

March 9, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Stephen D. Dingbaum  
Assistant Inspector General for Audits  
Office of the Inspector General

FROM: Michael R. Johnson */RA/*  
Deputy Executive Director for Reactor  
and Preparedness Programs  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: AUDIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S  
OPERATOR LICENSING PROGRAM FOR THE AP1000 POWER  
REACTOR (OIG-16-A-08)

This responds to your February 8, 2016, memorandum which transmitted OIG-16-A-08, "Audit of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Operator Licensing Program for the AP1000 Power Reactor." The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff appreciates the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) audit of the operator licensing program for AP1000 Power Reactors. The staff has reviewed the audit report and generally agrees with both the report and its recommendations.

The enclosure to this memorandum contains staff responses to the OIG's recommendations. Staff has included planned actions and target dates for the completion of these tasks.

Enclosure:  
Response to OIG Audit  
Recommendations (OIG-16-A-08)

CONTACT: Rick Pelton, NRO/DCIP/HOIB  
(301) 415-1028

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<b>NAME</b>	RPelton	MJunge	MCheck	PMoulding*	SMorris	AGody*
<b>DATE</b>	2/29/2016	2/29/2016	2/29/2016	2/29/2016	2/29/2016	2/29/2016
<b>OFFICE</b>	QTE	NRO	DEDR			
<b>NAME</b>	JDougherty	JUhle	MJohnson			
<b>DATE</b>	3/2/2016*	3/4/2016	3/9/2016			

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Memo to Stephen D. Dingbaum from Michael R. Johnson dated March 9, 2016

SUBJECT: AUDIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S OPERATOR  
LICENSING PROGRAM FOR THE AP1000 POWER REACTOR (OIG-16-A-08)

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## RESPONSE TO OIG RECOMMENDATIONS (OIG-16-A-08)

### Recommendation 1

Develop and implement an agencywide, consistent interpretation of regulations and guidance to address issues specific to new reactor operator licensing requirements.

### Response

Agree: The Human Performance, Operator Licensing, and Inspection, Test, Analysis, and Acceptance Criterion/Criteria (ITAAC) Branch, in the Office of New Reactors (NRO), will work with the Operator Licensing and Training Branch, in the Office of Nuclear Reactors Regulation (NRR), Region II, and the Office of the General Counsel to address the following:

- the time interval between the written examination and operating test administrations for AP1000 facilities currently under construction, and
- the requirements to qualify a simulator as a Commission-approved simulation facility for use in AP1000 operating tests.

The group will work together to develop AP1000 consensus positions for each of the areas. Based on the consensus positions, the group will determine the impact on operator licensing for currently operating reactors.

Target Completion Date: Staff will complete this action by September 30, 2016.

Point of Contact: Jim Kellum, NRO/DCIP/HOIB  
(301) 415-5305

### Recommendation 2

Implement staff processes for documenting, addressing, communicating, and monitoring key decisions relevant to new reactor operator licensing requirements.

### Response

Agree: Operator licensing manual chapters provide guidance to the staff on the implementation of the operator licensing program. The Human Performance, Operator Licensing, and ITAAC Branch in NRO will work with the Operator Licensing and Training Branch in NRR, to review the operator licensing manual chapters. NRO and NRR staff will revise these, as necessary, to ensure that decisions related to new reactor operator licensing are monitored, addressed, documented, and communicated for current and future operator licensing managers and staff.

Target Completion Date: Staff will complete this action by July 31, 2016.

Point of Contact: Jim Kellum, NRO/DCIP/HOIB  
(301) 415-5305

Enclosure