



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL

April 16, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: R. William Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: AUDIT OF
NRC'S GENERIC COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
(OIG-05-A-19)

REFERENCE: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR
REGULATION, MEMORANDUM DATED
MARCH 20, 2009

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of report recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated March 20, 2009. Based on the response, recommendations 1, 3, and 4 are closed. Recommendation 2 was previously closed. All recommendations in audit report OIG-05-A-19 are now closed.

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

Attachment: As stated

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

Audit Report

AUDIT OF NRC'S GENERIC COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

OIG-05-A-19

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

Include safeguards advisories, as well as any other agency communication tool that meets the definition of a generic communication, in the formal Generic Communications Program to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Agency Response dated
March 20, 2009:

The staff has completed work on draft Management Directive (MD) 8.18, "NRC Generic Communications Program," which was submitted to the Commission for formal approval on December 7, 2007. MD 8.18 establishes security advisories and information assessment team advisories as additional agency generic communications products. This MD also defines the scope of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) generic communications and defines organizational roles and responsibilities for each generic communications product. As required by procedure, OIG received a copy of the draft.

Update:

On March 6, 2009, the Chairman signed MD 8.18, "NRC Generic Communications Program." The promulgation of this MD concludes staff activities in response to this recommendation.

OIG Analysis:

OIG reviewed the final version of MD 8.18, issued on March 5, 2009. As recommended, the management directive identifies additional generic communications products, specifically, security advisories and information assessment team advisories. MD 8.18 also defines the scope of the agency's generic communications and the organizational roles and responsibilities for each product. The language in MD 8.18 satisfies the intent of this recommendation; therefore, recommendation 1 is now closed.

Status:

Closed.

Audit Report

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Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 3:

Implement controls to ensure a systematic, consistent tracking methodology from initiation to closure for each agency-issued generic communication.

Agency Response dated
March 20, 2009:

The staff completed acceptance testing of the Bulletin and Generic Letter Tracking System (BGLTS) in early September and authorized deployment. Generic Communications (PGCB) staff orientation and training on the BGLTS was conducted in October 2008. PGCB has developed an internal procedure for the use of BGLTS for branch use and is now piloting its use.

Update:

The BGLTS has been deployed and is operational. This system provides an effective means of determining the status outstanding bulletins and generic letters. As noted in your memorandum dated October 2, 2008, the staff intends to use the generic communications Web page to identify issued generic communication products. This Web page now reflects the addition of the issued security advisories.

The deployment of the BGLTS and addition of the security advisories to the NRC generic communications Web page concludes staff activities in response to this recommendation.

OIG Analysis:

OIG verified that access to issued security advisories is now available on NRC's public web site through its Generic Communications link. Additionally, the deployment of the BGLTS provides the staff the ability to track generic letters and bulletins from initiation to closure. Although this recommendation originally intended that all generic communication products should be tracked, OIG previously accepted the agency's reasoning that no tracking of informational generic communications is necessary

Audit Report

Audit of NRC's Generic Communications Program OIG-05-A-19

Status of Recommendations

because there are no closeout requirements associated with these types of products. Recommendation 3 is now closed since the agency's actions satisfy the intent of this recommendation.

Status: Closed.

Audit Report

AUDIT OF NRC'S GENERIC COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

OIG-05-A-19

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 4: Direct the development of a methodology that will allow the staff to gauge the effectiveness of agency-issued generic communications.

Agency Response dated
March 20, 2009:

The staff has completed work on draft Management Directive (MD) 8.18, "NRC Generic Communications Program" which was submitted to the Commission for formal approval on December 7, 2007. This MD establishes the roles and responsibilities for the conduct of effectiveness reviews and clearly identifies those generic communications that require effectiveness reviews. As required by procedure, OIG received a copy of the draft.

Update:

On March 6, 2009, the Chairman signed MD 8.18, "NRC Generic Communications Program." The promulgation of this MD concludes staff activities in response to this recommendation.

OIG Analysis: OIG verified that the recently issued MD 8.18 established an effectiveness review requirement for certain generic communications products. The directive further establishes the roles and responsibilities for the conduct of these effectiveness reviews where necessary. The agency's actions satisfy the intent of this recommendation. Therefore, recommendation 4 is now closed.

Status: Closed.