

## **Radio Infrastructure Programmatic Roles and Responsibilities**

The organizational level (e.g., States, Washington Office, or National Operations Center) responsible for each role and responsibility outlined below is identified in brackets after each numbered paragraph listed below.

### Radio Program

1. Identify work and projects needed to improve or maintain radio facilities and/or radio coverage. [States]
2. Coordinate with the States' Engineering Programs to determine the scope of work for each radio infrastructure project and whether it will be accomplished in house or with Deferred Maintenance (DM) or Capital Improvement (CI) funding from the Department's Five Year Plan. [States]
3. Take the lead in assisting the States' Engineering Programs with the development of Project Data Sheets (PDS) for radio facility projects eligible for DM or CI funding. The PDSs are to be prepared using E-forms and routed to the State Engineer no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> annually. [States]
4. Program funding to purchase and install radio system equipment. [States]
5. Budget for the performance of baseline Radio Infrastructure Compliance Assessment Safety, Health, and the Environment (RI CASHE) audits at all BLM Radio Infrastructure Sites. [Washington Office]
6. Budget for the performance of baseline and follow-up structural evaluations of all BLM-owned radio towers with priority given to towers over 60 feet tall. [Washington Office]
7. Provide information to the States' Engineering Programs necessary to include BLM-owned radio facilities in the BLM's Facility Asset Management System (FAMS). [States]
8. Prior to entering into an agreement to locate BLM-owned and maintained radio equipment in another entities' (e.g. private, Federal, State or Local) radio facility, the State Radio Program Lead working with the local radio technician and a BLM Contracting Officer will take the following actions: [States]
  - a. Evaluate the condition of the radio facility under consideration using the Department's Radio Site Inspection Form. Testing of the internal and external grounding systems must be done as part of this inspection. If assistance is required to perform this evaluation, coordinate with the National Radio Communications Division (WO-410).
  - b. Before an agreement is signed, the State Radio Lead will consult with the WO-410 and their State Engineer to determine if the agreement terms and the facility are acceptable.

- c. If the terms and/or facility are not acceptable, the BLM may consider making the necessary improvements with its own funding, find another cooperator, or program funding for the construction of its own radio facility.
- d. Reasonable requirements for installation of BLM radio equipment (i.e., grounding, correcting exposed electrical wires, installing power outlets and circuits for BLM-owned equipment) or safety concerns (i.e., tower climbing apparatus, rodent control, etc.) may be corrected with Bureau resources and must be specified in the agreement. If improvements will remain at the facility after the agreement expires, the Contracting Officer will write a waiver of restoration.
- e. While DM and CI funding may not be used to fund improvements at a facility not owned by the BLM, other funding may be used. The State Radio Program Lead should contact their contracting and budget staff for guidance on how to fund the improvements.

### Engineering Program

1. Program funding for the design and construction of capital improvement or renovation of existing BLM-owned radio infrastructure. [Washington Office]
2. Maintain BLM-owned radio infrastructure. [States]
3. Provide technical assistance to the Radio Program in the development of PDSs for radio facilities projects eligible for DM or CI funding. [States]
4. Prioritize projects submitted for DM or CI Five Year Plan funding. [States]
5. Provide planning, design, construction, and inspection services including commissioning (e.g., operating and testing) of the mechanical and electrical systems, such as internal and external grounding systems, to ensure that all capital improvements and renovations to BLM-owned radio facilities are constructed in accordance with industry standards (e.g., Motorola R56 standards) and project specifications and drawings. [States and National Operations Center]
6. Incorporate and maintain BLM-owned radio facilities in the Facility Asset Management System (FAMS). Radio facilities that the BLM leases or uses under a formal or informal agreement will also be entered into FAMS when required by the Department. [States]
7. Incorporate inspection of BLM-owned, leased, and formal/informal agreement radio facilities into CASHE audits currently being performed at field offices, fire facilities, recreation sites, and other administrative facilities throughout the BLM. [National Operations Center]
8. Budget for the performance of CASHE audits, except baseline RI CASHE audits. [National Operations Center]
9. Prepare contract for the structural inspection of radio towers and their foundations and provide contract administration support. [National Operations Center]

## Realty Program

1. Field Managers must consider the needs of the BLM's Radio Program when entering into new or renewed authorizations for the construction or continued operation of telecommunication facilities on public land. [States]
2. Field Managers will address the following issues prior to approving a new or renewed authorization: [States]
  - a. Newly authorized radio facilities shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the Motorola R56 standards and/or other applicable recognized industry standards.
    - i. Field managers may waive compliance with one or more of the Motorola R56 standards on a case-by-case basis upon written request of the applicant after consultation with the State Radio Program Lead. Written documentation noting the sections or subsections of the Motorola R56 standards deemed not applicable must be included in the authorization file along with the applicant's written waiver request.
  - b. New construction authorized through an amendment to the right-of-way (ROW) grant or communications use lease (for example, a new shelter at an existing site) shall also be constructed and maintained in accordance with the Motorola R56 standards and/or other applicable recognized industry standards. Field managers may waive one or more of the Motorola R56 standards following the same process as described in paragraph 2a above.
  - c. Renewed or assigned authorized uses shall comply with Motorola R56 and/or other applicable recognized industry standards if such use presents interference or safety issues (e.g., unfenced facility near recreation site or trail, unstable tower poses threat to other users, radio frequency radiation exceeding public safety standards).
  - d. Recognize that the best opportunity to provide quality cost-effective space for BLM radio equipment may be in a non-BLM telecommunication facility that the field office is considering authorizing. The BLM cannot require an applicant to provide free radio space to the BLM or other DOI bureaus as a condition of issuing an authorization. However, field offices are to consult with their local radio technician during the authorization process to determine if a proposed use would provide opportunities for co-location by the BLM or another DOI bureau. If so, field offices should negotiate with an applicant to determine if a mutually agreeable solution can be found to co-locate BLM or other DOI radio equipment within a proposed facility. These solutions are expected to be determined on a case-by-case basis with the full involvement of the Radio Program and may involve such incentives as expedited processing timeframes in return for BLM radio space in their facilities.

- e. Any new or renewed authorization issued to a third party in a BLM-owned radio facility must contain the following stipulations:
  - i. Holder agrees to remove their equipment from the radio facility with 45 days of receipt of a certified letter from BLM stating that BLM has decided to vacate the facility.
  - ii. Holder shall install, maintain, and operate their equipment in accordance with the Motorola R56 standards and/or other applicable recognized industry standards.
  - iii. Holder shall immediately implement corrective actions applicable to their equipment when so directed by the BLM Authorized Officer.
3. If the BLM removes their radio system equipment from a BLM-owned radio facility, field offices may assign the authorization to a third party, provided the facility has not been determined to be unsafe by a RI CASHE audit or similar inspection. [States]
4. Terminated telecommunication facilities on BLM land will be offered to the Radio Program before being made available to other parties. [States]