Comments on this draft release must be submitted to mbowman@usbr.gov by September 7, 2019.

Background and Purpose of the Following Draft Reclamation Safety and Health Standards (RSHS)

The RSHS are being updated by the Bureau of Reclamation Safety and Occupational Health Office to reflect new requirements from Reclamation, the Department of the Interior, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. This public release is intended to provide the public an opportunity to comment on each updated section in draft form. This process will enhance transparency and eliminate potential confusion about Reclamation’s safety standards.


See the following pages for the draft RSHS.
Section 2

General Requirements

2.1 Scope
This section sets forth the general requirements of the Reclamation Safety and Health Program. The section applies to all operations on Reclamation facilities, waters and lands.

2.2 General Requirements
Reclamation must provide and maintain a working environment that is safe and free of risks to health, so far as is reasonably practicable. This responsibility includes, but is not limited to, implementing and enforcing all applicable program elements and provisions of these standards. Equipment and facilities must conform fully to the requirements contained and referenced in these standards.

2.3 Responsibilities

2.3.1 Regional/Area Office Program Coordinators
Reclamation must provide and maintain a working environment that is safe and free of risks to health, so far as is reasonably practicable. This responsibility includes, but is not limited to, implementing and enforcing all applicable program elements and provisions of these standards. Equipment and facilities must conform fully to the requirements contained and referenced in these standards.

2.3.2 First-Line Supervisors
- Supervisors are responsible for investigating all injuries and illnesses and reporting their findings in SMIS.
- Supervisors are to report any injuries or illnesses to their manager as soon as possible.
- Supervisors must provide each employee with a general safety orientation.
- Supervisors must provide each employee with training on the specific hazards of their job and ensure that all required safety training is completed by the employees under their supervision.

2.3.3 People Doing the Work
Employees must observe all safety and health regulations and comply with instructions issued to them by their supervisors. Employees must promptly correct unsafe working conditions or report them to their supervisor or another proper authority.
2.4 Training Requirements

2.4.1 Initial
All employees must receive training about hazards and hazard control methods specific to their jobs. All employees must receive an orientation on provisions of the safety and health program. The orientation must cover applicable requirements of safety and health policies, accident and injury reporting procedures, first aid and medical care procedures, emergency response protocols, applicable safety and health standards, and sources of information on safety and health questions.

2.4.2 Certification
The supervisor is responsible for providing this training and ensuring that employees possess the necessary qualifications, licenses, and permits required to perform such work.

2.5 Safe Practices

2.5.1 Variances
No variance to the provisions of these standards shall be approved that endangers the health and safety of any person, that is not consistent with the intent of the provisions of these standards, or that would be a variance to a Federal or State regulation. If the literal application of a provision of these standards is impractical or creates conflicts, the issuing authority, in consultation with safety and health professionals, may authorize a variance to the provision. All requests for a variance must be submitted in writing to the Safety, Security, and Law Enforcement (SSLE) Director. The written request must include (1) a reference to the specific provision of the standard that requires a variance, (2) an explanation of the problem with the provision, and (3) the proposed adaptation to the standard. The request must contain pertinent technical data, drawings, material or equipment specifications, and any other information that will enable the SSLE Director to make a decision. The operation in question must not proceed until the SSLE director provides written approval.

2.5.2 Requirements for Accident, Injury and Illness Investigations

2.5.2.1 Reclamation
Investigate and report accidents and incidents using the Department of the Interior Safety Management Information System (SMIS). Any accident involving a fatality must be reported to the appropriate Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) office immediately.

2.5.2.2 Non-Federal Operators at Reclamation Facilities
Operators must report to the appropriate Reclamation office all third-party injuries, deaths, or substantial property losses that result or could result in claims against the Government.

2.5.2.3 Contractors
Contractors must report and investigate injuries and incidents in accordance with the section entitled "Contractor Requirements."

2.5.3 Alcohol, Drugs and Firearms
Using intoxicating beverages and narcotics on Government property is not permitted. No one who is impaired while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or prescription drugs is permitted on the job site. Employees using medication(s) must ensure that their performance will not be impaired. Unauthorized firearms are not permitted on Reclamation property.

2.5.4 Public Safety
Reclamation facilities must be operated and maintained in a manner that poses no excessive risk to the public. It is the obligation of Reclamation to take all reasonable action to minimize risk of personal injury and loss of life to the public. Areas adjoining the dams and reservoirs will be comprehensively reviewed to identify potential hazards to the public. All reasonable action will be taken to minimize the risk.

2.5.5 Work Site Requirements
All work sites and areas must be maintained to avoid potential hazards introduced by poor housekeeping and poor work practices.

2.5.5.1 Housekeeping
Good housekeeping must be maintained in all work areas. All work areas shall be neat and orderly; this includes office spaces.

2.5.5.2 Environmental Stewardship
Handling, storing, using, and disposing of waste must not contaminate or pollute water, air, or ground. Disposal must comply with all Federal, State, and local regulations. Facilities will follow Reclamation Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Implementation (ENV 05-01) and ENV P05 Reclamation’s Commitment to Environmental Stewardship

2.6 Definitions
Environmental Management System (EMS)

An EMS consists of standardized planning, implementing, measuring, and reporting processes targeted to increase management control, decrease liability, and foster continuous improvement. It is a management practice that allows Reclamation to strategically address its environmental impacts.

Safety Management Information System (SMIS)

Is a Department of Interior (DOI) electronic safety management system that each employee has access to for accident and hazard reporting.

Variance

Is a document that allows an operation to deviate from the standards listed in this manual. A variance creates a safe workplace in an alternative but approved way.

2.7 References

29 CFR 1910: General Industry Safety Standards

2.6.2 29 CFR 1926: Construction Safety Standards


Reclamation Directive and Standard ENV 05-01, *Environmental Management System (EMS) Implementation*

Reclamation Directive and Standard ENV P05, *Reclamation’s Commitment to Environmental Stewardship.*