

May 6, 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: RESPONSE TO AUDIT OF NRC'S REACTOR OVERSIGHT  
PROCESS: REACTOR SAFETY BASELINE INSPECTION  
PROCEDURES (OIG-16-A-12)

This memorandum is in response to your memorandum dated April 6, 2016, regarding the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Audit, OIG-16-A-12, "Audit of NRC's Reactor Oversight Process: Reactor Safety Baseline Inspection Procedures," (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System accession number ML16097A515). The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is providing the response, target completion date, and point of contact for each OIG recommendation (enclosed).

Enclosure:  
Audit Response

CONTACT: Scott A. Morris, NRR/DIRS  
(301) 415-1004

May 6, 2016

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

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

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

This memorandum is in response to your memorandum dated April 6, 2016, regarding the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Audit, OIG-16-A-12, "Audit of NRC's Reactor Oversight Process: Reactor Safety Baseline Inspection Procedures," (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System accession number ML16097A515). The Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is providing the response, target completion date, and point of contact for each OIG recommendation (enclosed).

Enclosure:  
Audit Response

CONTACT: Scott A. Morris, NRR/DIRS  
(301) 415-1004

DISTRIBUTION: OEDO-16-00219  
RidsEdoMailCenter Resource  
RidsOgcMailCenter Resource  
RidsNrrMailCenter Resource  
RidsNrrOd Resource  
RidsOisMailCenter Resource  
RidsRgn1MailCenter Resource  
RidsRgn2MailCenter Resource  
RidsRgn3MailCenter Resource  
RidsRgn4MailCenter Resource

**ADAMS Accession No.: ML16104A081**

**Pckg No.: ML16097A567**

OFFICE	NRR/DIRS/IRIB	NRR/DIRS/IRIB	NRR/DIRS	NRR	OEDO/DEDR
NAME	JPeralta	DWillis	SMorris	WDean	MJohnson
DATE	04/13/2016	04/14/2016	04/14/2016	04/25/2016	5/6/16

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

**Audit of NRC's Reactor Oversight Process:  
Reactor Safety Baseline Inspection Procedures  
OIG-16-A-12**

**Status of Recommendations**

**Recommendation 1**

Develop and implement controls to ensure mandatory and discretionary language used in inspection procedures is clear and consistent.

**Response**

We agree with this recommendation. As part of the ongoing periodic assessment process outlined in Appendix B to Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0307, "Reactor Oversight Process Baseline Inspection Procedure Reviews," the staff has undertaken actions to ensure that baseline inspection procedures are reviewed, and if necessary, revised to ensure mandatory and discretionary language used is clear and consistent. In addition, IMC-0040, "Preparing, Revising and Issuing Documents for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Inspection Manual," will be revised to strengthen relevant provisions and controls associated with establishing mandatory and discretionary inspection language in inspection documents.

**Completion Date:** 12/31/2016

**Point of Contact:** Scott A. Morris, NMSS  
301-415-1004

**Recommendation 2**

Notify staff and managers of controls developed to ensure that mandatory and discretionary language used in inspection procedures is clear and consistent.

**Response**

We agree with this recommendation. Once IMC-0040 has been revised to incorporate more stringent controls and provisions to ensure that mandatory and discretionary language used in inspection procedures is clear and consistent, all regional inspection management and staff will be formally notified through a memorandum from the Director, Division of Inspection and Regional Support, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

**Completion Date:** 12/31/2016

**Point of Contact:** Scott A. Morris, NMSS  
301-415-1004

Enclosure