



Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

December 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: SCOTT WHITEFORD  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ASSET MANAGEMENT AND  
SENIOR REAL PROPERTY OFFICER (MA-50)

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for DOE O 437.1, *Bridge and Tunnel  
Management*

On December 11, 2020, the Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) issued DOE Order 437.1, Bridge and Tunnel Management (the Order). The purpose of the Order is to establish DOE policy for managing bridges, tunnels, and culverts within the DOE real property inventory in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements. These requirements include Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 23 CFR 650, Subparts C and E which apply to highway bridges and tunnels located on public roads as well as 49 CFR Parts 213, 214, and 237 applicable to all railroad bridges. The Order also establishes requirements for managing other bridges and culverts in the Department of Energy real property inventory.

The Order establishes requirements and responsibilities for conduct of regular, comprehensive inspection and evaluation of bridges, tunnels, and culverts by qualified personnel along with requirements for associated record keeping and reporting. Requirements apply to vehicle bridges both public and controlled-access, railroad bridges, pedestrian bridges including elevated covered walkways, culverts assigned Usage Code 2629 in the Facilities Information Management System (FIMS), and vehicle tunnels. Requirements apply to all DOE elements except for the Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Power Marketing Administrations.

Generally, for DOE elements, full compliance with the Order, including the attachments, must be accomplished within one (1) year of the issuance date. For covered contracts, full compliance shall be accomplished within one (1) year of the effective date of a new award or inclusion of the Contractors Requirements Document (CRD) or equivalent requirements into an existing contract. The Program Secretarial Offices (PSOs) have the flexibility to include requirements in contracts using the CRD, a contract clause, or other contract provision.

Except for assets subject to Federal regulation or implementing Department of Transportation guidance, PSOs are authorized to establish equivalencies to or exemptions from the Order. When seeking to establish an equivalency or exemption to one or more of the requirements, PSOs are expected to follow the Equivalency and Exemption Process established by DOE O 251.1D, Departmental Directives Program, to include seeking advice from the Office of Primary Interest, the Office Of Asset Management in this case, and submitting all exemptions and equivalencies to the Departmental Directives Program for appropriate posting.

The Order establishes responsibilities for PSOs and Site and/or Field Office Managers. It also establishes a designated position, DOE Bridge and Tunnel Manager, within the Office of Asset Management with specific duties and responsibilities. You may continue to expect me, as the Director, Office of Asset Management and the Department's Senior Real Property Officer, to provide DOE policy and guidance in consultation with Program and Support Offices to support and improve bridge and tunnel management. This includes:

- Maintaining agency bridge inspection policies and procedures;
- Developing and maintaining tools, templates, and other resources to support quality control and quality assurance plans and procedures;
- Ensuring personnel on my staff have the qualifications necessary to perform the duties of agency Bridge Program Manager and Load Rating Engineer as set forth in Code of Federal Regulations; and
- Retaining the services of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for technical support, training, and independent reviews.

As the Departmental elements implement the new Order, I intend to undertake or assist in the following activities:

- Maintaining agency bridge and tunnel inventories and records;
- Submitting notifications and required reports and data to the Federal Highway Administration;
- Updating FIMS data elements and requirements to align with the Order, improve data quality, and to support accurate reporting;
- Updating excess real property screening requirements to align with the Order;
- Leveraging existing systems and DOE Orders, including those in place for real property asset management, integrated safety management, and quality assurance where appropriate; and,
- Making DOE-specific training available to DOE Federal and integrated contractor personnel.

I am committed to serving as a resource for the Line Management and Programs in the execution of their duties and responsibilities and to providing sites with technical assistance and recommendations when requested. I am available to assist Program Offices and sites as they implement the Order including participating in assist visits at

sites when requested or aiding the development of supplemental guidance, contract clauses, or contractor performance plan elements associated with bridge and tunnel management activities.

Memorandums issued by the Director, Office of Engineering and Construction Management on September 14, 2009 and September 2, 2011, and by the Acting Director, Office of Asset Management on July 5, 2017 are superseded by the Order and rescinded.

Please distribute this guidance to the appropriate elements of your organization. Questions on this guidance may be addressed to me or to Cindy Hunt at (202) 586-4539.

Distribution:

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Paul Dabbar, Under Secretary for Science (S4)

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