



OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

**UNITED STATES**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 17, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Victor M. McCree  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Stephen D. Dingbaum */RA/*  
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: AUDIT OF NRC'S  
OPERATOR LICENSING PROGRAM FOR THE AP1000  
POWER REACTOR (OIG-16-A-08)

REFERENCE: DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR REACTOR AND  
PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS MEMORANDUM DATED  
MARCH 9, 2016

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's analysis and status of recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated March 9, 2016. Based on this response, recommendations 1 and 2 are resolved. Please provide an updated status of the resolved recommendations by August 31, 2016.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 415-5915 or Paul Rades, Team Leader, at 415-6228.

Attachment: As stated

cc: M. Johnson, OEDO  
F. Brown, OEDO  
B. Pham, OEDO  
J. Jolicoeur, OEDO  
EDO\_ACS Distribution Resource

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S OPERATOR LICENSING PROGRAM FOR THE AP1000 REACTOR

OIG-16-A-08

#### Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Develop and implement an agencywide, consistent interpretation of regulations and guidance to address issues specific to new reactor operator licensing requirements.

Agency Response Dated  
March 9, 2016:

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.

Completion Date: September 30, 2016.

OIG Analysis: The proposed actions meet the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed when OIG verifies that NRC has completed its proposed actions to have NRO, NRR, Region II, and the Office of the General Counsel (1) address and develop a consensus on the time interval between written examination and operating test administrations for AP1000 facilities currently under construction, (2) address the requirements to qualify a simulator as a Commission-approved simulation facility for use in AP1000 operating tests, and (3) determine the impact on operator licensing for currently operating reactors.

**Status:** Resolved.

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S OPERATOR LICENSING PROGRAM FOR THE AP1000 REACTOR

OIG-16-A-08

#### Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: Implement staff processes for documenting, addressing, communicating, and monitoring key decisions relevant to new reactor operator licensing requirements.

Agency Response Dated  
March 9, 2016:

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.

Completion Date: July 31, 2016.

OIG Analysis:

The proposed actions meet the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed when OIG verifies that NRC has completed its proposed actions to have (1) NRO and NRR work together to review the operator licensing manual chapters that provide guidance to the staff on the implementation of the operator licensing program and (2) revise the necessary operator licensing manual chapters 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.

**Status:** Resolved.