



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: ~~GLENN S. PODONSKY~~
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~~OFFICE OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY~~

SUBJECT: Health and Safety Training Reciprocity Program

Since 2007, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) has sponsored a Focus Group to initiate dialogue among labor unions, DOE Program Secretarial offices, and stakeholders with interests in DOE safety and health performance. Our purpose was not only to strengthen communications, but to establish productive relationships with those who train, manage, and represent the DOE work force in order to improve our safety culture.

The frank and open dialogue between DOE line management offices, labor organizations representing DOE workers, DOE contractor organizations, and the National Training Center (NTC), within HSS, has resulted in the Training Reciprocity and Collaboration (TRAC) initiative. The centerpiece of TRAC is HSS' voluntary training reciprocity program that has tremendous potential to bring consistency and standardization to health and safety training across DOE.

The HSS reciprocity program is designed to evaluate training within specific topics and validate that training courses conform to the elements required for DOE training, resulting in a recommendation for reciprocity. The program involves an independent evaluation of training, against structured criteria concurred upon by HSS, to determine the adequacy of a given course against DOE regulatory expectations. The evaluation provides sufficient documentation for officials at other DOE sites to decide if the course is acceptable to them for reciprocity with the addition of any necessary site-specific "gap" training. The resultant reduction of redundancies within training programs and courses will eliminate the need for workers to take the same training multiple times, and therefore, improve portability of training for workers who move between contractors or sites, and realize significant cost savings and other efficiencies across the Department.

At this juncture, we are pleased to announce that Focus Groups' efforts in applying standard criteria and closely examining training compliance to directives and standards has resulted in the recent approval of two voluntary reciprocity training programs: one for Radiological (Rad) Worker Training, and one for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training. These two programs are now ready for DOE-wide implementation.



While Rad Worker Training and HAZWOPER are the first programs implemented for DOE-wide reciprocity, we plan to add additional safety and health training curricula to this collaborative training initiative in the coming months.

I encourage you and your safety/security training officials to meet with the NTC to learn more about how the HSS Training Reciprocity Program may benefit your site or organization. The NTC is available to provide immediate briefings to you and your colleagues. You may also visit our reciprocity web site at <https://sites.ntc.doe.gov/partners/reciprocity/SitePages/Home.aspx> to learn more about this program. For further information, or to request a meeting, contact Evan Dunne at edunne@ntc.doe.gov, or call the NTC Reciprocity Office at 505-845-2236.

Thank you.

cc: Daniel B. Poneman, DS

Distribution

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