


SUBJECT: Authorization to Operate for Data Coordinating Center (DCC)

DATE: APR 17 2012

System Business Steward:

I verify that DCC meets all requirements for operation.



Dawn Gnesda
Deputy, Branch Chief
System Business Steward

4-5-12
Date

Certification Agent:

I certify that DCC meets all security requirements and recommend:

1. Authorization to operate until 4/16/2015
2. Denial of operation authorization (explain reasons).



Cheri Gatland-Lightner
Certification Agent

APR 17 2012
Date

**Memorandum**

Date **APR 17 2012**

From Cheri Gatland-Lightner, Certification Agent

Subject Designated Approving Authority (DAA) Responsibilities

To Kevin Fenton, Director, NCHHSTP

Mr. Jim Seligman, in his memorandum entitled "Designated Approving Authority for CDC Information Systems Security", designated Division Directors, or equivalent, who have financial and programmatic responsibilities to act as DAAs. You have been identified as the DAA for the Data Coordinating Center (DCC). As such it is important that you understand your role in the certification and accreditation (C&A) process.

In accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-130, all information systems that process, store, or transmit information must be authorized to operate (ATO). This authorization is based on the verified effectiveness of security controls to some agreed upon level of assurance and an identified residual risk to agency operations or agency assets. As the senior management official or executive with the authority to approve the operation of the information system at an acceptable level of risk to agency operations (including mission, functions, image, or reputation), agency assets, or individuals, you assume responsibility and are accountable for the risks of operating DCC. Your decision to authorize operation should rely primarily on the compiled system security plan (SSP), the risk mitigation worksheets (RMW), and the plan of action and milestones (POA&M) for reducing or eliminating information system vulnerabilities. In making the security accreditation decision to authorize operations of the system, you explicitly accept the residual risk to CDC operations or CDC assets.

As the Certification Agent, it is my responsibility to ensure that you have all the information you need to make a sound authorization decision. Prior to your decision, I suggest you review the RMW and POA&M. Dawn Gnesda of your staff has both. She, as DCC Business Steward, has established milestones and committed resources to mitigate the identified risks. Your signature implies concurrence with her decisions. I will be happy to discuss the specific residual risks or answer any questions you might have related to this process. You can reach me at 770-488-8621.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cheri Gatland-Lightner".

Cheri Gatland-Lightner
Certification Agent



Memorandum

Date

From Kevin Fenton, Director, NCHHSTP

Subject Security Authorization Decision (Authorization to Operate) for the Data Coordinating Center (DCC)

To Dawn Gnesda, Deputy, Branch Chief

Based on the results of the recertification of the Data Coordinating Center (DCC) and its constituent system-level components located throughout the CDC and the supporting evidence provided by the successful security risk assessment and the Plan of Action and Milestones, I have determined that the risk to agency operations, agency assets, or individuals resulting from the operation of DCC is acceptable. Accordingly, I am issuing an *authorization to operate* to DCC in its existing operating environment until 4/16/2015. DCC is accredited without any significant restrictions or limitations. This security recertification accreditation is my formal declaration that adequate security controls have been implemented in DCC and that a satisfactory level of security is present in the system.

Controls for this system must be reviewed annually in accordance with the requirements detailed in the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), Title III of the E-Government Act of 2002. Modifications to the system will be reviewed via a security impact analysis and, if identified as making major changes to the overall system that affects the security controls or general architecture, the system will undergo a re-assessment and authorization to maintain a level of its assurance to operate and process data on CDC networks.

A copy of this letter with all supporting security authorization documentation should be retained in accordance with the CDC records retention schedules.

Kevin Fenton
Director, NCHHSTP
Designated Approving Authority