

December 17, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Those on the Attached List

FROM: R. W. Borchardt */RA Darren B. Ash for/*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY POLICY—
ENCRYPTION OF DATA AT REST

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) policy with respect to encryption of data at rest. This policy, which provides direction for the protection of NRC information and information systems, is effective December 31, 2008. Separately, I will provide this information to NRC staff via an NRC announcement.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released memorandum M-06-16, "Protection of Sensitive Agency Information," on June 23, 2006. The OMB memorandum requested agencies to encrypt data on all devices (such as computer hard drives and thumb drives) that contain sensitive information and are removed from agency facilities. Encryption involves conversion of data into a secret code. Effective encryption is when the altered text cannot be read by anyone except the intended recipient and usually uses cryptographic keys and a cryptographic algorithm to alter the text. Implementation of this policy is being divided into two parts: encryption of data at rest and encryption of transmitted data. Data at rest is information that is electronically stored on media.

In response to the direction from OMB, I am issuing the enclosed computer security policy for encryption of data at rest prior to removal from agency facilities. Encryption of transmitted data will be addressed in a separate policy. Also enclosed is NUREG/BR-0168 (Rev 4), "Policy for Processing Unclassified Safeguards Information on NRC Computers," which provides guidance on safeguards information (SGI) processing. This policy is effective December 31, 2008 and provides direction for the protection of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) information and information systems. The next revision of Management Directive 12.5, "NRC Automated Information Security Program," will include this policy. All new contracts that include information technology (IT) and modifications to contracts that include IT must contain requirements to perform the data at rest encryption required by this policy. All existing contracts must be modified by January 1, 2010 to include these requirements. An NRC announcement providing the policy and NUREG to all NRC employees will be issued shortly.

Enclosures:
As stated

CONTACT: Kathy Lyons-Burke, CSO/SITSO
301-415-6595

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DATE	09/09/08	09/16/08	10/2/08	12/17/08	12/17/08

OFFICIAL RECORD ONLY

MEMORANDUM TO THOSE ON THE ATTACHED LIST DATED: December 17, 2008

SUBJECT: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY POLICY—ENCRYPTION OF DATA
AT REST

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