




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

November 24, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: John Lubinski, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Kevin Williams, Director  Signed by Williams, Kevin
Division of Materials Safety, Security, State, on 11/24/21
and Tribal Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OVERSIGHT
ACTIVITIES ASSESSMENT PHASE B WORKING GROUP REPORT
WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this memorandum is to transmit the results of the Oversight Activities Assessment of the Phase B Working Group. A working group tasked with evaluating the various practices, adjustments, processes, and inspection techniques utilized to implement the nuclear materials and waste oversight programs during the COVID-19 pandemic completed an evaluation and developed a set of proposed recommendations to enhance certain aspects of the oversight programs based on the feedback received internally and externally. The working group charter is accessible in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (Accession No. ML21085A576). This working group was comprised of representatives from the four regions and the business lines in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) and included diverse representation of inspectors and program office staff and are listed in the working group charter.

The working group concluded that during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE), the NMSS oversight programs remained effective in accomplishing its important oversight mission since the agency implemented mandatory telework in March 2020. The staff continued to demonstrate creativity, innovation, flexibility, and resiliency to best accomplish the objectives of the inspection programs in NMSS. The working group believes implementing the recommendations stemming from the assessment would enhance the implementation of these programs during the current, ongoing COVID-19 PHE, any future pandemic or PHE, and enhance aspects of the current framework for the oversight programs based on what we experienced in recent months. However, prior to implementation of any of the recommendations, alignment meetings at all levels would be warranted to discuss the strategies to employ to implement the recommendations.

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Enclosure:
As Stated

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***via email**

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