

# New Nuclear Plants - New Momentum

NRC Regulatory Information  
Conference (Session TH-1)

March 15, 2001

Ron Simard

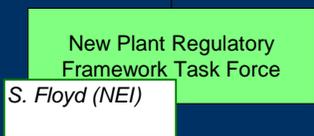
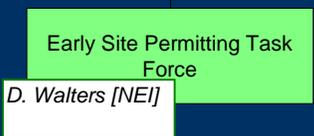
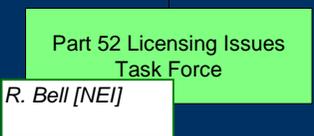
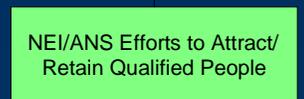
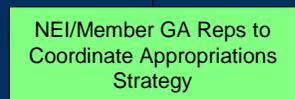
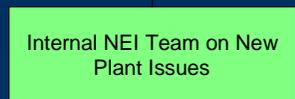
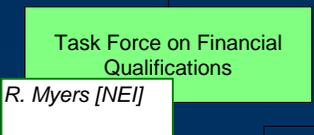
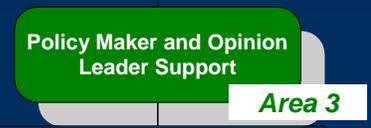
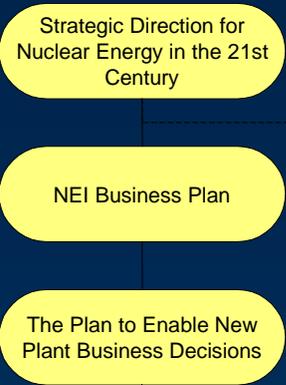
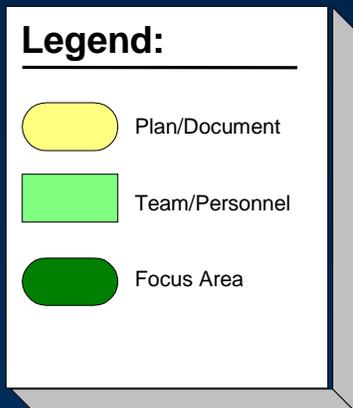
Nuclear Energy Institute



# Why renewed interest in nuclear?

- 30% increase in electricity demand by 2020
- Fresh evidence of fossil fuel cost volatility
- Need for emission-free generation
- Improved performance of existing plants
- Improved regulatory environment
- Consolidation of nuclear generators

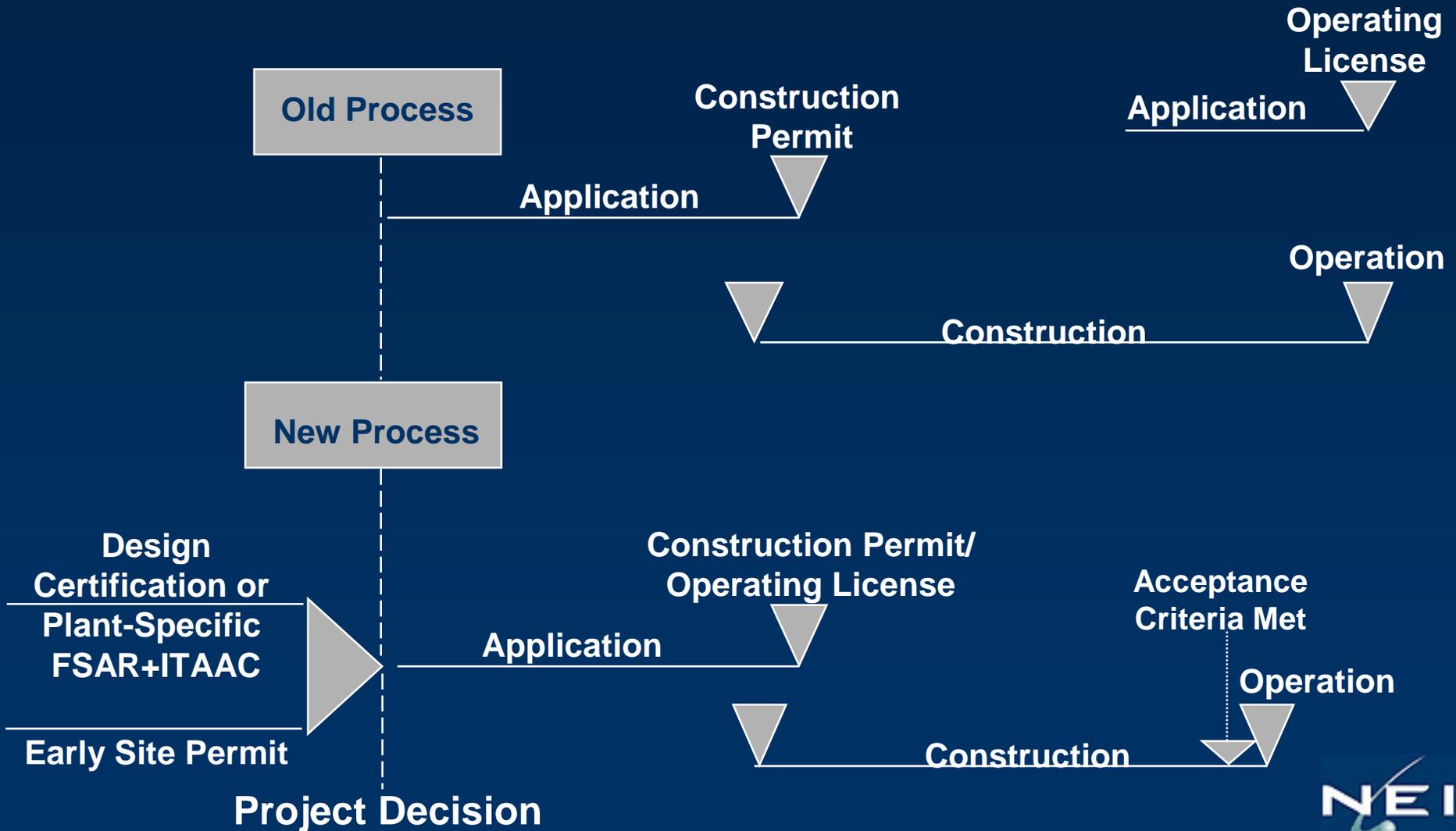
# Activities in Support of New Plant Deployment



# Focus of efforts to pave the way for new plants

- Predictable licensing and stable regulation
- Options for ownership, risk sharing and project financing
- Policymaker support (Administration, Congress and others)
- Infrastructure, e.g., people, to support new and current plants

# New Licensing Process Significantly Reduces Project Risk



# Predictable Licensing and Stable Regulation

- Part 52 Licensing Issues Task Force
  - Ensure confidence in licensing, construction inspection and start-up processes
- Early Site Permit Task Force
  - Initiate early site permit project
- Regulatory Framework Task Force
  - Establish generic design and operating criteria for new designs

# Focus of efforts to pave the way for new plants

- Predictable licensing and stable regulation
- Options for ownership, risk sharing and project financing
- Policymaker and public support (Congress Administration, and others)
- Infrastructure, e.g., people, to support new and current plants

# Options for ownership, risk sharing and project financing

- Evaluate the business case for new plants and identify possible cost offsets through policy changes or legislation
- Apply experience from similar capital intensive, long-lead projects in other industries
- Seek necessary changes to NRC regulations, e.g., treatment of financial qualifications, decommissioning funding assurance, etc.

# The energy and environmental imperatives

- 400,000 MW of additional capacity needed by 2020 (to replace existing plants that reach end of life and to meet new demand)
- A 50% increase in nuclear capacity would maintain the current contribution of nuclear to energy supply and avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation

# The challenge

## Vision

Ensure the continued role of nuclear power in meeting energy security, environmental imperatives

## Resources

Maintain current high levels of safety and reliability while supporting the need to bring new plants to market