

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

PATSY WIDAKUSWARA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

KARI LAKE, et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 1:25-cv-1015 (RCL)

STATUS REPORT

Defendants file this status report to provide information required by the Court's order dated March 7, 2026 (ECF No. 218).

(i) The individual or individuals who have served as acting CEO of USAGM since November 19, 2025, and any appointing order(s) thereof:

No individual fits this description, as the time during which an acting CEO may serve has lapsed under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 (FVRA), at least until the President nominates someone for the CEO role. *See, e.g.*, 5 U.S.C. §§ 3346, 3349a.

(ii) To the extent different from (i), the individual serving as acting CEO following this Order, and any appointing order thereof:

No individual currently fits this description. Defendants understand the requirement that they file a copy of "any future order or other document designat[ing] a new acting CEO, or delegat[ing] the authorities of the CEO." ECF No. 218 at 2.

(iii) The current succession plan for the CEO of USAGM:

Defendants do not have a “succession plan for the CEO of USAGM.” Defendants understand the Court’s opinion to hold that USAGM may not rely on a delegation of authority to provide for continued leadership of the agency. *See* ECF No. 219 at 16. Under that reasoning, the only way to ensure leadership at the agency is through the Federal Vacancies Reform Act (FVRA), which will provide authority for a new Acting CEO to serve when it again becomes available. Defendants further understand the Court’s opinion to hold that 5 U.S.C. § 3345(a)(1)’s mechanism for automatic acting service will not apply even when the FVRA becomes available again because Deputy CEO Kari Lake was not holding that position at the time that the CEO vacancy occurred. *See* ECF No. 219 at 11. Under that understanding of the Court’s opinion, designating a new Acting CEO would require presidential action, including the nomination of a permanent CEO candidate so that the authority for an Acting CEO to serve springs back. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 3345(a)(2)–(3) (providing two means by which “the President (and only the President) may direct” someone to serve in an Acting role); *id.* § 3346(a)–(b) (extending time limits for acting service during pendency of first or second nominations to fill the vacancy).

Defendants further note that the CEO is the only officer at USAGM on whom the International Broadcasting Act confers express statutory authority. The Court held that the CEO’s authority may not be delegated under these circumstances. ECF No. 219 at 14–16. It is therefore unclear at this time what actions and activities, if any, USAGM is currently authorized to undertake in light of the Court’s order. Defendants are continuing to analyze that question.

- (iv) **Copies of all orders delegating the authorities of the CEO of USAGM entered since January 20, 2025:**

All such orders that Defendants have identified to date are attached as Exhibits A–G.

Dated: March 11, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

BRETT A. SHUMATE
Assistant Attorney General

ERIC J. HAMILTON
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch

/s/ Elizabeth Hedges
ELIZABETH HEDGES
(DC Bar No. 1657707)
Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division
United States Department of Justice
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Washington, DC 20530
Telephone: (202) 616-0929
Elizabeth.T.Hedges@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Defendants

EXHIBIT A

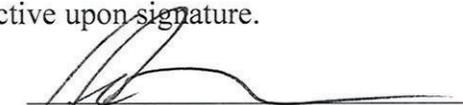
U.S. AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA
DELEGATION ORDER 2025-01

Pursuant to the authority vested to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) under the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended (22 U.S.C. et seq.), the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, as amended (22 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), and other relevant laws, Kari Lake, Senior Advisor, USAGM, is hereby designated to perform the functions and responsibilities specified in the following provisions under 22 U.S.C. 6204:

- 6204(a)(1)
- 6204(a)(2)
- 6204(a)(3)
- 6204(a)(4)
- 6204(a)(5)
- 6204(a)(6)
- 6204(a)(7)
- 6204(a)(8)
- 6204(a)(10)
- 6204(a)(11)
- 6204(a)(12)
- 6204(a)(13)
- 6204(a)(14)
- 6204(a)(15)(A)
- 6204(a)(15)(B)
- 6204(a)(16)
- 6204(a)(17)
- 6204(a)(18)
- 6204(a)(20)
- 6204(a)(21)
- 6204(a)(22)(A)

In addition, I hereby select Kari Lake, Senior Advisor, USAGM, as the designee to carry out any delegable responsibilities specified in Executive Orders issued by the current Administration. Notwithstanding this or any other delegation of authority, the CEO retains, and may at any time exercise, the authority delegated herein.

The Delegation Order is effective upon signature.



Victor Morales
Chief Executive Officer (Acting)

3/5/2025

Date

EXHIBIT B



U.S. AGENCY FOR
GLOBAL MEDIA

330 Independence Avenue SW | Washington, DC 20237 | usagm.gov

May 8, 2025

UNCLASSIFIED

TO: Department of the Treasury
Bureau of the Fiscal Service
P.O. Box 12599-0599
Kansas City, MO 64116

FROM: USAGM –Victor Morales, Acting Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Head of Agency (HoA) Self-delegation

In accordance with the authority vested in me as Acting Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, Washington, DC, I hereby self-designate myself as Head of Agency. As Head of Agency, I reserve the right to delegate this authority.

If you should have any questions, please contact Andrew Warner, at AWarner@usagm.gov or 202-920-2342.

Victor H
Morales

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H Morales
Date: 2025.05.08 17:49:50
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Victor Morales
Acting Chief Executive Officer



EXHIBIT C



DELEGATION ORDER 2025-02

Pursuant to the authority vested to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) under the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 6201 et seq.), the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 1431 et seq.), and other relevant laws, Kari Lake, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, USAGM, is hereby designated to perform the functions and responsibilities specified in the following provisions under 22 U.S.C. § 6204:

- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(1)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(2)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(3)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(4)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(5)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(6)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(7)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(8)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(10)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(11)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(12)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(13)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(14)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(15)(A)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(15)(B)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(16)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(17)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(18)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(20)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(21)
- 22 U.S.C. § 6204(a)(22)(A)

In addition, I hereby select Kari Lake, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, USAGM, as the designee to carry out any delegable responsibilities specified in Executive Orders issued by the current Administration. Notwithstanding this or any other delegation of authority, the CEO retains, and may at any time exercise, the authority delegated herein.

The Delegation Order is effective upon signature.

Victor H
Morales

Digitally signed by Victor H
Morales
Date: 2025.07.11 16:23:17
-04'00'

Victor Morales
Acting Chief Executive Officer
U.S. Agency for Global Media

Date

EXHIBIT D



U.S. AGENCY FOR
GLOBAL MEDIA

330 Independence Avenue SW | Washington, DC 20237 | usagm.gov

August 20, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO FILE

FROM: USAGM –Kari Lake, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Senior Procurement Executive Delegation

Pursuant to the authority vested to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) under the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 6201 et seq.), the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 1431 et seq.), and other relevant laws, Christopher A. Luer, Acting Chief Management Officer, USAGM, is hereby designated to perform the functions and responsibilities of the Senior Procurement Executive.

X 
Kari Lake
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT E

U.S. AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA
DELEGATION ORDER 2025-03

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), and subject to my or a future CEO or Deputy CEO's oversight, direction, and guidance, I hereby delegate to the Chief of Staff (COS), USAGM, to the extent authorized by law, all authorities vested in or delegated to the Chief Executive Officer under the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended (22 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, as amended (22 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), and other relevant laws, regulations, or executive orders, now or hereafter issued.

Any function or authority delegated herein may be exercised by the CEO, or pursuant to existing delegation, the Deputy CEO.

Any reference in this delegation of authority to any statute or delegation of authority shall be deemed to be a reference to such statute or delegation of authority as amended from time to time and shall be deemed to apply to any provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such statute.

This delegation of authority does not modify any delegation of authority currently in effect.

The delegation of authority may be redelegated by the COS, following coordination with the Office of General Counsel.

This delegation of authority is effective upon signature.



Kari Lake

Chief Executive Officer (Acting)

11/14/2025

Date

EXHIBIT F

U.S. AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA

DELEGATION ORDER 26-01

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the United States Agency for Global Media (USAGM) under the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended ([22 U.S.C. 6201](#) et seq), the U.S. Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, as amended ([22 U.S.C. 1431](#) et seq), the Foreign Affairs Consolidation Act of 1998 ([22 U.S.C. 6501](#) et seq), and other relevant laws, Executive Orders, and regulations, the CEO hereby delegates the authority required to perform the duties and responsibilities of a Federal agency's Chief Information Officer (CIO), as described below, to USAGM's CIO.

(1) PURPOSE

This Order delegates to the CIO for USAGM all authorities, duties, and responsibilities of a Federal agency's CIO.

(2) REPORTING RELATIONSHIP

The CIO reports to the CEO to carry out the statutory responsibilities of the agency with respect to federal information policy and serves as the principal advisor to the CEO and Deputy CEO on information resource management, Information Technology (IT) security, IT human capital management, and telecommunications.

(3) AUTHORITIES

The CIO for USAGM is hereby delegated all applicable authorities, duties, and responsibilities of a Federal agency's CIO under the relevant provisions of the following:

(A) The Clinger-Cohen Act, as amended [[Public Law \(PL\) 104-106](#), Div. E (Feb. 10, 1996)].

(B) The Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended ([44 U.S.C. 3501](#)).

(C) The E-Government Act of 2002 [[PL 107-347](#) (December 17, 2002)].

(D) The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 ([44 U.S.C. 3551](#)).

(E) All relevant authorities of the CIO of a covered agency under the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) [[PL 113-291](#), Section 831-837 of Div. A, Title I, Subtitle D (Dec. 19, 2014)], pursuant to recommendations in [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\) Memorandum M-15-14](#), "Management and Oversight of Federal Information Technology," and guidance from the State and USAGM Office of Inspector General (OIG).

(F) [40 U.S.C. 11315](#) ("Agency Chief Information Officer");

(G) [OMB Circular A-130](#), "Managing Information as a Strategic Resource."

(I) And all other authorities that are, or in the future may be, assigned to an agency's CIO in any other statute, regulation, Executive Order, and OMB guidance document in force or otherwise binding upon the Agency.

(4) DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

This delegation includes, but is not limited to, all authorities required to accomplish the following:

(A) CIO COUNCIL: The CIO shall establish and serve as chairperson of a CIO Council that will promote effective IT management practices; review and evaluate proposed IT initiatives, acquisitions, and ongoing IT projects; share information of a crosscutting nature; and provide a forum for discussing decisions about information technology that will have impact across broadcast entities.

(B) The CIO shall implement [OMB Circular A-130](#), "Managing Information as a Strategic Resource," and other directives regarding the acquisition, management, and use of IT resources.

(C) INFORMATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: The CIO shall have all necessary authority to implement the Clinger-Cohen Act, OMB Circular A-130 and any element of FITARA applicable to a covered agency and deemed applicable to the USAGM by the CIO, pursuant to OMB M-15-14. In implementing these acts, the CIO shall:

(i) TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP: Provide leadership to ensure the Agency's programs make full and appropriate use of IT; provide direction and oversight (including risk management) of the use of IT resources, and conduct reviews of the life cycle management of all the Agency's IT systems.

(ii) INNOVATION: Promote and support the increased use of leading-edge technology to enable the Agency to fully and efficiently accomplish its mission through the use of IT products and services.

(iii) IT STRATEGIC PLANNING: Develop, maintain, and implement an annual USAGM IT Strategic Plan, which shall align with the USAGM Strategic Plan, and annually review Broadcast Network IT Strategic Plans for alignment with the USAGM IT Strategic Plan.

(iv) IT BUDGET FORMULATION: Approve the Agency's IT budget requests. In collaboration with the Agency's Budget Office, the CIO shall review and approve the Agency IT budget, pursuant to a process established with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), prior to the Agency's submission of the Agency budget to OMB. The CIO shall provide input on IT programs and investments to the CEO, as requested by the CEO and/or the CFO, in preparation for budget hearings, or in response to IT specific questions from the Congress. As applicable, the CIO shall certify that IT investments adequately implement incremental development.

(v) CAPITAL PLANNING AND INVESTMENT CONTROL (CPIC): Provide effective management and oversight of the Agency's IT spending through the development of policies, procedures, staff training, and other guidance for Agency-wide planning and use of IT; implement a process for maximizing the value and managing the risks of IT acquisitions which provide for the selection of IT investments, the management of such investments, and the evaluation of the results of such investments. This process shall be integrated with Agency processes for making budget, financial, and program management decisions, shall be guided by the CIO Council, and be fully coordinated with the CFO; and

(H) E.O. 13833 (2018) (“Enhancing the Effectiveness of Agency Chief Information Officers”).

(vi) IT CONTRACT APPROVAL: Review and approve requests for contracts for IT, information systems, or IT services; approve governance processes by which USAGM components may approve contracts; and delegate, as needed, contract approval duties for OMB-defined non-major IT investments.

(vii) ARCHITECTURE PLANNING AND OPERATIONS: Develop, maintain, and operationalize the implementation of an IT Enterprise Architecture (EA) in accordance with Federal guidance. Formulate and implement the Agency’s IT Portfolio Management Policy and take other measures as appropriate to ensure that the Agency’s and broadcast network’s programs make full appropriate, efficient, and effective use of the Agency’s EA and Portfolio Management Policy. Regularly review, update, and submit to OMB the Agency’s EA roadmap and the IT Asset Inventory. Regularly review and assess the risk of the Agency’s Legacy IT Ecosystem.

(viii) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICE DELIVERY: In collaboration with the Agency’s CIO Council, Chief Risk Officer (CRO), and with input from the other Agency Councils (e.g. CIO, CFO, RMC), establish goals and metrics for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency’s IT operations and the delivery of IT services and products (including information products).

(ix) POLICY AND OVERSIGHT: Develop and issue policies and other guidance for the management of information resources throughout the Agency, to promote electronic Government, to include overseeing the Agency’s use of IT to support the Agency’s administrative systems, including property, procurement, human resources management, and financial management systems, and monitor and enforce compliance with such policies and guidance. The CIO shall also ensure compliance with relevant OMB guidelines and Executive Orders.

(x) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT OF IT: The CIO shall develop, coordinate, and implement the Agency’s policies, directives, and guidelines for the planning, use, and evaluation of IT resources and, as appropriate, support equivalent activities in conjunction with the CFO as they relate to acquisition of IT resources; monitor and evaluate the performance of IT programs on the basis of applicable performance measurements and advise the CEO or Deputy CEO regarding whether to continue, modify, or terminate a program or project; ensure program objectives, milestones, and actions are developed and completed in response to Department of State (DOS) Inspector General and Government Accountability Office (GAO) Audits and Reports; conduct regular reviews of those programs reported on the Federal CIO Scorecard; conduct reviews of projects or programs identified as presenting higher risk to the Agency; and conduct regular PortfolioStat and TechStat reviews with OMB.

(xi) TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES: Provide IT management and technical assistance services to the Office of the CEO, and designated operating units, and consultative services as requested by operating unit officials.

(D) IT SECURITY: The CIO shall have all necessary authority to develop, implement, maintain, and exercise governance over an Agency-wide information security program. Accordingly, the CIO shall:

(i) AGENCY IT SECURITY PROGRAM: Develop and implement an Agency IT Security Program to ensure the protection, security, confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data and information for use by USAGM and operational unit employees and stakeholders. Ensure

information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from unauthorized access. Apply the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity and Risk Management Framework to further identify and respond to any and all cyber and information security threats and vulnerabilities.

(ii) FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY MODERNIZATION ACT (FISMA): Ensure that the Agency is in compliance with the regulations imposed under FISMA, 2014 ([44 U.S.C. Ch. 35](#)); develop and submit annual FISMA report to Congress.

(iii) IT POLICIES: Develop Agency-wide policies, procedures, and other directives for IT security to promote a culture of cybersecurity.

(iv) NON FEDERAL ENTITIES: Ensure that, whenever non-Federal organizations (including contractors, grantees, or partners in a public/private partnership) process, store, or transmit Federal information on behalf of the Agency, the non-Federal organization's security controls are assessed against the same NIST standards and guidelines as for Government-owned or -operated systems. The CIO shall ensure that the security authorization boundary for these systems are carefully mapped to ensure that Federal information: (1) is adequately protected, (2) is segregated from contractor, partner, or grantee corporate infrastructures, and (3) there is an interconnection security agreement in place to address connections from the contractor, partner, or grantee system containing the Agency's information to systems external to the security authorization boundary. The CIO shall direct partners as well as Grantee Presidents to oversee their unique sites to ensure they have integrated business continuity/disaster recovery planning and organizational preparedness within service level agreements (SLAs), Cloud Services contracts, third party suppliers and interdependent supply chains and must document the findings/metrics in order to lower the exposure to operational risk to the USAGM mission.

(v) CONTINUOUS DIAGNOSTICS AND MONITORING: Ensure continuous diagnostics and monitoring across all IT assets of the Agency.

(vi) CYBERSTAT: Conduct annual CyberStat review with OMB.

(vii) PRIVACY CONTROLS: Coordinate with the Senior Agency Official for Privacy (SAOP) and Chief Privacy Officer in implementing the requirements of the privacy controls for Federal information systems and programs. In consultation with SAOP, require information system owners to prioritize upgrading, replacing, or retiring information systems and components that cannot be appropriately protected or secured.

(E) IT HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT: The CIO shall have all necessary authorities to ensure that Agency personnel with IT responsibilities have the IT management knowledge and skills necessary to meet Agency-wide and component organization goals and objectives for effectively managing IT. Accordingly, the CIO shall:

(i) Actively participate in the selection of Federal broadcast network CIOs, as well as any Federal, Senior Executive Service (SES)-level IT employees for the Agency.

(ii) Develop a critical element for all Federal broadcast network CIOs, which focuses on support of Agency and Government-wide goals and provide performance information to the rating official for this critical element for all Federal broadcast network CIOs.

(iii) Ensure that requested IT positions reflect priorities in the Agency's IT strategic plan.

(iv) Develop policies, strategies, and specific plans for hiring, training, and professional development of the Agency's IT workforce.

(F) TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES: The CIO shall provide Agency-wide guidance for the acquisition, management, and use of telecommunications-related IT resources.

(5) SUCCESSION

The Deputy CIO shall perform the functions of the CIO in the event that the CIO is not able to carry out duties and responsibilities described in this delegation or during a vacancy in the office.

(6) FURTHER DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The CIO may re-delegate the CIO's authorities under this delegation, to the extent consistent with applicable law.

(7) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION

Any reference in this delegation of authority to any provision of law shall be deemed to be a reference to such provision of law as amended from time to time.

(8) EFFECT ON OTHER ORDERS

Delegation Order 99-2 is superseded by this delegation order. Any other delegations of authority to the CIO of USAGM, all policies explaining roles, responsibilities, and authorities of the CIO, and any actions taken by the CIO with respect to any function affected by this delegation, shall remain in force and effect until superseded or revoked, except that to the extent such delegations, policies, or actions are inconsistent with or derogate from, or expand, or decrease the authorities provided in this delegation, they are hereby superseded.

(9) The CEO retains all authorities assigned to a head of Agency under laws, regulations, Executive Orders, or other documents referenced in this delegation, including, but not limited to, oversight and direction of the CIO's activities pursuant to this delegation.

(10) This Delegation Order is effective immediately upon signature.



Kari Lake
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
U.S. Agency for Global Media
Date: 12.04.2025

EXHIBIT G



Delegation of Authority to Execute Grant Agreements

From Kari Lake <[REDACTED]>
Date Wed 1/14/2026 9:01 AM
To Anthony R. Smith <[REDACTED]>

Tony,

As Deputy CEO with delegated authority of the CEO, I am the authorized Grants Officer for USAGM.

Effective immediately, I am delegating to you the authority to execute grant agreements and related grant documents on my behalf, when acting at my direction, for grants that have been reviewed and approved through our established internal process.

This delegation is limited to the execution of grant agreements and associated documents and does not transfer ultimate programmatic or statutory responsibility, which remains with me as Grants Officer.

Please retain this email for documentation purposes.

Kari Lake