



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

June 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Palladino
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Asselstine
Commissioner Bernthal

FROM: *George H. Messenger*
George H. Messenger, Acting Director
Office of Inspector and Auditor

SUBJECT: AUDITS/INSPECTIONS OF OI OFFICES

From February 7, 1984, through May 25, 1984, the Office of Inspector and Auditor (OIA) inspected the Office of Investigations (OI) Headquarters and five Regional Field Offices and assessed OI program development, implementation and evaluation activities. This oversight inspection was conducted pursuant to Chairman Palladino's January 30, 1984, memorandum to the Acting Director, OIA, directing OIA to conduct an annual inspection of OI.

As detailed in the attached Inspection Reports of OI Offices, OI is satisfactorily accomplishing its overall investigative responsibilities. OIA's review of selected open and closed inquiries/investigations at the Regional Field Offices disclosed that they were properly initiated and thoroughly investigated. However, as a result of an increasing OI case load, it was determined that investigations of some allegations were not conducted in a timely manner. In some cases, the untimely completion of OI investigations adversely impacted on NRC enforcement actions. Also, a concern expressed by OI personnel is the potential for "staff burn-out" as OI investigators spend increasingly more time in travel status at various sites in an effort to cope with the overwhelming case load.

Administrative practices of the Headquarters and Field Offices have improved over the past year. OI Headquarters has worked with the Field Office Directors to implement procedures to record and track all allegations received by OI. The Headquarters has developed a well organized filing plan and integrated inquiry/investigation numbering system. By means of field audits, OI Headquarters is ensuring uniformity of administrative procedures throughout OI. The OI report preparation and review process has been streamlined and the Report of Investigation format has been revised to provide a more usable product to the Regions.

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OIA was informed by all the Regional Administrators and Field Office Directors that the relationship between the OI Field Offices and key Region staff members was good. The Regional Administrators consider the Field Offices responsive to Regional investigative needs and priorities, noted improvement in the quality of investigations, and viewed OI as a professional operation.

The Director, OI, was provided copies of the individual Inspection Reports and asked to comment on our inspection findings and recommendations. His comments are included as attachments to the OIA Inspection Reports.

Attachments:
As Stated

cc: B. Hayes, OI, w/o attach