

U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

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Washington, D.C. 20530

July 25, 2014

The Honorable Thomas F. Hogan United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court 333 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: (U//FOUO) Notice Regarding NSA Purge Practices

Dear Judge Hogan:

(S//REL TO USA, FVEY) This letter provides information regarding gaps in the process by which the National Security Agency (NSA) has effectuated purges. Specifically, in April and May, 2014, NSA reported to the National Security Division (NSD) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) inconsistencies in the manner in which NSA purged data from NSA repositories that had been designated as

(TS//SI/NF) As previously described to the Court, any system designated by NSA must employ a purge protocol to verify that information is purged when the system receives a request to destroy SIGINT information that NSA is not authorized to retain. See, e.g., In re DNI/AG Certification Docket No. Affidavit of the Director of NSA, filed on May 10, 2010. In the following activities, undertaken as part of NSA's ongoing efforts to identify and resolve issues with its purge process, NSA identified specific objects that were subject to compliance purges but were not purged from

• (TS//SI//NF)—On or before NSA identified an issue with respect to how information was being purged from

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Classified by: Tashina Gauhar, Deputy Assistant
Attorney General, NSD, DOJ

Reason: 1.4(c)

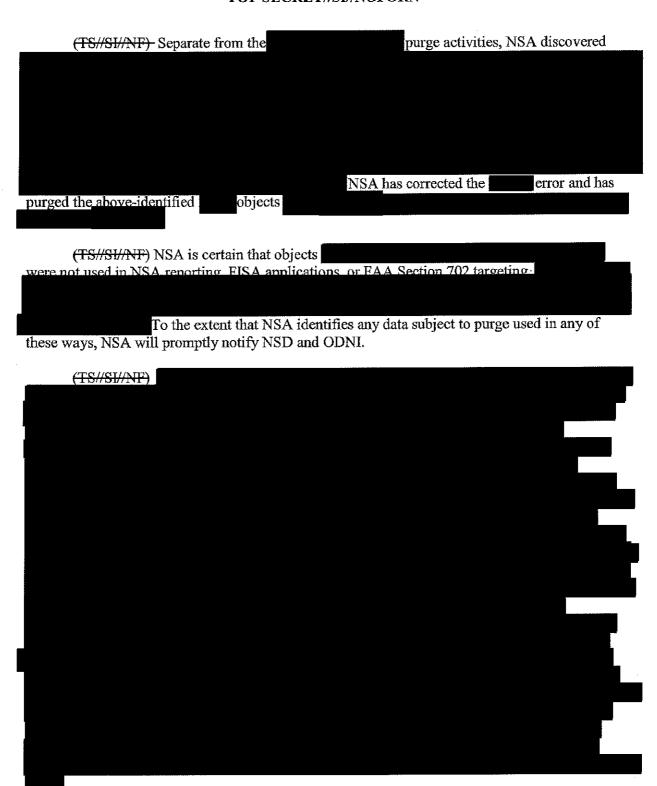
Declassify on: July 25, 2039

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ĺ	NSA corrected this issue
•	(TS//SI//NF) On as part of a routine activity
	NSA has confirmed that the approximately objects have been removed from
	(TS//SI//NF) On as a result of
	The
	Government will further update the Court on the root causes of the incomplete purges
¹ -(S//NF)	
² (U// FOUO)	NSD notified the Court of this

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(U//FOUO) NSA has reviewed this letter and confirmed its accuracy. The Department of Justice will continue to provide further information to the Court regarding these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kevin J. O'Connor Chief, Oversight Section Office of Intelligence, NSD U.S. Department of Justice