

RESPONSE SHEET

TO: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

FROM: CHAIRMAN SVINICKI

SUBJECT: COMSECY-17-0004: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF  
PROJECT AIM INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION  
PLAN TASK NO. 19 - LICENSING BUSINESS  
PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

Approved XX Disapproved    Abstain    Not Participating   

Comments: Below XX Attached    None   

The staff's activities discussed in this COMSECY, when viewed as a whole, describe a thorough and systematic look at processes integral to effective execution of licensing work within the operating reactor business line. As a result of this systematic look, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has modified, in a substantive way, a number of its internal processes and has institutionalized these changes through revised office instructions, internal memoranda, new and modified internal performance metrics, and other internal controls and enhanced management oversight measures. Although perhaps not meeting the formal definition of a business process improvement review (a unique term of art), these actions clearly constitute and capture the fundamental objectives of such a review. This, coupled with the circumstance that a formal business process improvement initiative is generally recommended to be undertaken at a time when the processes under review have been stable for some time, a circumstance not existing at the present time, lends soundness to the staff's recommendation that the Commission offer relief from the direction to conduct such a review. I approve the staff's request to close the task on this basis. Should the staff's improvements not be durable, the new control and monitoring measures will provide early awareness of this fact and corrective measures to address any decline can be crafted, on an informed basis, by the Commission and staff at that time.

  
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02/ 24 /17  
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DATE

Entered on "STARS" Yes  No

**RESPONSE SHEET**

**TO:** Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

**FROM:** Commissioner Baran

**SUBJECT:** COMSECY-17-0004: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF PROJECT AIM INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TASK NO. 19 - LICENSING BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

Approved  Disapproved  Abstain  Not Participating

COMMENTS: Below  Attached  None

During 2013 and 2014, a significant backlog of operating reactor licensing actions developed, in large part due to the need to focus considerable agency resources on post-Fukushima safety enhancements. As part of Project Aim, the Commission tasked the NRC staff with conducting a business process improvement review of the operating reactor licensing process in order to enhance the predictability, timeliness, and efficiency of reviews. Over the last two years, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation took a number of actions to improve the licensing action review process, including the establishment of realistic schedules, increased attention to requests for additional information, and better communications with licensees. The process improvements were accompanied by enhanced performance monitoring and tracking, more management oversight, and the revision of relevant guidance documents. As a result of the initiative, the number of licensing actions pending for more than a year dropped from 112 in November 2014 to just 10 in September 2016. In fiscal year 2016, the staff met its timeliness metric of completing 95% of operating reactor licensing actions within one year.

Based on the demonstrated results of the staff's process improvements, I approve the staff's recommendation to close this Project Aim task. Although the staff did not formally label its activities a business process improvement review, the staff examined each step of the licensing process, made adjustments, and met the ultimate goals of such a review. The staff has reasonably concluded that another examination of the licensing process at this time is not likely to generate additional efficiencies.

**Entered in "STARS"**

Yes

No

  
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2/21/17  
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**RESPONSE SHEET**

**TO:** Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

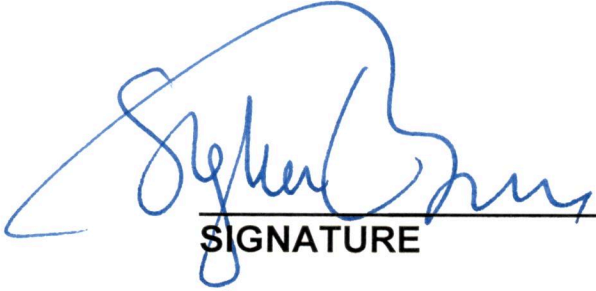
**FROM:** Commissioner Burns

**SUBJECT:** COMSECY-17-0004: PROPOSED CLOSURE OF  
PROJECT AIM INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION  
PLAN TASK NO. 19 - LICENSING BUSINESS  
PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

Approved  X  Disapproved      Abstain      Not Participating       
Comments: Below  X  Attached      None    

The staff in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is to be commended for its efforts that have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of licensing actions older than one year. I approve Staff's recommendation to close Task No. 19. I encourage staff to sustain its efforts to maintain and improve a high performing licensing program. I further support NRR's initiative to clearly articulate what constitutes our statutory mandate of "reasonable assurance" as it pertains to licensing reviews.

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Yes     
No

  
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3 February 2017  
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**DATE**