



APR 11 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: Joseph Klimmavicz
Chief Information Officer

FROM:

Barry C. West

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry C. West".

SUBJECT: Request for Waiver

The policy memorandum from the Departmental CIO dated October 12, 2006 provided supplementary password requirements for Blackberry devices used within the Department of Commerce. Minimum password length must be 8 characters, and password history settings must ensure the previous 24 passwords may not be reused.

We have received the NOAA waiver request memorandum dated December 5, 2006, that provided the following facts and circumstances which led to the waiver request concerning use of Blackberry devices within NOAA:

- For ISP email use within NOAA all "SunOne" email is forwarded to a Nextel email box which in turn is forwarded to the Blackberry. Under this method it is not possible to set password policies.
- The Blackberry server only allows a maximum password history of 15, while the policy requirement is that 24 passwords may not be reused.

Your request for waiver as addressed in your December 5, 2006 memorandum is approved through September 30, 2007. We understand the limitations of setting password policies for NOAA staff who receive email through an ISP. Even though the waiver is approved, the NOAA CIO shall require staff to the extent possible to adhere to new policies as addressed in the October 12, 2006 Blackberry Password supplement memorandum. Though the policies can not be mandated through the Blackberry Enterprise Server for all users, we hope through training and inventory inspection of equipment these password policies can be enforced and monitored for compliance.

Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information in support of this waiver request.