

September 11, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Stephen D. Dingbaum **/RA/**
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: AUDIT OF
NRC'S GENERIC COMMUNICATION PROGRAM
(OIG-05-A-19)

REFERENCE: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR
REGULATION, MEMORANDUM DATED
JULY 29, 2007

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of report recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated July 29, 2007. To date, recommendation 2 is closed and based on the agency's update, recommendations 1, 3, and 4 remain in a resolved status. OIG will close these recommendations once the agency provides information confirming that corrective actions have been completed. Please provide an updated status of recommendations 1, 3, and 4 by January 31, 2008.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 415-5915.

Attachment: As stated

cc: V. Ordaz, OEDO
M. Malloy, OEDO
P. Tressler, OEDO

Audit Report

Audit of NRC's Generic Communications Program OIG-05-A-19

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Include safeguards advisories, as well as any other agency communication tool that meets the definition of a generic communication, in the formal Generic Communications Program to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Agency Response dated
July 29, 2007:

The staff issued draft Management Directive (MD) 8.18, "NRC Generic Communications Program," for interoffice concurrence on January 5, 2007. This MD establishes security advisories and Information Assessment Team advisories as additional agency generic communications products. This MD defines the scope of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) generic communications and defines organizational roles and responsibilities for each generic communications product. MD 8.18 explicitly defines NRC's generic communications only as generic communications products established therein. The staff submitted a copy of draft MD 8.18 to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) as required by procedure.

All offices have concurred, and OIG has provided comments. MD 8.18 is in final formatting and type setting in preparation for Commission submittal.

The staff expects to submit the final MD 8.18 to the Commission by the end of August 2007.

OIG Analysis: The agency's update reflects continued progress towards completion of this recommendation. OIG will close this recommendation once Management Directive 8.18 is approved for issuance and OIG verifies that the language in the final version satisfies the intent of the recommendation.

Status: Resolved.

Audit Report

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 3: Implement controls to ensure a systematic, consistent tracking methodology from initiation to closure for each agency-issued generic communication.

Agency Response dated
July 29, 2007:

As noted in our response to this recommendation in June 2006, the staff established an interoffice working group to (a) evaluate the current process for initiating, developing, tracking, and distributing generic communications, and (b) recommend how this process should be amended. This working group comprises staff from the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and Office of Nuclear Safety and Incident Response.

The working group completed its evaluation of existing agency tools for developing an agency-wide tracking system for generic communications and concluded that no such tool exists. The Office of Information Systems (OIS) consulted, supported, and offered related assistance on developing a new information technology application for the agency-wide tracking of generic communications. The working group staff and OIS co-produced the scoping documents. In October 2006, the working group submitted the application development request to OIS. OIS completed its review and presented alternatives for the Generic Communications Database. The Working Group decided to incorporate the database into the project plan for a system to track and store requests for additional information (licensee responses and inquiries). This system includes capabilities for collaborative discussion threads and for tracking reviewers' queries to the industry and the responses. The initiation phase of the project began in June 2007, and the Generic Communication Branch is developing the database requirements and workflow process and working with software developers.

Audit Report

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Status of Recommendations

The staff expects to develop a prototype database before the end of Calendar Year 2007.

OIG Analysis:

The staff continues to make significant progress towards developing an agency-wide tracking system. This recommendation will be closed when OIG receives documentation that the agency's proposed actions are complete.

Status:

Resolved.

Audit Report

Audit of NRC's Generic Communications Program OIG-05-A-19

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 4: Direct the development of a methodology that will allow the staff to gauge the effectiveness of agency-issued generic communications.

Agency Response dated
July 29, 2007:

The staff issued draft MD 8.18, "NRC Generic Communications Program," for interoffice concurrence on January 5, 2007. This MD establishes the roles and responsibilities for the conduct of effectiveness reviews and clearly identifies those generic communications that require effectiveness reviews. The staff submitted a copy of this draft to the OIG as required by procedure.

All offices have concurred, and OIG has provided comments. MD 8.18 is in final formatting and type setting in preparation for Commission submittal.

The staff expects to submit the final MD 8.18 to the Commission by the end of August 2007.

OIG Analysis: Recommendation 4 will be closed when revised MD 8.18 has been issued and OIG has verified that the final version addresses the intent of this recommendation.

Status: Resolved.