

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

June 12, 2015

Dr. Thomas Frieden
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Frieden:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is examining the adequacy of federal select agent oversight, in light of inadvertent shipments of live anthrax from a laboratory at the Department of Defense (DOD) Dugway Proving Ground (DPG) that have apparently occurred over the last 10 years. As part of its inquiry, the committee is gathering pertinent background information and documents related to biosafety issues concerning the DPG laboratory in question and the federal select agent program.

We thank the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the June 4, 2015, committee staff briefing regarding the DOD anthrax shipments. We understand the CDC has confirmed that several inspections of the relevant DPG laboratory have been conducted over the last decade, by the CDC's Division of Select Agents and Toxins (DSAT).

To assist the committee's inquiry, please provide the following documents by June 26, 2015:

1. Copies of CDC-DSAT inspections of the DPG laboratory in question conducted since January 1, 2006.
2. Copies of any referrals of select-agent enforcement action to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG), and any correspondence received in response to any referrals.
3. Copies of any proposed corrective action plans to the DPG laboratory in question.

4. List of all DOD laboratories registered as working with live anthrax.
5. Dates of CDC-DSAT inspections since January 1, 2006 of DOD laboratories listed in item 4.

Please also respond to the following questions by June 26, 2015:

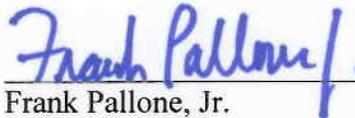
1. Did any of these inspections find violations relating to inactivation and/or sterility testing of anthrax? If so, please provide copies of the inspections. Were there any referrals to the HHS OIG for enforcement action? If so, please provide copies of the referral documents. Did CDC propose corrective action plans to such findings? If so, please provide copies of the corrective action plans.
2. How many organizations or entities are registered in the federal select agent program as working with live anthrax?
3. How many laboratories within the organizations or entities identified in question 2 are accredited under the federal select agent program to work with live anthrax?

Your prompt assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Alan Slobodin of the majority committee staff at (202) 225-2927 and Una Lee of the minority committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

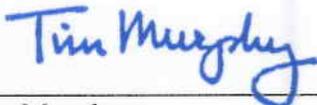
Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations



Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations

Attachment