



REQUEST REPLY BY: 2/16/07

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

February 2, 2007

Approve, subject to the
attached comments.

MEMORANDUM TO:

Chairman Klein
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons


Dale E. Klein

02/9/07

FROM:


Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT:

CHANGE IN PRIORITIES OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY
COMMISSION'S CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

This memorandum requests Commission approval to change the priorities of the staff's efforts to certify and accredit information technology (IT) systems. This change is consistent with guidance recently received from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) staff following their review of the NRC system descriptions and business cases (Exhibit 300s) provided with the agency FY 2008 budget request.

As background, in September 2005, the NRC's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) evaluation of NRC's implementation of the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) found that the majority of the agency's IT systems were operating under an Interim Authority to Operate (IATO), which does not convey full accreditation. In response to the OIG evaluation and direction from former Chairman Diaz, the NRC's approach to the Certification and Accreditation (C&A) process was adjusted to place priority on financial systems and infrastructure systems, all of which are legacy systems.

In a December 15, 2005, memorandum, former Chairman Diaz directed the staff to "...refocus the accreditation and certification activities on the highest priority systems that are mission critical and those that potentially pose a higher security risk." The first five systems prioritized to obtain an Authority to Operate (ATO) were License Fees Reporting System (Fees), National Source Tracking System (NSTS), Human Resources Management System (HRMS), Local Area Network/Wide Area Network (LAN/WAN), and Data Center System (DCS).

CONTACT: Myron Kemerer, OIS/BPIAD
(301) 415-8735

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CHAIRMAN KLEIN'S VOTE ON COMSECY-07-0003

I approve staff's recommendation to refocus attention to newer systems which can be certified within a shorter time frame and lower costs. However, in developing the action plan, staff should continue to place emphasis on completing certification and accreditation (C&A) for the legacy systems and the National Source Tracking System. These systems were set as the highest priority based on the criteria set forth by former Chairman Diaz, that staff should "... focus the accreditation and certification activities on the highest priority systems that are mission critical and those that potentially pose a higher security risk." Although I agree that we should refocus our efforts to achieve accreditation of four systems by the end of March 2007, I believe the risk-based approach remains valid. Consequently, the former approach should not be completely abandoned and in setting priorities our legacy systems should be given at least a medium priority.

Further, I commend the staff for having a sound process for developing and assessing security controls of information systems to meet the latest IT standards. However, we should make every effort to not encumber our progress toward meeting the standards by insisting on absolute perfection. Staff should continue to make improvements in the process so ensure that it is effective and efficient, while achieving FISMA compliance and strong security controls for our IT systems.

DK

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MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Klein
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FROM: *Luis A. Reyes*
 Luis A. Reyes
 Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: CHANGE IN PRIORITIES OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY
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Approved
E. M. Goffey Jr.
2/5/07

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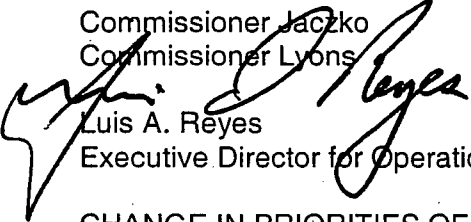
Approved

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the Executive Director for Operations, Luis A. Reyes.

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FROM:


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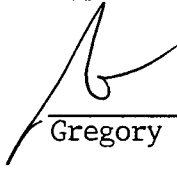
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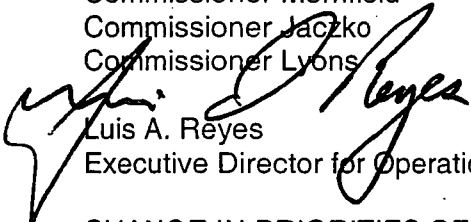
MEMORANDUM TO:

Chairman Klein
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 Commissioner Lyons


 Gregory B. Jaczko

 2/19/07
 Date

FROM:


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 Executive Director for Operations

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