

**POLICY ISSUE
(Information)**

August 28, 2009

SECY-09-0122

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: Thomas M. Boyce, Director
Office of Information Services

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO STAFF REQUIREMENTS MEMORANDUM M081215B TO ASSESS INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVES WITHIN THE DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN TO DETERMINE ANY INITIATIVES ON WHICH IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ACT IN THE NEAR TERM TO BRING SOME RECOVERY CAPABILITIES ONLINE SOONER

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this paper is to respond to Staff Requirements Memorandum M081215B, dated January 8, 2009, by outlining initiatives identified during the Disaster Recovery Plan (DR Plan) development effort which have the potential of being implemented prior to availability of full disaster recovery funding.

BACKGROUND:

Based on guidance received at a December 2007 briefing to the Commission, the Office of Information Services (OIS) staff has been developing a strategy to implement an agencywide disaster recovery program. As a result, in July 2008, a contract to write a DR Plan was issued. The plan consists of a risk analysis, Business Impact Analysis (BIA), risk mitigation strategies, and preliminary recommendations for an alternate site location to house critical Information Technology (IT) assets.

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The risk analysis portion of the plan which was completed in October 2008 identified potential risks to the NRC data centers located at both One White Flint North (OWFN) and Two White Flint North (TWFN). The BIA, which was partially completed at the time of a December 2008 briefing to the Commission (the basis of this SRM request), identified several representative initiatives that had the potential of being implemented prior to full funding and implementation of the DR Plan. With the BIA data collection effort still ongoing, the Commission requested an update via this SRM for a more complete listing of candidate initiatives.

DISCUSSION:

As a result of the completion of the BIA in June 2009, a more comprehensive list of “near-term” risk mitigation initiatives has been assembled that are either in the process of being accomplished (Ongoing) or are viable candidates to be acted upon in the near term to mitigate risks and support end-state disaster recovery requirements (Planned). Table 1.1 below provides a list of initiatives denoting specific areas of applicability, a brief description of the initiative and corresponding benefit related to disaster recovery, and the current status of the initiative.

Table 1.1 Near-Term Risk Mitigation Initiatives

Applicability	Near-Term Initiative and Benefit	Status
ADAMS	<p><u>Initiative</u> - Enhance ADAMS Main Library backup and recovery capability from the current tape-based system to a real-time replication model.</p> <p><u>Benefit</u> - Will significantly decrease the recovery time of ADAMS in the event of a disaster from the current 48 hours.</p>	Ongoing
Citrix	<p><u>Initiative</u> - Explore expanding the number of Citrix licenses to allow broader access by more NRC staff that would be required to work from home or an alternate site in the event of a disaster at the NRC Headquarters complex.</p> <p><u>Benefit</u> - Expanded Citrix access would support requirements for both disaster recovery and the agency’s “working from anywhere” initiative. It is anticipated that Citrix combined with Virtual Private Network (VPN) technology currently being explored would significantly enhance overall access to critical applications/systems.</p>	Ongoing
Data Center Risk Mitigation Implementation	<p><u>Initiative</u> - Continue implementation of Global Data Center Risk Mitigation recommendations identified in a data center study conducted in 2008.</p> <p><u>Benefit</u> - This effort is ongoing with recommendations being implemented as time and funding permit. Implementation of these initiatives support long-range planning focused on server virtualization and expansion of storage area network (SAN) technology essential for effective disaster recovery implementation.</p>	Ongoing

Table 1.1 Near-Term Risk Mitigation Initiatives

Applicability	Near-Term Initiative and Benefit	Status
Development and Modernization Initiates	<p><u>Initiative</u> - Participate on current and planned application/system development and modernization teams to ensure that DR capability is designed into the solution on the front end.</p> <p><u>Benefit</u> - Will ensure that disaster recovery considerations are identified early in the development process and designed into the solution precluding the need for architectural retrofitting after development is complete.</p>	Ongoing
NRC Public-Facing Web Site	<p><u>Initiative</u> - Re-location of the NRC's public Web site to a third-party hosting facility equipped to support high availability service on a 24x7 basis even in the event of a disaster at the NRC HQ.</p> <p><u>Benefit</u> - This solution provides for high availability of the Web site with redundant capability to maintain service on a 24x7 basis. The OIS is progressing with this initiative and expects to obtain Authority to Operate (ATO) by the end of the second quarter of FY 2010.</p>	Ongoing
BlackBerry	<p><u>Initiative</u> - Expand BlackBerry Pin-to-Pin capability to key staff in addition to the current COOP Management Team (CMT).</p> <p><u>Benefit</u> - Expanded BlackBerry Pin-to-Pin capability to other NRC staff members would provide an alternate means of data sharing and communications to not only support COOP requirements, but disaster recovery and pandemic initiatives as well.</p>	Planned
Contingency Plans	<p><u>Initiative</u> - Assist in the update and validation of existing contingency plans for specific applications/systems.</p> <p><u>Benefit</u> - Will result in improved documented procedures in the near term while laying the foundation of standardization to support the end-state agencywide disaster recovery program.</p>	Planned
Data Center Emergency and Incident Response Plan	<p><u>Initiative</u> – Develop a Data Center Emergency and Incident Response Plan to provide detailed response procedures for risks identified in the disaster recovery risk analysis.</p> <p><u>Benefit</u> - Development of a single coordinated plan will mitigate risks in the near term while laying the foundation for comprehensive response procedures supporting the end-state disaster recovery solution.</p>	Planned

RESOURCES:

The focus of this staff requirements memorandum is to assess individual initiatives within the DR Plan to determine any initiatives where it may be possible to take action in the near term to bring some recovery capabilities online sooner. The risk mitigation initiatives identified in this paper are either in the process of being accomplished or are viable candidates for implementation in the near term with existing resources. These initiatives will also be further assessed to determine the most effective approach to enhance their disaster recovery capabilities in the long term when full funding for disaster recovery becomes available.

CONCLUSION:

The OIS will continue to evaluate the findings and recommendations resulting from ongoing DR Plan development activities to identify and implement near-term disaster prevention and recovery capabilities as resources and funding permit. In the meantime, the OIS will continue to develop long-term IT system-specific technical design and organizational implementation plans required for the formulation of funding requirements to support full-scale DR Plan deployment. Throughout FY 2010, the OIS will continue to keep the Commission informed through various communication avenues as appropriate, with respect to disaster recovery plans and outcomes.

COORDINATION:

The Office of the General Counsel has reviewed this notification and has no legal objection.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this notification and concurs.

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