

June 7, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Stephen D. Dingbaum/**RAI**
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: REVIEW OF NRC'S
PERSONNEL SECURITY PROGRAM (OIG-04-A-11)

REFERENCE: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES,
MEMORANDUM DATED APRIL 14, 2005, AND DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION, MEMORANDUM DATED
MAY 2, 2005

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's analysis and status of recommendations as discussed in the agency's responses dated April 14, 2005, and May 2, 2005. Based on these responses, recommendations 1 and 3 are now closed and recommendations 11 and 12 remain in resolved status. Recommendations 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were closed previously. Please provide an update on all resolved recommendations by December 1, 2005.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 415-5915.

Attachment: Status of Recommendations

cc: W. Dean, OEDO
M. Malloy, OEDO
P. Tressler, OEDO

Audit Report
Review of NRC's Personnel Security Program
OIG-04-A-11

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Submit clearance reinvestigation requests to Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in time to allow NRC to evaluate results in the year the reevaluation is due in accordance with Management Directive 12.3.

Response Dated
May 2, 2005:

The Integrated Personnel Security System (IPSS) will be used to identify and initiate the reinvestigation process for employees due for reinvestigation. Notification is based on the date of the last investigation date listed in IPSS of at least 4 ½ years ago for a Q clearance and 9 ½ years ago for an L clearance. The Security Branch (SB) will review the individual's file to verify the date of their last investigation or reinvestigation, and either initiate the reinvestigation if it is due, or update IPSS with the correct date of their last investigation.

OIG Analysis:

Using IPSS in this manner to identify employees for reinvestigation will facilitate a timely submission of reinvestigation requests to OPM and thereby addresses the intent of Recommendation 1. OIG reviewed a list generated by IPSS for April 2005 which indicates that the SB has implemented the procedures described above. This recommendation is therefore closed.

Status:

Closed.

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 3: Establish performance measures assessing the timeliness of NRC's reinvestigation program.

Response Dated
May 2, 2005: DFS/SB added a performance measure to the ADM FY 2005 Operating Plan that 95 percent of all reinvestigations will be submitted to OPM within 2 months of the notification received from IPSS. For the 2nd quarter of FY 2005, ADM achieved a 100-percent success rate.

OIG Analysis: OIG reviewed the reinvestigations performance measure in the ADM FY 2005 Operating Plan and found that it will allow the agency to assess the timeliness of its reinvestigation program as stated in Recommendation 3. This recommendation is therefore closed.

Status: Closed.

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 11: Begin the hiring process for summer interns 1 month earlier each year and impose a deadline on students to return the completed security package so that security clearances are more likely to be granted prior to or during a summer intern's employment period.

Responses Dated
April 14 and
May 2, 2005:

The Office of Human Resources (HR) will send a memorandum to NRC office directors by October each year to initiate the hiring of summer interns. This memorandum will include a request for office directors to identify to HR those interns from the previous summer who are not expected to return. This information will be provided to SB. The deadline for submission of completed security packages will be the end of March of the following year. This timeline will begin in 2005.

OIG Analysis:

This timeline will support a more timely summer intern security clearance process as described in Recommendation 11. This recommendation will be closed when the agency provides OIG with (1) the October memorandum sent to office directors indicating the hiring process has started and (2) the letter sent to interns that conveys the March deadline for return of the security packages.

Status: Resolved.

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 12: In accordance with OPM policy, inform OPM when an intern terminates employment prior to completion of the OPM background investigation.

Response Dated
May 2, 2005:

ADM has OPM's concurrence that ongoing investigations would not have to be terminated when the summer intern finishes their summer employment if the intern will be re-employed at a later date. As stated in the response to Recommendation 11, office directors will identify which summer interns are not expected to return from the previous summer. HR will notify SB and SB will then contact OPM to terminate the investigations, if not yet completed, for these individuals. Furthermore, OPM has reduced the lead time for processing security clearance investigations. The investigations for L clearances are currently averaging in the 4-6 month range with some coming back as early as 2 months. This is a significant improvement from the 6-9 month average noted in the subject OIG audit report. In addition, ADM is implementing e-QIP, which is an Internet-accessible tool for inputting SF-86 information. This tool will streamline the inputting and processing of SF-86 information.

OIG Analysis: This approach will accommodate both NRC's interest in cost-savings and OPM's interest in reducing unnecessary burden on its investigators and will meet OIG's intent as stated in Recommendation 12. As noted in OIG's prior response concerning this recommendation, this recommendation will be closed when the agency provides OPM's written concurrence that this approach is in accordance with OPM requirements.

Status: Resolved.