



STP Procedure Approval

Regional State Liaison Officers (RSLOs)

SL-100

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NOTE

The STP Director's Secretary is responsible for the maintenance of this master copy document as part of the STP Procedure Manual. Any changes to the procedure will be the responsibility of the STP Procedure Contact.



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I. INTRODUCTION

This procedure describes the responsibilities and functions of the Regional State Liaison Officers (RSLO).

II. OBJECTIVE

- A. Delineate the roles, responsibilities and duties that RSLOs have in carrying out the NRC's Federal, State and Tribal Liaison Program.
- B. Provide background and reference materials related to the RSLO duties and responsibilities.

III. BACKGROUND

The Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP) manages NRC's Federal, State and Tribal Liaison Program (FSTLP). STP works with certain Federal, State, and local governments; interstate organizations; and Native American Governments to establish and maintain effective relations and communications with these organizations, and to promote greater awareness and mutual understanding of the policies, activities, and concerns of all parties involved, primarily the States, as they relate to radiological safety at NRC licensed facilities.

Within each Regional Office, the RSLO implements the FSTLP by facilitating communications, when appropriate, between the NRC and other pertinent State and Federal agencies located within the Region relative to the licensing and other regulatory concerns where there is a shared mutual interest regarding both State and NRC licensed organizations. RSLOs also maintain communications with the governor-appointed State Liaison Officers (SLOs), other State and local officials, as appropriate, and with Native American Governments affected by, or otherwise interested in, NRC's programmatic and regulatory affairs.

RSLOs are part of the Regional Organization and report directly to the Regional Administrator; therefore their familiarity with Regional priorities as well as State-specific or Tribe-specific issues enables them to communicate effectively and efficiently within their Region.

IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The roles and responsibilities noted here are general. The specific needs of each NRC Region, Regional Offices of other Federal organizations and individual States and Native American Governments located within the Region vary. Since the RSLOs report to the Regional Administrator, prioritization of the responsibilities listed in this procedure will differ from Region to Region. This variance is acceptable. Questions on the overall NRC FSTLP should be directed to the Director or Deputy Director, STP.

A. The Director, STP:

1. Provides policy and program guidance to Regional Management regarding NRC's FSTLP for implementation.
2. Solicits Regional Administrator input and comments on FSTLP policy and program guidance and other matters which could impact the RSLOs, regional management, operations or other regional resources.
3. Keeps the EDO informed on pertinent RSLO activities and issues associated with policy or guidance implementation. Implements EDO direction regarding significant changes in policy dealing with State liaisons.
4. Periodically convenes RSLO counterpart meetings.
5. Coordinates the planning and conduct of periodic National State Liaison Officers meetings with the Regions, as needed.
6. Serves as a primary communications interface between NRC and a variety of organizations and groups, including other Federal agencies, national or State organizations, States, county and local government organizations, and Native American Governments, interested in nuclear matters.

Examples of national organizations include the Organization of Agreement States, Inc. (OAS), the National Governors' Association (NGA), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the National Council of State Legislators (NCSL), and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD).

B. Regional Administrator

The Regional Administrators, principally through the RSLO, implement NRC's FSTLP. Regional Administrator responsibilities regarding the RSLOs include, but are not limited to:

1. Provide day-to-day direction and supervision of the RSLO consistent with the policy and program direction provided by STP and Regional policies and practices;
2. Keep the RSLO informed of events, issues and problems in the Region which may impact or which may be of interest to the States, Tribal or other government organizations;
3. Assure that STP is promptly informed of any generic issues (those beyond a single licensee, facility or State) of possible interest to the States, Native American Governments and/or other government organizations;
4. Direct the issuance of appropriate NRC information to the States in a timely manner in accordance with pertinent document handling requirements;
5. Contact and meet with State, Tribal and local officials, as necessary;
6. Concur on NRC information issued to the State by the RSLO and originated in the Regional Office where the information affects other Regional divisions or involves significant policy issues; concurrence is not necessary for information prepared by STP and released through the Regional Office as a matter of convenience;
7. Upon the appointment of a new RSLO, issue an internal NRC announcement and send letters to key State contacts introducing the new RSLO;
8. Encourage resident inspectors to interact with local governmental officials, both elected and appointed, as appropriate;
9. Ensure that appropriate State officials are invited to End-of-Cycle meetings, consistent with the requirements of the Revised Reactor Oversight Process.

10. Assign RSLOs to the Regional Incident Response Team to ensure effective liaison and communications with State, Federal, and other outside organizations for NRC emergency exercises and for response to actual events as appropriate.
11. Actively participate as a member of all FEMA/DHS Assessment Teams wherever a Disaster Initiated Review is required to be conducted to assess the human and physical viability of the applicable Ten-Mile emergency planning zones resulting from either a man-made or natural disaster.

C. RSLO

Each Region has a designated RSLO who reports to the Regional Administrator. Because each Region and each State within a Region have differing priorities and concerns, RSLOs must be flexible in how they implement STP policies and guidance. What is a significant issue in one Region may be a minor concern in another Region. Therefore, the guidance in this document is general in nature. Each RSLO is expected to work with their Regional Administrator and the STP to prioritize their time and resources in accordance with the needs of the States and entities within their specific Region. In general, RSLO responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Maintaining effective communications with STP, the States, Native American Governments, and other government entities within the Region, and other interested or affected organizations as appropriate or necessary;
2. Maintaining an awareness of issues important to the States;
3. Maintaining an awareness of State, Native American Governments and other government entity issues of interest to the NRC;
4. Arranging for Commissioner and other NRC meetings with State and Tribal officials;
5. Tracking developments of LLW compacts in their Regions;
6. Tracking State nuclear-related legislative developments in their Region;
7. Negotiating MOUs with States and Native American Governments within their Regions;
8. Appearing before State legislative hearings and nuclear advisory boards;
9. Maintaining liaison with regional offices of various Federal agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and
10. Serving on committee(s) as appropriate, e.g. the Regional Assistance Committee(s), the Regional Incident Response Team and FEMA/DHS Assessment Teams.

V. GUIDANCE**A. Interactions with State Liaison Officers and Tribal Contacts**

The RSLO serves as the primary NRC point of contact for Governor-appointed SLOs and other State, Tribal and local officials in the Region. The RSLO also serves as the NRC Regional contact for the regional offices of other Federal organizations and maintains awareness of all relevant State activities involving NRC matters by:

1. Providing SLOs with timely information on NRC activities, including, but not limited to preliminary notifications, press releases, proposed rules and policy statements, draft environmental assessments, enforcement notifications, upcoming public meetings, and opportunities for stakeholder involvement;
2. Serving as the regional point of contact for information on the Reactor Oversight Process;
3. Coordinating State and Tribal requests to observe NRC inspections at NRC-licensed facilities.

B. Emergency Preparedness and Incident Response:

1. Participate in NRC planned incident response drills, exercises and related public outreach activities;
2. Attend and provide periodic incident response training provided by Incident Response Operations staff;
3. Participate in Regional Assistance Committee evaluations of planned exercises, as appropriate.

C. Maintain contact with Regional representatives of State Public Utility Commissions, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), including monitoring electric utility restructuring, as appropriate.**D. Follow activities of national organizations such as National Governor's Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, and the National Congress of American Indians, as appropriate.**

- E. Maintain an awareness of the States' progress in the low-level waste disposal facility site selection process through its liaison activities and be prepared to discuss the regulatory process with State officials and the public.
- F. Provide State officials with NRC licensed plant performance information, event notification and follow-up information, as requested.
- G. Act as primary point of contact for all NRC interactions with State, Native American Government, and local officials within the Region.
- H. Monitor State and local legislative activities as appropriate. Testify when appropriate at State Legislative hearings and represent the NRC before State intergovernmental groups and at State meetings at which NRC activities are discussed.
- I. For Regions with Agreement States, maintains awareness of Agreement State issues and ensures Regional State Agreement Officer(s) (RSAO) is aware of State/federal/local issues so the RSLO and RSAO can provide backup support for each other as needed.

VI. APPENDIX

- Appendix A: List of Acronyms
- Appendix B: List of Helpful Web Sites
- Appendix C: Handbook on RSLO Guidance and References

VII. REFERENCES

None