



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

**OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

April 15, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Margaret M. Doane
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Dr. Brett M. Baker */RA/*
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: AUDIT OF THE U.S.
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S FOREIGN
ASSIGNEE PROGRAM (OIG-17-A-07)

REFERENCE: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS,
MEMORANDUM DATED APRIL 1, 2020

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated April 1, 2020. Based on this response, recommendations 2 and 3 remain open and resolved. Recommendation 1 was previously closed. Please provide an updated status of the resolved recommendations by August 3, 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (301) 415-5915, or Terri Cooper, Team Leader, at (301) 415-5965.

Attachment: As stated

cc: C. Haney, OEDO
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Audit Report

AUDIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S FOREIGN ASSIGNEE PROGRAM

OIG-17-A-07

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: Develop a secure, cost-efficient method to provide foreign assignees an email account which allows for NRC detection and mitigation of inadvertent transmission of sensitive information and seek Commission approval to implement it.

Agency Response Dated
April 1, 2020:

Agree: The Office of International Programs (OIP) has developed a Notation Vote Paper seeking Commission approval for implementation of a secure, cost-efficient method to provide foreign assignees with NRC issued e-mail accounts that can be monitored by the NRC for the inadvertent transmission of sensitive information, as well as associated information security and provide improvements in communication between the foreign assignee and the pertinent NRC staff and other stakeholders. The information technology enhancements needed to support this initiative could only be developed following the issuance of the Information Technology Systems and Network Cross-Cutting Services Blanket Purchase Agreement Call under the Global Infrastructure and Development Acquisition contract. OIP received the Office of the Chief Information Officer's proposal in August 2019 and sought Commission approval on December 18, 2019, via a voting paper. The Commission has had questions regarding the methods suggested in the paper to evaluate the suitability of foreign assignees for placement within the agency. An initial Chiefs of Staff Briefing was held on February 3, 2020, and a follow-up briefing is currently being scheduled.

Revised Target Completion Date: Completed December 18, 2019, via SECY-19-0124.

Audit Report

AUDIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S FOREIGN ASSIGNEE PROGRAM

OIG-17-A-07

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2 (cont.):

OIG Analysis:

The proposed action meets the intent of the recommendation. OIG reviewed SECY-19-0124 and spoke with agency staff. OIG was informed that the Commission cannot approve SECY-19-0124 at this time because of limitations due to COVID-19. This recommendation will be closed when the agency obtains Commission approval of a secure, cost-efficient method to provide foreign assignees an e-mail account which allows for NRC detection and mitigation of inadvertent transmission of sensitive information.

Status:

Open: Resolved.

Audit Report

AUDIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S FOREIGN ASSIGNEE PROGRAM

OIG-17-A-07

Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 3: When an NRC approved email account is available, develop specific Computer Security Rules of Behavior for foreign assignees using the approved email.

Agency Response Dated
April 1, 2020:

Agree. Staff will develop Computer Security Rules of Behavior for foreign assignees, subject to Commission approval of staff's proposed approach for responding to Recommendation 2.

Target Completion Date: Staff will complete this action within 6 months following Commission approval to Recommendation 2.

OIG Analysis:

The proposed actions meet the intent of the recommendation. This recommendation will be closed once Commission Paper (SECY-19-0124) is approved which also addresses Computer Security Rules of Behavior for foreign assignees using an NRC approved email account.

Status:

Open: Resolved.