RIC 2004
Licensing Issues
Session W6

Licensing Activities & Issues for Operating Reactors

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Operating Reactor Licensing

- Operating reactor licensing activities among top four major activities in NRR (with new reactors, renewal and ROP)
- With exception of power uprates, most applications are relatively low profile and worked at the staff level
- Important to identify issues as early as possible to ensure appropriate resolution

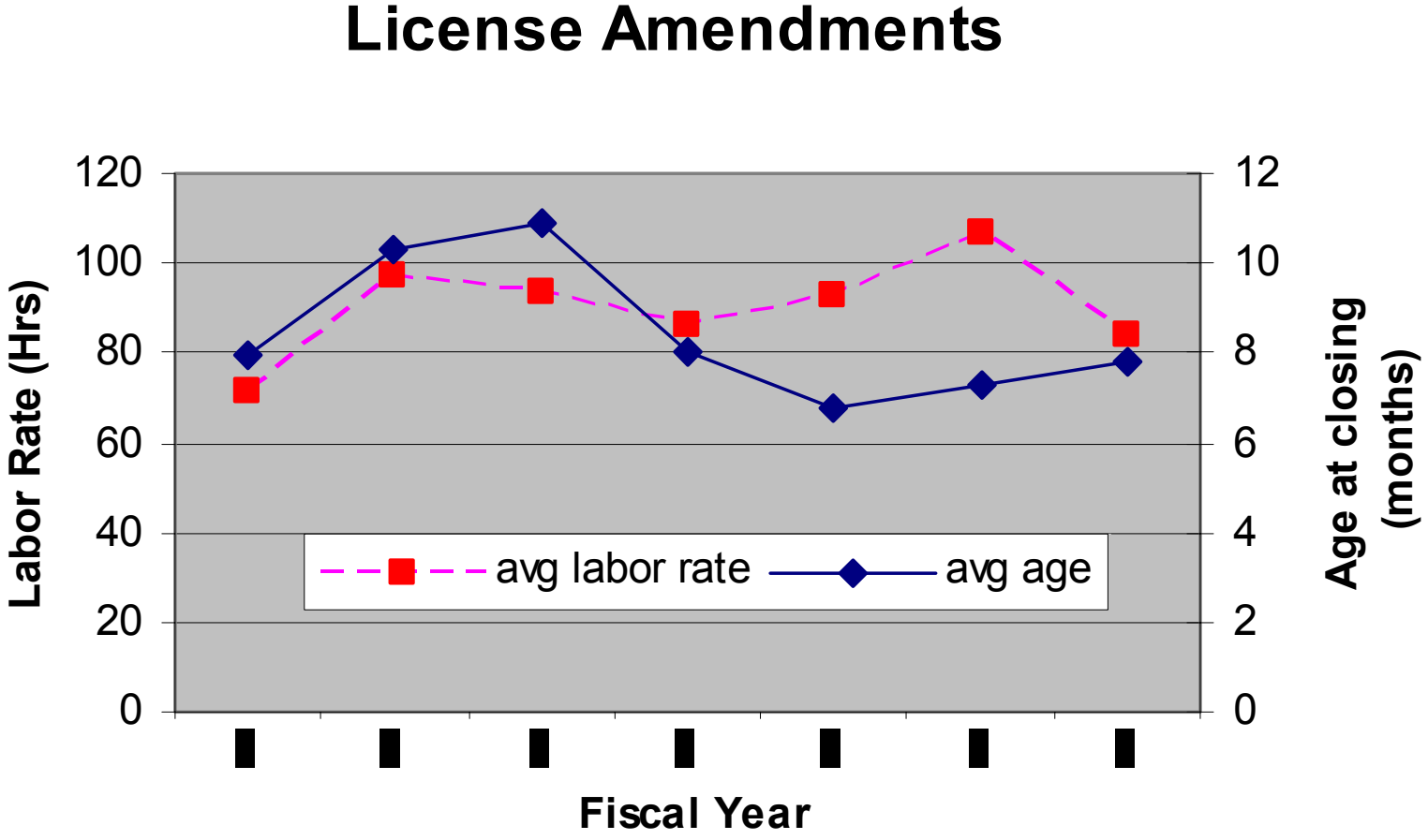
Operating Reactor Licensing

- Effective communication is vital
  - With Project Manager regarding priority, importance, schedule
  - With industry organizations to develop and support generic approaches
  - With LATF regarding any process issues
  - With NRC staff and management regarding problems or possible improvements

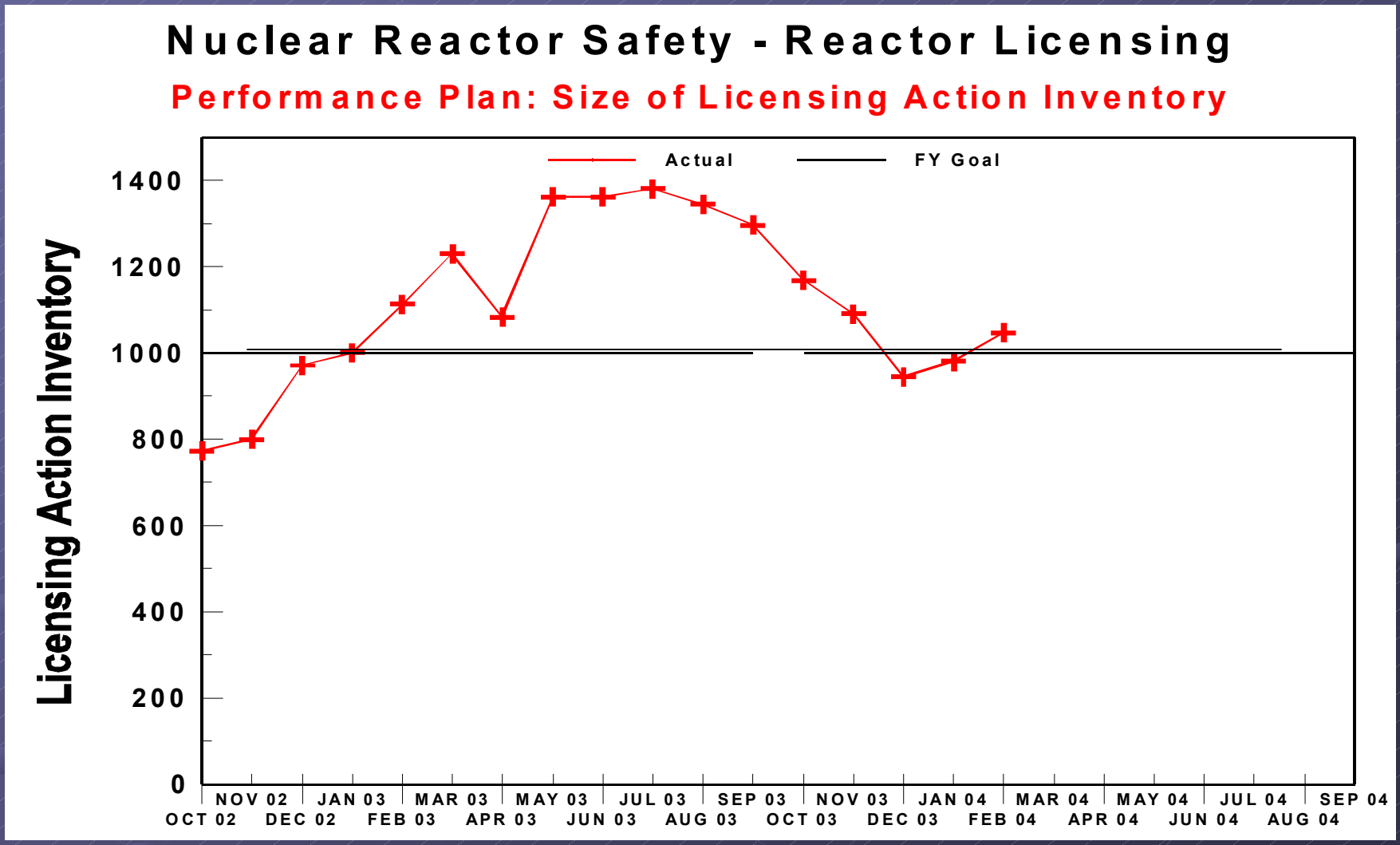
Operating Reactor Licensing

- Licensing Action Performance Goals
  - Complete > 1500 Licensing Actions
  - >96% of actions completed in less than year
  - 100% of actions completed within 2 years
  - Inventory < 1000

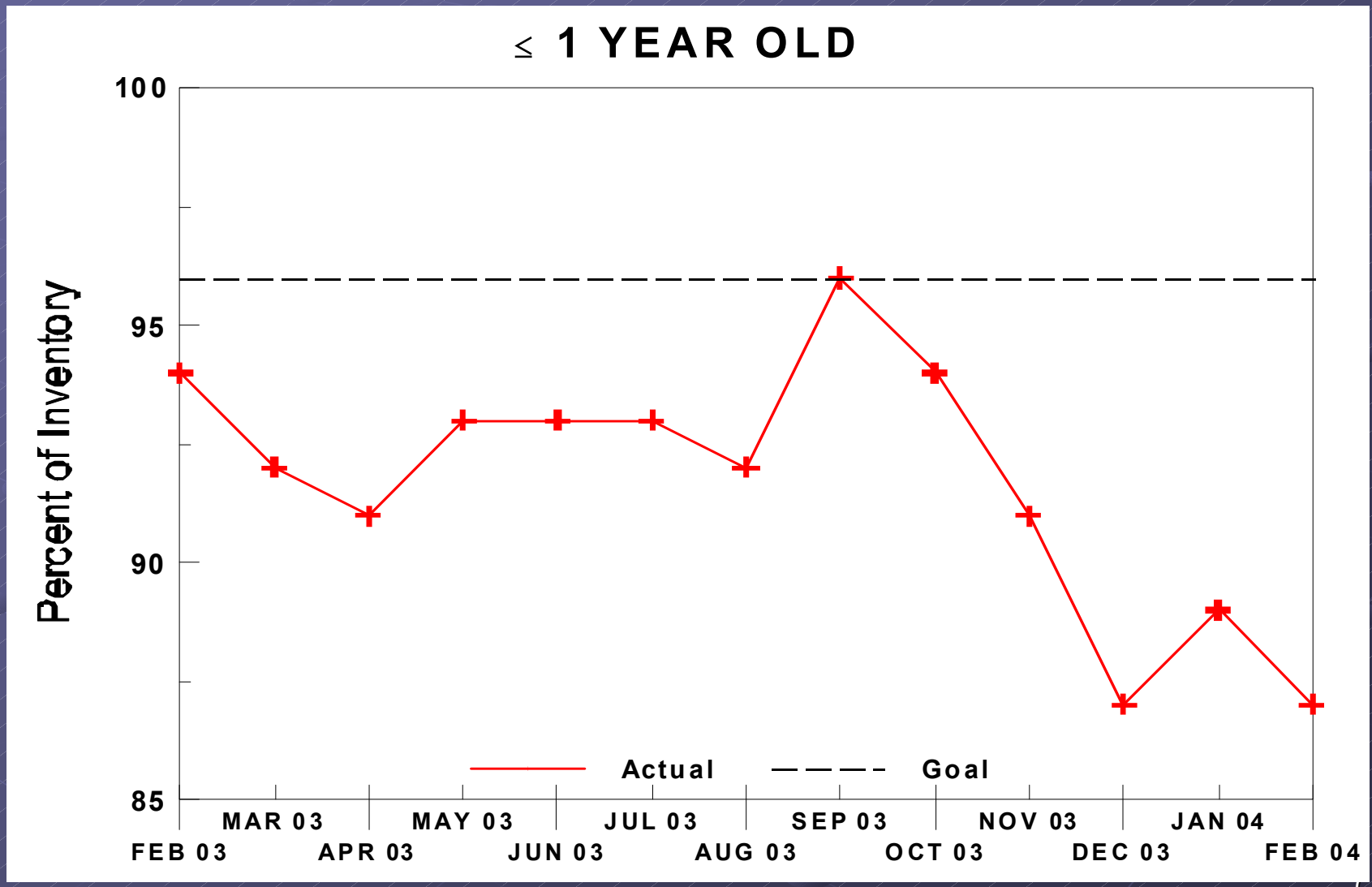
Operating Reactor Licensing



Current Performance Goals



Current Performance Goals



Power Uprates

- Review standard for EPUs (RS-001) issued in December 2003
  - First-of-a-kind document
  - Provides comprehensive guidance
  - Improves effectiveness, efficiency, and predictability
  - Improves communication
- Licensing review process and RS-001 focus on safety

Power Uprates

- Challenges
  - Steam dryer cracking and flow-induced vibration issues (EPUs)
  - AMAG ultrasonic flow instrumentation (MURs)
  - Interpretation of topical reports (Ref: June 25, 2003, letter from NRC to GENE)

Power Uprates

- Steam dryer cracking and flow-induced vibration issues
  - NRC evaluating and assessing generic implications
  - NRC issued Information Notice 2002-26 and Supplements 1 and 2 regarding Quad Cities experience
  - NRC actively engaged with the industry
  - NRC considering regulatory options

Power Uprates

- AMAG ultrasonic flow instrumentation
  - NRC closely monitoring unexpected, small differences in power level indications at Byron and Braidwood
  - NRC evaluating the potential impact of this issue on power uprates
  - NRC considering if regulatory action is required

Challenges

- Competing demands
  - Resources (diverted to other programs, security plan reviews, special projects)
- Personnel turnover (many newer PMs and technical staff)
- Mixed acceptance of changing regulatory approaches
- Increasing requests to adopt changes that differ from longstanding standards and positions
- Need to address identified issues (e.g., LATF white papers)

Some Known Issues/Perceptions

- Need to improve how the revised 50.59 rule is incorporated in a coherent regulatory structure
- Use of precedents
- Requests for additional information
- Escalation of issues
- Specific issues (AST, setpoint methodology)