

# **RIC 2005**

# **Operating Experience**

# **SESSION F2**

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

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**Nuclear Reactor Regulation**

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# NRC Operating Experience

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## ■ 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

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- 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

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## ■ 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

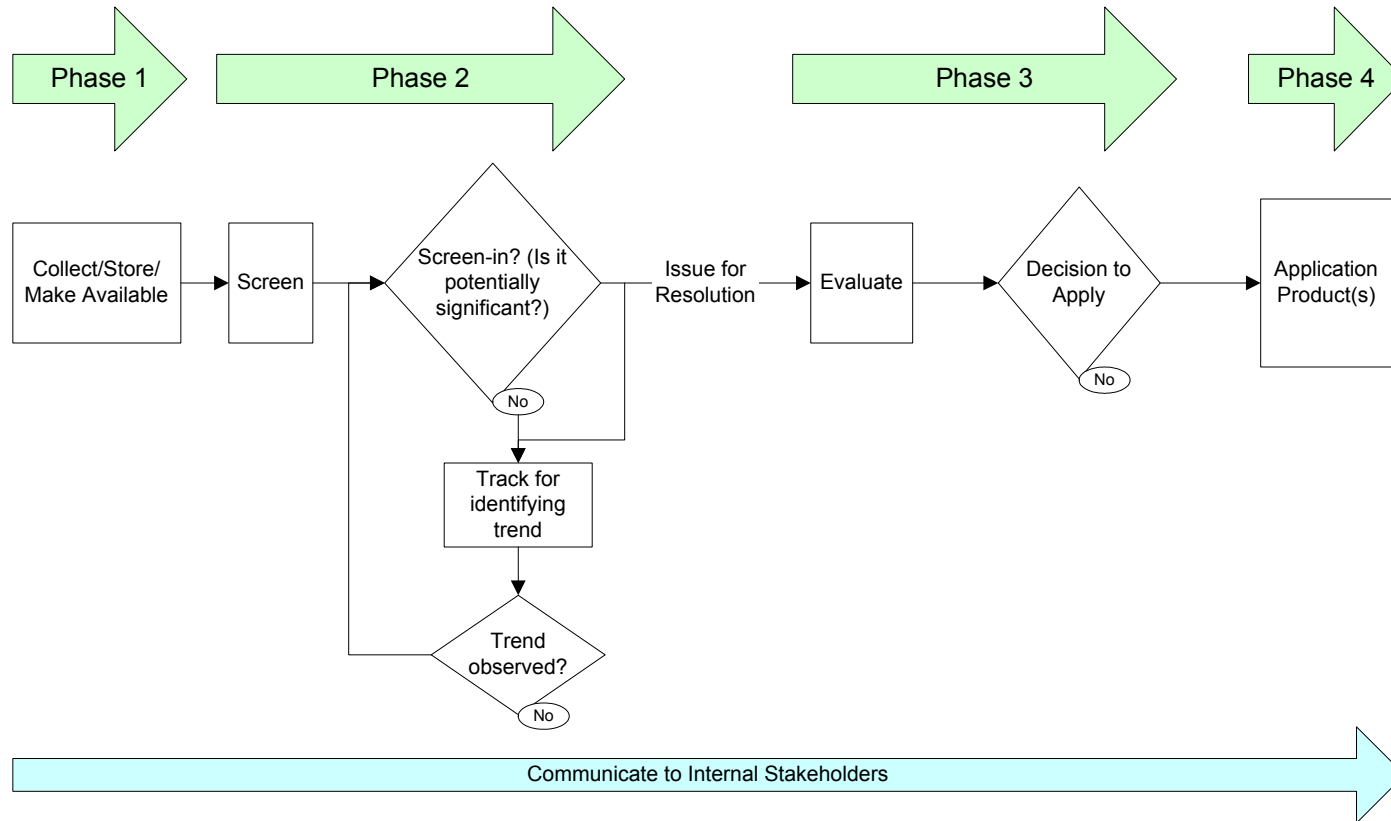
# NRC Operating Experience

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- **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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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