

NATIONAL SECURITY AT EPA

Internal deliberative pre-decisional - FOR USE BY 2024 PRESIDENT-ELECT TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS ONLY

ISSUE SUMMARY:

The scope of Homeland Security and National Security have expanded greatly in the last several years and has affected every department and agency in the federal government. EPA's primary mission essential function with respect to national security is to prevent, limit, mitigate, or contain chemical, oil, radiological, biological and/or natural or man-made disasters and provide environmental monitoring, assessment, and reporting in support of overall domestic incident management. EPA also functions as the Sector Risk Management Agency (SRMA) for the U.S. water and wastewater critical infrastructure sector.

The increase of national policy development driven by the White House and National Security Council (NSC) has expanded the scope of EPA engagement. National security has expanded beyond acts of terrorism, to include cyber-attacks and physical attacks on critical infrastructure, pandemics and bioweapons, great power competition among nation states, geopolitical instability, theft of research & intellectual property, the misuse of artificial intelligence, climate security, supply chain risk management, threats to water and food supplies and catastrophic natural disasters.

KEY POINTS:

Every EPA office and region is involved in the protection of national security.

- *Office of the Administrator/National Security (ONS): Leadership/coordination of EPA HS Programs; NS Policy development; Operation of the EPA Intelligence Program and National Security Threat Mitigation Program (OPSEC, Safeguarding Science, DCI, Insider Threat, International Visitors).*
- *Office of the Administrator/Office of Policy (OP): Technical assistance to support mitigation, resilience, and equitable recovery.*
- *Regions 1 - 10: EPA homeland security field program implementation / Regional Homeland Security Coordinators. Regional Administrator's Office, Water, Superfund and Emergency Management, Mission Support, Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment, Lab Services and Applied Science, Air and Radiation Divisions*
- *Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM): Emergency planning, preparedness and response.*
- *Office of Water (OW): Water and wastewater security and critical infrastructure protection.*
- *Office of Research and Development (ORD): Homeland security research, rapid risk assessments, research security, climate change/security.*
- *Office of Air and Radiation (OAR): Radiation emergency response and monitoring, climate change/security.*
- *Office of Mission Support (OMS): EPA facility and employee security, cybersecurity and information protection.*
- *Office of Chief Financial Officer (OCFO): Homeland Security budget and OMB coordination.*
- *Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance (OECA): Law enforcement investigative support/Fuel waivers.*
- *Office of International And Tribal Affairs (OITA): Support for international negotiations, technical support to foreign nations via the Department of State coordination, international transboundary, migratory and supply chain implications*
- *Office of General Counsel (OGC): Legal research and review for National / Homeland Security Issues.*
- *Office of Chemicals Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP): Decontaminant approval (List N); support to the NSC promoting and protecting the U.S. bioeconomy*
- *Office of the Inspector General (OIG): Investigates matters with a NS nexus, whenever those matters concern waste, fraud, or abuse and intrusions into EPA networks; threats to EPA facilities, personnel, or assets; allegations of misconduct related to EPA employees or contractors.*
- *Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR): Long-term community rebuilding.*

ONGOING/UPCOMING REVIEWS FOR FY2024:

National Security Policy Development and Coordination: ONS provides leadership, support, and coordination for national security programs, including EPA's planning, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery roles for national security-related events and incidents. ONS supports EPA programs, regions, the interagency, and senior leaders by informing national security decisions and policymaking efforts and providing sensitive information and intelligence to assist preparedness efforts to counter threats to EPA equities and interests. This requires expanding agency resources through effective partnerships and facilitating an agencywide capability to coordinate and integrate resources in support of national security policies and shifting priorities.

ONS is primarily responsible for coordinating agency priorities with those of the NSC and the White House. This includes monitoring and engaging with EPA subject matter experts on over 100 NSC Interagency Policy Committees (IPC) and sub-IPCs and over 75 Executive Orders and national security memoranda. EPA's programs and regions are responsible for integrating these priorities into their work, which supports and facilitates solutions to advance resiliency, intelligence and information sharing, research and development, and preparation and response for national security-related incidents. As the Federal Intelligence Coordination Office (FICO) for EPA, ONS informs national security decision-making through the use of intelligence and sensitive information sharing.

Securing EPA to Achieve Our Mission: National security is achieved by advancing the security of EPA people, facilities, and data. As part of the FICO operations, EPA's National Security Threat Mitigation Program (NSTMP), led by ONS, is a blended security approach distributed across all security domains and organizational programs that enhances sharing of information to tackle the tasks of prevention, detection, and mitigation of risks to the agency's people, programs, facilities, research, and data. The NSTMP promotes active, integrated mission practices that counter all aspects of adversarial and insider threats to public health and safety, economic security, and national security. The NSTMP leads the following programs at EPA: Insider Threat (ITP), Operational Security (OPSEC), Defensive Counterintelligence (DCI), Foreign Malign Influence, and Safeguarding Science. It also supports other risk management/security programs at the agency such as the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), International Visitors, Supply Chain Risk Management, and Information Security.

ONS provides intelligence support to all programs and regions regarding threats and mitigation strategies to critical infrastructure and critical resources with focus on cyber defense, water/wastewater systems, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear event mitigation and response, and environmental crimes. EPA's Regional Homeland Security Coordinators use national security intelligence to coordinate with their programs to help states and local entities prepare for and respond to emergencies and natural disasters.

KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

☐ Congress ☒ Industry ☒ States ☒ Tribes ☐ Media ☒ Other Federal Agency ☒ NGO ☒ Other

(name of stakeholder) Critical Infrastructure – Water and Wastewater Sector & Chemical Sector

ONS actively manages/participates in a large and diverse network of stakeholders across the interagency.

MOVING FORWARD:

The confluence of emerging and persistent security threats nationwide with White House National Security Council policy making to address those threats has meaningful implications for the agency's approach to national security including:

- Measurement and accountability of national and homeland security activities and funding.
- Awareness and vigilance in the protection of EPA physical, cyber, and intellectual assets.
- Engagement within EPA's network of subject matter experts and externally with the intelligence community to exchange information and enhance the U.S. government's national security posture.