

The Department of Energy Tiger Teams; Analysis
of Findings and Plans for the Future

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Since mid-1989, the Department of Energy (DOE) has used "Tiger Teams" to provide independent oversight and assessments of the compliance and management of environment, safety, and health programs in DOE facilities. These assessments have provided the Secretary of Energy with not only the current compliance status of each facility together with the associated vulnerabilities, but also have identified root causes for noncompliance. By mid-1992, Tiger Team assessments will be completed for all major DOE facilities (production, research, and testing facilities) as well as a number of smaller or less complex sites.

An analysis of the findings from all assessments including root causes and trends, will be presented. Particular emphasis will be placed on the technical safety appraisals of the radiation protection programs and on related industrial hygiene, occupational safety, and environment compliance issues. The emerging role of "self-assessment" offices within DOE program offices, and the subsequent changing role of independent oversight through Tiger Team assessments will be discussed.