

November 19, 2012

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing in response to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report, GAO-12-791, "Organizational Transformation: Enterprise Architecture Value Needs to be Measured and Reported," dated September 2012.

The NRC agrees with the findings of the report. In addition, the NRC would like to comment on the following two recommendations from the report:

- Recommendation: Fully establish an approach for measuring enterprise architecture outcomes, including a documented method (i.e., steps to be followed) and metrics that are measurable, meaningful, repeatable, consistent, actionable, and aligned with the agency's enterprise architecture's strategic goals and intended purpose.

Response: Over the past 18 months, the NRC has been developing and implementing an improved information technology (IT) investment governance methodology, and an enterprise architecture (EA) outcomes and benefits measurement approach. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) anticipates publishing its guidance for EA value measurement and reporting in December 2012 (referenced in the report as recommendations 3 & 4, specifically addressed to OMB). Upon publication, the NRC will ensure that its governance approach is consistent with the OMB guidance.

- Recommendation: Periodically measure and report enterprise architecture outcomes and benefits to top agency officials (i.e., executives with authority to commit resources or make changes to the program) and to OMB.

Response: Once the OMB guidance is published and the NRC has incorporated the OMB guidance into the agency's IT investment governance approach, the NRC will annually (as a minimum) measure and report outcomes and benefits to top agency officials and to OMB.

The NRC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the recommendations in the GAO report. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane

cc: Senator Susan M. Collins

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Susan M. Collins

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman, Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Elijah Cummings

The Honorable Eugene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
United States Government Accountability Office
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