

From: (b) (6) [DOE HQ USA GOV](#)
To: (b) (6) [DOE HQ USA GOV](#); (b) (6) [DOE HQ USA GOV](#)
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Subject: RE: LANL Comments on Furin Paper
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Classification: ~~TOP SECRET~~ (b) (1) (A)

Classified By: (b) (6)

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(b) (6),

Here are my thoughts on the furin cleavage site paper, and issue in general.

As written, the paper PNNL delivered is far too technical to be something we would give to policymakers as an intelligence assessment. I'm really not qualified to adjudicate the comments because the information is so technically specific, and in general, because this topic requires such very specific skill set and depth of knowledge to adequately debate, it would be best if the debate were held in open scientific literature/forums, rather than in an intelligence assessment.



With all that said, I think this is one area where we could actually encourage the labs to publish their scientific views in open forums (b) (5)

That would enable this debate to occur in the global scientific community where other experts outside of the DOE labs could peer review.

If we go this route, LANL and other labs could provide one more round of comments, for PNNL to consider, and then PNNL could either finalize their paper as a lab product, proceed with writing something in the unclassified world, or both, or neither.

What do you think?

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