

Protocol Topic: Emergency Response

I. Introduction

This protocol addresses response to a transportation emergency involving DOE shipped radioactive materials during offsite transportation. It includes ongoing interactions with state and tribal officials as part of incident crisis communications. This protocol applies to all classified and unclassified DOE rail and highway transport of radioactive material.

II. Criteria

For this protocol, emergency response includes the actions taken by the response jurisdiction and DOE in a transportation emergency as described in the Emergency Notification Protocol.

III. Emergency Response

- A. State, tribal and local governments have the primary responsibility and authority to respond to and manage all emergencies within their jurisdiction. Incident Command is the responsibility of state, tribal, or local government(s). If the event involves a Transportation Safeguards Division (TSD) classified shipment, TSD will establish a unified command to work closely with state/local incident command. DOE will provide assistance in accordance with Federal statutes and regulations to support state, tribal and local authorities.
- B. The DOE shipper (for Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) shipments, the WIPP Central Monitoring Room (CMR)) will:
 - 1. Make emergency notifications as identified in the Emergency Notification Protocol to designated state, tribal points of contact.
 - 2. Conduct follow-up communications on DOE activities (i.e., situation updates and reports, status updates on recovery planning and termination of the event) with states and tribes as needed for that particular incident.
 - 3. Provide shipment specific emergency information and access to DOE/contractor personnel for technical advice and detailed information as requested by on-scene response personnel.
 - 4. Implement transportation emergency response procedures (e.g., activating site emergency organizations or operations center(s), declaring an operational emergency, activating site specific transportation emergency plans, escorts). Site specific procedures may be addressed in

Transportation Plans or a campaign specific plan.

5. Assist in the coordination of DOE resources to provide additional radiological support/technical assistance if requested.
 - a. Radiological assistance will be coordinated by the cognizant Regional Coordinating Office (RCO). The shipper may assist in the coordination and provision of additional radiological assessment assistance as needed.
 - b. The shipper will coordinate with DOE-HQ and the appropriate DOE Regional Coordinating Office (RCO) to identify additional DOE technical resources (programmatic, public information, emergency communication capability, and/or security personnel) to be deployed to the incident scene. These DOE representatives will provide additional technical assistance/support to the responsible on-scene authority.
 - c. For Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) shipments, when called upon, the Incident/Accident Response Team (IART) will:
 1. Provide technical expertise in determining the status of the package(s) and transporter including the tractor/trailer used in the shipment.
 2. Assist the carrier, through the senior onsite DOE official, in the development of the incident site specific recovery plan.
 3. Provide oversight of the TRU-waste carrier's clean-up operations.
6. If an emergency occurs that warrants a Federal response under an applicable Federal Plan (e.g., National Contingency Plan (NCP) (hazardous/radioactive material response), Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) (radiological response), Federal Response Plan (FRP) (natural disaster response)), coordinate with DOE Headquarters and the cognizant Regional Coordinating Office in the affected region to designate a Federal On-scene Coordinator/Commander and conduct activities in support of that plan.
7. Coordination with public affairs is addressed in the Public Information Protocol.

- C. The carrier, WIPP CMR, or TSD, as part of the emergency response, will:
1. Promptly notify the DOE shipper's 24 hour emergency response notification number when information is received that an emergency has occurred.
 2. Forward any calls to the DOE shipper from emergency responders seeking technical advice and detailed information regarding the shipment.
 3. Give notice to the US Department of Transportation (DOT) as required by 49 CFR 171.15.
 4. Respond to the requests of state, tribal and local government authorities regarding recovery activities and coordinate activities with the DOE shipper.
- D. The cognizant DOE Regional Coordinating Office will:
1. Provide radiological assistance, including deployment of Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) team(s), upon request of DOE or appropriate state or tribal authority. Support for radiological assistance will be coordinated with DOE HQ and the shipper. Assistance for radiological monitoring may be requested from the appropriate DOE Regional Coordinating Office (see attached map).
 2. Assist in the coordination of other radiological assets (e.g., Aerial Measurement System (AMS), Atmospheric Release Advisory Capability (ARAC), Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC), Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS)).
- E. Additional DOE response activities may be identified in DOE site transportation emergency plans, memoranda of agreement, campaign specific transportation plans, or emergency response plans.