



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

**OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

December 19, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Victor M. McCree
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Dr. Brett M. Baker */RA/*
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

SUBJECT: AUDIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION'S FOREIGN ASSIGNEE PROGRAM
(OIG-17-A-07)

REFERENCE: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS,
MEMORANDUM DATED NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated November 30, 2017. Based on this response, recommendations 1, 2, and 3 remain resolved. Please provide an updated status of the resolved recommendations by March 30, 2018.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (301) 415-5915, or Beth Serepca, Team Leader at (301) 415-5911.

Attachment: As stated

cc: R. Lewis, OEDO
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Audit Report

AUDIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S FOREIGN ASSIGNEE PROGRAM

OIG-17-A-07

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Develop a procedural document describing a consistent process for security planning, and for inviting, onboarding, and supervising foreign assignees to support information protection.

Agency Response Dated
November 30, 2017:

The staff is developing an update to the "Desk Guide for Supervisors of Foreign Assignees." The update to the desk guide includes procedures describing a consistent process for security planning, and for inviting, onboarding, and supervising foreign assignees to support information protection; an overview of the Foreign Assignee Program; roles and responsibilities of NRC staff; guidance on protection of information, resource and contact information.

Due to a large influx of foreign assignees during FY 2017 Quarter 3 and Quarter 4, the update to the "Desk Guide for Supervisors of Foreign Assignees" is still under development. The next step in the process will be to obtain concurrence from stakeholders. The update to the "Desk Guide for Supervisors of Foreign Assignees" will be completed on or about March 2, 2018.

Target Completion Date: March 2, 2018

OIG Analysis: The proposed action meets the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed when OIG reviews the updated desk guide to verify it identifies procedures for a consistent process in security planning, and for inviting, onboarding, and supervising foreign assignees to support information protection.

Status: Resolved.

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: Develop a secure, cost-efficient method to provide foreign assignees an email account which allows for NRC detection and mitigation of inadvertent transmission of sensitive information and seek Commission approval to implement it.

Agency Response Dated
November 30, 2017:

The NRC Staff was tasked to provide a notation vote paper for Commission's consideration outlining any proposed changes to the foreign assignee program and the implications associated with such changes, per the SRM COMSY15-0021.

The Foreign Assignee Working Group (FAWG) initiated a process to benchmark other federal agencies' practices with respect to foreign assignees and provided a paper summarizing the results in July 2016, SECY-16-0089. That paper identified the potential for future enhancements through providing foreign assignees with NRC e-mail addresses and Webmail access. This would facilitate electronic communications and calendar scheduling activities. In addition, it would present an opportunity for the NRC to monitor foreign assignees' e-mail communication, as is the practice with all NRC government e-mail addresses. In addition to reducing risk, providing foreign assignees with NRC e-mail accounts and Webmail access could benefit staff and foreign assignees by facilitating more appropriate electronic communication and better integrating foreign assignees into the NRC work environment. However, the paper also identified that the NRC would pay a high cost to execute a new task order with the Dell enterprise contract in effect given that the contract was near expiration. Therefore, the proposal deferred until the Global Infrastructure and Development Acquisition (GLINDA) contract was in place.

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: (cont.)

However, before the NRC could award those BPAs, several unsuccessful offerors protested the award decisions to the General Accountability Office (GAO). In accordance with the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984 (CICA), award and subsequent utilization of the new BPAs were subject to a mandatory suspension until the GAO resolved the protests on May 19, 2017. The multiple month protest period caused a significant delay in the NRC's transition of contract services to the GLINDA BPAs and other contract vehicles. There are a number of critical information technology infrastructure enhancements which are planned, including transition to Office 365. The initial due date was set with the expectation that an estimate of cost would be available as soon as the contract was awarded, and paper writing could begin immediately. However, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) had identified that a number of these infrastructure enhancements must be completed before the cost estimate is requested.

The protest delayed NRC's overall transition to GLINDA and additional information technology enhancements need to be completed. The new BPA is not expected to be in place until the fourth quarter of FY 2018. Once in place, the staff will need to work with the contractor to develop options and then incorporate those into a Commission vote paper. The recommendations in OIG-17-A-07 will be considered in development of the paper.

Target Completion Date: February 28, 2019

OIG Analysis:

The proposed action meets the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed when

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: (cont.)

OIG reviews the Commission Paper seeking approval and resources for a secure, cost-efficient method to provide foreign assignees an email account that allows for detection and mitigation of inadvertent transmission of sensitive information.

Status: Resolved.

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 3: When an NRC approved email account is available, develop specific Computer Security Rules of Behavior for foreign assignees using the approved email.

Agency Response Dated
November 30, 2017:

Review of NRC and national policy is being conducted in preparation for the development of Computer Security Rules of Behavior for foreign assignees, subject to Commission approval of staff's proposed approach for responding to Recommendation 2.

Target Completion Date: Staff will complete this action within 6 months following Commission approval.

OIG Analysis:

The proposed actions meet the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed when OIG reviews the aforementioned Commission paper seeking approval, in part for Computer Security Rules of Behavior for foreign assignees have been developed.

Status:

Resolved.