

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
OFFICE OF NEW REACTORS
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 15, 2015

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 2015-07: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF E-QIP SYSTEM
TO AFFECT PENDING BACKGROUND
INVESTIGATIONS

ADDRESSEES

All U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensees or certificate holders under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Parts 50, 51, 52, 70, 71, 72, and 76; Agreement State Radiation Control Program Directors; and State Liaison Officers.

All contractors and vendors that supply basic components to NRC licensees under 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities" or 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants."

Any person with a pending submission in Electronic Questionnaires for Investigations Processing (e-QIP) for an initial security clearance, or currently due for reinvestigation with the NRC.

PURPOSE

The NRC is issuing this information notice (IN) to provide information that was transmitted to the NRC from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regarding a temporary inability to process e-QIP for submission of a background investigation after June 26, 2015.

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES

The NRC was informed that OPM is conducting a comprehensive review of the security of its information technology systems, including e-QIP. The e-QIP system is used by individuals to complete a Standard Form 86 (SF 86), "Questionnaire for National Security Positions," to support the background investigation of individuals seeking a personnel security clearance.

OPM has taken e-QIP offline due to a vulnerability that was identified during this review and currently intends to bring e-QIP online within four to six weeks. OPM intends to maintain the information previously entered into e-QIP. At this time, there is no indication that information

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stored within e-QIP has been compromised. However, the temporary suspension greatly impacts the NRC's ability to submit information to OPM, allowing OPM to conduct background investigations.

DISCUSSION

All SF 86s released to OPM prior to June 26, 2015 by the NRC should have background investigations in progress. However, those applicants with a "Pending Status" are affected by the temporary suspension, including:

1. individuals who have not yet started their SF 86s;
2. individuals who have started but not completed their SF 86s; and
3. individuals who completed SF 86s, but the NRC is unable to access the information in e-QIP for review.

CONCLUSION

The NRC asks licensees and certificate holders to take this matter into consideration and refrain from submitting new requests for personnel security clearances. All requests received prior to e-QIP being taken offline during this temporary suspension period will be processed. All requests received subsequent to e-QIP being taken offline will be processed when e-QIP is back online. The NRC will directly contact any individuals who are expected to complete their e-QIP submissions for initial processing.

OPM's temporary suspension does not impact the NRC's ability to process requests for personnel security clearances through reciprocity.

The NRC has temporarily suspended its personnel security clearance reinvestigation process while e-QIP is unavailable. However, previously issued security clearances will not expire. Please note that the reporting requirements regarding adverse information for clearance holders remain in effect.

CONTACTS

This IN requires no specific action or written response. Please direct any questions about this matter to the technical contacts listed below.

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***concurrence via email**

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