

RESPONSE SHEET


TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: Chairman Allison M. Macfarlane
SUBJECT: COMSECY-14-0030 – SUSPENSION OF THE
REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS SELF-
ASSESSMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014

Approved X Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below X Attached _____ None _____

I approve the staff's request to suspend the annual self-assessment of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) for calendar year (CY) 2014. Given the multiple reviews of the ROP conducted in CY 2013 including the Commission-directed internal independent review and the independent evaluations by the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Inspector General (IG), the staff resources will be more efficiently spent evaluating the recommendations from the reviews and revising the ROP and the self-assessment guidance.


SIGNATURE

8/12/2014
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes X No _____

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: COMMISSIONER SVINICKI
SUBJECT: COMSECY-14-0030 – SUSPENSION OF THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014

Approved XX Disapproved Abstain

Not Participating

COMMENTS: Below XX Attached None

I approve the staff's request to suspend the annual self-assessment of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) for calendar year 2014. The staff is likely right that the self-assessment process for a mature and established program can and should differ in orientation and frequency from that of a newly-instituted program. In light of this, the staff intends to develop metrics consistent with the Principles of Good Regulation and the existing ROP goals, consider new approaches to the ROP self-assessment process, and ensure that any proposed changes actually improve NRC's ability to solicit and assess feedback on the ROP. While the staff expects that revisions resulting from these efforts will be limited to guidance documents, the staff is reminded that a body of modest changes, when taken together, could result in a significant recasting of the current ROP self-assessment process. Upon completing the evaluation of potential improvements, if the staff deems that the collection of changes is significant enough to merit review by the Commission, the staff should seek such review.



SIGNATURE

09/15/14

DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes No

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary
FROM: COMMISSIONER OSTENDORFF
SUBJECT: COMSECY-14-0030 – SUSPENSION OF THE
REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS SELF-
ASSESSMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2014

Approved XX Disapproved _____ Abstain _____

Not Participating _____

COMMENTS: Below ___ Attached XX None ___

W. Ostendorff
SIGNATURE

9/10/14
DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes X No _____

Commissioner Ostendorff's Comments on COMSECY-14-0030, "Suspension of the Reactor Oversight Process Self-Assessment for Calendar Year 2014"

I approve the staff's request to suspend the annual self-assessment of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) for calendar year (CY) 2014. I support the staff's efforts to develop a more effective self-assessment process for CY 2015 and beyond. I also support the staff's efforts to assess and implement the various ROP enhancements suggested or recommended over the past year by the Government Accountability Office, the Office of the Inspector General, and the Commission-directed ROP Independent Assessment. In the CY 2015 ROP self-assessment, the staff should inform the Commission of the status of ROP enhancements.

As discussed in the ROP Independent Assessment, the staff has undertaken a significance determination process (SDP) Business Process Improvement (BPI) project to "... balance the goal of having reliable significance determination process outcomes against the need for efficient and timely regulatory decisionmaking." In addition, the ROP Independent Assessment identified opportunities to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and communication of agency decisionmaking in this area. I am concerned about the time it takes to finalize inspections findings and the resulting time lag from identification of an issue until the time that a change might be made to the ROP action matrix. Therefore, I support the objectives of the SDP BPI project and the recommendations and suggestions of the ROP Independent Assessment in this area.

I recognize that licensees are required by 10 CFR 50 Appendix B to have measures in place to assure that conditions adverse to quality and nonconformances are promptly corrected. Nonetheless, timely finalization of inspection findings is important from an efficiency and openness perspective, and to ensure that licensee corrective actions are completed and verified by NRC followup inspections in a timely manner. Accordingly, the staff should initiate actions to streamline the SDP process and establish appropriate timeliness metrics for finalizing inspection findings and conducting NRC followup inspections. The staff should inform the Commission of its plans and schedule for this activity by the end of February 2015.