

Executive Summary

Description: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) transmits the charter for the BLM Radio Electronic Site Standards Committee . This group was formed for the express purpose of establishing and maintaining radio site infrastructure standards for all BLM radio facilities.

Involved Parties: The standards are to be implemented whenever a radio facility is being designed and built, whether it is a new site, an upgrade to a site, an expansion of an existing site, or repairs and/or maintenance of a site. As such, the standards will be used extensively by both the engineering program, which is responsible for the site infrastructure, and the radio operations program which routinely maintains the sites.

One of the key areas of emphasis of the program is to address areas of common deficiency found at all BLM radio infrastructure sites. These areas primarily include, but are not limited to:

- Radio system equipment protection and installation
- Tower reliability and mapping (TIA-222)
- Shelter design, power systems, temperature control and access
- Site: safety, security and accessibility

The implementation of such nationally recognized standards will have a positive impact on the users of radio systems as well as those who may be visiting BLM lands generally. Improving the facilities will insure that the radio equipment is more reliable and resilient and provides the needed communications infrastructure when responding to emergencies including fire, law enforcement and medical emergencies. The facilities will also be safer from the perspective of lightning protection and general grounding, resulting in fewer hazards for BLM staff and the general public who may be in the vicinity of such radio sites.

Issues: Radio Infrastructure sites were examined by the DOI OIG in 2007. At that time, the OIG issued a report that identified the radio infrastructure as a material weakness that posed an immediate threat to employees and the public. The DOI responded with a plan for a 3rd party contractor to formally inspect all radio electronic sites throughout DOI to meet DOI standards. The goal of this effort was to identify all deficiencies at radio electronic sites to enable timely remediation. All radio electronic sites are available for use by emergency responders.

Originator:

The official originators of this charter may include Mark Jones, Jason Becker, and Daniel Akin. Their titles and locations are listed below. Mr. Jones and Mr. Becker report to John Glenn, Division Chief of Fire Operations and Safety. Mr. Akin reports through Corey Grant, Division Chief for Business Resources.

Author: This charter was prepared by a working committee consisting of representatives of the BLM Engineering Program, the BLM Lands & Realty Program and the BLM Radio Operations Program. The members of that committee included:

- Jason Becker, Telecommunications Specialist, NROB, NIFC, Boise, ID
- Mark Jones, Branch Chief, NROB, NIFC, Boise, ID

- Heather Snow, Realty Officer & Program Lead, Division of Lands, Realty and Cadastral Survey, WO
- Daniel Akin, Civil Engineer & Radio Infrastructure Program Lead, National Operations Center, Denver, CO
- Teresa Reed, Civil Engineer, Phoenix, AZ
- Derrick Migneault, Electronics Technician, Worland District, WY
- Ryan Parsons, Telecommunications Specialist, UT SO, Salt Lake City, UT
- Kenneth Morin, Environmental Engineer and CASHE Program Lead, National Operations Center, Denver, CO
- Dalton Black, Supervisory Telecommunications Specialist & State Radio Program Lead, Reno, NV

Responsible Party/Authority: Name, Title, Office, and contact information (Assistant Director)

This charter includes members of three different divisions within BLM. The Assistant Directors for each affected division are as follows:

- Fire and Aviation – Assistant Director, Ron Dunton (Acting)
- Business, Fiscal & Information Resources Management – Assistant Director, Janine Velasco
- Energy, Minerals & Realty Management – Assistant Director, Michael Nedd