

July 7, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: R. William Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: EVALUATION OF
THE NRC'S USE OF PROBABILISTIC RISK ASSESSMENT
IN REGULATING THE COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER
INDUSTRY (OIG-06-A-24)

REFERENCE: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY
RESEARCH, MEMORANDUM DATED JANUARY 17, 2008

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) analysis and status of the recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated January 17, 2008. Based on this response, recommendation 1 is closed and recommendation 3 remains resolved and will be closed pending completion of the actions contained in the agency's responses and OIG's review of those actions. Recommendation 2 was previously resolved and closed. Please provide an updated status of recommendation 3 by December 31, 2008.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 415-5915 or Sherri Miotla at 415-5914.

Attachment: As stated

cc: V, Ordaz, OEDO
J. Arildsen, OEDO
P. Shea, OEDO

Audit Report

Evaluation of the NRC's Use of Probabilistic Risk Assessment in Regulating the Commercial Nuclear Power Industry

OIG-06-A-24

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Develop and implement a formal, written process for maintaining PRA models that are sufficiently representative of the as-built, as-operated plant to support model uses.

Agency Response

Dated January 17, 2008: The Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research revised and transmitted the RASP Handbook to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The revised three-volume RASP Handbook addresses internal events (Volume 1), external events (Volume 2), and Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) model reviews (Volume 3). Volumes 1 and 2 update the staff guidance that was provided for trial use in 2005 and 2006, respectively. Volume 3 provides analysts and SPAR model developers with additional guidance to ensure that the SPAR models used in the risk analysis of operational events represent the as-built, as-operated plant to the extent needed to support the analyses.

The agency has issued the RASP Handbook for staff use. As part of implementation, the RASP Handbook is referenced in Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, "Significance Determination Process." It also is available for staff's use on the agency's internal Web site for the RASP Tool Box. In summary, the actions constitute the issuance and implementation of the RASP Handbook.

We believe these actions satisfactorily address this OIG recommendation and we consider this recommendation resolved and closed.

OIG Analysis: The revised RASP Handbook meets the intent of recommendation 1. This recommendation is now closed.

Status: Closed.

Audit Report

Evaluation of the NRC's Use of Probabilistic Risk Assessment in Regulating the Commercial Nuclear Power Industry

OIG-06-A-24

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 3: Conduct a full verification and validation of SAPHIRE Version 7.2 and GEM.

Agency Response
Dated January 17, 2008: In our status update to the Office of Inspector General dated August 31, 2007, we stated that the general release date of SAPHIRE Version 8 was estimated to be July 2009. Our updated schedule calls for a release by the end of the CY 2009. This updated schedule reflects the delay in acquiring the SAPHIRE development staff resources to complete the general release version.

OIG Analysis: Recommendation 3 will be closed when NRC releases Version 8.

Status: Resolved.