



OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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

February 11, 2020

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 NUCLEAR  
REGULATORY COMMISSION'S (NRC) OVERSIGHT OF  
SPENT FUEL POOLS (OIG-15-A-06)

REFERENCE: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR  
REGULATION (NRR), MEMORANDUM DATED  
JANUARY 16, 2020

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of recommendation 1 as discussed in the agency's response dated January 16, 2020. Based on this response, recommendation 1 remains open and resolved. Recommendations 2, 3, and 4 were previously closed. Please provide an updated status of the resolved recommendation by February 28, 2021.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me at (301) 415-5915, or Mike Blair, Team Leader, at (301) 415-8399.

Attachment: As stated

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## **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 NRC internal procedures.

Agency Response Dated  
January 16, 2020:

Planned Action: Upon a satisfactory conclusion to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) review of Nuclear Energy Institute report (NEI) 12-16, incorporate this detailed guidance into NRC internal processes through a regulatory guide (RG) and through revisions to NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants" (SRP).

January 2020 Status Update: NEI 12-16, Revision 4, "Guidance for Performing Criticality Analyses of Fuel Storage at Light-Water Reactor Power Plants," dated September 26, 2019 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML19269E056), references an Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) methodology to determine the bias and uncertainty for the simulated depletion of the fuel. The staff has completed its review of the EPRI methodology and issued a verification letter of the approval version of the EPRI methodology on January 6, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19318F168). Development of the RG and revision to the SRP was delayed until the EPRI methodology was approved. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff has begun the process for developing the RG and revision to the SRP and will work to expeditiously issue both. NRR staff are working on the RG and SRP revision in parallel for efficiency as the approval process is similar for both. NRR staff estimates the documents will be issued in tandem by the end of 2021.

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## **Audit Report**

### **AUDIT OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF SPENT FUEL POOLS**

**OIG-15-A-06**

#### **Status of Recommendations**

##### Recommendation 1 (cont.):

**OIG Analysis:** The actions proposed by the agency meet the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed upon NRR's issuance of the final regulatory guide, as well as revisions to NUREG-0800 that identify a generic regulatory solution for spent fuel pool criticality analysis.

**Status:** Open: Resolved.