

Security Spotlight



Assistant Manager for Security and Emergency Management

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CLASSIFICATION CAUTION

Attached is Classification Bulletin "GEN-19," *Publication of Nuclear Weapons Information*. It sets forth important principles pertaining to nuclear weapons classification, and also the protection of classified information for all the programs and projects in which the Oak Ridge Office (ORO) has been engaged. Classified activities at ORO include nuclear weapons, a variety of uranium enrichment processes including gas centrifuge and gaseous diffusion, and many other technologies and activities.

Basically, we must be alert in our work and personal lives and not validate or cite open source information or science that provides insights about our classified technologies or activities. You must do your part by remembering that if you plan to make a communication in a classified subject area, activity, or technology, you need to confer in advance with a derivative classifier to ascertain if that communication will be classified and therefore will require protection.

If you have any questions about this Security Spotlight or would like more specific classification training, please contact Gabe Marciante, ORO Classification Officer, at (865) 576-0754.

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CLASSIFICATION BULLETIN

GEN-19

Publication of Nuclear Weapon Information

The purpose of this bulletin is to define the policy, procedures, and guidance concerning the publication for public release of information regarding the theory, operation, or design of nuclear weapons. This bulletin should be used in conjunction with GEN-16, *No Comment Policy for Classified Areas*.

A key component of protecting classified nuclear weapon information is the prevention of its unauthorized dissemination. Per Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1045, (10 C.F.R. Part 1045), *Nuclear Classification and Declassification*, the Department of Energy (DOE) shall "manage the Government-wide system for the classification and declassification of RD and FRD in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act" and "determine whether nuclear-related information is RD." Any individual with current or past authorized access to Restricted Data (RD) or Formerly Restricted Data (FRD) information to include the theory, operation, or design of nuclear weapons is required to have any material being proposed for public release reviewed and determined to be unclassified by a DOE Classification Officer or the Office of Document Reviews, Office of Classification. This requirement applies to all current and former Federal Government employees, including military and contractors.

Per 10 C.F.R. Part 1045 and DOE directives, any information regarding the theory, operation, or design of nuclear weapons is classified unless it has been specifically declassified and is shown to be unclassified by classification guidance or has been officially released by DOE. It is against DOE policy to use source documents for making classification decisions for RD and FRD. Elaboration beyond that already known to be unclassified may be classified and must be protected at the highest potential classification that is likely to be contained in the document or material until a classification determination is made by the Director, Office of Classification.

Of particular concern is the publication of material that takes nuclear physics from open sources and applies this physics to publish nominally "unclassified," "hypothetical" descriptions of any kind: words, drawings, pictures, etc., of the design and performance of nuclear weapons. In the event that there is a compelling need to use a weapon illustration on an unclassified basis, the unclassified illustrations in TCG-NAS-2, *Joint DOE/DoD Topical Classification Guide for Nuclear Assembly Systems*, may be used. The publication of nominally "unclassified," "hypothetical" descriptions of the design and performance of nuclear weapons by individuals with

current or past authorized access to RD and FRD information is not in the national security interests of the United States and is against DOE policy. Publication of material by individuals with current or past authorized access to RD and FRD information dealing with fission and fusion physics and thermodynamics, unless specifically approved by the Office of Classification, must be done outside the context of the inner workings of nuclear weapons.

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Director
Office of Classification
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