

January 23, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Those on the Attached List

FROM: Ellis W. Merschoff **/RA/ Jacqueline E. Silber for**  
Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: THANK YOU FOR HELPING NRC RECEIVE THE HIGHEST  
GRADE FOR THE 2003 FEDERAL COMPUTER SECURITY  
REPORT CARD

At a press conference on December 9, 2003, Rep. Adam H. Putnam (R-FL), Chair of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, released the 2003 Federal Computer Security Report Card. Of the 24 agencies assessed this year, the NRC received the highest grade, an A, with 94.5% out of a possible total score of 100% for our network security efforts. The report card is attached for your review.

Although this is the fourth consecutive year of the scorecard process, this year's scorecard is based on new reporting requirements under the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA), which requires Federal agencies to submit data on their computer security programs to the Office of Management and Budget every September, as well as the independent audit reports submitted by each agency's Inspector General. The scorecard criteria include such considerations as having a continuity of operations plan, maintaining an inventory of critical infrastructure and mission critical system assets, testing and evaluating the effectiveness of information security policies, identifying and reporting security incidents, identifying total information technology (IT) security spending, overseeing contractor operations, and training employees.

Chairman Putnam stated that while the overall grade of the Federal Government improved from an F to a D since last year, progress is too slow. Only five agencies have completed reliable inventories of their critical IT assets, and the Department of Homeland Security, which holds overall Federal cybersecurity responsibility, received an F. The Chairman commended the NRC and NSF for "their outstanding scores," and this compliment was echoed by Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME), Chair of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, in her press release decrying agencies' cybersecurity efforts.

The NRC could not have complied with the FISMA criteria and achieved this level of success and recognition without the hard work, sustained effort, and dedication put forth by every Office within the agency during fiscal year (FY) 2003. I want to personally thank you, your staffs, and your contractors for contributions that helped to advance the NRC's IT Security Program. We achieved our goal because **you** helped us get there.

TOTAL

-2-

One noteworthy aspect of the NRC's overall IT Security Program is our participation in the on-line Computer Security Awareness Course. At the time of the FISMA audit, just under 99% of all NRC employees and contractors had completed this required annual activity. It is also noteworthy that as of this writing, 33% of our staff has already completed the updated course for FY 2004.

Your continued support and dedication to implementing all of the FISMA criteria required of your office, employees, and contractors during FY 2004 will help us to sustain this high level of compliance with the FISMA requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Charlotte Turner at (301) 415-7430.

Attachment: As stated

MEMORANDUM TO THOSE ON THE ATTACHED LIST DATED: January 23, 2004

SUBJECT: NRC RECEIVES HIGHEST GRADE FOR THE 2003 FEDERAL COMPUTER SECURITY REPORT CARD

	<u>Mail Stop</u>	
J. T. Larkins, Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards/Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste	T-2	E26
G. Paul Bollwerk, III, Chief Administrative Judge, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel	T-3	F23
Karen D. Cyr, General Counsel	O-15	D21
John F. Cordes, Jr., Director, Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication	O-16	C1
Jesse L. Funches, Chief Financial Officer	O-17	F3
Hubert T. Bell, Inspector General	T-5	D28
Janice Dunn Lee, Director, Office of International Programs	O-4	E21
Dennis K. Rathbun, Director, Office of Congressional Affairs	O-16	C1
William M. Beecher, Director, Office of Public Affairs	O-2	A13
Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary of the Commission	O-16	C1
William D. Travers, Executive Director for Operations	O-16	E15
Patricia G. Norry, Deputy Executive Director for Management Services, OEDO	O-16	E15
William F. Kane, Deputy Executive Director for Homeland Protection and Preparedness, OEDO	O-16	E15
Carl J. Paperiello, Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Research and State Programs, OEDO	O-16	E15
Samuel J. Collins, Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs, OEDO	O-16	E15
William M. Dean, Assistant for Operations, OEDO	O-16	E15
Michael L. Springer, Director, Office of Administration	T-7	D57
Frank J. Congel, Director, Office of Enforcement	O-14	E1
Guy P. Caputo, Director, Office of Investigations	O-3	F1
Paul E. Bird, Director, Office of Human Resources	T-3	A2
Corenthis B. Kelley, Director, Office of Small Business and Civil Rights	T-2	F18
Martin J. Virgilio, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards	T-8	A23
James E. Dyer, Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation	O-5	E7
Ashok C. Thadani, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research	T-10	F12
Paul H. Lohaus, Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs	O-3	C10
Roy P. Zimmerman, Director, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response	T-4	D22a
Hubert J. Miller, Regional Administrator, Region I	RGN-I	
Luis A. Reyes, Regional Administrator, Region II	RGN-II	
James L. Caldwell, Regional Administrator, Region III	RGN-III	
Bruce S. Mallett, Regional Administrator, Region IV	RGN-IV	

TOTAL

-2-

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DATE	12/19 /2003	12/ 19 /2003	1/ 20 /2004	1/ 23 /2004

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