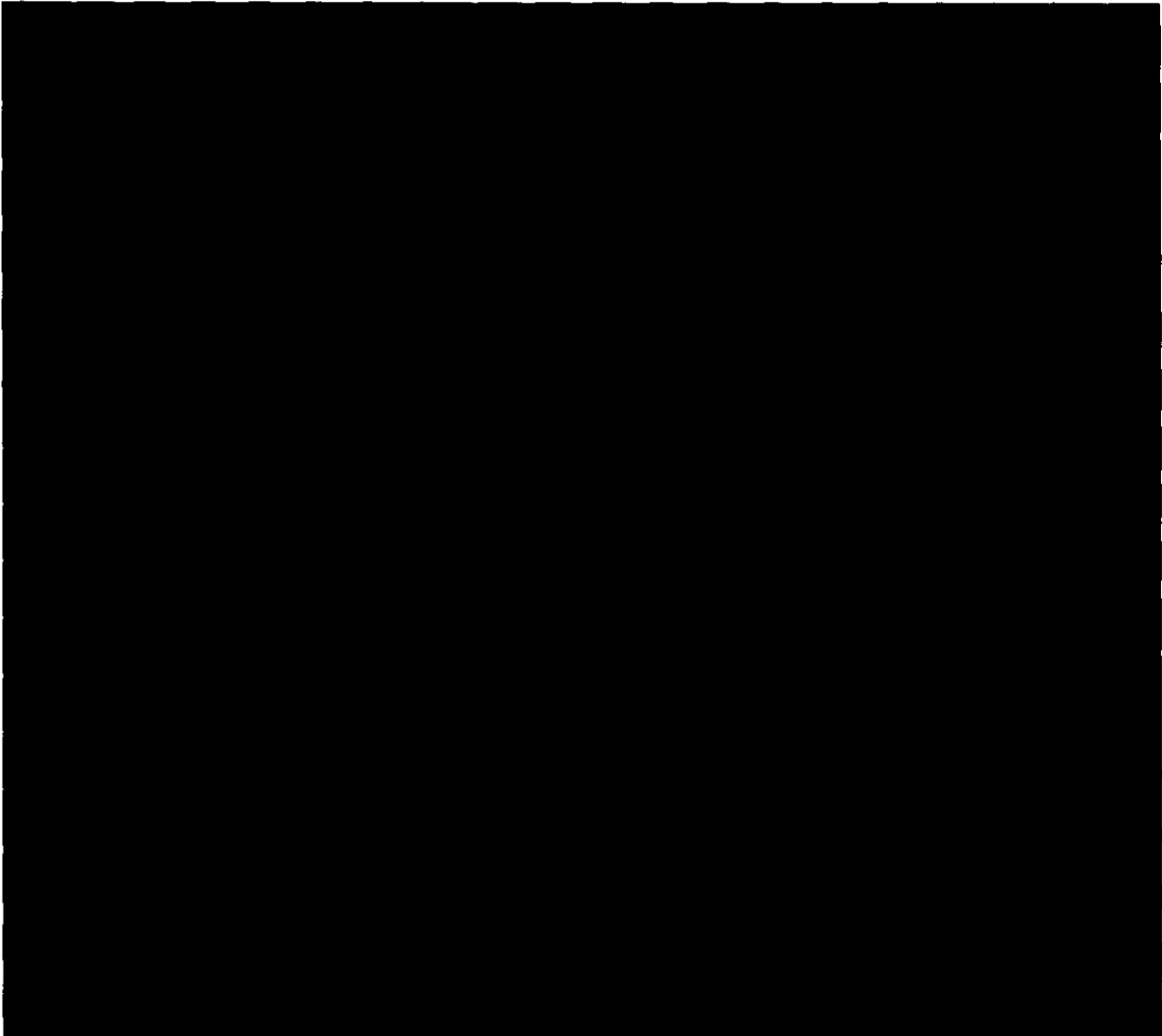
Office of the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology

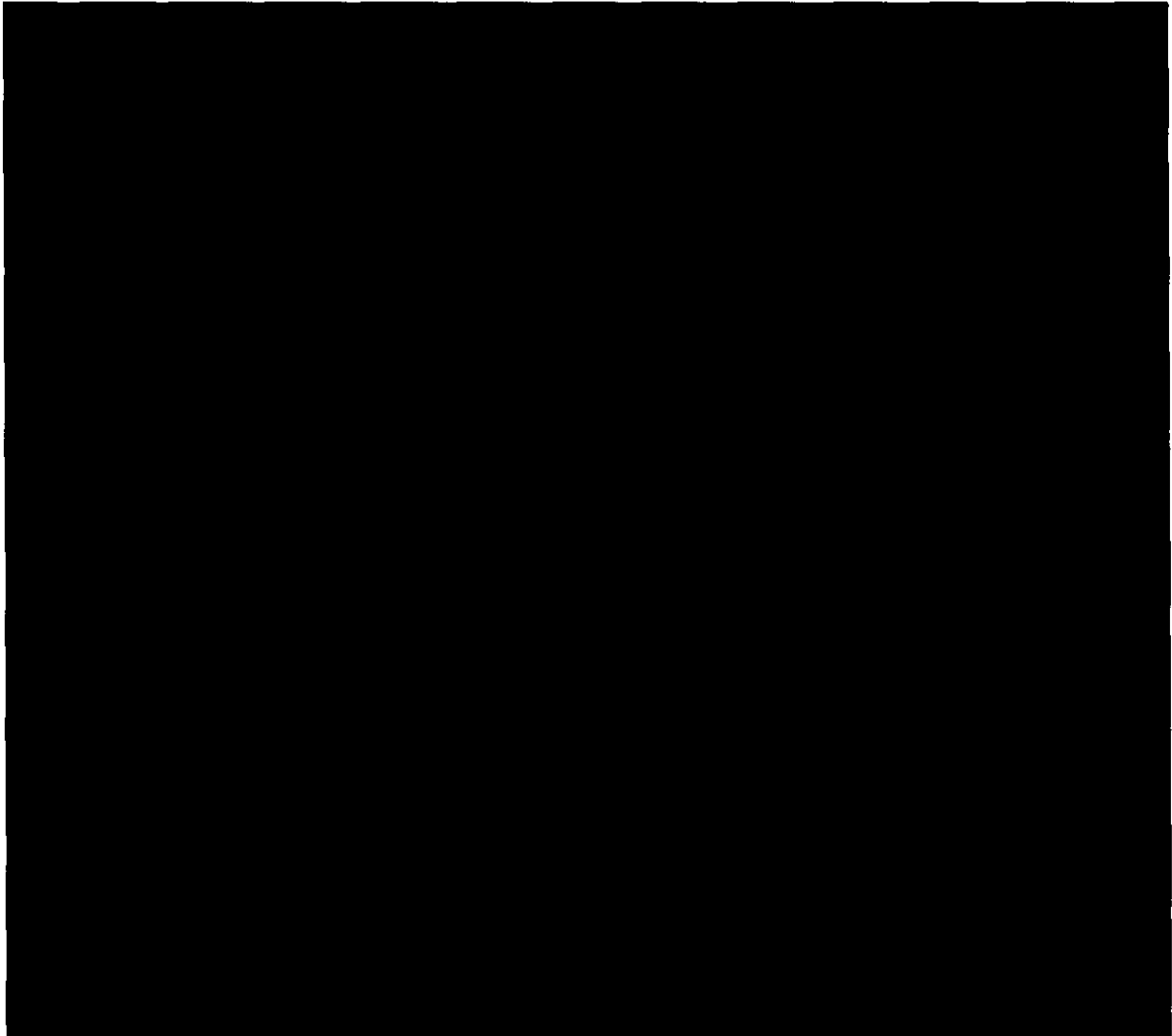
July 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

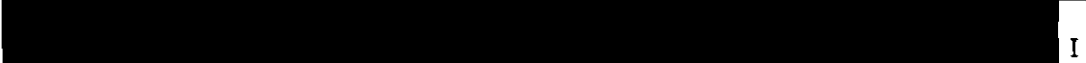
FROM: John P. Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy

SUBJECT: Weekly Review – July 5 – July 9, 2010





Scientific Integrity: On Thursday this week, culmination a lengthy and thorough multi-agency process, OSTP and OMB agreed on penultimate language fulfilling the President's March 9, 2009 request for recommendations on how to ensure the highest levels of scientific integrity in the executive branch.



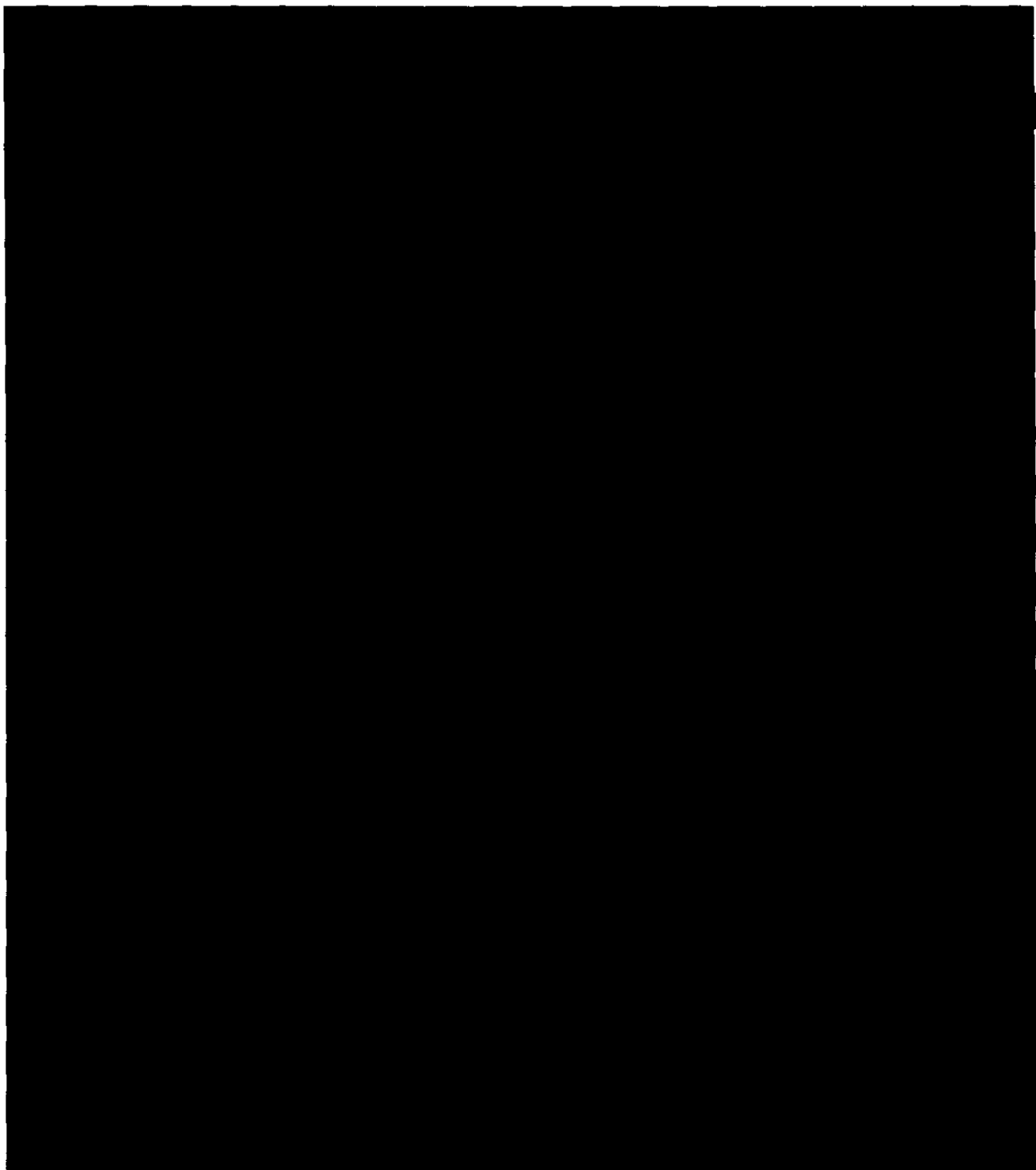
I should note that today marks the one-year anniversary of the original deadline for submission of these recommendations and I anticipate some level of negative press over the weekend regarding this delay.

July 19, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN P. HOLDREN

FROM: TOM KALIL

RE: YOUR MEETING WITH PETER ORSZAG



Kohlenberger, James C.

From: Kaili, Thomas A.
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 9:11 PM
To: Holdren, John P.
Cc: Kohlenberger, James C.; Weiss, Rick; Pitzer, Karrie S.
Subject: Scientific integrity
Attachments: Scientific integrity OMB OSTP consensus 7-6-10 clean.docx; scientific-integrity-orszag.docx

Dear John:

Attached are some talking points for your meeting with Peter and the consensus draft between OMB and OSTP.

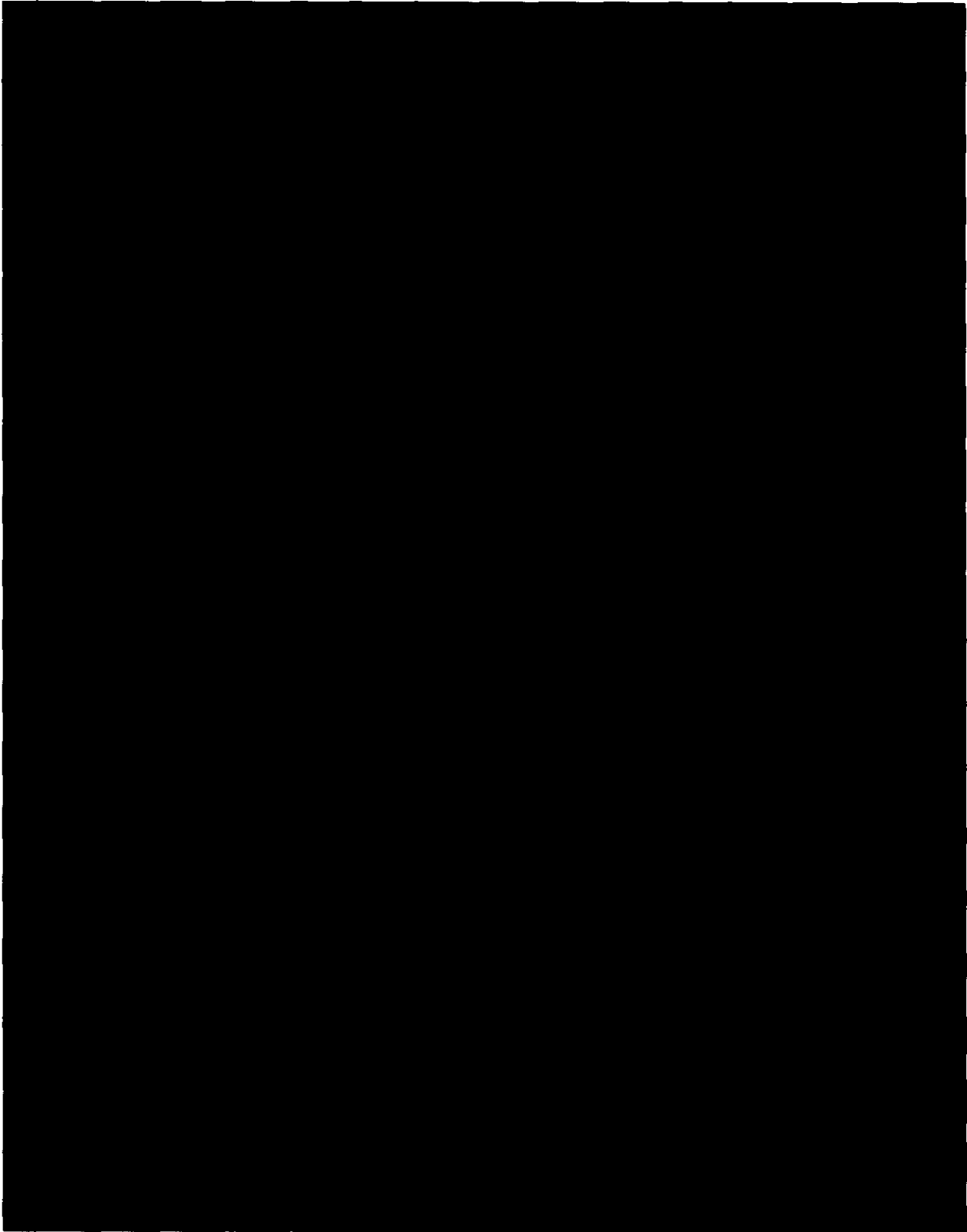
I also have one attachment that I only have in hard copy to give you (the internal OMB memo).

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Best,

Tom

PEERVOSTP000152



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