

August 31, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Stephen D. Dingbaum
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

FROM: Brian W. Sheron, Director */RA/*
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: EVALUATION OF THE
NRC'S USE OF PROBABILISTIC RISK ASSESSMENT IN
REGULATING THE COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER
INDUSTRY (OIG-06-A-24)

REFERENCE: DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MATERIALS, WASTE,
RESEARCH, STATE, TRIBAL, AND COMPLIANCE
PROGRAMS MEMORANDUM DATED NOVEMBER 27, 2006,
AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESPONSE DATED APRIL 25, 2007

I am responding to your May 4, 2007, memorandum that requested a status update of Recommendations 1 and 3 in the subject audit report. Recommendation 2 was previously resolved and closed.

OIG Recommendation 1

Develop and implement a formal, written process for maintaining probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) models that are sufficiently representative of the as-built, as-operated plant to support model uses.

Background

In the supplementary response to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) dated April 25, 2007, the staff explained that the revised Risk Assessment Standardization Project (RASP) Handbook will provide a formal, written process for maintaining PRA models that are sufficiently representative of the as-built, as-operated plant to support model use. The staff also stated that the RASP Handbook will be completed in calendar year (CY) 2007.

The OIG memorandum, dated May 4, 2007, states that this recommendation is resolved and will be closed when NRC provides evidence that its revised RASP Handbook is issued and implemented.

CONTACT: Daniel O'Neal, RES/DRASP
301-415-4146

Status Update

The staff is on schedule to provide a revision to the RASP Handbook by December 2007.

OIG Recommendation 3

Conduct a full verification and validation of SAPHIRE Version 7.2 and GEM.

Background

The OIG memorandum, dated May 4, 2007, states that this recommendation is resolved and will be closed when NRC releases Version 8 of the SAPHIRE code.

Status Update

The development of SAPHIRE Version 8 is continuing. In our supplementary response dated April 25, 2007, we stated that the release was anticipated in CY 2009. Our current estimate calls for a general release of SAPHIRE Version 8 in July 2009.

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G20070315/WITS 200700009/WITS 200700011/RES2007200

Package: ML072420355
Ticket: ML071270242

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\STATUS UPDATE ON OIG-06-A-24.DOC

OAD in ADAMS? (Y or N) Y ADAMS ACCESSION NO: ML072070034 TEMPLATE NO. RES-006
Publicly Available? (Y or N) Y DATE OF RELEASE TO PUBLIC: 09-07-07 SENSITIVE? N

OFFICE	PRB	PRB	E	PRB	SUNSI Review	SUNSI Review	DD:OERA
NAME	DO'Neal	JFoster		MCheok	DO'Neal	MCheok	PBaranowsky
DATE	08/16/07	08/16/07		08/16/07	08/02/07	08/02/07	08/17/07
OFFICE	D:DRASP	Tech Editor	N	DD:RES	D:RES		
NAME	FEltawila	L-A Culp		MJohnson	BSheron		
DATE	08/22/07	08/01/07		08/30/07	08/31/07		

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NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY (OIG-06-A-24)

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