



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

OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 26, 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
THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GENERIC
REQUIREMENTS (OIG-09-A-06)

REFERENCE: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY
RESEARCH, STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS:
AUDIT OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GENERIC
REQUIREMENTS MEMORANDUM DATED JULY 31,
2009

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's analysis and status of recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated July 31, 2009. Based on the response, recommendations 1 and 2 remain resolved. Please provide an update on these two recommendations by January 29, 2010.

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

Attachment: Status of Recommendations

cc: V. Ordaz, OEDO
J. Arildsen, OEDO
C. Jaegers, OEDO

Audit Report

AUDIT OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GENERIC REQUIREMENTS

OIG-09-A-06

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Develop, document, implement, and communicate an agencywide process for reviewing backfit issues to ensure that generic backfits are appropriately justified based on NRC regulations and policy.

Agency Response Dated
July 31, 2009:

In its role of providing CRGR support, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) will take the lead in coordinating implementation of an Action Plan with the relevant Offices and Regions. The planned activities are currently envisioned to include at least the following six areas: (1) obtain external stakeholder input for Recommendation 2, (2) provide the revision of the CRGR Charter (if needed), (3) provide the revision of Management Directive (MD) 8.4, (4) develop Office and Regional procedures that are consistent with the revised MD 8.4, (5) develop an agencywide web-based backfit training program, and (6) provide documentation, communication, and implementation of an overarching agencywide backfit program.

RES will take the lead to revise the CRGR charter (if needed) and MD 8.4 to reflect changes in NRC's organizational responsibilities and backfit program and to address important elements for ensuring effective overarching management of generic and plant-specific backfits. RES also will coordinate the review and concurrence process, inter-office reviews and concurrences, and final issuance of both documents.

Completion Date

The projected completion date is December 31, 2010. This date is contingent on Office's and Region's associated resource allocation and scheduling decisions and finalization of the Action Plan

Audit Report

AUDIT OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GENERIC REQUIREMENTS

OIG-09-A-06

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1 continued:

OIG Analysis:

The agency's proposed plans to review the agency's backfit process and develop an agencywide backfit training program meet the intent of this recommendation. OIG will close the recommendation once we receive and review final versions of both the new backfit criteria and training programs to ensure implementation of the recommendation's intent.

Status:

Resolved.

Audit Report

AUDIT OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GENERIC REQUIREMENTS

OIG-09-A-06

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: Determine what, if any, role the CRGR should perform in NRC's backfit review process, to include

Agency Response Dated
July 31, 2009

To provide transparency of the agency's practices, the CRGR plans to conduct a Category 3 public meeting in the Fall of 2009 to engage relevant external stakeholders on what, if any, role the CRGR should perform in NRC's backfit review process. After further CRGR and internal stakeholder review and assessment, the CRGR will provide a discussion on the role that the CRGR should perform in NRC's backfit review process, including whether the CRGR function is still needed, in the Action Plan.

Completion Date

The projected completion date is December 15, 2009. This date is contingent on Office's and Region's associated resource allocation and scheduling decisions and finalization of the Action Plan.

OIG Analysis: The agency's proposed actions address the intent of OIG's recommendation. OIG will close the recommendation following a review of the agency's final decision regarding the function of the CRGR.

Status: Resolved.