

§ 1017.4

from unauthorized dissemination under section 148 of the Atomic Energy Act—

(1) Which concerns atomic energy defense programs;

(2) Which pertains to—

(i) The design of production facilities or utilization facilities;

(ii) Security measures (including security plans, procedures, and equipment) for the physical protection of—

(A) Production or utilization facilities;

(B) Nuclear material contained in such facilities; or

(C) Nuclear material in transit; or

(iii) The design, manufacture, or utilization of any nuclear weapon or component if the design, manufacture, or utilization of such weapon or component was contained in any information declassified or removed from the Restricted Data category by the Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs (or the head of the predecessor agency of the Department of Energy) pursuant to section 142 of the Atomic Energy Act; and

(3) Whose unauthorized dissemination, as determined by a Controlling Official, could reasonably be expected to have a significant adverse effect on the health and safety of the public or the common defense and security by significantly increasing the likelihood of—

(i) Illegal production of nuclear weapons; or

(ii) Theft, diversion, or sabotage of nuclear materials, equipment, or facilities.

§ 1017.4 Policy.

It is the policy of the DOE to make information publicly available to the fullest extent possible. These regulations shall be interpreted and implemented so as to apply the minimum restrictions needed to protect the health and safety of the public or the common defense and security, consistent with the requirement in section 148 of the Atomic Energy Act to prohibit the unauthorized dissemination of UCNI. For example—

(a) Although UCNI is not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), documents or material containing both UCNI and other information which is not UCNI shall

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have the portions of the document or material not containing UCNI released to the maximum possible extent in response to a request made under the FOIA, subject to other exemptions of the FOIA; and

(b) To the fullest extent possible, the fundamental DOE policy of full disclosure of documents prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations will be followed. In some cases, this will mean that UCNI may be excised from documents to be made publicly available and prepared as an appendix, or otherwise segregated so as to allow the release of the nonsensitive portions of a document.

§ 1017.5 Prohibitions.

Government information shall not be controlled as UCNI in order to—

(a) Conceal violations of law, inefficiency, or administrative error;

(b) Prevent embarrassment to a person or organization;

(c) Restrain competition; or

(d) Prevent or delay the release of any information that does not properly qualify as UCNI.

§ 1017.6 Exemptions.

(a) Information exempt from these regulations includes—

(1) Information that is not government information;

(2) Information that concerns activities, facilities, or equipment outside the scope of atomic energy defense programs;

(3) Information that is classified as Restricted Data, Formerly Restricted Data, or National Security Information, or that is protected from disclosure under section 147 of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2167);

(4) Basic scientific information (i.e., information resulting from research directed toward increasing fundamental scientific knowledge or understanding rather than any practical application of that knowledge);

(5) Applied scientific information (i.e., information resulting from research whose objective is to gain knowledge or understanding necessary for determining the means by which a specific need may be met) but not including that pertaining to: