

Chapter 130.1 Mission, Vision, and History of the Division of Engineering Services

130.1.1 Mission and Vision. The mission of the Division of Engineering Services (DES) is to provide exceptional professional architectural, engineering, and acquisition services. The DES vision is for every American Indian and Alaska Native to receive health care services in a high quality health care facility.

130.1.2 History.

130.1.2.1 Pre-1970. Prior to 1970, the facilities programs in the Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW), the predecessor to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), were administered by 17 separate offices located in various operating divisions of HEW. The facilities programs primarily provided grant and loan funding to assist in education programs and the construction of health care facilities.

130.1.2.2 The 1970s – ROFEC under HEW. In 1970, a HEW task force recommended that a "central construction agency" be formed in the Office of the Secretary (OS) when the ten regions were created to provide departmental leadership, policies, and a focal point for all activities related to the Department's billion dollar annual facilities program. The Regional Office of Facilities Engineering and Construction (ROFEC) was created in response to this recommendation. The ROFECs were located in each of the ten regions and reported to the respective Regional Directors. The ROFEC mission essentially consisted of:

- Real property management, including space acquisition, utilization, maintenance, and repair;
- Technical assistance to grantees (Federally Assisted Program);
- Guidance on operations and maintenance of facilities;
- Guidance on space management;
- Direct Federal leasing activities;
- Administration and oversight for design, construction and contracting of HEW facilities;
- Field activities related to federally assisted and direct Federal design and construction; and
- Acting as a technical consultant for all agencies and programs of HEW.

In addition to Public Health Service (PHS)/Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities related work, ROFEC staff were also involved in certification of health care facilities for the Health Care Financing Administration (now the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services); hospital construction under the Federal Housing Administration Sec. 242 program; and Department of Education facility/school projects.

130.1.2.3 Creation of HHS. In 1980, the Department of Education Organization Act (P.L. 96-88) created a separate Department of Education (ED) out of HEW and renamed HEW to Health and Human Services (HHS). The ROFECs remained in the regional HHS offices. Since the ED did not have a facilities engineering and construction component, those functions continued through the ROFECs in HHS.

130.1.2.4 Creation of OES. In 1984, HHS began streamlining the Office of the Secretary (OS) in response to recommendations made by the President's Private Sector Survey on cost control (Grace Commission). Facilities, engineering and construction functions were delegated from the OS to the PHS and the Office of Engineering Services (OES) was created in the Health Services Resources Administration (HRSA). The ten regional offices were merged into three regional offices located in New York City, Dallas, and Seattle. The Social Security Administration assumed its own facilities engineering and construction functions, as did PHS agencies with major centralized infrastructure, including the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease and Control. Facilities engineering and construction functions for the ED and remaining HHS/PHS agencies (including the IHS), were provided by OES.

130.1.2.5 OES Decentralization. In 1988, the IHS was elevated to Agency status in the HHS/PHS from a Bureau within HRSA. The headquarters OES was abolished and oversight authorities were given to IHS and HRSA for the three OES offices. HHS/PHS retained real property and broad policy oversight function within the Division of Health Facility Planning. All major IHS facilities design and construction activities were performed in the Seattle and Dallas OES offices. The New York OES office was moved into HRSA, the origin of most of their workload. The OES functional statement was created in 1984:

The OES provides architectural and engineering services throughout the U.S. including Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Trust Territories of the Pacific, as well as for the IHS, HRSA, CMS and the ED. More specifically, the OES administers and provides:

- *Oversight for HRSA and IHS facilities engineering, construction, and contracting activities;*
- *The delivery of comprehensive architectural, engineering and contracting services in support of assigned federally assisted and direct Federal construction programs;*
- *Leasing services to the IHS facilities.*
- *Guidance materials and technical publications developed to enhance efficiency and economy in the design, construction, and modernization of facilities.*
- *Professional technical expertise over a wide geographical area with a single point source of reference for questions and answers.*

130.1.2.6 Creation of ES. In 1995, administrative oversight responsibilities for the Seattle and Dallas OES regional offices were transferred from the OS to IHS, the origin of most of their workload. OES became Engineering Services (ES) within the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE).

130.1.2.7 AHJ Delegation. In 1996, ES was designated as the Authority Having Jurisdiction for code interpretation, enforcement, and implementation for the fire/life safety codes of all IHS facilities.

130.1.2.8 Creation of DES. In 1997, the IHS Executive Leadership Group (ELG) requested that the Area OEHE Associate Directors review and evaluate the functions of ES consistent with the objectives of the Indian Health Design Team report. As a result, the two ES's were restructured to enhance ES responsiveness and ability to carry out their functions more effectively.

The ES restructuring included transferring some resources and functions to the 12 Area OEHE. The ES offices became the Division of Engineering Services (DES-Dallas and DES-Seattle) under Headquarters OEHE. The two separate DES offices had their own Director that reported to the OEHE Director. In the mid-2000's, administrative oversight of all DES was placed under the Seattle DES Director.

130.1.2.9 One DES. In 2015, the Dallas and Seattle DES offices were merged, restructured and placed under the management of one Director to create "One DES."

Additional responsibilities have been assigned to DES, including:

- Special General Memorandum 15-04 effective October 1, 2015, called for all IHS design and construction contracts \geq \$150,000 to be planned, solicited, executed and administered by DES.
- Realignment of OEHE Leasing Functions effective October 1, 2016 consolidating all IHS leasing program responsibilities from the Division of Facilities Operations to DES.
- Delegation of Authority Administrative #48 effective November 17, 2017, reissued to provide for the OEHE, DES, Chief of Acquisitions, the authority to sign all IHS Title V Construction Project Agreements and award IHS Title I construction contracts, including modifications thereto.

Currently, DES is one of the five Divisions within the IHS Headquarters OEHE.

End of Chapter 130.1 Mission, Vision, and History of the Division of Engineering Services