



OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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

April 6, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Burns

FROM: Hubert T. Bell */RA/*  
Inspector General

SUBJECT: AUDIT OF NRC'S REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS:  
REACTOR SAFETY BASELINE INSPECTION  
PROCEDURES (OIG-16-A-12)

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) audit report titled *Audit of NRC's Reactor Oversight Process: Reactor Safety Baseline Inspection Procedures*. The audit objective was to assess the effectiveness of the ROP in discovery of plant performance issues.

For the purposes of this audit, the assessment of the effectiveness of the ROP was limited to an analysis of how inspection procedures were written, and understood and performed by agency managers and inspection staff.

OIG found opportunities to make baseline inspection procedures clearer for inspectors and managers performing and overseeing baseline inspections. Specifically, NRC needs to ensure mandatory and discretionary language used in inspection procedures is clear and consistent for inspectors and managers responsible for performing and overseeing baseline inspections.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen D. Dingbaum, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, at 415-5915 or me at 415-5930.

Attachment: As stated

cc: Commissioner Svinicki  
Commissioner Ostendorff  
Commissioner Baran  
R. Lewis, OEDO