



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH
875 NORTH RANDOLPH STREET
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

BDIG/07-027
13 September 2007

Dr. Rutledge
Purdue University
1031 Hovde Hall, Room 200
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1031

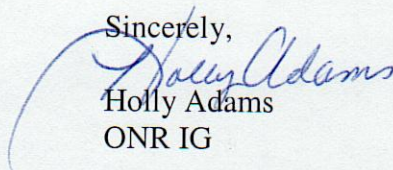
Dear Dr. Rutledge:

During our September 12, 2007, phone discussion, I advised you that we concur with your preliminary Inquiry Board findings in the case of research misconduct allegations involving Office of Naval Research (ONR) grant N00014-05-1-0459, "Using Acoustic Cavitation to Produce Thermonuclear Fusion". We additionally agreed that you may proceed with your plans to convene a second fact-finding investigative body to pursue allegations needing further review. By instruction, this investigative phase may take up to 180 days. My records will indicate that the 180-day investigation clock will start on Monday, September 17, 2007.

In addition to the above, I want to clarify with you that this report and attachments (and working papers) are exempt from disclosure to members of the public and/or press until the investigative process has run its course and the case is officially closed.

Your continued assistance with this matter is most appreciated.

Sincerely,


Holly Adams
ONR IG