



OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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

August 19, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Victor McCree  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: *Steven E. Zane*  
Steven E. Zane  
Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audits

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: AUDIT OF NRC'S  
PROCESS FOR ENSURING INTEGRITY IN SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH (OIG-15-A-08)

REFERENCE: ACTING CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER,  
MEMORANDUM DATED JULY 19, 2016

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 5 as discussed in the agency's response dated July 19, 2016. Based on this response, recommendations 1, 2, and 5 are closed and recommendation 3 remains in resolved status. Recommendation 4 was previously closed. Please provide an updated status of the resolved recommendations by January 6, 2017. If you have questions or concerns, please call Steven Zane, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audits at 301-415-5912, or Sherri Miotla, Team Leader, at 301-415-5914.

Attachment: As stated

cc: R. Lewis, OEDO  
H. Rasouli, OEDO  
J. Jolicouer, OEDO  
J. Bowen, OEDO  
EDO\_ACS Distribution Resource

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S PROCESS FOR ENSURING INTEGRITY IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OIG-15-A-08

#### Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Designate an Information Quality Program owner and clearly delineate roles and responsibilities among involved offices.

Agency Response Dated  
July 19, 2016:

On June 28, 2016, the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) approved and OCIO issued MD 3.17. MD 3.17 clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities among involved offices. In addition, MD 3.17 instructs OCIO to designate an Information Quality Program Owner. OCIO has identified a staff member who will serve as the Information Quality Program Owner, referred to as the Information Quality Coordinator (IQC)

Target date for completion: Completed

OIG Analysis:

OIG has reviewed MD 3.17 and has verified that OCIO is responsible for designating an Information Quality Program Coordinator. This recommendation is now closed.

**Status:** Closed.

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S PROCESS FOR ENSURING INTEGRITY IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OIG-15-A-08

#### Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: Assign responsibility for routinely checking, responding to, and tracking the resolution of information correction requests submitted via vehicles identified on the NRC's public Web pages regarding Information Quality Guidelines.

Agency Response Dated  
July 19, 2016:

On June 28, 2016, the EDO approved and OCIO issued MD 3.17. MD 3.17 assigns responsibility for routinely checking, responding to, and tracking the resolution of information correction requests.

Target date for completion: Completed

OIG Analysis:

OIG has reviewed MD 3.17 and has verified that the appropriate responsibilities are assigned to the Information Quality Program Coordinator. This recommendation is now closed.

**Status:** Closed.

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S PROCESS FOR ENSURING INTEGRITY IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OIG-15-A-08

#### Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 3: Hold an annual meeting with involved NRC staff and management to discuss the requirements and responsibilities associated with the identification and reporting of Influential Scientific Information and Highly Influential Scientific Assessment Information products.

Agency Response Dated  
July 19, 2016:

On June 28, 2016, the EDO approved and OCIO issued MD 3.17. MD 3.17 directs the IQC to advise involved NRC staff and management about the requirements and responsibilities associated with the identification and reporting of ISI [Influential Scientific Information] and HISA [Highly Influential Scientific Assessment Information] information products. The IQC will schedule a kickoff meeting prior to the survey in calendar year 2016, and annually thereafter, as a mechanism for NRC staff and management to discuss the requirements and responsibilities associated with the identification and reporting of ISI and HISA.

Target date for completion: Completed

OIG Analysis:

The proposed action meets the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed after OIG verifies that the kickoff meeting has taken place.

**Status:** Resolved.

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S PROCESS FOR ENSURING INTEGRITY IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OIG-15-A-08

#### Status of Recommendations

<u>Recommendation 5:</u>	Direct all offices to review and revise office guidance on peer review to align with requirements established by OMB [Office of Management and Budget] and the National Academy of Sciences.
Agency Response Dated July 19, 2016:	On June 28, 2016, the EDO approved and OCIO issued MD 3.17. MD 3.17 contains direction to Office Directors to ensure that office guidance aligns with the MD and requirements established by the Office of Management and Budget and the National Academy of Sciences.  Target date for completion: Completed
OIG Analysis:	OIG has reviewed MD 3.17 and has verified that the direction has been given to Office Directors to ensure that office guidance aligns with the appropriate requirements. This recommendation is now closed.
<b>Status:</b>	Closed.