

August 12, 2010

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Federal Financial Management,
Government Information, Federal Services,
and International Security
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of July 19, 2010. On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am pleased to provide a summary of our actions to regularly update data on the Office of Management and Budget Information Technology (IT) Dashboard. The NRC takes the planning and management of IT projects seriously and uses the IT Dashboard to provide accurate and timely data on those activities. The agency is striving to continually improve our performance in this area.

With the deployment of the IT Dashboard in June 2009, the NRC implemented a requirement for all investment managers of major IT systems to update each month the cost, schedule, and performance fields reported. The investment managers use the most recent cost information from the NRC accounting system that records all paid invoices to report the actual costs of the investment for the month being updated. Schedule information is also updated each month. In addition, the Chief Information Officer (CIO) continually monitors the performance of the investments and updates, as appropriate, the rating for a major investment as new information becomes available. The CIO's rating takes into consideration risk management, requirements management, contractor oversight, historical performance, and human capital.

To ensure the quality of the information reported on the IT Dashboard, the NRC recently performed a quality review of our data. As a result of that review, we added information to clarify milestones, corrected contract information, and split milestones with durations longer than one year into shorter more meaningful milestones.

The IT Dashboard supports NRC management in identifying projects that are in need of high-level attention. The NRC currently has in place an IT Business Council (ITBC) made up of executives from the NRC's major offices. The ITBC functions as the agency investment review board. It recommends the IT capital investment portfolio and submits it to the Information Technology Senior Advisory Committee (ITSAC), composed of the CIO and office directors from major NRC offices. All major investments receive an annual ITBC review. This review, in combination with the monthly review of the NRC's input to the IT Dashboard, ensures that the ITBC is continuously aware of the progress of all major investments and any significant changes to them. If potential problems are indicated, the ITBC will raise the issues for review and action.

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The NRC appreciates this opportunity to share our approach to updating data on the IT Dashboard. If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Federal Financial Management,
Government Information, Federal Services,
and International Security
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
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