

The Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance



“Greatness is Not in Where We Stand, But in What Direction We are Moving”



What Are the Scope and Authority of the Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance?

The Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance (OA) is the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) independent oversight organization. It is the only organization of its kind in the executive branch and is directly responsible to the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) as the sole focal point for the independent oversight of **safeguards and security; cyber security; emergency management; and environment, safety, and health programs** throughout DOE, including the NNSA.



What is OA's Mission?

OA's mission is to provide DOE senior managers and various congressional committees with accurate, objective assessments and to add value by promoting improvement in all functions critical to the success of DOE's national security mission. Key to accomplishing this mission is OA's ability to:

- Exercise independence and objectivity in its evaluations
- Apply a systematic oversight process
- Emphasize performance and performance testing to evaluate how activities are really being performed or are capable of being performed.



What does “Independent” Mean?

As a direct report to the Office of the Secretary of Energy, OA is *organizationally independent* of DOE offices that develop and implement policy and programs. OA does not set policy or manage operations or programs. OA has no vested interest in the functions it evaluates and therefore can provide an independent and objective assessment of DOE's activities to the Secretary, the Administrator of the NNSA, and other senior managers.



A Unified Approach

OA and its subordinate offices follow the same set of protocols to meet the Secretary of Energy's goal of continuous improvement and accountability in Departmental processes. These protocols ensure that each office will:

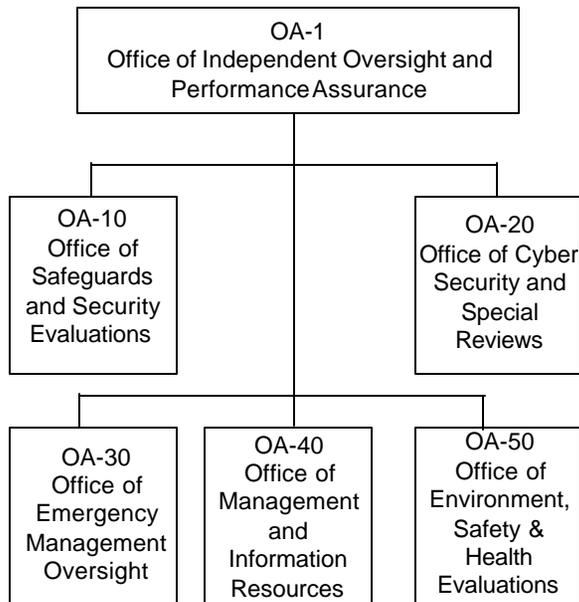
- Develop reports based on performance-based inspection activities that identify findings, specify ratings, and provide opportunities for improvement

- Conduct complex-wide studies of programs vital to DOE's mission and to national security
- Perform reviews to ensure that corrective actions taken to address previous findings are effective.



How is OA Organized?

OA includes five subordinate offices. Four perform evaluations, and one (OA-40) provides management and administrative support services.



Testing Performance

OA is doing its part in assuring that DOE's present and future protection capabilities are sufficient to meet the new world realities. OA is expanding its longstanding program of evaluating program effectiveness through hands-on testing of DOE Federal and contractor performance. Performance is tested through:

- Force-on-force exercises conducted by highly skilled members of OA's Composite Adversary Team to evaluate physical security
- Testing of computer systems using state-of-the-art laboratories and testing methods to evaluate cyber security
- Emergency management exercises to assess emergency planning and decision making skills
- Observation of actual work to evaluate safety management systems designed to protect workers, the public, and the environment.



How Does OA Fit into the DOE National Security Picture?

OA is uniquely positioned to provide oversight of the security of DOE operations and the safety of workers and the public around DOE facilities. This oversight role is applied to nuclear safeguards; security; cyber security; emergency management; environment, safety and health; and other critical areas as directed by the Secretary of Energy.

How Does OA Serve the Public Interest?

OA staff members travel to all DOE sites conducting extensive inspections to ensure that the Department is operating in a manner that will preserve the security and safety of DOE's workers, the public, and the environment. OA's independence from the DOE program offices is the foundation of its objectivity, allowing OA to provide responsible evaluations of the effectiveness of DOE policies and the implementation of those policies. OA provides its observations directly to the Secretary of Energy and others at the highest levels of government who can take appropriate measures to verify that DOE is meeting its responsibilities to the American people.

For further information visit the OA web site at <http://www.oe.doe.gov> or call (301) 903-3777.

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