

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
PRIORITY MISSION ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS
FEBRUARY 2005

Priority Mission Essential Function #1:

Ensure the safety and security of nuclear materials and stewardship of the Nation's Nuclear Weapons Complex

Descriptive Narrative: Assure the credibility, viability, reliability and security of U.S. nuclear weapons capability. Assure the ready availability of technical experience, skills and capabilities to support essential nuclear weapons work. Assure the safety and security of essential nuclear weapons complex materials, equipment and facilities, and other DOE nuclear materials. Provide support as required to DOD and other nuclear weapons complex partners.

- Securely handle, store and transfer nuclear materials at all times.
- Validate nuclear materials inventories (accountability).
- Rapidly respond to emergencies involving nuclear weapons, materials or facilities.
- Direct and oversee nuclear weapons development, assessment, and certification activities required to maintain the stockpile in a safe and reliable state.
- Support resolution of safety and performance issues associated with the stockpile; ensure the evaluation and assessment of nuclear weapons in the active stockpile in supporting certification, including research and modeling, as required, and provide expertise in weapons effects, radiological effects, and weapons control features.
- Manage international Mutual Defense Agreements, as necessary, regarding nuclear weapons matters.
- Oversee the qualification of replacement weapons components that are necessary to support essential stockpile requirements

Implications if not performed: If the Department does not ensure the safety, security, and reliability of nuclear weapons, they may not be readily available when required and nuclear material or weapons could be diverted to unauthorized uses, which could compromise national security. Loss of control or accountability of nuclear materials could also lead to severe economic and/or public health consequences. A by-product of not ensuring security and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile is that our nuclear weapons program could lose credibility, thereby eroding national and international confidence in our deterrence capabilities.

Associated NEF(s): 3, 4, 5, 6, 8

Other Comments: None

Timing: < 4 hours

Partners: DOD; DoS; DOT

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Priority Mission Essential Function #2:

Monitor the status of the National Energy Infrastructure.

Descriptive Narrative: Monitor and publish information regarding the Nation's Energy Infrastructure including the status of energy facilities and resources (storage, production and transmission facilities) that support the National Security and welfare. Manage the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the Northeast Heating Oil Reserve, and the Federal Power Marketing Administrations. Advise National leadership on the allocation of energy resources. Coordinate national energy related issues:

- Conduct assessments and analyses of impacts to energy storage, production, generation, transmission, distribution, and transportation facilities and systems.
- Collect, evaluate, assemble, analyze, and disseminate data and information related to energy resources, production, demand, technology, and related economic and statistical information.

Implications if not performed: If the Department of Energy does not act in response to a wide scale energy related emergency, the energy infrastructure will be left on its own to attempt to resolve matters on a state by state or region by region basis.

Associated NEF(s): 6, 7, 8

Other Comments: None

Timing: < 24 hours

Partners: DOD; DOT; DOI; DHS; FERC, NRC, Commerce, USDA, TVA, State Energy Offices, Energy Industry

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Priority Mission Essential Function #3:

Manage National Scientific and Technical Capabilities

Descriptive Narrative: Direct and oversee the operation of the numerous national engineering and scientific laboratories, and research and development facilities with extraordinary technical capabilities (e.g., physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, computer technology). Universities, major industrial contractors, and other private organizations, under contract to the Department, manage these facilities and can respond to requests for technical assistance and analysis with a short turnaround.

Implications if not performed: If the Department of Energy resources are not available to respond to requests for technical and scientific assistance, health, safety and environmental problems that could be solved during a crisis may remain, putting people, infrastructure, businesses and government operations at greater risk.

Associated NEF(s): 5, 6, 8

Other Comments: None

Timing: < 24 hours

Partners: DOD; DOT; DHS; HHS others

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Priority Mission Essential Function #4:

Deploy DOE national response assets in accordance with Federal emergency response plans and provide technical expertise and information regarding nuclear and radiological weapons design and effects.

Descriptive Narrative: Execute responsibilities under the National Response Plan and other similar plans and agreements. Maintain the capability to immediately notify, alert mobilize, and deploy radiological and energy emergency response assets, assistance, and/or support on both a domestic and international basis as a consequence of emergencies or significant incidents. Provide technical expertise on nuclear and radiological matters and available analytical capabilities of DOE sites and national laboratories.

Implications if not performed: If the Department does not respond effectively to emergencies or incidents involving energy supply and distribution systems or nuclear and radiological materials the safety and health of citizens would be jeopardized.

Associated National Essential Functions: 4, 6

Other Comments: None

Timing: <4 hours

Partners: DOD; DOS; DHS; FBI; USDA; DOI; DOT; EPA; NRC; TVA

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Priority Mission Essential Function #5:

Conduct intelligence, counterintelligence, and threat assessments of global nuclear weapons development, nonproliferation, terrorist threats, and energy production and consumption.

Descriptive Narrative: Provide timely counterintelligence and counter terrorism threat information targeting DOE facilities, resources, and personnel to senior Government officials and Executive Branch agencies. Provide timely scientific and technical intelligence and conduct intelligence threat assessments relating to nuclear proliferation, weapons, energy, and threat related and emerging technologies. Maintain liaison with the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Intelligence Community for the purpose of receiving and disseminating threat information and provide expert technical, analytical, and research assistance to other agencies within the U.S. intelligence community.

Implications if not performed: If the Department does not detect and respond to threats regarding national and international nuclear security or the loss, diversion, or theft of nuclear or radiological materials our national security could be compromised, and/or lead to severe economic and/or public health consequences.

Associated National Essential Functions: 3, 5, 6

Other Comments: None

Timing: <4 hours

Partners: DHS; FBI; CIA; DOS; NRC

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Priority Mission Essential Function #6:

Manage and Respond to International Nuclear and other WMD Proliferation Issues

Descriptive Narrative: Provide technical and policy leadership to limit, or prevent the spread of materials, technology, and expertise relating to weapons of mass destruction (WMD), advance and apply technologies to detect the proliferation of WMD worldwide; eliminate or secure inventories of materials and infrastructure usable for nuclear weapons; and respond to or provide support to response efforts involving nuclear or radiological emergencies.

- Communicate with, cooperate with, and provide assistance to USG and international partners (e.g. IAEA, foreign governments) to minimize or eliminate threats from nuclear and radiological materials;
- Secure nuclear and radiological materials at vulnerable sites around the world and reduce quantities of weapons, and fissile and radiological materials;
- Assess foreign WMD proliferation threats;
- Strengthen and support international nonproliferation and export control regimes;
- Bolster foreign border security, including seaports;
- Support international nuclear emergency response efforts;
- Provide nuclear and radiological forensics capability as required.

Implications if not performed: If Department of Energy resources are not actively engaged in monitoring, anticipating and responding to the WMD nonproliferation threat, the USG will fail to make available to itself the single largest source of relevant technical and policy expertise needed to prevent or respond to a catastrophic terrorist or rogue state attack on the United States or its allies. In the absence of the above-listed functions being performed, worldwide smuggling in WMD technologies and related materials, trafficking in weapons-related scientific expertise, and foreign development or international transfer of WMD weapons, materials, technology and expertise will increase without USG detection, interdiction, or response, any subset of which is likely to result in the national disaster that these capabilities and programs are designed to prevent.

Associated NEF(s): 3, 4, 5, 6, 8

Other Comments: None

Timing: < 4 hours

Partners: State, DOD, FBI, DHS, Commerce, NSC, Intel Community