



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

February 1, 2019

MEMORANDUM TO: Dr. Brett M. Baker  
Assistant Inspector General for Audits  
Office of the Inspector General

FROM: Ho K. Nieh, Director */RA by Michele G. Evans for/*  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL'S AUDIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR  
REGULATORY COMMISSION'S SIGNIFICANCE  
DETERMINATION PROCESS FOR REACTOR SAFETY  
(OIG-16-A-21)

Enclosed is the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) status of the resolved recommendations from the Office of the Inspector General's Audit of the NRC's Significance Determination Process for Reactor Safety, dated December 1, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact the individuals identified in the enclosure.

Enclosure:  
As stated

CONTACT: Gregory T. Bowman, NRR/DIRS  
301-415-2744

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR  
GENERAL'S AUDIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION'S SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION PROCESS FOR  
REACTOR SAFETY (OIG-16-A-21) DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2019

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML19015A285**

OFFICE	NRR/DIRS/IRAB	NRR/DIRS/IRAB	NRR/DIRS	NRR
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DATE	1/15/2019	1/16/2019	1/23/2019	2/1/2019

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**STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S AUDIT OF  
THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S  
SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION PROCESS FOR REACTOR SAFETY  
(OIG-16-A-21)**

Recommendation 1: Assess Significance Determination Process (SDP) workflow, and establish, communicate, and document clear and consistent expectations for staff and managers to complete their roles in the SDP.

Update

The Inspection Finding Resolution Management trial period began on November 16, 2016, and concluded on December 31, 2017. After the trial period, a multi-disciplinary team of staff from the regional offices and headquarters performed an effectiveness review of the trial period and issued a report on May 9, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML18123A319). Staff developed revisions to applicable Inspection Manual Chapters (IMCs) to incorporate the effectiveness review recommendations and solicited regional comments in August 2018. After regional comments were dispositioned, the following IMCs were issued via Change Notice 18-036 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18296A044) on October 25, 2018:

- IMC 0609, "Significance Determination Process,"
- IMC 0609, Attachment 1, "Significance and Enforcement Review Panel Process," and
- IMC 0609, Attachment 5, "Inspection Finding Review Board."

These IMCs became effective on January 1, 2019. The staff recommends closure of Recommendation 1 based on the issuance of the revised IMCs.

Date of completion: October 25, 2018. The staff has completed actions associated with this recommendation.

Contact: Alexander D. Garmoe, NRR/DIRS  
301-415-3814

Recommendation 2: Clarify IMC 0612 Appendix B issue screening questions, so that they are readily understood and easily applied.

Update

Staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) is working with a team of experienced inspectors from each region who are familiar with the use of the screening questions to revise IMC 0612 to address this recommendation. The revision will provide improved guidance on how to answer the screening questions in Appendix B and will tie each example in Appendix E of IMC 0612 to a question. NRR plans to issue a revision to IMC 0612 incorporating these changes by June 30, 2019.

Target date for completion: June 30, 2019

Contact: Lauren R. Casey, NRR/DIRS  
301-415-1038

Recommendation 3: Implement controls to ensure independent audits of greater-than-Green inspection findings are performed.

As noted by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in “Status of Recommendations: Audit of NRC’s Significance Determination Process for Reactor Safety (OIG-16-A-21)” (ADAMS Accession No. ML18060A114), Recommendation 3 is closed.

Recommendation 4: Document independent audits of greater-than-Green inspection findings.

As noted by the OIG in “Status of Recommendations: Audit of NRC’s Significance Determination Process for Reactor Safety (OIG-16-A-21)” (ADAMS Accession No. ML18288A234), Recommendation 4 is closed.