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## **Statement of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the Office of Inspector General Audit of Environmental Reviews**

The NRC appreciates the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) [audit](#) of the agency's process for environmental reviews in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The OIG conducted the audit in response to the NRC staff's proactive recommendation that it examine whether the NRC has conducted its environmental reviews efficiently and effectively in accordance with the agency's mission.

The agency is and has been in full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the NRC's implementing regulations when preparing Environmental Impact Statements and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements.

Nevertheless, protecting public health and safety and the environment are cornerstones of the NRC's mission. Adequate, transparent environmental reviews under NEPA are important to the NRC in fulfilling this mission. The agency will therefore carefully review the OIG's recommendations and consider whether any enhancements are needed to regulations, guidance, and/or staff practice that might further strengthen the agency's environmental review process, and maintain public trust in the NRC.