



OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 18, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO:

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director for Operations

FROM:

Stephen D. Dingbaum
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

SUBJECT:

STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: AUDIT OF NRC'S
OVERSIGHT OF SPENT FUEL POOLS (OIG-15-A-06)

REFERENCE:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR
REGULATION, MEMORANDUM DATED MARCH 24, 2016

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 as discussed in the agency's response dated March 24, 2016. Based on this response, recommendations 1, 2, and 3 are resolved and recommendation 4 is now closed. Please provide an updated status of the resolved recommendations by November 18, 2016. If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 415-5915, or Sherri Miotla, Team Leader, at 415-5914.

Attachment: As stated

cc: R. Lewis, OEDO
H. Rasouli, OEDO
J. Jolicoeur, OEDO
J. Bowen, OEDO
EDO_ACS Distribution Resource

Audit Report

AUDIT OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF SPENT FUEL POOLS

OIG-15-A-06

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Provide a generic regulatory solution for spent fuel pool criticality analysis by developing and issuing detailed licensee guidance along with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) internal procedures.

Agency Response Dated
March 24, 2016:

The staff is currently reviewing Revision 1 of NEI 12-16 (Agencywide Document and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML14112A516), which will form the basis of the regulatory guide. The NRC staff has submitted requests for additional information to the Nuclear Energy Institute and is awaiting a complete set of responses. In addition, the NRC staff has begun the draft regulatory guide process in anticipation of a final revision to NEI 12-16, scheduled for completion this year.

CONTACT: Amrit Patel, NRR/DSS
(301) 415-5893

OIG Analysis: The actions proposed by the agency meet the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed upon the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's issuance of the regulatory guide and revisions to NUREG-0800.

Status: Resolved.

Audit Report

AUDIT OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF SPENT FUEL POOLS

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: Develop and implement spent fuel pool inspection guidance at operating reactors.

Agency Response Dated
March 24, 2016:

On October 30, 2015, the staff issued the initial version of Inspection Procedure (IP) 60715, "Spent Fuel Safety at Operating Reactors," (ADAMS Accession No. ML15247A049). Regional inspectors may use this inspection procedure to review infrequent major activities in the spent fuel pool or to evaluate emergent technical issues not related to licensee performance. These inspections are not part of the baseline or supplemental inspection program elements and Regional Administrator authorization is required for their implementation.

This action is complete and Recommendation 2 should be closed.

CONTACT: Juan Peralta, NRR/DIRS
(301) 415-2858

OIG Analysis:

The actions taken by the agency do not meet the intent of the recommendation. While a spent fuel pool inspection procedure has been created, it does not contain any specific entry conditions/prerequisites. This procedure lacks visibility and may never be used the way it is currently written. OIG was careful not to recommend the procedure be part of the ROP baseline inspection program or be conducted on any specified periodicity. The intent was to create a procedure that may easily be used at the discretion of the inspector. This recommendation will be closed upon NRR creating entry conditions for the new spent fuel pool inspection procedure.

Status:

Resolved.

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AUDIT OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF SPENT FUEL POOLS

OIG-15-A-06

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 3: Develop an enforceable neutron-absorbing material aging management program.

Agency Response Dated
March 24, 2016:

The generic letter requesting information on monitoring of neutron-absorbing materials in spent fuel pools was provided to the Commission as an enclosure to SECY-16-0034, "Issuance of Generic Letter 2016-xx, 'Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing Materials in Spent Fuel Pools,'" dated March 16, 2016. In addition, the staff has now received an OMB clearance number per the Paperwork Reduction Act for issuing the generic letter. The staff intends to issue the generic letter in April 2016.

CONTACT: Scott Krepel, NRR/DSS
(301) 302-0399

OIG Analysis:

The actions proposed by the agency meet the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed when NRR completes its analysis of (1) licensee responses to the generic letter and (2) develops an enforceable neutron-absorbing material aging management program based on the analysis.

Status:

Resolved.

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AUDIT OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF SPENT FUEL POOLS

OIG-15-A-06

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 4: Update Inspection Manual Chapter 2561 and Inspection Procedure 60801.

Agency Response Dated
March 24, 2016:

On January 11, 2016, the NRC issued Revision 1 to IP 60801 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16008A819). The revision was coordinated with all regional offices, the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) to ensure that the new revision is aligned with IP 60715, which was developed as part of the NRR action for Recommendation 2.

The final revision of IMC 2561 is dependent on the completion of revisions to other core and discretionary inspection procedures. The revision to IMC 2561 pertaining to IP 60801 will be administrative, reflecting the revision to IP 60801 and other IP changes. The staff will complete the revision to IMC 2561 when the agency issues all of the decommissioning core inspection procedures. Therefore, the staff has addressed the recommendation by implementing IP 60801 while continuing to manage the revision of IMC 2561.

This action is complete and Recommendation 4 should be closed.

CONTACT: Bruce Watson, CHP, NMSS/DUWP
(301) 415-6221

OIG Analysis: The actions taken by the agency meet the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation is now closed.

Status: Closed.