DOE Office of Domestic and International Health Studies

Radiation Health Studies Programs

The National Academies Committee on Developing a Long-Term Strategy for Low-Dose Research in the United States
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Office of Domestic and International Health Studies
Office of Health and Safety
Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security

Discussion Topics

- Overview of programs and activities on radiation health; emphasis on low-dose radiation studies.
- Risk-communication efforts related to these programs.
- Coordination and cooperation of these programs/activities with the previous DOE low-dose program.
- Views and opportunities for coordination and cooperation with the new DOE low-dose program.

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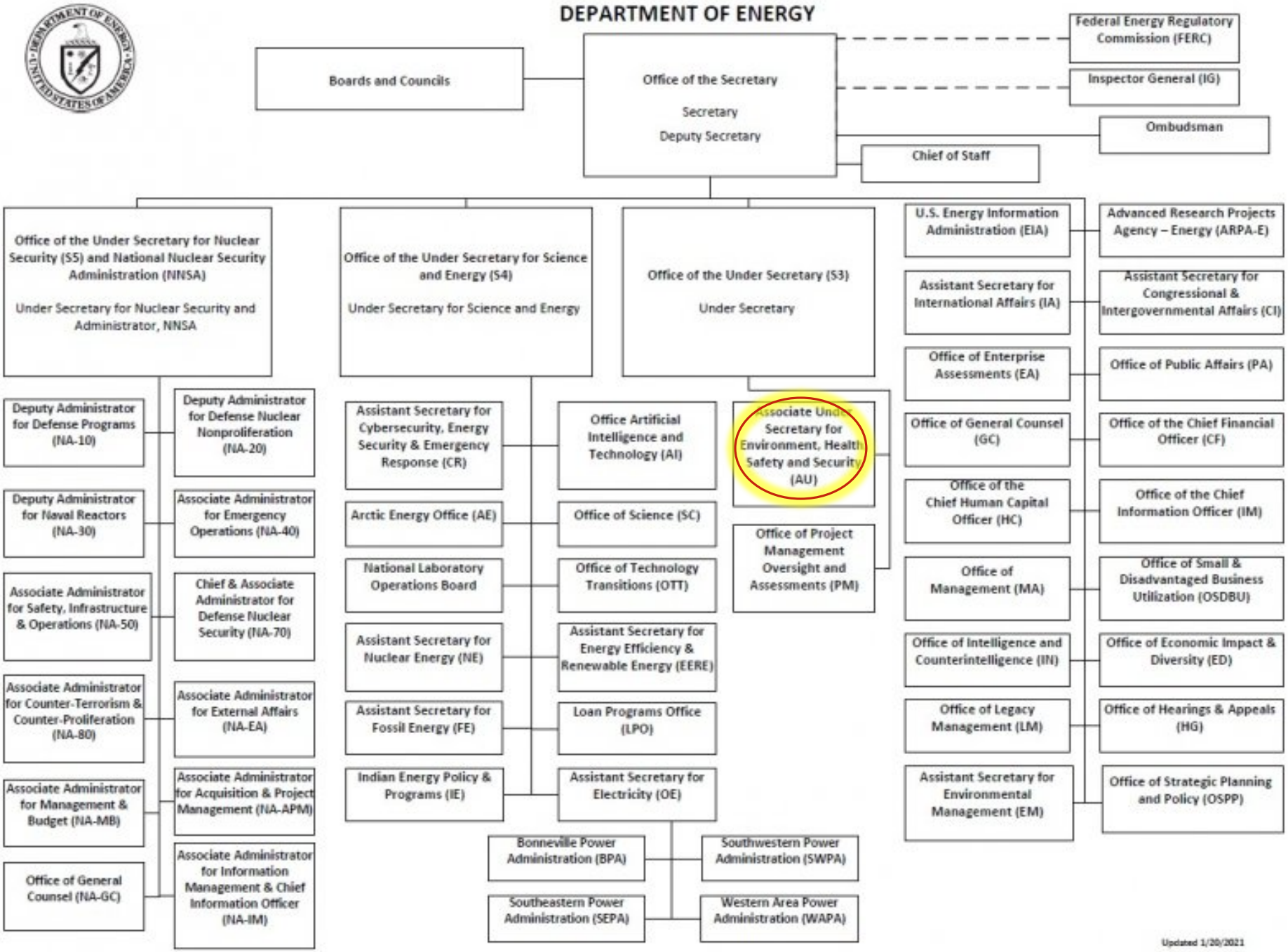
1/2021

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security

- The Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security (AU) is DOE's central organization responsible for health, safety, environment, and security; providing corporate-level leadership and strategic vision to coordinate and integrate these vital programs. AU is responsible for policy development and technical assistance; safety analysis; and corporate safety and security programs.

Office of Health and Safety

- Establishes worker safety and health requirements and expectations for the Department to ensure protection of workers from the hazards associated with Department operations.
- Conducts health studies to determine worker and public health effects from exposure to hazardous materials associated with Department operations and supports international health studies and programs.
- Implements medical surveillance and screening programs for current and former workers and supports the Department of Labor in the implementation of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).
- Provides assistance to Headquarters and field elements in implementation of policy and resolving worker safety and health issue.

Office of Domestic and International Health Studies Overview

Small staff that:

- Manages a portfolio of domestic and international health studies that fulfills the requirements and directives of the Legislative and Executive branches.
  - Conduct research to reduce work-related illnesses and injuries
  - Promote safe and healthy workplaces
- Represents DOE on Federal working groups in planning and preparing for public health crises.
- Supports the operation and maintenance of the CEDR, USTUR, REAC/TS, and the Beryllium Registry.

DOE Radiation Protection Objectives

DOE is self-regulating in radiation protection areas. DOE's radiation protection programs:

- Protect worker, the public and the environment.
- Implement legally applicable standards.
- Maintain doses as far below dose limits and constraints as is reasonably achievable (ALARA).
- Establish standards and requirements consistent with other national standards, and national and international radiation protection recommendations.

Radiation Health Studies Benefit DOE

- Fulfills obligation to provide the best information on health effects to DOE workers.
- Establishes public and worker safety and health requirements to ensure protection from any hazards associated with Department operations.
- Contributes to the general scientific knowledge regarding exposure to radiation that is relevant to radiation protection in the United States and the world.
- Improves methods for reconstructing past exposures for evaluation of health effects at DOE sites.

DOE AU Domestic Health Studies Programs

- Coordinate and support epidemiologic studies to assess the health implications of exposures to hazardous materials found in the DOE workplace.

- Develop, maintain, and support unique registries of DOE workers to understand the development and progression of health outcomes associated with exposures to specific hazardous materials of particular interest to DOE.
  - These are the Beryllium Associated Worker Registry and the U.S. Uranium and Transuranium Registries.

- Make research data available to the public through the Comprehensive Epidemiology Data Resource; a repository for data used in epidemiologic studies of DOE and other workers.

DOE AU International Health Studies Programs

- The purpose of international health studies and activities is to support the health and safety mission of DOE by providing new knowledge and information about the human response to ionizing radiation and other industrial exposures encountered in the workplace or within nearby communities.
- The activities mandated by Congress or required by international agreement include studies of human health, environmental impacts, and provision of medical services.
- Activities are underway in
  - Marshall Islands Program
  - Russian Health Study Program
  - Japan Program
- The studies and activities represent unique opportunities to enhance our knowledge and to establish science-based worker and public protection standards and to fulfill humanitarian purposes.
- Involves in briefing nominees for the U.S. Ambassadors to the Republic of the Marshall Islands prior to their confirmation hearings. Also provides training and awareness briefings for the embassy staff before their deployment to their respective Embassies.

Risk Communication Efforts

- Reports – CEDR, BAWR
- Research publications
- Conference presentations
- Basis for standards and guidance

Office of Science
Low Dose Program Coordination and Cooperation

Previous Program

- Attended program meetings.
- Coordinated on MWS.

New Program

- We would rely on SC to determine the level of interaction. However,
  - AU subject matter experts can provide information and coordinate discussions on AU-supported current and future research activities and instruments, re: MWS, Russian Health Studies, Japan Program, etc.
  - We could coordinate with SC on interagency workshops and technical sessions at scientific meetings to increase awareness about AU and SC activities in the support of low dose radiation science.
  - We could also support SC in identifying gaps in knowledge to carry out targeted research programs on low dose radiation.

Summary

- Small staff focused on supporting multiple program areas.
- Maintain health registries.
- Manage a portfolio of domestic and international health studies to support the protection of DOE workers and surrounding communities.
- Support the Department's response to health emergencies.

Links

- https://www.energy.gov/ehss/office-health-and-safety
- https://www.energy.gov/ehss/services/worker-health-and-safety/health-effects
- https://www.energy.gov/ehss/domestic-health-studies-and-activities
- https://www.energy.gov/ehss/international-health-studies-and-activities
- http://www.rerf.or.jp/en
- https://www.energy.gov/ehss/russian-health-studies-program
- https://orise.orau.gov/health-surveillance/research/million-person-study.html
- https://oriseapps.orau.gov/cedr/the-cedr-program.aspx

Thank You