

RIC 2005

Operating Experience

SESSION F2

**“New NRC Reactor Operating
Experience Program”**

Terry Reis

**Chief, Operating Experience Section,
Division of Inspection Program
Management**

Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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NRC Operating Experience

■ Task Force

- Functional elements of sound operating experience (OpE) exist
 - Short term, long term efforts of identifying safety issues
 - Assessing significance
 - Taking actions to address the issues

■ Effectiveness

- Work in concert with agency
 - Inspection, licensing, research programs

NRC Operating Experience

- Objectives of Program
 - OpE is collected, evaluated, communicated, and applied to support agency goal of ensuring safety
 - OpE is used to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and realism of NRC decisions
 - Stakeholders provided with timely, accurate, and balanced information

NRC Operating Experience

■ Accomplishments

- NRC Management Directive 8.7, “Reactor OpE Program,” issued in Draft form for use
 - Clearinghouse as a central organization to:
 - Collect
 - Screen
 - Make available
 - Communicate
 - Project manage decisionmaking

■ New internal gateway or portal

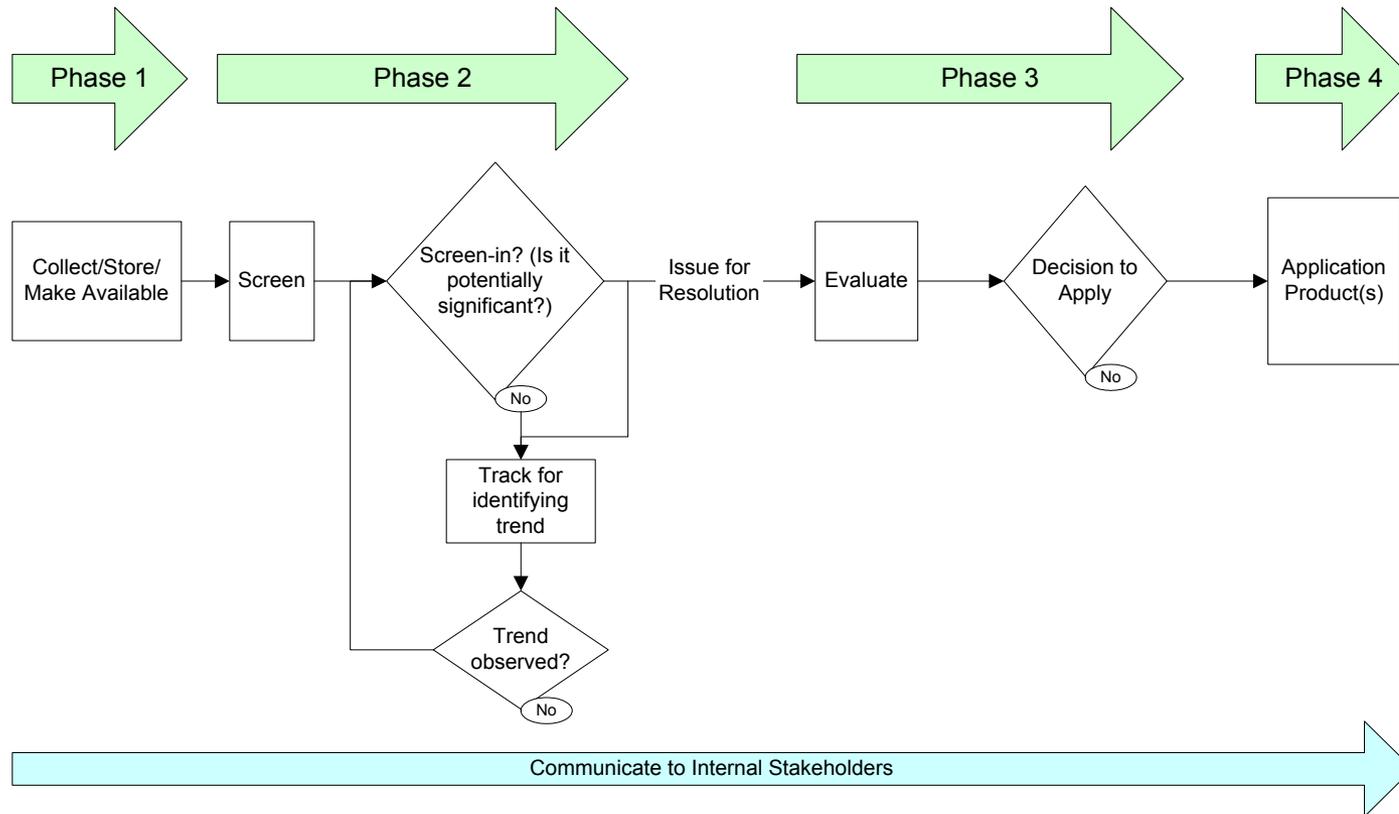
- All OpE accessible to NRC staff via single access point
- Improved search capabilities and techniques
- Targeted communication system - @Operating Experience Community

NRC Operating Experience

- **Program supports regulatory decisionmaking in our core programs**
 - Licensing
 - Oversight
 - Incident Response
 - Rulemaking
 - Physical Security
- **Based on inter-dependent model where all organizations work toward applying operating experience**

Program at a Glance

Overview of OpE Process -- 4 Phases



NRC Operating Experience

- Examples of Current Issues under Evaluation
 - Single failure vulnerability in electrical distribution
 - Tsunami experience
 - Long term loss of emergency diesel generator (EDG) due to unrecognized blown fuse
 - Recirculation pump shaft cracking and vibration
 - Secondary leakage masking primary leakage
 - Carbon dioxide mitigation from fire suppression systems

NRC Operating Experience

- Effectiveness of Improved Communication
 - Anecdotal successes
 - Single failure vulnerability electrical distribution
 - Turbine building flooding
 - Halon misconnections
 - Flow accelerated corrosion
 - Voiding in emergency core cooling systems (ECCS)

Changes Affecting Industry

- Task Force concluded that existing requirements governing licensee review of OpE were adequate
- Expect more direct follow-up of actions taken in response to generic communications

Changes Affecting Industry

- Inspection Procedure 71552, “Identification and Resolution of Problems” Revised
 - Mandatory sampling of generic communication actions biennially
- Generic communications audited during project managers triennial review