

The findings were released in a September 23, 2015, report, *Audit of NRC's Oversight of Low-Level Radioactive Waste* (OIG-15-A-20). The audit found that the NRC has the requisite processes in place for overseeing LLW stored at operating commercial nuclear power plants, but that improvements could be made. Finding that NRC staff, inspectors, and management had widely varying definitions for "long-term storage," the OIG recommended that the agency's executive director for operations define the term in all future NRC documents or eliminate the term altogether.

According to the OIG, the lack of a cohesive understanding regarding the meaning of "long-term storage" stems from changing NRC policy. Previously, the NRC had a five-year limit on the length of time that LLW could be stored at a nuclear power plant before it had to be shipped to a disposal facility. At that time, NRC guidance documents defined "long-term" as meaning the life of the plant. The NRC lifted the five-year time limit in 1994 but continued to use the term "long-term storage."

The OIG audit also found a lack of communication among NRC internal offices and regional offices pertaining to transportation regulations, and that the agency's established mechanism for informing regional offices of updates to transportation regulations is being circumvented. To prevent inspectors from conducting inspections based on outdated transportation regulations, the OIG recommended that the NRC develop a mechanism to inform the regional offices of updates. This could be done through refresher training, monthly calls, or webinars, the

OIG said.

The OIG's report can be accessed through the NRC's website at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/insp-gen/.

EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency announced on October 1, 2015, that it has completed a record of decision (ROD) outlining a detailed plan for cleaning up the Nuclear Metals Inc. site in Concord, Mass. The cost of the cleanup is estimated at about \$125 million.

Nuclear Metals produced depleted uranium products, primarily as penetrators for armor-piercing ammunition, and specialty metal products at the site, beginning in 1958. The operations resulted in contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater, according to the EPA. The ROD explains the various cleanup options chosen by the EPA for the site. The EPA selected a cleanup plan that includes the excavation and off-site disposal of sediments and soil located outside of the site's holding basin, the stabilization of holding basin soils, and the containment of those soils with a vertical wall and a horizontal cover. The ROD also includes the treatment and monitoring of groundwater at the site.

● In a settlement with the Environmental Protection Agency, Energy Future Holdings has agreed to pay \$2 million to clean up uranium mines in northwest New Mexico, it was reported by



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