
CHAPTER 15

CRITICAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE (CEI)

A. General Information

America's energy infrastructure is the backbone of commerce, transportation, communications, government, health care, and home life in the United States. Any prolonged interruption of the supply of basic energy, be it electrical, natural gas, or oil products, would be devastating to the nation and its people. We increasingly depend on robust, secure, and reliable energy systems to power our economy, maintain our national security, and provide for the well being of our citizens. Because energy is part of an interdependent network of critical physical and information infrastructures, it must be protected from terrorist acts as well as natural hazards.

This chapter applies to all energy infrastructure information under the responsibility of DOE. One important element of the critical energy infrastructure is the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). The SPR is the world's largest supply of emergency crude oil. The federally-owned oil stocks are stored in huge underground salt caverns along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico. Decisions to withdraw crude oil from the SPR are made by the President under the authorities of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. In the event of an energy emergency, SPR oil would be distributed by competitive sale. Although the SPR has been used for emergency purposes only once (during Operation Desert Storm in 1991), its formidable size (more than 600 million barrels) makes it a significant deterrent to oil import cutoffs and a key tool of foreign policy.

B. Broad Guidance

The principle underlying the classification of critical energy infrastructure information is to provide as much information as possible to the public while withholding information that would be of significant assistance to malefactors.

To achieve these objectives, it is the Department of Energy policy to protect information that could: (1) Significantly assist a malevolent interest in the sabotage, destruction, or denial of critical energy infrastructure facilities, systems and resources; (2) Reasonably be expected to cause damage to foreign relations or foreign activities of the U.S.; or (3) Compromise intelligence activities, sources, or methods.

Historical records, 25 years or older, containing DOE/NNSA critical energy infrastructure NSI not covered by the specific guidance below are unclassified. This does not include records containing information classified by statute such as RD and FRD (AEA of 1954, as amended). These records shall be handled, protected, classified, downgraded, and declassified in accordance with the provisions of the AEA and regulations issued under that Act. Reviewers who are not authorized by DOE/NNSA to classify or declassify such documents should not attempt final determinations. Refer to appendix A for information on identifying and handling documents containing potential RD/FRD. In all cases where there is a question concerning the sensitivity of the information, it should be referred to the DOE HQ classification office for a classification determination.

Topics describing information likely to contain or closely related to RD or FRD are marked "(potential for RD/FRD)".

C. Topics

15.0 CRITICAL ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

15.1 Facility features

- 15.1.1 Physical characteristics and operational procedures visible from uncontrolled areas

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15.4.5 System performance tests

15.4.5.1 Routine test methodology

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