

January 19, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Those on the Attached List

FROM: David Nelson **/RA/**  
Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2017 CYBERSECURITY RISK-MANAGEMENT  
ACTIVITIES

I want to express my appreciation for your efforts to continuously improve the agency's cybersecurity posture and to accomplish the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) mission while minimizing cyber risks. Recent successful attacks have caused the Federal Government to reassess cybersecurity, prompting the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to take an even more active role in cybersecurity within all Federal agencies. And, several recent cyber audits of NRC systems demonstrated that we still have additional work to reduce risk to an acceptable level.

The Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act requires NRC to ensure that its Chief Information Officer has a significant role in information technology (IT) decisions, including annual and multiyear planning, programming, budgeting, execution, reporting, management, governance, and oversight functions. I will be working with you to ensure the agency's IT decisions use resources effectively and efficiently to meet the agency's mission needs.

The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) and our implementing framework delineate the risk management activities that we are required to conduct periodically. They include:

- Cybersecurity Awareness Training
- Laptop and Standalone Personal Computer Authorization
- Continuous Monitoring
- System Cybersecurity Assessment
- System Security Categorization
- Privacy Threshold Analysis and Privacy Impact Assessment Updates
- Periodic Reviews and Risk Management Reporting

Achieving success on such important efforts will require support from all NRC office directors, regional administrators, and system owners. The agency's success also depends upon completion of the risk management activities outlined in the enclosed [Cybersecurity Risk Management Activities Instructions](#). The instructions provide detailed guidance on the required activities, including instructions for making the specified documentation available to required staff, including the Office of the Inspector General.

CONTACT: Thomas Rich, OCIO/ISD  
301-415-6596

Contract vehicles are available to headquarters and regional offices to support these activities. If you require contract support, please ensure sufficient resources and time are available by coordinating requirements with your designated cybersecurity program support services contracting officer's representative

Additionally, I will continue to focus on ensuring that the agency identifies needed resources in the budget formulation process for all aspects of required cybersecurity for the life of its systems, plans for hardware and software upgrades and maintenance, and plans for system changes.

Finally, in addition to performing the periodic risk-management activities in fiscal year 2017, there are new requirements under development where your support is needed to address evolving oversight requirements designed to minimize the cybersecurity threat to the NRC mission while enabling agency operations. The Office of the Chief Information Officer staff will coordinate implementation efforts with you as new guidance is received.

Please feel free to contact Thomas Rich or me with questions. As always, I expect and appreciate your support as we work to jointly accomplish NRC's mission and minimize cybersecurity risk to the NRC.

Enclosure:  
Cybersecurity Risk-Management  
Activities Instructions for Fiscal Year 2017

MEMORANDUM: TO THOSE ON THE ATTACHED LIST DATED: 01/19/17

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