

PART 3 [RESERVED]**PART 3a—NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION**

GENERAL

Sec.

3a.1 Purpose.

3a.2 Authority.

CLASSIFICATION

3a.11 Classification of official information.

3a.12 Authority to classify official information.

3a.13 Classification responsibility and procedure.

DECLASSIFICATION AND DOWNGRADING

3a.21 Authority to downgrade and declassify.

3a.22 Declassification and downgrading.

3a.23 Review of classified material for declassification purposes.

CLASSIFICATION MARKINGS AND SPECIAL NOTATIONS

3a.31 Classification markings and special notations.

ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED MATERIALS

3a.41 Access requirements.

SECURITY OFFICERS

3a.51 Designation of security officers.

STORAGE AND CUSTODY OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

3a.61 Storage and custody of classified information.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

3a.71 Accountability for classified material.

TRANSMITTAL OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

3a.81 Transmittal of classified material.

DATA INDEX SYSTEM

3a.91 Data index system.

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 717o; 16 U.S.C. 825h.

SOURCE: Order 470, 38 FR 5161, Feb. 26, 1973, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL

§ 3a.1 Purpose.

This part 3a describes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission program to govern the classification, downgrading, declassification, and safeguarding of national security information. The provisions and require-

ments cited herein are applicable to the entire agency except that material pertaining to personnel security shall be safeguarded by the Personnel Security Officer and shall not be considered classified material for the purpose of this part.

[Order 470, 38 FR 5161, Feb. 26, 1973, as amended by Order 756, 77 FR 4893, Feb. 1, 2012]

§ 3a.2 Authority.

Official information or material referred to as classified in this part is expressly exempted from public disclosure by 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1). Wrongful disclosure thereof is recognized in the Federal Criminal Code as providing a basis for prosecution. E.O. 11652, March 8, 1972 (37 FR 5209, March 10, 1972), identifies the information to be protected, prescribes classification, downgrading, declassification, and safeguarding procedures to be followed and establishes a monitoring system to insure its effectiveness. National Security Council Directive Governing the Classification, Downgrading, Declassification and Safeguarding of National Security Information, May 17, 1972 (37 FR 10053, May 19, 1972), implements E.O. 11652.

CLASSIFICATION

§ 3a.11 Classification of official information.

(a) *Security Classification Categories.* Information or material which requires protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of the national defense or foreign relations of the United States (hereinafter collectively termed *national security*) is classified Top Secret, Secret or Confidential, depending upon the degree of its significance to national security. No other categories are to be used to identify official information or material requiring protection in the interest of national security, except as otherwise expressly provided by statute. These classification categories are defined as follows:

(1) *Top Secret.* Top Secret refers to national security information or material which requires the highest degree of protection. The test for assigning Top Secret classification is whether its unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause exceptionally