



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

**OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

August 11, 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 JULY 15, 2020

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated July 15, 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 June 30, 2021.

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

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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
July 15, 2020:

Closed - Based on the submission of the December 18, 2019, Notation Vote Paper (SECY-19-0124), the Office of International Programs considers this recommendation closed. The Commission has not voted on SECY-19-0124 to date. In January 2020, the Chairman's Office requested additional information from the Office of Administration (ADM) about the vetting process used to evaluate the suitability of foreign assignees for placement within the agency. ADM planned to provide this information in a secure briefing; however, due to the impacts of COVID-19 on staff's ability to congregate, the secure briefing to share this information with the Commission has been postponed indefinitely. It is likely this briefing will not occur until late winter or early spring of 2021, when the NRC staff more fully reoccupies its facilities.

OIG Analysis:

The proposed action does not fully meet the intent of the recommendation. OIG reviewed SECY-19-0124 and previously 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
July 15, 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 of Recommendation 2. However, due to uncertainty with re-occupancy due to COVID-19, this activity will likely not be completed until summer 2021.

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.