



***BRIEFING ON RESEARCH  
AND TEST REACTOR (RTR)  
LICENSE RENEWAL  
STATUS***

***Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation***

***March 27, 2012***

# **AGENDA**

- ***Organizational Structure for RTRs and the License Renewal Backlog and Its Causes***
- ***Backlog Reduction Efforts and Current Status***
- ***Long-Term Plan***

# ***Organizational Structure for RTRs***

- ***Two NRR/DPR Branches Share Responsibility for RTR Oversight and Licensing***
- ***Licensing Branch Responsible for Renewals***
- ***31 NRC Licensed RTRs***

# ***License Renewal Backlog and Its Causes***

- ***Deferral of License Renewal Work***
  - ***Post TMI Safety Initiatives***
  - ***Post 9/11 Security Initiatives***
- ***Delays In Augmenting RTR  
Licensing Staff***
- ***Priority on HEU to LEU Conversion  
Projects***

# ***License Renewal Backlog and Its Causes (con't)***

- ***Limited Licensee Resources***
- ***Formalization of the RTR  
Licensing Infrastructure***
  - ***Defined Format and Content of SARs  
(NUREG-1537 Part 1)***
  - ***Defined Staff's Review Criteria  
(NUREG-1537 Part 2)***

# ***License Renewal Backlog and Its Causes (con't)***

- ***SECY-08-161 Provided Options for Elimination of the Backlog***
- ***SRM Direction for the Short-term***
  - ***Develop Interim Staff Guidance for Focused Reviews***
  - ***Use Graded Approach***
- ***SRM Direction for the Long-Term***
  - ***Streamline the Renewal Process***

# ***Backlog Reduction Efforts***

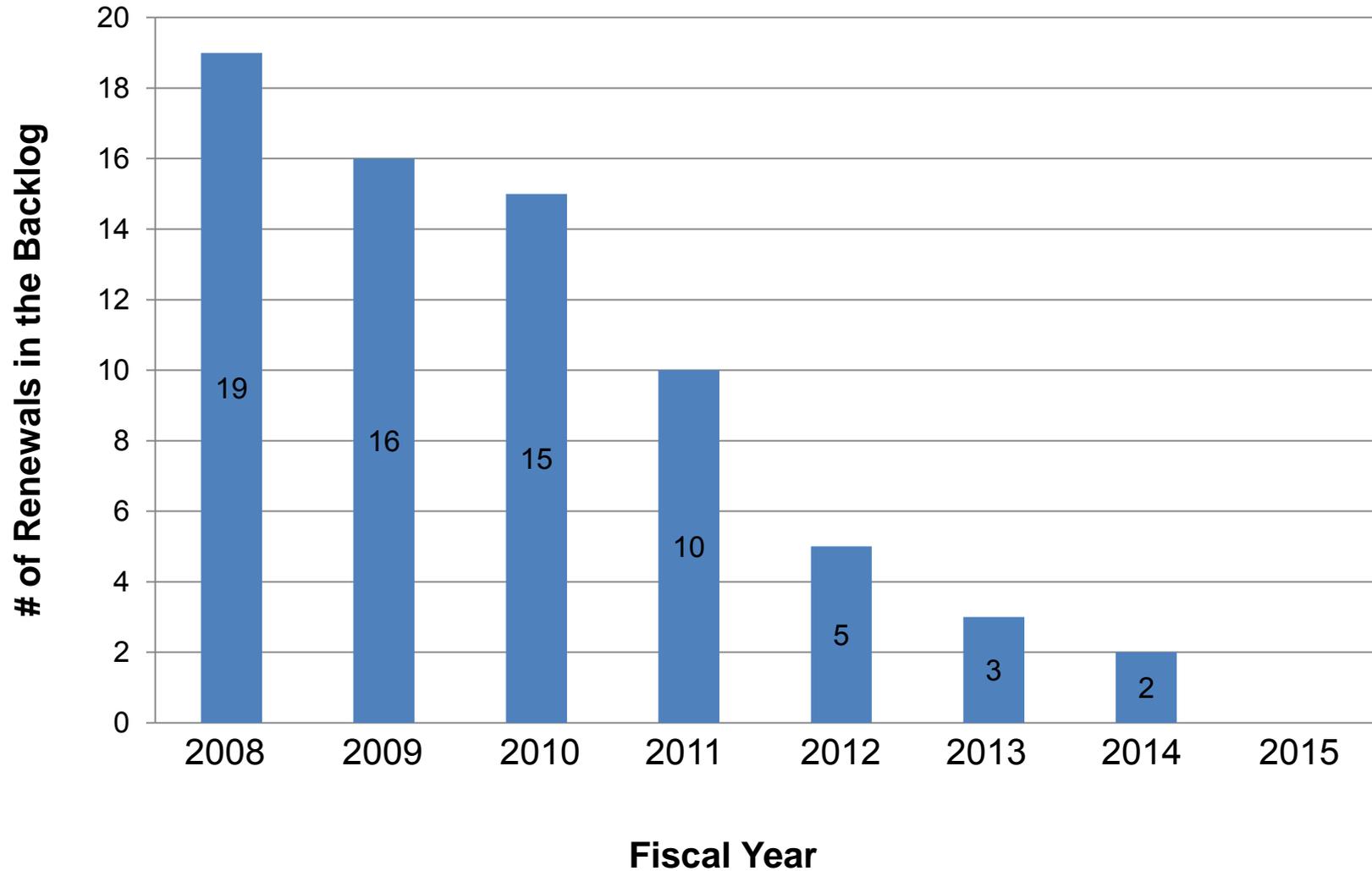
- ***RTR Fully Staffed in 2010***
- ***Implementation of the ISG***
  - ***Focused on Safety and Security***
  - ***Streamlined NRC Review Process***
- ***NRC Highlighted Availability of DOE Resources***

# ***Backlog Reduction Efforts (con't)***

- ***Stakeholder Involvement***
- ***NRC Outreach Activities***
- ***Updated SAR***
  - ***Reflective of Facility Operations***
  - ***Documented Analyses***
  - ***Provides Clarity***

# ***Current Status***

## **RTR Backlog Inventory by Fiscal Year**



# ***The Long-term Plan***

- ***SRM-SECY-08-0161***
- ***SECY-09-0095, Enclosure 2***
- ***Work Commenced in April 2011***

# ***The Long-term Plan (con't)***

- ***Completed Tasks:***
  - ***Analysis of Current Requirements***
  - ***Conducted Two Public Meetings***
  - ***Analysis of the Segregation of RTR Regulations***
  - ***Benchmarking Against Other License Renewal Methodologies***

# ***The Long-term Plan (con't)***

- ***Remaining Work on the Regulatory Basis***
  - ***Staff to Develop Draft Regulatory Basis and Recommendations***
  - ***Hold Public Meeting***
  - ***Develop the Final Regulatory Basis***

# ***The Long-term Plan (con't)***

- ***Beyond the Regulatory Basis:***
  - ***Common Prioritization of Rulemaking Process***
  - ***Ranked as a Medium Priority***
  - ***Proposed Rule Development***
  - ***Implementation of Guidance Development***
  - ***Final Rule Development***

# ***In Summary***

- ***NRC Focused on Emergent Work Resulting in a Backlog***
- ***Staff Actions to Address the Backlog***
  - ***Streamlined Review Process***
  - ***Proactively Engaged Stakeholders***
- ***Significant Reduction of the Backlog***
- ***Developing a Long-term Solution***

# ***Acronyms***

- ***DPR***      ***Division of Policy and Rulemaking***
- ***HEU***      ***Highly Enriched Uranium***
- ***LEU***      ***Low Enriched Uranium***
- ***NRR***      ***Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation***
- ***RTR***      ***Research and Test Reactors***
- ***TMI***      ***Three Mile Island***