

TIME REQUIREMENT FOR FOLLOW-UP EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

QUESTION: Does the 15 or 30 minute time requirement apply to *follow-up emergency notifications* that must be made when conditions change (e.g., protective actions are modified), when the emergency classification level is upgraded, or when the emergency is terminated?

ANSWER: The 15 or 30 minute requirement to notify Tribal, State and local officials, the Cognizant Field Element Emergency Operation Center, and Headquarters Operations Center applies to the *initial* emergency notification of the declaration of an Operational Emergency (OE). Subsequent to the *initial* notification, *follow-up emergency notifications* must be made when conditions change (e.g., protective actions are modified), when the emergency classification level is upgraded, or when the emergency is terminated. Chapter VIII of the Order does not specifically mention follow-up notifications; however, the CRD, DOE O 151.1C, Attachment 2, 12, contains the following requirement:

“Accurate and timely follow-up notifications must be made when conditions change, when the emergency classification level (as an Alert, Site Area Emergency, General Emergency) is upgraded, or when the emergency is terminated. Continuous, effective and accurate communication among response components and/or organizations must be reliably maintained throughout an Operational Emergency.”

No time requirement is specifically prescribed in either the main body of DOE O 151.1C or the CRD for follow-up notifications except that they are accurate and timely and are required when conditions change, when the classification is upgraded or when the emergency is terminated. DOE G 151.1-4, Section 5.2 provides a characterization of timely in the context of an emergency notification system:

“For the purposes of this Guide, ‘timely’ means fast enough for response activities to be effective in protecting worker and public health and safety.”