

May 3, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Stephen D. Dingbaum  
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

FROM: Brian W. Sheron, Director */RA/*  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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

REFERENCE: ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AUDITS,  
MEMORANDUM DATED OCTOBER 7, 2009

I am responding to your October 7, 2009, memorandum requesting the status update of Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Recommendation 3 in the subject audit report. Recommendations 1 and 2 were previously closed.

### OIG Recommendation 3

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

### Background

The OIG memorandum, dated October 7, 2009, states that this recommendation will be closed when the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission releases Version 8 of the SAPHIRE code.

### Status Update

Following completion of required quality assurance activities, SAPHIRE Version 8 was released for use in April 2010. As discussed in our August 20, 2009, memorandum (ML091870817), these activities have included an independent verification and validation, an internal peer review, and software beta testing. In addition, SAPHIRE Version 8 acceptance testing has been performed. Therefore, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research considers our actions under OIG Recommendation 3 to be complete.

CONTACT: Daniel M. O'Neal, RES/DRA  
301-251-7599

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