

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE (MD)

MD 9.28	ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY RESEARCH	DT-17-187
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Management Directive 9.28, “Organization and Functions, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research,” replaces Manual Chapter and Appendix NRC-0125 and has been revised to reflect the current organizational structure, responsibilities, and authorities of the office. There is no handbook; Appendix NRC-0125 was not converted.

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For updates or revisions to policies contained in this MD that were issued after the MD was signed, please see the Yellow Announcement to Management Directive index ([YA-to-MD index](#)).

I. SUPERVISION

The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) is under the supervision of the Director, who is appointed by the Commission and supervised by the Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste, Research, State, Tribal, Compliance, Administration, and Human Capital Programs (DEDM).

II. FUNCTIONS

The Director is responsible for planning, recommending, and implementing programs of nuclear regulatory research, standards development, and resolution of safety issues for nuclear power plants, other nuclear facilities, and radioactive material regulated by the NRC. Consistent with Section 205 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, and Commission policy decisions related to Direction Setting Issue 22 in 1998, RES recommends and performs confirmatory and anticipatory research necessary for licensing and other regulatory functions of the NRC. This includes coordinating research activities within and outside the agency, including appointment of staff to committees and conferences, national voluntary consensus standards activities, and coordination with other domestic and international research organizations. Specifically, the office—

- A.** Supervises, directs, coordinates, and approves the activities, including administrative functions, of the various organizational units within RES.
- B.** Enters into, extends, modifies, and terminates agreements with other Federal agencies and other institutions.
- C.** Takes action as necessary to comply with the decisions of an Administrative Law Judge, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, or the Commission after a hearing pursuant to 10 CFR Part 2, “Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure.”
- D.** Ensures that the DEDM and the Commission are fully and currently informed about significant matters within the functions of RES.
- E.** Performs functions as are required by, and in accordance with, applicable law, statute, or regulation.
- F.** Performs such functions as are assigned by the Commission, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO), or the DEDM.

III. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR

The Director is authorized and directed to take actions as necessary to carry out the functions assigned by this directive or other official directives or communications, subject to the limitations prescribed therein. This delegation includes the authority to—

- A. Plan and implement the programs of nuclear regulatory research and standards development that the Commission deems necessary for the performance of NRC licensing and related regulatory functions.
- B. Plan, organize, develop, direct, and coordinate, as appropriate, NRC's interaction with research programs conducted by DOE, other Federal agencies, private organizations, academic institutions, and foreign groups (except that initiation of policy aspects of programs with foreign groups should be coordinated with the Office of International Programs).
- C. Serve as principal point of contact for the NRC with the American Nuclear Standards Institute (ANSI) and other standards organizations on matters concerning nuclear standards, and direct coordination of Commission participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency nuclear safety standards and related activities.
- D. Submit to the Office of Administration for execution, plans to enter into, extend, modify, and terminate contracts and grants necessary to implement NRC decisions on programs for nuclear regulatory research.

IV. REDELEGATION OF AUTHORITY BY THE DIRECTOR

- A. The director shall, except where expressly prohibited, redelegate in writing to others authority delegated by this or other official directives or communications, subject to the limitations stated below and other stipulations that may be deemed necessary.
- B. The director shall send a memorandum specifying the redelegation to the EDO, with a copy to the Secretary of the Commission, the General Counsel, and the Chief Human Capital Officer. Each redelegation will be stored as an official record in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System.
- C. The director shall stipulate any limitations on further redelegation of authority.
- D. The director shall maintain a file of all redelegations.

V. REDELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

- A. The deputy director is authorized and directed to act in the stead of the director during his or her absence.
- B. Serves as the Chair of the Committee on Review of Generic Requirements and Chair of the Lessons Learned Oversight Board, as designated by the EDO.

VI. REDELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF ENGINEERING, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY RESEARCH

Serves as the NRC Standards Executive, coordinator of codes and standards development activities, as redelegated by the EDO.

VII. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND INTERNAL ASSIGNMENTS

Organization charts and functional descriptions for RES and its components are posted on the NRC [internal](#) and [external](#) Web sites. Deviations from the standard organizational structure that affect positions or functions at the division level or above must have the concurrence of the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer (OCHCO) and be approved by the EDO or a DEDO. Deviations from the standard organizational structure that affect positions or functions at the branch level must have the concurrence of OCHCO and must be approved by the Director of RES.

VIII. REFERENCES

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

- 10 CFR Part 1, "Statement of Organization and General Information."
- 10 CFR Part 2, "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure."

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Documents

Management Directive—

- 1.1, "NRC Management Directives System."
- 3.17, "NRC Information Quality Program."
- 6.4, "Generic Issues Program."
- 6.5, "NRC Participation in the Development and Use of Consensus Standards."
- 6.6, "Regulatory Guides."

6.8, "Lessons-Learned Program."

8.1, "Abnormal Occurrence Reporting Procedure."

8.4, "Management of Facility-specific Backfitting and Information Collection."

8.7, "Reactor Operating Experience Program."

8.18, "NRC Generic Communications Program."

Other NRC Staff Documents

Memorandum to Director of the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, from R. W. Borchardt, EDO, "Delegation of Authority," December 5, 2008 ([ML080430016](#)).

Memorandum to Chairman Meserve from William D. Travers, EDO, "Delegation of Authority – Annual Report to NIST," October, 16, 2001 ([ML012710100](#)).

NRC Organization Charts and Functional Descriptions Web Site:
<http://www.internal.nrc.gov/HR/organization.html>.

NRC Organization and Functions on the NRC External Web Site:
<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/resfuncdesc.html>.

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), Office Instruction (OI), ADM-008, "Office Administrative Practices and Delegation of Authority," dated July 26, 2012, available at <http://fusion.nrc.gov/res/team/pmda/Lists/OI%20Listing/AllItems.aspx> ([ML121870142](#)).

SECY-07-0022, "Status Report on Proposed Improvements to the Generic Issues Program," January 30, 2007 ([ML063460239](#)).

Generic Issues Program on the NRC External Web Site:
<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/gen-issues.html>.

Staff Requirements Memoranda (SRM)

Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM), "SECY-97-052 - Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR) - Scope of Review and Periodic Review Activities," April 18, 1997 ([ML003756188](#)).

SRM, "COMSECY-07-0025 – Staff Requirements – Semiannual Update of the Lessons Learned Program," August 15, 2007 ([ML072270124](#)).

SRM, "SECY-98-228 – Proposed Streamlining and Consolidation of AEOD Functions and Responsibilities," December 10, 1998.

SRM, "SECY-16-0022 – Report to Congress on Abnormal Occurrences: Fiscal Year 2015," April 18, 2016 ([ML16110A142](#)).

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (79 FR 2664), January 14, 2005 ([ML050820631](#)).

OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities," revised February 10, 1998.

United States Code

Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5801 et seq.).

Government Performance and Results Act (Pub. L. 103-62).

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Modernization Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 11-352).

Plain Language Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-274).