

April 3, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Frederick D. Brown, Director
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Rani L. Franovich, Chief **/RA/**
Program Assessment Branch
Division of Inspection and Regional Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
METRIC REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011

The Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) self-assessment program evaluates the effectiveness of the ROP through its success in meeting preestablished goals and intended outcomes. The staff evaluates performance metrics to determine the success of the ROP in meeting these goals and outcomes. The staff performed the Calendar Year (CY) 2011 performance metric analysis in accordance with Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0307, "Reactor Oversight Process Self-Assessment Program."

IMC 0307 describes performance metrics associated with each of the four ROP program areas: the performance indicator (PI) program, inspection program (IP), significance determination process (SDP), and assessment (AS) program. The staff designates the program-specific metrics as the PI, IP, SDP, and AS metrics, respectively. The staff also monitors and analyzes metrics of a more general nature, which are designated as the O metrics, to assess the overall performance of the ROP. The staff uses the metric analyses as input to the annual Commission paper on ROP self-assessment.

The staff collects information from various sources, including public comments and surveys of stakeholders, to evaluate ROP effectiveness. The staff solicited comments on ROP implementation from external stakeholders in a *Federal Register* notice (76 FR 73738) published on November 29, 2011. The staff received 15 responses, an increase from the previous external survey in CY 2009. Seven of the survey respondents were representatives of the nuclear power industry, two were members of the public, four were State or local officials, and two were NRC employees.

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The results of the staff's CY 2011 analysis are enclosed. The staff found that the ROP met 45 out of 45 performance metrics by meeting the criteria defined in Appendix A, "Reactor Oversight Process Self-Assessment Metrics," to IMC 0307.

After 12 years since its implementation, the ROP is now a mature program. The metrics in IMC 0307, Appendix A, were useful to evaluate and improve the ROP at the beginning of the program. However, some of the metrics and their criteria might not be indicative of the effectiveness of the current ROP. In addition, several of the metrics may have limited utility or may not align with the intent of the ROP, and the staff specifically noted its plan to evaluate their effectiveness in the ROP metric report analysis (e.g., metrics PI-2, AS-4, and AS-7) for CY 2010. The staff has initiated a feedback form, 0307A-1760, to review all metrics and revise them as necessary to improve their utility in evaluating the effectiveness of the ROP.

Enclosure:

As stated

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