

QUESTION: DOE O 151.1C, Chapter I, paragraph 9i(2), requires the Cognizant Field Element, where applicable, to pre-designate the Senior Federal Official when DOE/NNSA is the Coordinating Agency under the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex of the National Response Plan (NRP) or its replacement. Is this responsibility applicable to all Field Elements?

ANSWER:

When DOE O 151.1C was published on 11-2-05, no other DOE Directive addressed the requirement to pre-designate or otherwise appoint the senior DOE official to carry-out Departmental responsibilities under the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex of the National Response Plan (NRP). [The NRP has now been replaced by the National Response Framework (NRF).]

After the publication of DOE O 151.1C, the title used for the Federal employee who provides leadership at the event scene for DOE radiological response assets changed from the Senior Federal Official to the Senior Energy Official (SEO).

In addition, a new Directive was developed to specifically address the Department's responsibilities under the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex and/or the National Response Framework (NRF), which replaced the NRP. This Directive, DOE O 153.1, *DEPARTMENTAL RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE ASSETS*, was published on 6-27-2007. This Directive gives the NNSA Associate Administrator for Emergency Operations the responsibility to designate and deploy a SEO [paragraph 5b(2)]. Because DOE O 153.1 requires that deployed radiological emergency response assets be under the direction of a SEO [paragraph 4b(4)(c)], the Order also contains provisions for specific Field Elements to deploy their assets under the direction of an acting SEO [paragraph 5i-k].

DOE O 153.1 contains the controlling requirement(s). The duplicate requirement/responsibility will be omitted in the upcoming revision of DOE O 151.1C.