



Meeting with Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board on NRC's Reactor Oversight Process

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NRC Mission Statement

- Primary mission is to protect public health and safety, and the environment from the effects of radiation from nuclear reactors, materials, and waste facilities.



NRC Oversight

- Licensees have primary responsibility for safe operation of their facilities.
- NRC is licensing authority and provides independent oversight of licensee activities.



NRC Strategic Performance Goals

- Maintain Safety
- Enhance Public Confidence
- Make NRC Activities and Decisions More Effective, Efficient and Realistic
- Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burden



Reactor Oversight Process Development

- Took over 2 years to develop and continues to evolve
- Involved extensive stakeholder involvement
- A risk-informed process was developed to determine significance of inspection issues
- Inspection and assessment procedures were revised



Reactor Oversight Process Development (cont'd)

- Now acknowledged by industry as having improved NRC objectivity, predictability, consistency, and understandability
- NRC continuing to improve the ROP
- Risk assessment, inspection focus areas and performance indicators are being emphasized



Reactor Oversight Process Resources

- Degree of NRC oversight did not substantially change from previous program
- Inspections are better focused on areas of potentially greater risk significance to public
- About 5000 inspection hours per year for a 2-Unit reactor site is minimum inspection effort
- Inspection hours increased by supplemental inspection if declining performance occurs or when important operational events occur
- Assessment process is more predictable and understandable but overall effort is about same



Credit for Licensee Self-Assessments

- NRC evaluating a process which would provide licensees credit for self-assessments in lieu of certain NRC inspections
- Self-assessments overseen by NRC inspectors and include industry individuals external to the organization being assessed
- Issues identified entered into licensee corrective action program and subject to further NRC review
- NRC consideration only after a thorough review of the pilot program results



Pros and Cons of Self-assessment Option

- Likely savings for industry and NRC
- Enhanced cross training of licensee personnel
- Potential that self-assessments not as rigorous as NRC inspections
- Insufficient incentives for licensees to identify issues