



OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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

February 27, 2019

MEMORANDUM TO: Margaret M. Doane  
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: AUDIT OF NRC'S  
SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION PROCESS FOR  
REACTOR SAFETY (OIG-16-A-21)

REFERENCE: DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR  
REGULATION MEMORANDUM DATED FEBRUARY 1,  
2019

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated February 1, 2019. Based on this response, recommendation 1 is now closed and recommendation 2 remains resolved. Recommendations 3 and 4 were previously closed. Please provide a status update for the resolved recommendation by August 2, 2019.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me at (301) 415-5915 or Paul Rades, Team Leader, at (301) 415-6228.

Attachment: As stated

cc: R. Lewis, OEDO  
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## **Audit Report**

### **AUDIT OF NRC'S Significance Determination Process for Reactor Safety**

**OIG-16-A-21**

#### **Status of Recommendations**

Recommendation 1: Assess SDP workflow, and establish, communicate, and document clear and consistent expectations for staff and managers to complete their roles in the SDP.

Agency Response Dated  
February 1, 2019:

Update

The Inspection Finding Resolution Management trial period began on November 16, 2016, and concluded on December 31, 2017. After the trial period, a multi-disciplinary team of staff from the regional offices and headquarters performed an effectiveness review of the trial period and issued a report on May 9, 2018. Staff developed revisions to applicable Inspection Manual Chapters (IMCs) to incorporate the effectiveness review recommendations and solicited regional comments in August 2018. After regional comments were dispositioned, the following IMCs were issued via Change Notice 18-036 on October 25, 2018:

- IMC 0609, "Significance Determination Process,"
- IMC 0609, Attachment 1, "Significance and Enforcement Review Panel Process," and
- IMC 0609, Attachment 5, "Inspection Finding Review Board."

These IMCs became effective on January 1, 2019. The staff recommends closure of Recommendation 1 based on the issuance of the revised IMCs.

Date of completion: October 25, 2018. The staff has completed actions associated with this recommendation.

Contact: Alexander D. Garmoe, NRR/DIRS  
(301) 415-3814

## **Audit Report**

### **AUDIT OF NRC'S Significance Determination Process for Reactor Safety**

**OIG-16-A-21**

#### **Status of Recommendations**

Recommendation 1 (cont.):

**OIG Analysis:**                      OIG has verified SDP guidance changes described in the staff response, and determined that these changes meet the intent of Recommendation 1. This recommendation is now closed.

**Status:**                                Closed.

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S Significance Determination Process for Reactor Safety

OIG-16-A-21

#### Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: Clarify IMC 0612 Appendix B issue screening questions, so that they are readily understood and easily applied.

Agency Response Dated  
February 1, 2019:

Update

Staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) is working with a team of experienced inspectors from each region who are familiar with the use of the screening questions to revise IMC 0612 to address this recommendation. The revision will provide improved guidance on how to answer the screening questions in Appendix B and will tie each example in Appendix E of IMC 0612 to a question. NRR plans to issue a revision to IMC 0612 incorporating these changes by June 30, 2019.

Target date for completion: June 30, 2019  
Contact: Lauren R. Casey, NRR/DIRS  
(301) 415-1038

OIG Analysis: The proposed actions meet the intent of this recommendation. OIG will close the recommendation after verifying that changes to the updated inspection guidance support improved inspection issue screening.

**Status:** Resolved.