

March 17, 2000

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NOTE TO: Frank J. Congel, Director
Incident Response Operations

FROM: Peter Prescott, Technical Assistant
Incident Response Operations

SUBJECT: INCIDENT RESPONSE FUNCTION SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

Attached is an Executive Summary which presents the results of an independent review entitled "Incident Response Function Self-Assessment Report" (SA) dated March 29, 1999. Also attached is the memorandum from you to the Deputy Executive Director for Regulatory Effectiveness regarding the "Status of IRO's Implementation of the Planning, Budgeting and Performance Management Process."

The SA and status memorandum identify initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Incident Response Program. The reviews were performed as a continuing effort to support the Agency's commitment for meeting the requirements of "The Government Performance and Results Act" and NRC's Strategic Plan through the implementation of the Planning, Budgeting and Performance Management Process (PBPM).

During the self-assessment, the IRO staff was involved with the evaluation of the SA team's recommended initiatives with regard to the potential for risk and safety significant aspects of the recommendation. As a result, the IRO staff expeditiously implemented several of the risk significant recommendations prior to the completion of the self assessment.

To date, the IRO staff has reviewed all recommendations and has implemented or is in the process of implementing the additional specific effectiveness and efficiency improvements which were assessed by IRO management as requiring additional action and resolution. The status regarding the resolution of these subject recommendations will be documented and systematically tracked via the "IRO Lessons Learned Tracking System."

In the future, the IRO staff intends to periodically revisit the remaining recommendations identified in the SA and status memorandum (and implement, as necessary, any additional insights gained) in an effort to assess how well IRO is meeting the established goals and to critically and objectively assess the effectiveness and efficiency of IRO's existing programs.

The SA Executive Summary and status memorandum will be placed on the NRC WEB Page, and in the Public Document Room and ADAMS for public access. Inquiries concerning the SA report should be referred to the Director of Incident Response Operations or to the Technical Assistant at 301-415-7476.

Attachments: As stated

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