UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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August 7, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael J. Case, Director
Division of Systems Analysis
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Jack R. Davis, Director
Japan Lessons Learned Division
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Timothy J. McGinty, Director
Division of Safety Systems
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Brian E. Thomas, Director ***/RA Kathryn M. Brock for/***
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

SUBJECT: GENERIC ISSUE MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER FY2015

Enclosed for your information is the Generic Issue Management Control System (GIMCS) report for fiscal year (FY) 2015, third quarter. As part of the Generic Issues (GIs) Program, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) provides this report to division directors in the NRC program offices who are responsible for the active GIs as well as to program office counterparts involved in GI Program activities.

The table in Enclosure 1 provides a summary of the status of the GIs. Enclosure 2 is the GIMCS report that provides additional detail on the management and resolution of GIs. This version of the report is being provided to the Commission, on a quarterly basis, as requested by the Commission under SRM-COMSECY-13-0009. Both enclosures cover the period from March 1, 2015, through May 31, 2015.

In an effort to increase efficiency in the GI Program, the GI process was revised in 2014 to incorporate enhancements identified by a tiger team that was implemented as a business process improvement initiative. The revised process was documented in a revision to Management Directive (MD) 6.4, “Generic Issues Program,” issued on January 2, 2015. Major changes in this revision were (1) program simplification by reducing the number of stages from five to three, (2) increased management involvement and accountability, and (3) new guidance to identify and act on immediate safety concerns and to document the justification for ongoing operation, such that progress would be made on the GI without the need to implement remedial actions while the GI is in process.

CONTACT: Stanley Gardocki, RES/DE/RGGIB
(301) 415-1067

While these changes are anticipated to improve the program, it will likely take months to years for several GIs to go through all three stages of the program (screening, assessment, regulatory office implementation). Therefore, it is still too early to realize the full efficiencies of the process changes.

Nonetheless, a near-term result of these changes is that the GI Program has placed greater emphasis on reviews of proposed GIs that are submitted to determine whether the issues constituted an immediate safety concern. Previously these reviews were done at a very high level, with little or inconsistent documentation. In reviewing the proposed GIs that are currently in the program, we have worked with NRR to develop better documentation for the basis for this determination. We are continuing to work with NRR to better develop the process for immediate safety concern reviews. The near-term outcomes of these changes are that the GI program staff are promptly responding to issues when they are submitted, tracking steady process of active GIs every quarter, and communicating and coordinating with other offices about issues within the GI Program so that issues can transition between offices in a smooth manner.

In addition, there have been some efficiency improvements in the timeliness of products due to the development of standard memorandums by the GI program staff for various activities in the GI process, including reviews for immediate safety concerns and initial reviews of the proposed GIs. Additional efficiency gains in the future are anticipated because MD 6.4 better defines and standardizes the information needed to support a decision to transition between each stage of the GI process. Further improvements are expected in early FY2016 when the staff plans to launch the GI Dashboard, an interactive web dashboard. The GI Dashboard will display a simplified view of the status of the active GIs and the user will be able to drill down from the website to get more detail on the GIs.

The GI project manager has been coordinating with the program office project managers responsible for the generic issues to track the status and the staff has been very responsive. Your continued support of the activities as outlined in MD 6.4 to resolve the GIs is much appreciated.

Enclosures:
As stated

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