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**From:** EDO Update [nrc.announcement@nrc.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 3:26 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Renee  
**Subject:** EDO Update



## EDO Update

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Thursday, February 24, 2011



Last week I updated you on our current understanding of the federal budget, and the implications for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Since then, there has been increased talk about a possible shutdown of the federal government due to an impasse between the House and the Senate. While these are dramatic developments, I encourage you to stay focused on your work, and to please understand that the senior managers are doing all we can to ensure that you and our colleagues can continue to carry out the NRC mission. I also recognize that the uncertainty of the near future adds stress to your lives because this may have a direct, personal impact on each of us. I am committed to keeping you as informed as possible. Here is what we know right now:

If no new appropriation or Continuing Resolution is passed by midnight March 4<sup>th</sup>, the federal government (except for essential functions) will shut down and civilian federal employees will be furloughed. It is unclear at this point exactly when the NRC would transition to this status, but we are currently making contingency plans. If this occurs, it will have a significant impact on what we do. The agency will be in a minimal maintenance and monitoring mode, with all travel, training, and regular work suspended. Despite the strong work ethic at the NRC, furloughed employees are prohibited from coming to the office or teleworking on a volunteer basis. We are also examining contracts to determine what work should continue and what work needs to be suspended if there is a lapse in federal appropriations.

If the agency were to transition to shutdown status, NRC employees would show up to begin an orderly closure of normal work activities. At some point, all but a limited number of "excepted employees" would enter non-pay status and go home. A small core of employees (including the resident inspectors), identified beforehand, would remain on duty to monitor licensee activities and carry on the minimum activities that are necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and provide essential services. In the event of an emergency additional staff needed to respond to the emergency will be summoned. These emergency

response employees would then return to service as excepted employees during the emergency to perform their mission-essential functions.

This agency has a 35-year history of highly dedicated and professional staff, and we have good depth of expertise in emergency response. If an employee is contacted and is available and fit for duty, he or she would be expected to show up for work. If the person is unavailable or not fit for duty, we will simply go down the list.

In most cases, benefits—including life insurance and Thrift Savings Plans—will not be affected by the furlough. Please visit the OPM website at <http://www.opm.gov/furlough/furlough.asp> for more information.

This is a dynamic situation. As we learn more, I will keep you posted. This Question and Answer document may help fill in some of the details: <http://portal.nrc.gov/edo/staff/default.aspx>. If you have additional questions don't hesitate to speak to your supervisor or Human Resources representative.

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Bill Borchardt, EDO