

# BPA Policy 462-4

## Management and Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS-Drones)

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## 1. Purpose & Background

The purpose of this policy is to prescribe procedures and responsibilities as they pertain to the operation and management of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is applying U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Order No. 440.2C, Aviation Management and Safety, 14 CFR Part 107, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and The American Drone Security Act of 2023, PL 118-31 § 1821 et seq., to the operation of UAS at BPA to ensure compliance with all applicable federal laws, regulations, and policies. Compliance with federal law, regulations, and policies will establish a framework for safe, secure, and efficient UAS operations. BPA utilizes both government owned and commercial aviation services (CAS) UAS for the purpose of providing data capture, analysis, and construction support.

## 2. Policy Owner

The Senior Vice President of Transmission Services is the owner of this policy. Aircraft Services (TAA) is responsible for implementing, monitoring, reporting, evaluating, and revising this policy. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the BPA Supervisory Aircraft Services Specialist.

## 3. Applicability

This policy applies to all government-owned UAS and their operators within Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). For non-BPA entities, the provisions of this policy are implemented through contractual agreements.

## 4. Terms & Definitions

1. American Drone Security Act of 2023 - refers to PL 118-31 § 1821 et seq., which defines the legal requirements for the procuring and operation of UAS by all United States Government Agencies.
2. Commercial Aviation Services (CAS) - includes any unmanned aircraft system that is operated on behalf of BPA by a contract vendor.
3. Government owned UAS - any UAS owned or leased by an executive agency other than a branch of the Armed Forces or intelligence agency.
4. Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) - any aircraft capable of flight regardless of size or weight operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft, in accordance with 14 CFR § 1.1(2018).

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## 5. Policy

BPA is committed to the safe, secure, and efficient integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) across its operations to support organizational objectives. This policy establishes the framework for a comprehensive UAS program, encompassing the processes and procedures for the acquisition, training, operation, maintenance, and disposal of all UAS, ensuring full compliance with applicable federal laws, regulations, and Department of Energy directives.

## 6. Policy Exceptions

Policy exceptions are reviewed and approved by the SVP of Transmission on a case-by-case basis.

## 7. Responsibilities

### 7.1 Aircraft Services (TAA)

1. Establishes the UAS program and administers, policies, procedures, and training requirements.
2. Vetting, approval, and purchase all UAS to ensure compliance with all agency and federal guidelines.
3. Oversee the management and ownership of all BPA owned and operated UAS.
4. Provide and coordinate all maintenance performed on BPA owned UAS.
5. Submit operating reports to other executive agencies.
6. Submit UAS accident and incident reports to the NTSB and FAA as necessary.
7. Comply with any applicable requirements set forth in Sections 8 and 10.

### 7.2 UAS User Organizations

1. Ensure compliance with all UAS policy and procedures by its respective employees.
2. Develop necessary job specific guides or procedures.
3. Collect and transfer data to end users.

### 7.3 Chief Information Office (J)

1. Ensure all UAS equipment, support systems, firmware, and software are vetted and approved in compliance with all cyber security requirements.
2. Comply with any applicable requirements set forth in Sections 8 and 10.

### 7.4 Technical Training Center

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1. Provide initial and recurrent training to all BPA employees required to operate UAS in the execution of their assigned duties.
2. Maintain training records for all employees qualified to operate UAS.
3. Comply with any applicable requirements set forth in Sections 8 and 10.

### 7.5 BPA Safety

1. Provide safety oversight of policies and procedures involving UAS at BPA facilities and locations.
2. Follow procedures for the notification, reporting, and investigation of aircraft incidents and accidents in accordance with BPA Occupational Safety and Health Program, and DOE Order 225.1A, Accident Investigations.
3. Conduct line management inspections or audits where applicable to ensure compliance with DOE and Federal ground safety requirements.
4. Liaise with the TAA Aviation Safety Officer on aviation related safety concerns as required.
5. Comply with any applicable requirements set forth in Sections 8 and 10.

## 8. Standards & Procedures

1. BPA Government owned UAS operations shall comply with the following:
  - a) BPA’s UAS Operations Manual.
  - b) All applicable provisions listed in The American Drone Security Act of 2023, PL 118-31 § 1821 et seq.
  - c) Department of Energy policy directives in Aviation Management and Safety (DOE Order 440.2C)
  - d) Internally developed safety and operating procedures.
  - e) Small UAS shall be operated in compliance with 14 CFR 107, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, as it pertains to registration, airman certification, and operation of civil small, unmanned aircraft systems within the United States.

## 9. Performance & Monitoring

Performance will be measured by the efficiencies gained and implementation of safety mitigations through UAS integration into standard work practices throughout BPA.

## 10. Authorities & References

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The following documents are the foundation for this policy and are generally applicable throughout the document. Further, requirements found within the documents listed below are incorporated into this policy by reference:

1. DOE Order 440.2C, Aviation Management and Safety
2. 14 CFR Part 107, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems
3. The American Drone Security Act of 2023, PL 118-31 § 1821 et seq., H.R. 2670-556
4. 49 CFR Part 830
5. BPA Occupational Safety and Health Program
6. DOE Order 225.1A, Accident Investigations
7. BPA Policy 236-3, Privacy Policy
8. BPA Policy 460-1, Asset Management

## 11. Review

This policy will be updated as required. A sunset review to assess accuracy and continued relevance will be conducted no longer than 5 years from the latest revision date.

## 12. Revision History

Version Number	Issue Date	Brief Description of Change or Review
1	TBD	Initial release

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