

November 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Thomas M. Boyce, Director */RA/*
Office of Information Services

SUBJECT: ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF INFLUENTIAL SCIENTIFIC
INFORMATION

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664) requires that agencies post to their public Web site an agenda of peer review plans, describing all planned and ongoing peer reviews of information products qualifying as influential scientific information (ISI) or highly influential scientific assessments (HISA). The Bulletin applies to scientific information products disseminated to the public on or after June 16, 2005.

The standard for ISI is “scientific information the agency reasonably can determine will have or does have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or the private sector.” The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC’s) Information Quality Guidelines focus the standard to apply to “information that forms the technical basis for a substantive rulemaking that has substantial impact on an industry,” and “the information must have a clear and substantial impact on an industry that has a high probability of occurring” and “must impact regulatory decisions affecting a broad class of applicants or licensees.”

The standard for HISA is “a scientific assessment utilized as the basis of a rulemaking or regulatory action that the NRC or the Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB, determines could have a potential impact of more than \$500 million in any single year on either the public or private sector or that the action represents a novel, controversial, or precedent-setting approach, or has significant interagency interest.”

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The Office of Information Services (OIS) has determined that the NRC is not currently producing or sponsoring the distribution of ISI or HISA information as defined by OMB and NRC; consequently, NRC has no agenda information of forthcoming ISI or HISA disseminations to post on its Web site at this time. OIS has coordinated this finding with the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, the Office of New Reactors, and the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs.

cc: E. Leeds, NRR
M. Weber, NMSS
B. Sheron, RES
M. Johnson, NRO
C. Miller, FSME

APPROVED: /RA Darren B. Ash/ 11/06/08
Name Date

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