



OFFICE OF THE  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

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

March 29, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: Victor M. McCree  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Dr. Brett M. Baker */RA/*  
Assistant Inspector General for Audits

SUBJECT: STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS: AUDIT OF NRC'S  
OVERSIGHT OF 10 CFR 50.59, "CHANGES, TESTS, AND  
EXPERIMENTS" (OIG-16-A-19)

REFERENCE: DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR REACTOR AND  
PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS MEMORANDUM DATED  
MARCH 13, 2017

Attached is the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) analysis and status of recommendations as discussed in the agency's response dated March 13, 2017. Based on this response, all recommendations are now closed.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me at (301) 415-5915 or Paul Rades, Team Leader, at (301) 415-6228.

Attachment: As stated

cc: R. Lewis, OEDO  
H. Rasouli, OEDO  
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EDO\_ACS Distribution Resource

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF 10 CFR 50.59, "CHANGES, TESTS, AND EXPERIMENTS."

OIG-16-A-19

#### Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Implement a structured approach for 10 CFR 50.59 process management that includes guidance clarification and coordination of program communications.

Agency Response Dated  
March 13, 2017:

Action Complete. In October 2016, the 10 CFR 50.59 process owner has relocated from the Division of Policy and Rulemaking (DPR) to the Division of Inspection and Regional Support (DIRS) within the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR). NRR believes the transition of this capability to DIRS will better align this capability within the suite of support functions to the regions that currently reside in DIRS. It will also address the Office of the Inspector General concerns regarding the staff approaching knowledgeable staff in both DPR and DIRS regarding 10 CFR 50.59 process questions, by housing this support function in the division where the regions get most of their support. In order to leverage 10 CFR 50.59 expertise, DIRS has communicated with regional and NRR staff to contact DIRS when 10 CFR 50.59 challenges arise. This will better ensure consistency across the agency and provide for program communications and guidance clarifications. DIRS has communicated with regional and NRR staff via (1) a biweekly call with the regions and other offices on February 3, 2017, (2) issuance of a quarterly inspector newsletter on January 31, 2017, (3) an e-mail to all NRR technical assistants on January 30, 2017, and (4) an e-mail to all NRR branch chiefs on February 6, 2017. Records of such internal communications can be forwarded via e-mail if desired.

**Completion Date:** 2/6/2017

**Point of Contact:** Christopher M. Regan, NRR/DIRS  
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**Audit Report**

**AUDIT OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF 10 CFR 50.59, "CHANGES, TESTS, AND EXPERIMENTS."**

**OIG-16-A-19**

**Status of Recommendations**

Recommendation 1 (cont'd):

**OIG Analysis:** The actions described above meet the intent of this recommendation. This recommendation is now closed.

**Status:** Closed.

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF 10 CFR 50.59, "CHANGES, TESTS, AND EXPERIMENTS."

OIG-16-A-19

#### Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2: Implement recurring 10 CFR 50.59 training with an emphasis on scope, depth, and periodicity of training.

Agency Response Dated  
March 13, 2017:

Action Complete. The Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer (OCHCO) has incorporated training on 10 CFR 50.59 into the refresher courses (R-904 B/P) to implement recurring training. These courses are required on a periodic basis (every three to six years) by inspectors qualified to Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 1245, Appendixes C1 and C2 in order to maintain inspection qualifications in accordance with IMC 1245, Appendix D1, "Maintaining Qualifications."

The first offering of the updated refresher courses is later this fiscal year. Student feedback will be used to evaluate topic scope and depth, and to identify any needed modifications. Training material on the 10 CFR 50.59 process will be maintained current by periodic reviews, including coordination with applicable IMC working groups.

The below additional actions have also been completed. OCHCO developed a new iLearn training course to enhance inspector understanding of the 10 CFR 50.59 process. In 2016, this course was assigned and completed by inspectors who conduct 10 CFR 50.59 inspections.

The staff revised qualification requirements in December 2016, to ensure qualifying inspectors received this new training on the 10 CFR 50.59 process. Specifically, the staff revised IMC 1245, "Qualification Program for New and Operating Reactor Programs" to require completion of the 10 CFR 50.59 training course for inspectors qualified to Appendix C-1, "Reactor Operations Inspector Technical Proficiency Training and Qualification Journal" and Appendix C-2, "Reactor Engineering Inspector Technical Proficiency

## Audit Report

### AUDIT OF NRC'S OVERSIGHT OF 10 CFR 50.59, "CHANGES, TESTS, AND EXPERIMENTS."

OIG-16-A-19

#### Status of Recommendations

Recommendation 2 (cont'd):

Agency Response Dated  
March 13, 2017:

Training and Qualification Journal." Additionally, OCHCO incorporated course material on 10 CFR 50.59 into required training for inspectors qualifying to Appendix C1 and C2, namely, the advanced technology series courses (R-504 B/P).

**Completion Date:** 12/31/2016

**Points of Contact:**

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OIG Analysis:

The actions described above meet the intent of this recommendation. This recommendation is now closed.

**Status:**

Closed.