

PLEASE RESPOND BY:
April 7, 2017

COMSECY-17-0010

March 23, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Svinicki
Commissioner Baran
Commissioner Burns

FROM: Victor M. McCree */RA/*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE
FREQUENCY OF STAFF REPORTS TO THE
COMMISSION REGARDING THE STATUS OF GENERIC
ISSUES

The purpose of this memorandum is to request the Commission's approval to change the frequency of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff reports to the Commission regarding the status of generic issues (GIs). Specifically, the staff proposes to report the status of GIs twice a year instead of four times a year. Current tools maintained by the staff such as the Generic Issues Dashboard, which is located on both the internal and external NRC websites, provide the Commission and external stakeholders with more complete and timely information than the existing quarterly reports.

Since 1983, the NRC staff has provided the Commission with updates on its progress in resolving active GIs. In a staff requirements memorandum (SRM) dated May 8, 1998, "Staff Requirements: SECY 98-030 – Implementation of DSI 22 Research" (Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML003752314), the Commission reinforced this practice by directing the staff to provide an annual summary of activities related to open GIs. Subsequently, the staff began providing annual reports to the Commission entitled "Summary of Activities Related to the Generic Issues Program."

In COMSECY-13-0009, "Modification or Closure of Action Items in the Commission Tracking System" (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML13072A534 (package), ML13072A549 (memo), and ML13072A588 (enclosure)), the staff proposed eliminating various recurring reports to the Commission, including the annual report on GIs. In lieu of the annual report, the staff proposed to keep the Commission informed using the NRC's public web site for the Generic Issue Management Control System (GIMCS) report.¹ In response, the Commission issued SRM-COMSECY-13-0009, "Modification or Closure of Action Items in the Commission Tracking System" (ADAMS Accession No. ML13220B056), which approved the staff's recommendation

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¹ "Quarterly Generic Issues Status Reports," <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/generic-issues/quarterly/>.

and directed the staff to e-mail the GIMCS report to the Commission each quarter. Currently, the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) staff distributes the GIMCS report to senior management in the program offices and the Commission and makes the report available to the public on the external NRC website.

More recently, the staff has successfully reduced the number of active GIs, and the regulatory offices are reporting fewer significant activities on active GIs. As a result, the staff has had fewer items of significance to convey in the GIMCS quarterly report.

In a separate but related action, the staff has been reporting the status of GIs in the agency's semiannual report to Congress. An example of this report is "Semiannual Status Report on the Licensing Activities and Regulatory Duties of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission" (ADAMS Accession No. ML16111B108). Because the significant activities that the staff describes in the GIMCS report and the semiannual report to Congress are essentially the same, replacing the GIMCS report to the Commission with the existing semiannual report to Congress would allow the agency to enhance efficiency. Therefore, the staff proposes changing the frequency of reporting GI status to the Commission from quarterly to semiannually. The staff also proposes using the semiannual report to Congress to report on GI items.

In 2012 and 2013, RES and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) evaluated the GIs program. The results of the staff's evaluation were documented in a memorandum titled "Completion of Generic Issues Program Tiger Team Activities" dated October 24, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13296A417). Enclosure 4 of the memorandum (ADAMS Accession No. ML13296A425) contained recommendations to improve the GI Program. In response to Recommendation 4 of this enclosure, RES staff worked with the Office of Chief Information Officer to develop an online application where stakeholders would be able to see the status of each active GI at any time without waiting for the quarterly GIMCS report. The resultant application is called the Generic Issues Dashboard and is readily available and accessible to the NRC staff and Commissioners on the internal NRC website² and to the public on the external NRC website.³ The GI Dashboard provides stakeholders with the current status of active GIs and the progress being made towards their resolution. The GI Dashboard will be updated quarterly and more frequently if needed. The staff can report on the status of GIs less frequently and still provide complete and timely information to stakeholders. The GI Dashboard also displays the detailed information that is currently reported in the GIMCS report. Therefore, the staff will be modifying the current quarterly report to eliminate the detailed information contained in an enclosure of the GIMCS report and will simply provide a link to the GI Dashboard. This effort will help increase the efficiency of the staff.

The changes described above will keep the Commission fully and currently informed, reduce administrative burden on the staff, and ensure that the NRC communicates relevant information on GIs to internal and external stakeholders in a timely and more accessible manner.

² <http://gid.nrc.gov/planning>

³ <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/gen-issues/dashboard.html>

Therefore, the staff requests that the Commission approve the following recommendation:

- Change the frequency of the staff report on GI status to the Commission from quarterly to semiannually, utilizing the information in NRC's semiannual report to Congress and a link to the GI dashboard. Staff would provide these semiannual updates by email as directed in SRM-COMSECY-13-0009.

SECY please track.

cc: SECY
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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE FREQUENCY OF STAFF REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION REGARDING THE STATUS OF GENERIC ISSUES: DATE: MARCH 23, 2017

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML16298A117

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