

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

Effective Date: 5/12/83

Series: Emergency Delegations

Part 296: Interior Emergency Operations

Chapter 2: Oil Spills and Hazardous Substance Releases

Originating Office: Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

This chapter has been given a new release number.* No text changes were made.

296 DM 2

2.1 Purpose. This chapter provides for delegations of authority for response to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances under the Clean Water Act, as amended, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, Executive Orders 11735 and 12316, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP).

2.2 Designations and Delegations of Authority.

A. The Assistant Secretary - Policy, Budget and Administration will oversee the Department's response management pursuant to the NCP.

B. The Director of Environmental Project Review will represent the Department on the National Response Team (NRT) and manage the Department's activities under the NCP.

C. The Regional Environmental Officers (REO) in the Office of Environmental Project Review will represent the Department on the various Regional Response Teams (RRT) and coordinate the Department's activities under Federal regional and local contingency plans.

D. Other Assistant Secretaries are authorized, in accordance with the policy in 910 DM 4.4, to comply with requests for response assistance from On Scene Coordinators (OSC) and, when activated, the above designated representatives of the Office of Environmental Project Review (OEPR).

2.3 Redlegation.

A. Each Assistant Secretary should redelegate the authority conferred by paragraph 2.2D to bureau heads and/or persons in the field pursuant to 200 DM 2 and 3. Such redelegations should be made to officials who are in a position to respond directly to requests for

assistance by OSC's or OEPR.

B. Alternates on the NRT will be designated by the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Budget and Administration from within OEPR and they will have the full authority of the Director, OEPR, in his/her absence.

C. Alternates on the RRT's will be designated by the Director, OEPR, from bureau field personnel and they will have the full authority of the REO in his/her absence.

2.4 Effect of Delegations.

A. The authority delegated in this chapter does not affect the authority vested in the head of a bureau to provide response assistance in situations specified under other statutory authority. Under these conditions the appropriate OSC and REO will be notified.

B. If the President declares a major disaster or emergency exists, the provisions of 295 DM 1 and 905 DM 1 will apply and the REO will report to the Departmental Defense Liaison Officer and remain as the focal point for NCP response activities.

2.5 Response Operations. The policy, functions and responsibilities for responses pursuant to the NCP are set forth in 910 DM 4.

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