

ODNI Review Group Comments
Anne K.

You have asked for my comment on the following:

"How in light of advancements in communications technologies, the United States can employ its technical collection capabilities in a manner that optimally protects our national security and advances our foreign policy while respecting our commitment to privacy and civil liberties, recognizing our need to maintain the public trust, and reducing the risk of unauthorized disclosure."

I believe that the U.S. should STOP collecting information, and start concentrating on making life livable for each and every one of its people. "Protecting our national security" is meaningless for the majority of people in this country because their quality of life has significantly decreased over the last 35 years... so what exactly are we paying our taxes to protect?

"Advancing our foreign policy" in that same period of time has "advanced" only the economic reach of national and multi-national corporations, particularly fossil fuel companies, who are busy sheltering assets they should be paying tax on, and outsourcing jobs away from this country. Why should any of us want to "advance" that kind of behavior?

I think you should concentrate exclusively on "respecting our commitment to privacy and civil liberties," not to mention "maintaining the public trust," although that last item should probably read, "REGAINING the public trust," since not too many of us trust the government any more.

And, how you will "reduce the risk of unauthorized disclosure" in this day of poorly trained, underpaid government workers is beyond my understanding. Outsourcing that job is the very worst thing you can do, and still expect that those unauthorized disclosures would not happen.

Here, in short form, is what I think you need to do:

Stop the "war on terror," which is benefitting only defense contractors and no one else. Disband the Department of Homeland Security, for the same reason. Reduce the military budget to reasonable levels... make it on an exact par with education, healthcare and environmental control spending, so that you will actually have some national security to protect, raising the budgets on those three areas at the same time. Stop the corporate tax deductions that make outsourcing jobs so economically popular. Stop the fossil fuel subsidies and give them instead to RENEWABLE energy sources, to make a dent in climate change... so that we will still have a habitable planet in 50 years' time.

And, of course, completely cease and desist spying on the American people.

