



# NRC NEWS

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## NRC Pilots Risk-informed Inspection Changes

Leveraging recent inspection experience and analyses, the NRC is piloting a more [targeted approach](#) to inspections at Honeywell's Metropolis Works uranium conversion plant in Metropolis, Illinois. As the NRC tests this approach, the agency will continue to monitor the facility closely and can increase inspections if needed to maintain safety.

NRC inspections of risk-significant systems and activities will remain unchanged.

This idea came from NRC Region II inspectors, who identified an opportunity based upon updated risk information and the NRC's many years of inspection experience. Agency headquarters approved the implementation of this trial program following a thorough assessment and determination that it would not diminish plant safety.

During the trial period, which will span [calendar year 2026](#), the NRC will monitor impacts from the reduction and could modify the existing inspection program if there are significant events, changes to plant performance, or inspection findings in these non-risk-significant areas. At the end of the year, the NRC will assess the program to inform future allocation of inspection resources at Honeywell and potentially at other facilities. The change is anticipated to result in a potential 25% savings in inspection resources in 2026, and, assuming the pilot is extended, could yield as much as a 40% savings overall for the three-year inspection cycle.

This pilot program is one example of the NRC's efforts to modernize the oversight framework without reducing safety. Innovations such as this can aid in improving efficiency of the NRC's oversight and ensuring that resources are devoted to activities commensurate with their potential risks.

More information on the NRC's approach to risk can be found on the NRC [website](#).

*The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was created as an expert, technical agency to protect public health, safety, and security, and regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including enabling the deployment of nuclear power for the benefit of society. Among other responsibilities, the agency issues licenses, conducts inspections, initiates and enforces regulations, and plans for incident response. The global gold standard for nuclear regulation, the NRC is collaborating with interagency partners to implement reforms outlined in new Executive Orders and the ADVANCE Act to streamline agency activities and enhance efficiency.*