

January 8, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS:
MEMORANDUM REPORT: AUDIT OF NRC'S
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM
(OIG-07-A-13)

REFERENCE: DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR REACTOR
AND PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS
MEMORANDUM DATED DECEMBER 3, 2007

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's analysis and status of the recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated December 3, 2007. Based on this response, all recommendations are now resolved. Please provide an updated status of the resolved recommendations by April 30, 2008.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 415-5915 or Beth Serepca at 415-5911.

Attachment: As stated

cc: V. Ordaz, OEDO
M. Malloy, OEDO
P. Tressler, OEDO

Audit Report

Audit of NRC's Emergency Preparedness Program OIG-07-A-13

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Identify, clarify in NRC policy, and communicate to internal and external stakeholders, NRC's coordination role and responsibilities under the National Response Plan.

Response Dated

December 3, 2007: Agree. The National Response Plan and the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex specify the roles and responsibilities of the coordinating and cooperating agencies. The NRC may be required to act as either or both depending on the severity of an incident. The NRC has promulgated these roles and responsibilities in NUREG-0728, "NRC Incident Response Plan," and Management Directive (MD) 8.2, "NRC Incident Response Program." Individual incident response teams also have incorporated these roles and responsibilities into their plans and training. As demonstrated during recent exercises, NRC has improved its ability to communicate its role as the Federal coordinating agency to State decision makers. The Division of Preparedness and Response/Incident Response (DPR/IR) will develop a presentation for stakeholders on the NRC's coordination role and responsibilities under the National Response Plan (or its successor). This presentation will assist NRC staff in providing a consistent message regarding the NRC's role and responsibilities during future training and outreach activities with State and local authorities. Completion date: March 31, 2008.

OIG Analysis: The proposed corrective action addresses the intent of OIG's recommendation. Recommendation 1 will be closed when NRC provides OIG a copy of the presentation discussed above.

Status: Resolved.

Audit Report

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: Develop and implement a consistent approach for carrying out NRC's coordination role and responsibilities in accordance with the National Response Plan.

Response Dated

December 3, 2007: Agree. As stated above, NRC's roles and responsibilities are listed in our Incident Response Plan. Individual incident response teams also have incorporated these roles and responsibilities into their procedures and training. With this new guidance, the Incident Responders have more consistent guidance on the NRC's role with respect to the National Response Plan. The structured training process which began in FY07 provides for a consistent approach for carrying out NRC's coordination role in accordance with the National Response Plan. DPR/IR will perform the following:

- (1) Include an emphasis on NRC's coordination role and responsibilities as a coordinating agency as part of the routine training for emergency response organization members. Completion date: March 31, 2008.
- (2) Enhance outreach activities with State and local responders by distributing the presentation on NRC's coordination role and responsibilities (to be developed per response to Recommendation 1) to the Regional and Headquarters outreach teams. Completion date: March 31, 2008.

NSIR Status:

- (1) NSIR continues to emphasize NRC's coordination role and responsibilities in its pre-exercise training of the Executive Team, Liaison Team, Protective Measures Team, and the Regions Base and Site Teams. Additionally, NSIR now invites the member of the State decision-making team to observe an NRC full-participation exercise prior to the NRC's participation in an exercise with the State. NSIR has received positive feedback from this initiative.

Audit Report

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Status of Recommendations

Additionally, NSIR staff has held two meetings with the Regional State Liaison Officers to Solicit input to the Headquarters Operation Center's Liaison Team procedures. These improvements are being incorporated into our procedures and tested in subsequent exercises.

- (2) The presentation developed in Recommendation 1 will be distributed to the Regional State Liaison Officers and Regional Emergency Response Coordinators when it is complete. Completion date: March 31, 2008.

OIG Analysis: The proposed corrective actions address the intent of OIG's recommendation. OIG will close Recommendation 2 when NRC provides evidence that it has completed the proposed corrective actions.

Status: Resolved.