

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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In Reply Refer To:
1400-735 (360) P
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Instruction Memorandum No. 97-166
Expires: 9/30/98

To: State Directors, D-NARSC
From: Director
Subject: Engineering Responsibilities

ISSUE: In recent years, reorganizations within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have made obsolete many of the titles used to designate engineering responsibilities and delegations of authority in the 9100 (Engineering) Manual Series. In order to fulfill the Bureau's regulatory and legal obligations it is critical that these responsibilities are defined as clearly as possible at all times. For example, we now refer to our lead engineers in each BLM State Office as the State Engineer, but we have not included the term in our Manuals. We no longer have "Chiefs, Branch of Engineering Services", the term used in the Manual, in our State Offices. Therefore, it is often difficult to determine accountability for the wide range of responsibilities assigned by policy to these individuals.

PURPOSE: This Instruction Memorandum provides interim delegations of authority and assignment of responsibilities for the affected Engineering offices, pending the rewrite of the appropriate manual sections.

POLICY: Until the completion of the rewrite of the policy sections of the Bureau Manual 9100 (Engineering) Series the following policies are in effect:

- (1) Wherever responsibilities shown in the BLM Manual are assigned to the Chief, Branch of Engineering Services, substitute "State Engineer". Each State Director is responsible for designating an Engineer to serve as State Engineer.
- (2) Responsibilities shown in the BLM Manual assigned to the Chief, Branch of Engineering Services (Service Center) will be assigned to a designated engineer(s) by the Director of the National Applied Resource Sciences Center.

(3) In those offices no longer organized around District Offices, Line Managers must ensure that those responsibilities assigned in the 9100 Manual Series to the District Engineer are being carried out by a designated Engineer.

As the appropriate portions of the Bureau Manual 9100 Series are updated, these changes in assignment of responsibilities will be incorporated into the permanent policies.

Please direct questions regarding this IM to Bernie Hyde in the Protection and Response Group at (202) 452-5058.

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