



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

**OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

November 28, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: R. William Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

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

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF TRITIUM
PRODUCTION AT COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER
PLANTS (OIG-11-A-19)

REFERENCE: DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR REACTOR AND
PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS MEMORANDUM DATED
OCTOBER 14, 2011 (ML11265A044)

The subject report, "Evaluation of NRC's Oversight of Tritium Production at Commercial Nuclear Power Plants" (OIG-11-A-19), contained two issues for management consideration. NRC agreed that both issues merit action by the agency and, although not required, NRC has taken actions responsive to both issues. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) appreciates NRC's attention to these issues.

In response to issue 1, NRC staff had conversations with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) staff to clarify that TVA cannot load tritium-producing burnable absorber rods (TPBARs) into the cores of Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant Units 1 and 2 without additional NRC license amendments. Via e-mail (ML11285A203), TVA agreed that additional license amendments would be required prior to loading TPBARs into the cores of Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant Units 1 and 2.

In response to issue 2, NRC issued a communication plan for NRC's role in the Department of Energy's program to produce tritium (ML11216A168). OIG notes, however, that as of November 3, 2011, the tritium production communication plan is not listed as an active communication plan on the Office of the Executive Director for Operations intranet Web site, "Active Communications Plans" (<http://www.internal.nrc.gov/communications/plans/active-plans.html>).

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

Attachment: As stated

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