

SPECIAL INSPECTION

PROGRAM APPLICABILITY: 2515

93812-01 INSPECTION OBJECTIVE

01.01 The inspection objective is to assess an event and its causes with a special inspection team. A special inspection (SI) is the event assessment response assigned by the NRC in accordance with Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0309, "Reactive Inspection Decision Basis for Reactors." The inspection is conducted based on this procedure and an inspection charter.

Note: Management Directive 8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Program," defines the authorities, responsibilities, and basic requirements for personnel investigating significant operational power reactor events. These events may include significant unplanned degraded conditions identified by the licensee or NRC. Management Directive 8.3 also characterizes the differences between an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT), Incident Investigation Team (IIT), and SI.

93812-02 INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

02.01 SI Leader

- a. Acts as the supervisor of the SI.
- b. Provides input to development of SI charter.
- c. Conducts an entrance meeting with the licensee to discuss the purpose and scope of the SI response, and to:
 1. Obtain the licensee's understanding of the event (including operator actions and the performance of safety systems).
 2. Request licensee assistance in scheduling interviews, obtaining information related to the event, and, if needed, assisting in inspection activities related to the event.

3. Discusses the quarantined equipment list, if applicable, and the procedure for changing it.
- d. Before the end of the first day on site:
 1. Provides a recommendation to the Regional Administrator as to whether the SI should continue or be upgraded to an AIT response.
 2. If a Preliminary Notification (PN) is required, prepares and transmits a PN report to the Regional Administrator for distribution. MC 1120, "Preliminary Notifications," has criteria for issuing a written PN. If a PN is not required, a morning report may be appropriate.
 - e. As applicable, prepares supplemental PN reports and/or regional morning report inputs when there is significant new information to report to keep management informed of significant facts, findings, and progress of the inspection.
 - f. Conducts an exit meeting with the licensee to:
 1. Summarize the SI inspection effort.
 2. As appropriate, discuss preliminary findings, observations, or issues resulting from the SI.
 - g. Manages the SI effort in fact-finding and analysis to meet the objectives of the SI charter. Important information will include the details of what occurred during the event and the causes and contributing factors to the event.
 - h. Establishes guidelines for team members to document their inspection activities for the final report.
 - i. Prepares a report for the Regional Administrator documenting the findings of the SI. May direct the SI members to remain together, either at the inspection site or at the Regional Office, to facilitate the preparation of the SI report.

02.02 SI Members

- a. Report directly to the SI leader. Members are assigned to the SI until released by the leader.
- b. Conduct a timely, thorough and systematic inspection of significant operational events at facilities licensed by the NRC, under the supervision of the SI leader. In so doing, members shall:
 1. Assess the safety significance of the event under the guidance of the SI leader.
 2. Collect, analyze and document factual information and evidence as directed by the SI leader.

3. Evaluate the adequacy of licensee response to an event under the guidance of the SI leader.
 4. Utilize IMC 0609, "Significance Determination Process" to evaluate the risk significance of inspection findings.
- c. Remain together after the inspection, at the discretion of the SI leader, for the purpose of preparing the SI report.

93812-03 INSPECTION GUIDANCE

03.01 Scope of SI Response. The following guidance should not be construed as limiting SI authority to pursue all pertinent aspects of an event. However, safety (or regulatory) concerns raised that may or may not be directly related to the event under consideration should be reported to Headquarters and/or Regional Office management for appropriate action.

- a. Identify potential generic safety concerns in a timely manner to the regional management who will initiate follow-up actions. Recommendations for immediate follow-up actions, such as issuance of Information Notices, Generic Letters, or Bulletins, shall also be made through the normal organizational structure and procedures.
- b. Emphasize fact finding, i.e., fully understanding the circumstances surrounding an event and probable cause(s), including conditions preceding the event, chronology, systems response, equipment performance, precursors, human factors considerations, quality assurance considerations, radiological considerations, safeguards considerations, and *safety culture component considerations (as defined in IMC 0305, paragraphs 06.07c. and d.)*. [C1] Determine whether the licensee had failed to adequately implement generic communications, such as Information Notices, Generic Letters, and Bulletins.
- c. Base the fact-finding effort on the most timely, reliable evidential material, including interviews and other documented material related to the event previously obtained by internal audit or investigative groups.
- d. It is not the responsibility of an SI to:
 1. Examine the regulatory process (to determine whether that process contributed directly to the cause or course of the event).
 2. Address licensee actions related to plant restart.
 3. Address the applicability of potential generic safety concerns to other facilities.

03.02 Documentation. SIs should be documented in accordance with IMC 0612, except as follows. The forwarding letter should briefly describe the event or degraded condition. The body of the report should have the following outline:

- a. Description and chronology of event or degraded condition.
- b. Probable contributing causes of the event or degraded condition, where applicable:
 1. Equipment failures
 2. Human factor and procedural issues
 3. Quality assurance issues
 4. Radiological issues
 5. Safeguards issues
 6. *Safety culture component issues* [C1]

Item a. should be documented narratively, not in the IMC 0612 format regarding inspection scope and findings. Items b.1 through 6 potentially include findings, and should be in the IMC 0612 format regarding inspection scope and findings. Due to the sensitive nature of SIs, areas where no findings are identified should be documented in greater detail than required by IMC 0612.

The results of this inspection may be used to inform a subsequent supplemental inspection (95001, 95002, or 95003) based on the final significance determination of any findings associated with the event. The SI leader should provide any information on potential causes or contributing factors, including safety culture issues to the team leader of any related supplemental inspection. [C1]

03.03 Communications

- a. The SI leader. When the chronology and circumstances of the event are more clearly understood, the SI leader is encouraged to maintain communications with cognizant personnel from the Regional Office, NRR or NMSS, and NSIR (Division of Preparedness and Response) to:
 1. provide a first-hand update of the event
 2. respond to any questions
 3. discuss the appropriateness of the SI response

93812-04 INSPECTION RESOURCES

The SI leader should be a senior inspector or engineer. Group expertise is based upon the nature of the event, as well as the uncertainty of influential assumptions affecting the

risk significance of the event. Resources of technical experts from the responsible regional office are comparable for SIs and AITs, but SIs (unlike AITs) are not augmented by personnel from Headquarters, other regions, or contractors with special technical qualifications to complement the regional technical expertise.

93812-05 REFERENCES

Management Directive 8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Procedures"

NUREG 1303, "Incident Investigation Manual"

Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program"

Inspection Manual Chapter 0309, "Reactive Inspection Decision Basis for Reactors"

Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, "Significance Determination Process"

Inspection Manual Chapter 0612, "Power Reactor Inspection Reports"

Inspection Procedure 93800, "Augmented Inspection Team"

END

ATTACHMENT 1

Revision History for IP 93812

Commitment Tracking Number	Issue Date	Description of Change	Training Needed	Training Completion Date	Comment Resolution Accession Number
N/A	06/22/06	Revision history reviewed for the last four years.	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	04/03/00 CN 00-003	IP 93812 is modified to be performed as a supplemental procedure (Appendix B).	None	N/A	N/A
N/A	03/06/01 CN 01-006	IP 93812 has been revised to provide consistency with Management Directive 8.3, and to provide guidance on Preliminary Notifications.	None	N/A	N/A
N/A	10/23/02 CN 02-039	IP 93812 has been revised to provide guidance on documenting information relating to events that is in addition to that currently required by IMC 0612, "Power Reactor Inspection Reports," such as description/chronology, risk-significance, and probable contributing causes.	None	N/A	N/A
N/A	07/07/03 CN 03-023	IP 93812 has been revised to reflect the revision to Management Directive 8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Program, and to delete the prohibition for Special Inspections to review licensee actions related to plant restart.	None	N/A	N/A
C1	06/22/06 CN-06-015	Incorporate safety culture into inspection procedures. "Staff Requirements - SECY-04-0111 - Recommended Staff Actions Regarding Agency Guidance in the Areas of Safety Conscious Work Environment and Safety Culture" August 30, 2004	Inspector training on use of safety culture in the ROP.	07/01/06	ML061570136

N/A	07/18/07 CN 07-022	IP 93812 is revised to consider licensee implementation of Information Notices, Generic Letters, and Bulletins.	None	N/A	N/A
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