**Response to the U.S. Government Accountability Office Report
"Enterprise Architecture: Leadership Remains Key to Establishing and Leveraging
Architectures for Organizational Transformation"
(GAO-06-831)**

In its report entitled "Enterprise Architecture: Leadership Remains Key to Establishing and Leveraging Architectures for Organizational Transformation" (GAO-06-831), the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommended that several government entities, including the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ensure that their respective enterprise architecture (EA) program develop and implement plans for fully satisfying each of the conditions in GAO's enterprise architecture management maturity framework. We have taken and continue to take actions that do so. Since GAO completed its assessment, the NRC has made significant progress in satisfying the core elements of Stage 2, Building the EA management foundation, and Stage 3, Developing EA products, of GAO's Enterprise Architecture Management Maturity Framework (EAMMF).

With respect to Stage 2, the NRC created and dedicated staff to an EA Program Organization that has the authority and responsibility to develop and maintain its Enterprise Architecture. The NRC also chartered an Enterprise Architecture Review Board, comprised of program representatives, that provides direction and approval for transitioning between the "as-is" and "to-be" environments. Additionally, NRC hired a Chief Enterprise Architect to provide leadership and management of the NRC's EA Program. The NRC has also implemented an automated EA tool to support the use and management of the NRC's EA Program artifacts. The NRC's current EA plan reflects that the agency will be fully compliant with Stage 2 of GAO's EAMMF by the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2007.

With respect to Stage 3, the NRC has adopted and implemented policies related to EA management. The NRC codified and formally approved the processes and procedures associated with these policies in internal policy documents. Furthermore, the NRC defined the "as-is" Business Reference Model, Service Reference Model, Performance Reference Model, Data Reference Model, and Technical Reference Model. All of these models are stored in a central repository and have configuration controls established. The NRC continues to elaborate on the "to-be" architectures related to each of these models, and the NRC's current EA plan reflects that the NRC will achieve Stage 3 of GAO's EAMMF by the fourth quarter of FY 2007.

The NRC's current EA Program plan provides that all elements of GAO's EAMMF Stage 4 (Completing EA projects) criteria will be satisfied in FY 2009 and all Stage 5 (Leveraging the EA for managing change) criteria will be fulfilled in FY 2010.

The NRC appreciates GAO's constructive review of the agency's EA Program and remains dedicated to establishing and utilizing an effective EA Program to improve its information technology (IT) management practices. The NRC understands the importance of utilizing EA to improve business processes and to ensure that IT investments support the agency's goals and mission. To realize these benefits, the NRC is committed to addressing the GAO-identified deficiencies and further developing its EA Program.