

# U.S. Department of Energy

Washington, D.C.

## ORDER

DOE 5530.1A

9-20-91

SUBJECT: ACCIDENT RESPONSE GROUP

- 
1. PURPOSE. To establish Department of Energy (DOE) policy for DOE response to accidents and significant incidents involving nuclear weapons or nuclear weapon components.
  2. SCOPE. The provisions of this Order apply to all Departmental Elements, to contractors performing work for the Department as provided by law and/or contract, and as implemented by the appropriate contracting officer.
  3. CANCELLATION. This Order replaces DOE 5530.1, RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTS AND SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS INVOLVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, of 1-28-83.
  4. POLICY. DOE shall maintain a continuing capability to provide immediate response to peacetime accidents and significant incidents involving nuclear weapons or radiological nuclear weapon components.
  5. REFERENCES.
    - a. DOE 5500.1B, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, of 4-30-91, which establishes the overall policy and requirements for the DOE Emergency Management System and assigns responsibilities to DOE Elements.
    - b. DOE 5500.2B, EMERGENCY CATEGORIES, CLASSES, AND NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, of 4-30-91, which establishes the DOE emergency categories, classes, and notification and reporting requirements to facilitate the communication and reporting of emergency events.
    - c. DOE 5500.3A, PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS FOR OPERATIONAL EMERGENCIES, of 4-30-91, which establishes requirements for planning and preparedness for Operational Emergencies involving DOE or requiring DOE assistance.

---

DISTRIBUTION:

INITIATED BY:

All Departmental Elements

Office of Defense Programs

- d. DOE 5500.4, PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY AND PLANNING REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCIES, of 8-13-81, which establishes requirements for DOE public affairs actions for emergency situations.
- e. DOE 5500.10, EMERGENCY READINESS ASSURANCE PROGRAM, of 4-30-91, which establishes requirements for assuring the continued readiness of the Emergency Management System for response to an emergency.
- f. DOE 5530.2, NUCLEAR EMERGENCY SEARCH TEAM, of 9-20-91, which establishes DOE policy for NEST operations to malevolent radiological incidents.
- g. DOE 5530.4, AERIAL MEASURING SYSTEM, of 9-20-91, which establishes DOE policy for the Aerial Measuring System Program.
- h. DOE 5635.4, PROTECTION OF UNCLASSIFIED CONTROLLED NUCLEAR INFORMATION, of 2-3-88, which establishes DOE policy and procedures for the protection of Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information.
- i. "Joint Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and Federal Emergency Management Agency Agreement for Response to Nuclear Weapons Accidents and Nuclear Weapon Significant Incidents," of 1-18-81, which delineates general area of responsibility and sets forth a joint policy for response by Department of Defense (DOD), DOE, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), within the United States and its territories, to peacetime nuclear weapon accident and nuclear weapon significant incidents. For DOD and DOE, the responsibilities and scope of this agreement extend worldwide subject to the provisions of applicable international agreements.
- j. DOE Accident Response Group (ARG) Procedures Manual, of 1-6-89, which describes the field operations of the ARG components.
- k. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application (DP-20) Operational Emergency Management Plan (OEMP), of 6-89, which sets forth the procedures for managing emergencies for which DP-20 is the cognizant Program Office.

1. Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan, of 11-8-85, which describes the Federal Government response to radiological emergencies in support of Federal, State, tribal, and local government agencies.
6. DEFINITIONS. See Attachment 2 to DOE 5500.1B.
7. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS.
  - a. Notification. The DOE Headquarters Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be the primary point of contact for all initial notifications to the DOE regarding nuclear weapons accidents or significant incidents. Upon notification, EOC will notify the DP-20 Duty Officer and the DOE Field Office, Albuquerque (AL) EOC, which is co-located with the DOE Joint Nuclear Accident Coordinating Center (JNACC). The EOC will make further notification in accordance with References 5.a. and 5.b.
  - b. Mobilization.
    - (1) In response to a nuclear weapons accident or significant incident, DP-20 will activate an Operational Emergency Management Team (OEMT) (Reference 5.k.) in accordance with References 5.a. and 5.b. to coordinate the Headquarters response and provide direction and support for the mobilization and deployment of the Accident Response Group (ARG) and the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC), if required. AL will be responsible for mobilizing the required elements of ARG. The DOE Field Office, Nevada (NV) will be responsible for mobilizing the required elements of FRMAC. The DOE JNACC, in coordination with Department of Defense (DOD) JNACC, will arrange the necessary airlift requirements for deployment of personnel and equipment.
    - (2) The DOE Field Manager, AL will coordinate with the Director, OEMT, regarding the selection of: (a) the DOE Team Leader (TL) if DOE is the Energy Senior Official (ESO); or (b) the DOE ESO if DOE is in support of DOD. The DOE TL/ESO is the DOE person in charge of DOE activities at the accident site and, as such, is the single point of contact for all DOE operational elements. Deployment of resources will be made only with the approval of DP-20 or the Director, OEMT as required by this Order.

c. Operations.

- (1) Onsite. ARG supports TL/ESO in weapon recovery operations and in evaluating, collecting, handling, and mitigating radioactive and other weapons associated hazards. TL/ESO will utilize the expertise of the ARG Weapons Recovery Team working in close coordination with the military Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team to render safe the nuclear weapons and/or components. Once the weapons and/or components are in a safe condition, the material will be packaged for shipment to an appropriate location.
- (2) The Joint Hazards Evaluation Center (JHEC) will monitor and evaluate the working conditions onsite and make recommendations for reducing and mitigating the radiological or other hazards which may be encountered onsite as a result of the accident. JHEC will provide unclassified information to its counterpart, FRMAC, if activated. When activated, FRMAC becomes responsible for offsite radiological hazards evaluation for the United States and its territories.
- (3) Offsite. FRMAC provides the coordination with State, tribal, and local representatives as well as officials from other Federal agencies regarding the evaluation and mitigation of radiological and other hazards which may impact on areas surrounding the accident site. The FRMAC Director will provide assessments of offsite conditions to TL/ESO and will coordinate all decisions that may affect the overall operation. Monitoring and assessment results will be provided directly to TL/ESO. FRMAC is the focal point for the cataloging of all information relating to site restoration operations.

- d. Public Affairs. It is important that the flow of information be coordinated and timely. The establishment of a Joint Information Center (JIC) is essential. In accordance with Reference 5.d., the release of information must be factual and useful in order to preserve the credibility of the operating elements and to obtain the maximum cooperation from the press and local citizens groups. DOE-generated media releases at the site must be coordinated, prior to release, with the DOE TL/ESO. All DOE-generated media releases shall be reviewed by an authorized official for classified information, Unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information (UCNI) (Reference 5.h.), and other unclassified but sensitive information prior to release.

- e. Deactivation. When the weapons recovery operations are completed, the primary mission of ARG has been accomplished. At that time, the Lead Federal Agency (LFA) would lead the site restoration operations and the role of ARG would be to support the onsite radiological monitoring, analysis, assessment, and recovery activities as requested by LFA and approved by the Manager, AL, and the Director, OEMT. Deactivation of ARG will occur only upon concurrence of LFA, recommendation of DOE ESO, Manager, AL, and the approval of the Director, OEMT.

## 8. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES.

- a. The Secretary. Many provisions in this Order permit and/or necessitate the exercise of discretion and/or judgment in carrying out the requirements of the Order. In those instances, the determination of whether, in the exercise of such discretion and/or judgment, the requirements of this Order were complied with rests initially with the relevant Department authority and, ultimately, with the Secretary. The Secretary retains the sole and final authority to determine what acts are necessary to comply with this Order. Further, the Secretary retains the authority to suspend any and all requirements under this Order whenever the Secretary deems it necessary. This authority may be delegated by the Secretary as appropriate.
- b. Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs (DP-1), shall assure the planning and preparedness for emergencies involving:
  - (1) Nuclear weapons, radiological components, or nuclear test devices in the custody of DOE.
  - (2) DOE assistance to DOD in emergencies involving nuclear weapons or radiological nuclear weapons components in the custody of DOD.
- c. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Application (DP-20), shall:
  - (1) Provide programmatic policy and guidance for the DOE nuclear weapons accident response program.
  - (2) Budget for research, development, documentation, equipment, exercise, training, and deployment to meet DOE nuclear weapon accident response needs.

- (3) Maintain liaison with Headquarters organizations of appropriate Federal agencies, such as DOD, Department of State, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and assure necessary interagency agreements are negotiated.
  - (4) Assure that the DOE nuclear weapon accident response program is exercised and that DOE participates in the planning and execution of multi-agency nuclear weapon accident exercises.
  - (5) Establish plans and procedures for compliance of criteria and standards of DOE 5500 series Orders.
  - (6) Establish procedures for and conduct Emergency Deployment Readiness Evaluations (EDRE) of ARG.
  - (7) Review and concur on ARG procedures.
  - (8) In coordination with the Manager, DOE Field Office, Albuquerque (AL) and the Manager, DOE Field Office, Nevada (NV), conduct training and exercises to test nuclear weapons accident response plans and procedures.
  - (9) Upon notification of an accident or significant incident involving nuclear weapons, radiological nuclear weapon components, or nuclear test devices, activate OEMT and take the actions set forth in the DASMA Operational Emergency Management Plan (Reference 5.k).
  - (10) Designate a staff member with emergency preparedness responsibility to serve on the Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC).
- d. Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health (EH-1), shall conduct oversight as required to ensure those aspects of environmental protection, radiation safety, worker safety, and those aspects of public health and safety that deal with epidemiology and exposure to hazardous materials are properly addressed.
- e. Director of Emergency Operations (DP-9.3), shall:
- (1) Establish a process for reviewing DOE plans and procedures which are prepared to implement the DOE 5500 series Orders.

- (2) Ensure that exercises of the ARG capabilities are coordinated within the overall DOE operational emergency exercise program.
  - (3) Serve as the DOE point of contact for inquiries concerning emergency preparedness.
  - (4) Maintain a listing of points of contacts and notification procedures within Headquarters, Field Elements, and other Federal agencies.
  - (5) Support training activities, at both Headquarters and field levels, needed to implement this Order.
  - (6) Support OEMT operations required in nuclear weapons accident or significant incidents.
- f. Manager, DOE Field Office, Albuquerque (AL), as primary office responsible for ARG, shall:
- (1) Develop, establish, deploy, operate, maintain, and deactivate ARG. Such procedures shall be established with the concurrence of DP-20.
  - (2) Prepare and submit a five-year budget plan with supporting documentation for maintaining and operating ARG, including research and development activities.
  - (3) Conduct DOE field planning and execution of multi-agency nuclear weapon accident exercises.
  - (4) Establish a readiness assurance program elements of ARG, in coordination with DP-20.
  - (5) When requested, assist DP-20 in the negotiation of interagency liaison activities.
  - (6) Coordinate with the Director, OEMT with regard to the appointment of the DOE TL/ESO for ARG operations.
  - (7) Activate, deploy, and deactivate ARG as directed by the Director, OEMT/DP-20.

- g. Manager, DOE Field Office, Nevada (NV), shall:
- (1) Activate, deploy, and deactivate NV emergency response elements to support ARG as directed by the Director, OEMT. Deployed Elements will be under the direction of the designated DOE TL/ESO.
  - (2) Develop, issue, and maintain procedures for the operation of FRMAC as it may be used to support ARG activities in a nuclear weapons accident. Such procedures shall be coordinated with DP-20.
  - (3) Activate, deploy, and deactivate FRMAC Elements as authorized by the Director, OEMT. Deployed elements will be under the direction of the DOE TL/ESO.
- h. Manager, DOE Field Office, Oak Ridge (OR), shall develop, maintain, and support the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS) to provide medical assistance to ARG, as required.
- i. Manager, DOE Field Office, San Francisco (SAN), shall develop, maintain, and support the Department's Atmospheric Release Advisory Capability (ARAC) and provide assistance to ARG, as required.
- j. Heads of Headquarters Program Offices and DOE Field Elements, shall:
- (1) Assist, as requested by DP-20, in formulating and maintaining current procedures for the DOE resources within their purview to respond to a nuclear weapon accident or significant incident.
  - (2) Make available DOE, DOE contractor, and volunteer personnel and equipment to augment ARG at an accident scene or at other designated location as requested by Director, OEMT.
  - (3) Authorize the appropriate DOE contractors under their jurisdiction to:
    - (a) Participate in formulating and maintaining current procedures to support the DOE ARG capability.



- (b) Maintain a continuing capability to provide the necessary personnel and equipment to support the ARG when deployed.

k. The Managers, DOE Field Office, Oak Ridge, Savannah River, Albuquerque, Chicago, Idaho, Richland, and San Francisco and the Manager of the DOE Brookhaven Area Office, shall:

- (1) When requested, ensure the Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Regional Coordinating Offices respond to a nuclear weapon accident or a significant incident in the United States.
- (2) Implement the radiological assistance program (RAP) in support of ARG through the DOE TL/ESO, as directed by the Director, OEMT.
- (3) Provide, at the scene of a nuclear weapon accident or significant incident, personnel as requested by the DOE TL/ESO.
- (4) Represent DOE, if first on the scene, until ARG arrives. Assure that the DOE JNACC and the Headquarters Emergency Operations Center have been notified of the accident.

l. Heads of Headquarters Elements and DOE Field Organizations shall designate an individual(s) to be responsible for bringing to the attention of the contracting officer each procurement falling within the scope of this Directive. Unless another individual is designated, the responsibility is that of the procurement request originator.

m. Procurement request originators or such other individual(s) as designated by the cognizant head of Headquarters Element or DOE field organization shall bring to the attention of the cognizant contracting officer the following: (1) each procurement requiring the application of this Directive; (2) requirements for flowdown of provisions of this Directive to any subcontract or subaward, and (3) identification of the paragraphs or other portions of this Directive with which the awardee, or, if different, a subawardee, is to comply.

9-20-91

- n. Contracting Officers, based on advice received from the procurement request originator or other designated individual, shall apply applicable provisions of this Directive to awards falling within its scope. For awards, other than management and operating contracts, this shall be by incorporation or reference using explicit language in a contractual action, usually bilateral.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY:



JOHN J. NETTLES, JR.  
Director of Administration and  
Human Resource Management