

Scientists for 9/11 Truth
P.O. Box 1848
Keene, NH 03431

January 17, 2011

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

Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street Room 5228
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Dr. Holdren:
Re: Violations of Scientific Integrity Guidelines by NIST

In your recent memorandum¹ (12/17/10) that provides guidelines to federal scientists about the Administration's policies on scientific integrity, you urge government agencies to:

1. "Ensure a culture of scientific integrity,"
2. "Strengthen the actual and perceived credibility of Government research,"
3. "Facilitate the free flow of scientific and technological information, consistent with privacy and classification standards."

In response to this memorandum, we, the undersigned, degreed scientists, are prompted to draw your attention to recent egregious violations of the above stated guidelines by various government agencies and deliberative bodies, in particular the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

These violations call into question the very honesty and integrity of the government itself. Seldom in the annals of science has there been a more blatant disregard of sound scientific principles, together with more serious and adverse consequences for the life of a democracy, than in the recent investigations² by NIST of the building "collapses" at the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York City on September 11, 2001. This malfeasance is contributing to ongoing government behavior affecting the lives of millions, and resulting in hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths, as well as environmental pollution resulting, for example, from the use of depleted uranium in weaponry in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There can be no scientific integrity without strict adherence to the scientific method developed painstakingly over the past few centuries by pioneer scientists, often at great personal cost. Rather than follow this method, the NIST "investigations" reek of bias, omission, denial, obfuscation, and what appears to be outright fraud. At no point do

NIST's so-called investigations rise to a level where honest, independent scientists can have respect for Government scientific research. Even NIST's own former Chief of the Fire Science Division, James Quintiere, PhD, found NIST's conclusions questionable. Many independent scientists agree that, not only do NIST's WTC investigations lack scientific credibility, rather they indicate massive fraud.

The unconscionable removal and destruction³, before adequate examination, of the physical evidence at the World Trade Center that preceded NIST's investigations is itself a subject for public scrutiny. The omissions and distortions of the 9/11 Commission^{4,5}, and the failures of Congressional⁶ inquiries, are also deplorable. But the behavior of NIST, striking at the very foundations of rational scientific inquiry, is beyond understanding, except as part of a cover-up for a heinous crime.

In 2002 the United States Congress charged⁷ NIST as follows:

“Determine why and how WTC1 and WTC2 collapsed following the initial impacts of the aircraft and why and how WTC7 collapsed;”

To keep this letter brief, we draw your attention here to just two major examples of NIST's scientific failings that amount to malfeasance:

1. In NIST's expensive investigation and voluminous 10,000 page report² on WTC1 and WTC2, there is less than one page on the actual “collapses” themselves, and that one page, while admitting “essentially” “free fall,” makes a series of vague and unsubstantiated scientific statements to finally assert that there was “no corroborating evidence ... for controlled demolition using explosives.” Yet independent investigators⁸ have found more than a dozen independent pieces of evidence that indicate controlled demolition. NIST's investigation ends at the point where “collapse became inevitable,” – but this is precisely the point at which most indicators of controlled demolition appear^{9,10,11}.

NIST has pointedly avoided all this evidence, sometimes in an absurd fashion. For example, NIST's rationale, for not following National Fire Protection Agency guidelines¹² that require testing for explosives in the case of “high order damage,” is this statement¹³ by spokesman Michael E. Newman:

“If you're looking for something that isn't there, you're wasting your time... and the taxpayer's money.”

Independent scientific analysis of the WTC dust shows that there is something there. Not only is the WTC dust full of iron-rich microspheres^{14,15,16}, the expected by-products of a thermite reaction, but the dust is also laced with unreacted particles of nano-thermite^{17,18}, an advanced form of thermite with incendiary and explosive properties. NIST scientists are known to be familiar¹⁹ with nano-thermite, a substance that is mainly connected with military establishments.

Having ignored all the obvious evidences of controlled demolition, and ending its investigation before collapse initiation, NIST's investigation of the WTC Towers can be

summarized succinctly in its own words²⁰: “we are unable to provide a full explanation- of the total collapse.” Considering the fact that many unbiased observers, shown a photo or video of the “collapses,” would immediately conclude that the buildings were exploding rather than falling down, this statement is beyond scientific contempt.

2. During NIST’s equally expensive and detailed computer modeling of the “collapse” of Building 7 (WTC7)²¹, Shyam Sunder, the lead NIST investigator, initially claimed²² that the 17 top floors fell in 5.4 seconds, which is about 1.5 seconds or 40% more time than for free fall. NIST stated at the time that this is “consistent with physical principles.”

When, at a public review session, a high school physics teacher, David Chandler²², using an easily available tool, showed that there was in fact free fall for a distance of about 105 feet (or a time of about 2.5 seconds), NIST did not acknowledge this fact. As Shyam Sunder stated²² at the time:

“[A] free fall time would be an object that has no structural components below it.” “there was structural resistance ... in this particular case.”

Later, NIST simply incorporated the fact of free fall into its final report without comment. But it carefully removed the statement about being “consistent with physical principles.” NIST’s initial analysis has all the elements of attempted scientific fraud, and its failure to address the implications of free fall^{23,24} is, in this context, inexcusable. See Appendix A for a more detailed account.

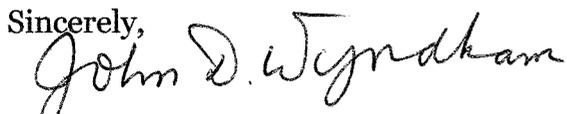
As for the Towers, many unbiased observers, including controlled demolition experts²⁵, when shown a video of WTC7 as it fell, would conclude that the building was being demolished using explosives. Yet once again, NIST never tested for explosives, and never considered this most obvious hypothesis. For a fuller account of the many problems with NIST’s report on WTC7, see David Ray Griffin’s excellent book²⁶.

The foregoing examples are but two among many. The evidence that the WTC buildings were brought down by some form of explosive demolition is now, in the opinion of many eminent scientists and others worldwide, beyond question. What is at stake here is the very credibility of the United States government and its scientific and other agencies. To continue to avoid this issue, an issue of utmost gravity, is an affront to every scientist, citizen, and student who looks for rationality and truth. It is in itself a high crime against humanity, for which there can be no ultimate justification.

We, the undersigned scientists, urge you to advise President Obama to address, with subpoena power, this scientific question and the actions of NIST. Subject the NIST reports to rigorous scientific review by independent scientists. Above all, provide rational answers to the many unanswered questions surrounding every facet of the official 9/11 story. No house built on sand can withstand the ravages of time and weather, much less can pernicious theories, built on avoidance of physical facts and laws, and grossly affecting human life, withstand condemnation by the scientific and general community. Those who adhere to such theories, or who tolerate them with silence, can only go down to ruin, ignominy, and public opprobrium.

We would very much appreciate a response within a month, that is, by February 17.

Sincerely,



John D. Wyndham, PhD Physics, University of Cambridge, (U.K.)
Coordinator for Scientists for 9/11 Truth, www.scientistsfor911truth.org.

Additional Signatories: Statements and biographies of signers can be seen on our website. Their agreements to sign are on file.

Alan Aeschliman, BS Chemistry, California State University, Long Beach, CA

Hummux Anax, PhD Physics, Case Institute

Mark Basile, BS Chemical Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute,

Anders Björkman, MSc Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden

David Chandler, MS Mathematics, California Polytechnic University

Dennis Bricker, PhD Industrial Engineering and Management Science, Emeritus, Northwestern University.

Timothy E. Eastman, PhD, Physics/Geophysics, University of Alaska

Michael Fullerton, BSc Psychology/Computer Science, University of Calgary

Andrew Robert Gallimore, PhD Chemistry, University of Cambridge, UK

Crockett Grabbe, PhD Physics, California Institute of Technology

David Griscom, PhD Physics, Brown University

Niels H. Harrit, PhD Chemistry, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Steven T. Hatton, BS Computer Science, University of Maryland University College

Timothy P. Howells, PhD Computer Science, Edinburgh University

Arkadiusz Jadczyk, PhD Theoretical Physics, University of Wroclaw, Poland

Mikael Kindborg, PhD Computer and Information Science, Linköping University

Daniel LaLiberte, BS Computer Science, University of Minnesota, Institute of Technology

Herbert G. Leberherz, PhD Biochemistry, University of Washington

Frank Legge, PhD Chemistry, University of Western Australia

Rudy List, PhD Mathematics, University of Birmingham (U.K.)

Lynn Margulis, PhD Genetics, University of California, Berkeley

Gary McMurtry, PhD Geology and Geophysics, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Jack Meagher, BS Nuclear Engineering, Lowell Tech. Inst. - UMass at Lowell

Jon M. Menough, PhD Civil Engineering, University of Utah

Dennis Mitrzyk, BS Physics, Mathematics, University of Michigan

A. Hamid Mumin, PhD Economic Geology, University of Western Ontario

David E. Nelson, BS Mathematics, Mankato State College, MN

Stephen Pheiffer, BSc Hons. Zoology, Marine Biology, University of Cape Town

Edward B. Rippey, BS Computer Science, MS Educational Psychology (emphasis Statistics), California State University, Hayward

David Robert Rollo, MS Plant Biology, Indiana University

André Rousseau, State Doctor (Docteur d'Etat) Geophysics and Geology, Faculty of Sciences, Paris, France

Kevin Ryan, BS Chemistry, Indiana University

Robert J. Stern, MS Applied Mathematics (School of Advanced Technology) from S.U.N.Y. at Binghamton

Per Sundin, PhD Physics, Humboldt University Berlin

Kip Warner, BSc Cognitive Systems: Computational Intelligence & Design, University of British Columbia,

Lon Waters, PhD Applied Mathematics, University of New Mexico

William A. Watson, BS Information Technology, Chancellor University, 2003; JD Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Gary Welz, MSc Mathematics, London University, England

William B. Willers, PhD Zoology, Emeritus, University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh

Corey Wright, BS Biology and Environmental Analysis, Warren Wilson College

Enclosures: These are being mailed under separate cover.

Niels H. Harrit, Jeffrey Farrer, Steven E. Jones, Kevin R. Ryan, Frank M. Legge, Daniel Farnsworth, Gregg Roberts, James R. Gourley, and Bradley R. Larsen, "Active Thermitic Material Observed in Dust from the 9/11 World Trade Center Catastrophe," *The Open Chemical Physics Journal*, 2009, 2: 7-31

Kevin R. Ryan, James R. Gourley and Steven E. Jones, "Environmental Anomalies at the World Trade Center: Evidence for Energetic Materials," *The Environmentalist*, 2009, Volume 29, Number 1, 56-63.

Prof. Graeme MacQueen and Tony Szamboti, "The Missing Jolt: A Simple Refutation of the NIST-Bazant Collapse Hypothesis," *Journal of 9/11 Studies*, Volume 24 - January 2009

David Chandler, "Destruction of the World Trade Center North Tower and Fundamental Physics," *Journal of 9/11 Studies*, Volume 28 - February, 2010

David Chandler, "My Measurement of Freefall for WTC7," 911SpeakOut.org

Richard Gage DVD, "Blueprint for Truth, Companion 2008," *Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth* (includes David Chandler's video on WTC7 Free fall)

David Ray Griffin, "The Mysterious Collapse of World Trade Center 7," *Olive Branch Press*, 2010 (328 pages)

cc: President Barrack Obama

US Department of Commerce, Office of the Inspector General

Todd J. Zinser, Inspector General

Scott S. Dahl, Deputy Inspector General

Judith J. Gordon, Associate Deputy Inspector General for Strategic Issues

Scott Berenberg, AIG/I, Office of Investigations

Rick Beitel, AIG for Whistleblower Protection

Wade Green Jr., Office of Counsel

UCS Scientific Integrity Staff

Francesca Grifo, Senior Scientist and Director, Scientific Integrity Program
Benjamin Gutman, Analyst
Michael Halpern, Program Manager
Heidi Moline, Associate Analyst
Alex Renaud, Program Assistant
Celia Wexler, Washington Representative

National Science Foundation, Office of Inspector General

Allison C. Lerner, Inspector General
Tim Cross, Deputy Inspector General
Peggy L. Fischer, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Kenneth D. Chason, Counsel

References:

- [1] Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, John P. Holdren, December 17, 2010
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/scientific-integrity-memo-12172010.pdf>
- [2] Reports of the Federal Building and Fire Investigation of the World Trade Center Disaster
<http://wtc.nist.gov/NCSTAR1/>
- [3] Selling out the investigation, Bill Manning, Fire Engineering, Jan 1, 2002
<http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/display.articles.fire-engineering.volume-155.issue-1.departments.editors-opinion.elling-out-the-investigation.html>
- [4] The 9/11 Commission Report
<http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report.pdf>
- [5] David Ray Griffin, "The 9/11 Commission – Omissions and Distortions," Olive Branch Press, 2005 (339 pages)
- [6] The Intelligence Community and 9/11: Congressional Hearings and the Status of the Investigation, Updated January 16, 2003, Order Code RL31650
<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RL31650.pdf>
- [7] The Investigation Of The World Trade Center Collapse: Findings, Recommendations, And Next Steps, Hearing Before The Committee On Science House Of Representatives One Hundred Ninth Congress First Session October 26, 2005
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/house/pdf/109hrg/24133.pdf>

- [8] Architects & Engineers for 9/1 Truth, <http://ae911truth.org/>. Over 1400 qualified architects and engineers calling for an independent, scientific investigation of 9/11.
- [9] Prof. Graeme MacQueen and Tony Szamboti, "The Missing Jolt: A Simple Refutation of the NIST-Bazant Collapse Hypothesis," *Journal of 9/11 Studies*, Volume 24 - January 2009 <http://www.journalof911studies.com/volume/2008/TheMissingJolt7.pdf>
- [10] David Chandler, "Destruction of the World Trade Center North Tower and Fundamental Physics," *Journal of 9/11 Studies*, Volume 28 - February, 2010 <http://www.journalof911studies.com/volume/2010/ChandlerDownwardAccelerationOfWTC1.pdf>
- [11] Richard Gage DVD, "Blueprint for Truth, Companion 2008," Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth <http://ae911truth.org/>
- [12] NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations, 2008 Edition developed by National Fire Protection Association. <http://www.nfpa.org/aboutthecodes/AboutTheCodes.asp?DocNum=921&cookie%5Ftest=1>
- [13] Jennifer Abel, "Theories of 9/11," *Hartford Advocate*, January 29, 2008 (<http://www.ae911truth.org/press/23>)
- [14] RJ Lee Group, "WTC Dust Signature," Expert Report, May 2004 http://www.nyenvirolaw.org/WTC/130%20Liberty%20Street/Mike%20Davis%20LMDC%20130%20Liberty%20Documents/Signature%20of%20WTC%20dust/WTC_Dust_Signature_ExpertReport.051304.1646.mp.pdf, 11.
- [15] RJ Lee Group, "WTC Dust Signature Study: Composition and Morphology," December 2003 (<http://www.nyenvirolaw.org/WTC/130%20Liberty%20Street/Mike%20Davis%20LMDC%20130%20Liberty%20Documents/Signature%20of%20WTC%20dust/WTC%20Dust%20Signature.Composition%20and%20Morphology.Final.pdf>), 17. This earlier (2003) version of the RJ Lee report contained much more information about melted iron than the 2004 version. For discussion, see Griffin, *The Mysterious Collapse*, 40-42.
- [16] Steven E. Jones, Jeffrey Farrer, Gregory S. Jenkins, Frank Legge, James Gourley, Kevin Ryan, Daniel Farnsworth, and Crockett Grabbe, "Extremely High Temperatures during the World Trade Center Destruction," *Journal of 9/11 Studies*, January 2008 (<http://journalof911studies.com/articles/WTCHighTemp2.pdf>), 4-5.
- [17] Niels H. Harrit, Jeffrey Farrer, Steven E. Jones, Kevin R. Ryan, Frank M. Legge, Daniel Farnsworth, Gregg Roberts, James R. Gourley, and Bradley R. Larsen, "Active Thermitic Material Observed in Dust from the 9/11 World Trade Center Catastrophe," *The Open Chemical Physics Journal*, 2009, 2: 7-31 (<http://www.bentham.org/open/toctpj/openaccess2.htm>).

- [18] Kevin R. Ryan, James R. Gourley and Steven E. Jones, "Environmental Anomalies at the World Trade Center: Evidence for Energetic Materials," *The Environmentalist*, 2009, Volume 29, Number 1, 56-63.
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/f67q6272583h86n4/>
- [19] The Top Ten Connections Between NIST and Nano-Thermites Kevin R. Ryan, 7-02-08
http://www.journalof911studies.com/volume/2008/Ryan_NIST_and_Nano-1.pdf
- [20] Letter dated September 27, 2007 from NIST (Catherine S. Fletcher, Chief, Management and Organization Division) to Bob McIlvaine, Bill Doyle, Dr. Steven Jones, Kevin Ryan, Richard Gage, Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice c/o Frank Legge.
<http://www.911proof.com/NIST.pdf>
- [21] NIST NCSTAR 1A: Final Report on the Collapse of World Trade Center Building 7
<http://wtc.nist.gov/NCSTAR1/NCSTAR1Aindex.htm>
- [22] NIST Technical Briefing on its Final Draft Report on WTC 7 for Public Comment
http://911speakout.org/NIST_Tech_Briefing_Transcript.pdf
- [23] David Chandler, "My Measurement of Freefall for WTC7,"
<http://911speakout.org/Freefall.pdf>
- [24] Richard Gage DVD, "Blueprint for Truth, Companion 2008," Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth (includes David Chandler video on WTC7 Free fall)
<http://ae911truth.org/>
- [25] See "Danny Jowenko on WTC 7 Controlled Demolition," YouTube
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=877gr6xtQIc>), or, for more of the interview, "Jowenko WTC 7 Demolition Interviews," in three parts
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3DRhwRN06I&feature=related>).
- [26] David Ray Griffin, "The Mysterious Collapse of World Trade Center 7," Olive Branch Press, 2010 (328 pages)

APPENDIX A
A Clear Example of Attempted Scientific Fraud
On the Part of NIST

Contrary to the August 2008 NIST report on WTC7, the acceleration of Building 7 was measured by high school physics teacher, David Chandler, and was found to be indistinguishable from the acceleration of gravity over a period of about 2.5 seconds of fall.

During the first round of questions in the Aug 26, 2008 NIST Technical Briefing (at 1:01:45 into the presentation) the following question was asked by David Chandler:

"Any number of competent measurements using a variety of methods indicate the northwest corner of WTC 7 fell with an acceleration within a few percent of the acceleration of gravity. Yet your report contradicts this, claiming 40% slower than freefall based on a single data point. How can such a public, visible, easily measurable quantity be set aside?"

Dr. Shyam Sunder replies:

"Could you repeat the question?"

[the moderator repeats the question, leaving out the word, "competent" as well as the last sentence]

Dr. Sunder then replies:

"Well...um...the...first of all gravity...um...gravity is the loading function that applies to the structure...um...at...um...applies....to every body...every...uh...on...all bodies on...ah...on...um... this particular...on this planet not just...um...uh...in ground zero...um...the...uh...the analysis shows a difference in time between a free fall time, a free fall time would be an object that has no...uh... structural components below it. And if you look at the analysis of the video it shows that the time it takes for the...17...uh...for the roof line of the video to collapse down the 17 floors that you can actually see in the video below which you can't see anything in the video is about...uh... 3.9 seconds. What the analysis shows...and...uh...the structural analysis shows, the collapse analysis shows that same time that it took for the structural model to come down from the roof line all the way for those 17 floors to disappear is...um... 5.4 seconds. It's...uh..., about one point...uh...five seconds or roughly 40% more time for that free fall to happen. And that is not at all unusual because there was structural resistance that was provided in this particular case. And you had...you had a sequence of structural failures that had to take place and everything was not instantaneous."

NIST had started the clock about 1.5 seconds before there was any perceptible downward motion of the roofline. In its final report on WTC7, NIST reversed Dr. Sunder's denial of free fall, and acknowledged a period of free fall of 2.25 seconds, comparable to David Chandler's analysis. However, NIST did not acknowledge the implications of free fall, namely, that all resistance across the width and depth of the building had instantaneously vanished, indicating explosive demolition as the cause of collapse. Instead, NIST proceeded with a most unlikely theory that has never before or since been applied to steel-framed buildings that have caught on fire. And indeed, no such "collapses" from fire of steel-framed buildings have ever occurred either before or after 9/11.