



Worker Protection for DOE Contractor Employees

Policy:

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contractor employees shall be provided with safe and healthful working conditions in accordance with the standards prescribed pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, and the Department of Energy Reorganization Act of 1977; said standards shall be consistent with those promulgated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, Public Law 91-596. Please refer to DOE O440.1A for details.

DOE Contractors:

DOE has determined that Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

is subject to DOE Acquisition Regulation (DEAR), Subpart 970.23, and is, therefore, required to comply with applicable DOE –prescribed Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards listed therein. This Order and the standards are available for employee review at Site Safety Offices and Technical Libraries

As delineated in DOE Order 440.1A, Attachment 2, Contractor Requirements Document, the DOE contractor is required to:

1. Implement a written worker protection program that provides a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.
2. Establish written policy, goals, and objectives for the worker protection program.
3. Use qualified worker protection staff to direct and manage the worker protection program.
4. Assign worker protection responsibilities, evaluate personnel performance, and hold personnel accountable for worker protection performance.
5. Encourage employee involvement in the development of program goals, objectives and performance measures and in the identification and control of hazards in the workplace.
6. Inform workers of their rights and responsibilities by appropriate means, including posting this poster in the workplace where it is accessible to all workers.
7. Identify existing and potential workplace hazards and evaluate the risk of associated worker injury or illness.
8. Implement a hazard prevention/ abatement process to ensure that all identified hazards are managed through final abatement or control. For existing hazards identified in the workplace, abatement actions prioritized according to risk to the worker shall be promptly implemented pending final abatement and workers shall be protected immediately from imminent danger conditions.
9. Provide workers, supervisors, managers, visitors and worker protection professionals with worker protection training.

10. Ensure that subcontractors performing work on DOE-owned or –leased facilities comply with these requirements and the contractor’s own site worker protection standards (where applicable) .

Contractors are also required to comply with the Federal regulations and national standards listed in section 12 of Attachment 2 to DOE O 440.1A. In addition DOE O 440.1A contains requirements for the following specific functional areas, if the contractor is involved in these activities: construction safety, fire protection, firearms safety, explosives safety, industrial hygiene, occupational medical, pressure safety, motor vehicle safety, and suspect and counterfeit item controls. Please refer to DOE O 440.1A for details.

Employees:

DOE contractor employees have the right to:

1. accompany DOE worker protection personnel during workplace inspections;
2. participate in the activities provided for in DOE O 440.1A, Attachment 2, on official time;
3. express concerns related to worker protection;
4. decline to perform an assigned task because of a reasonable belief that, under the circumstances, the task poses an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm to that individual, coupled with a reasonable belief that there is insufficient time to seek effective redress through the normal hazard reporting and abatement procedures established in accordance with the requirements herein;
5. have access to DOE worker protection publications, DOE-prescribed standards, and the organization’s own worker protection standards or procedures applicable to the workplace;
6. observe monitoring or measuring of hazardous agents and have access to the results of exposure monitoring;
7. be notified when monitoring results indicate they were overexposed to hazardous materials; and
8. receive results of inspections and accident investigations upon request.

Inspections:

All activities under this contract are subject to inspection by DOE. When an inspection under DOE O 440.1A is conducted, a contractor management representative and a representative authorized by the employees will be given an opportunity to accompany the DOE inspector.

Where there is no representative authorized by the employees, the DOE inspector will consult with a reasonable number of employees concerning safety and health conditions in the workplace.

Concerns:

Employees or former employees may file a concern with the contractor management or with the local DOE office, as

described in DOE O 442.1A . Concerns may be submitted either verbally or by calling the local DOE office employee concerns hotline, telephone 865-576-4988 , or in writing. An example report form is available adjacent to each hotline poster, or one may be obtained from the Employee Concerns Manager at the local DOE office.

Imminent Danger:

DOE Contractors are required to implement procedures to allow workers, through their supervisors, to stop work when they discover employee exposures to imminent danger conditions or other serious hazards. The procedure shall ensure that any stop work authority is exercised in a justifiable and responsible manner.

Nondiscrimination:

No contractor shall discharge or in any manner discriminate against any employee by virtue of the filing of a complaint, or in any other fashion, exercising on behalf of himself or herself or others any action set forth in DOE O 440.1A or DOE O 442.1A.

It is the policy of DOE that employees of contractors at DOE facilities should be able to provide information to DOE, to Congress, or to their contractors concerning violations of law, danger to health and safety, or matters involving mismanagement, gross waste of funds, or abuse of authority, to participate in proceedings conducted before Congress or pursuant to this part, and to refuse to engage in illegal or dangerous activities without fear of employer reprisal. Contractor employees who believe that they have been subject to such reprisal may submit their complaints to DOE for review and appropriate administrative remedy as provided in 10 CFR Part 708.

Inquiries:

Inquiries should be addressed to the contractor; however, additional inquiries may be addressed to the local DOE office:

Oak Ridge Office
 (DOE Office)
 Rufus H. Smith
 Attn: Employee Concerns Manager
 PO Box 2001
 (P.O. Box or Street Address)
 Oak Ridge, TN 37831
 (City, State and Zip Code)

Posting Requirements:

Copies of this notice must be posted in a sufficient number of places in Government-owned plants and facilities operated by DOE contractors subject to DOE Acquisition Regulation (DEAR), Subpart 970.23 and DOE O 440.1A, to permit employees working in or frequenting any portion of the plant to observe a copy on the way to or from their workplace.