

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

HEARING CHARTER

Friday, October 27, 2017

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Energy

FROM: Majority Staff, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

SUBJECT: Subcommittee hearing: “The Future of Low Dose Radiation Research”

The Subcommittee on Energy will hold a hearing titled *The Future of Low Dose Radiation Research* on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

Hearing Purpose:

The purpose of this hearing is to explore the status of basic research on low dose radiation in the United States, including the previous Administration’s decision to cease funding for research in this area. This hearing will also examine the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) study entitled “Low Dose Radiation: Interagency Collaboration on Planning Research Could Improve Information on Health Effects” released on October 26, 2017. Currently, there is a lack of consensus within the scientific community on the specific health risks associated with exposure to low doses of ionizing radiation.¹ This gap in understanding has profound implications for U.S. medical, industrial, commercial, and defense-related activities. Despite the apparent need for continued research in the field, DOE funding for low dose research steadily decreased from FY 2012 to FY 2015. In FY 2016, the DOE Office of Science ended its low dose program.

Witness List

- **Mr. John Neumann**, Director of Science and Technology Issues, Government Accountability Office
- **Dr. Gayle Woloschak**, Professor of Radiation Oncology and Radiology, Northwestern University
- **Dr. James Brink**, Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School, Radiologist-in-Chief, Massachusetts General Hospital

Staff Contact

For questions related to the hearing, please contact Hillary O’Brien of the Majority Staff at 202-226-8984.

¹ Preston et al. “Uncertainties in estimating health risks associated with exposure to ionizing radiation.” J Radiol Prot. 2013. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23803503>