New Plant Design, Certification, and Licensing

(Standardization, Standardization, Standardization)

Chairman Nils J. Diaz

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

2nd Annual Nuclear Energy Conference:

Opportunities for Growth and Investment in North America

Washington, D.C.

February 13, 2006

NRC's Strategic Objective

Enable the use and management of radioactive materials and nuclear fuels for beneficial civilian purposes in a manner that protects public health and safety and the environment, promotes the security of our nation, and provides for regulatory actions that are open, effective, efficient, realistic, and timely

Relevant Experience for Part 52

- Early Site Permits
- Design Certifications
- Critical Elements of COL Reviews
  - site and reactor safety evaluations
  - environmental impact assessments
  - ACRS reviews
  - public interactions
  - Federal/State/local interactions, and
  - public hearings

10 CFR Part 52

Encourages early resolution of issues to increase regulatory predictability in advance of major financial commitments, while maintaining the requisite safety reviews

NRC Proceedings

- The NRC is established with an adjudicatory Board consisting of legal and technical members, with the capability and legal authority to conduct hearings and rigorous reviews of alleged deficiencies in applications.

- ASLB and Commission decisions have consistently been upheld when challenged in courts of appeals and the Supreme Court.

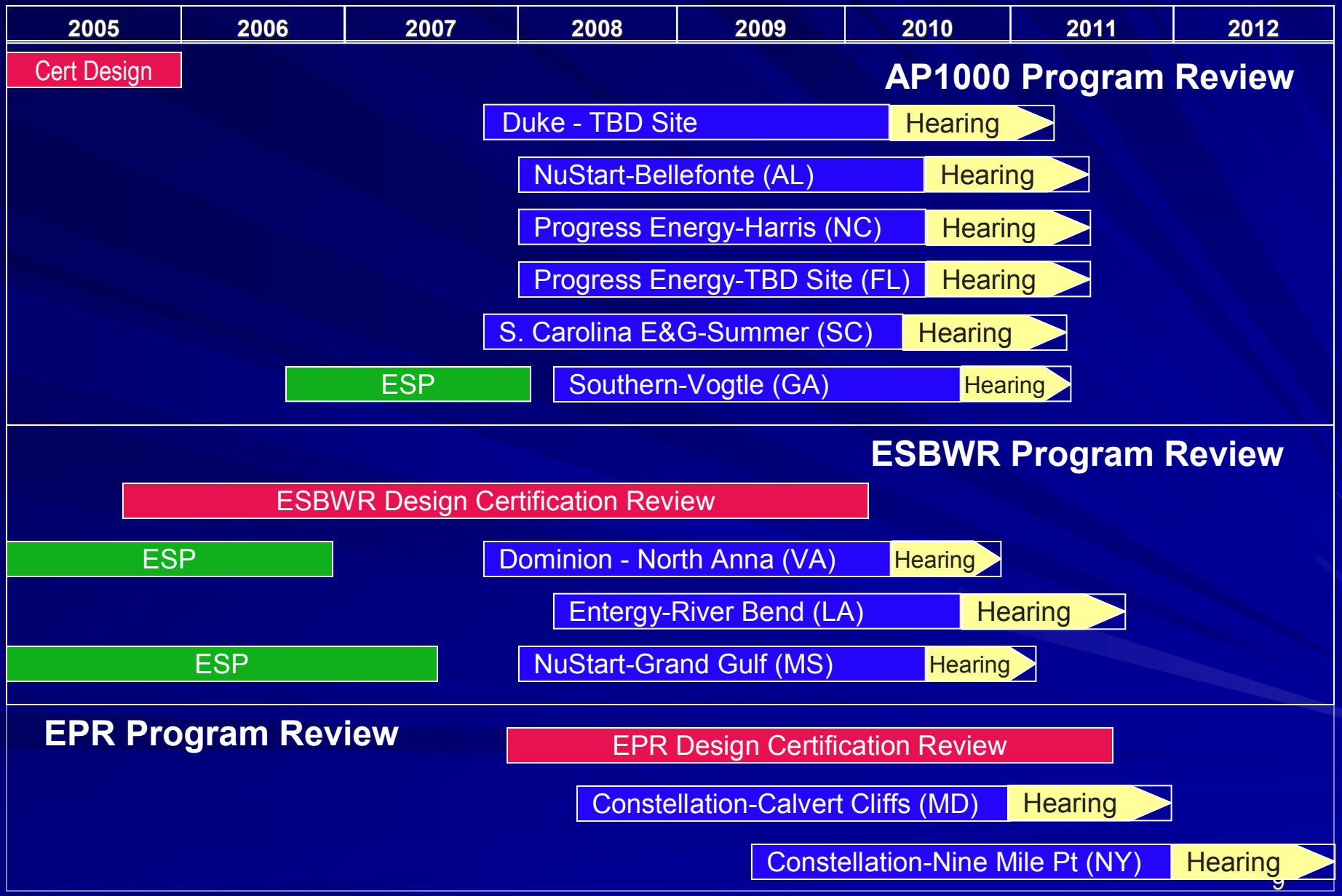
If a plant is built in accordance with the license, the Commission has the capability, obligation, and responsibility to allow the plant to operate

Predictability in reactor licensing is everybody's business

Part 52 Revision

- The Commission just approved a proposal to revise 10 CFR Part 52 to clarify it and enhance its usability.
- What we need to do at this point is to get this rulemaking done.

New Plant Licensing Applications
An Estimated Schedule



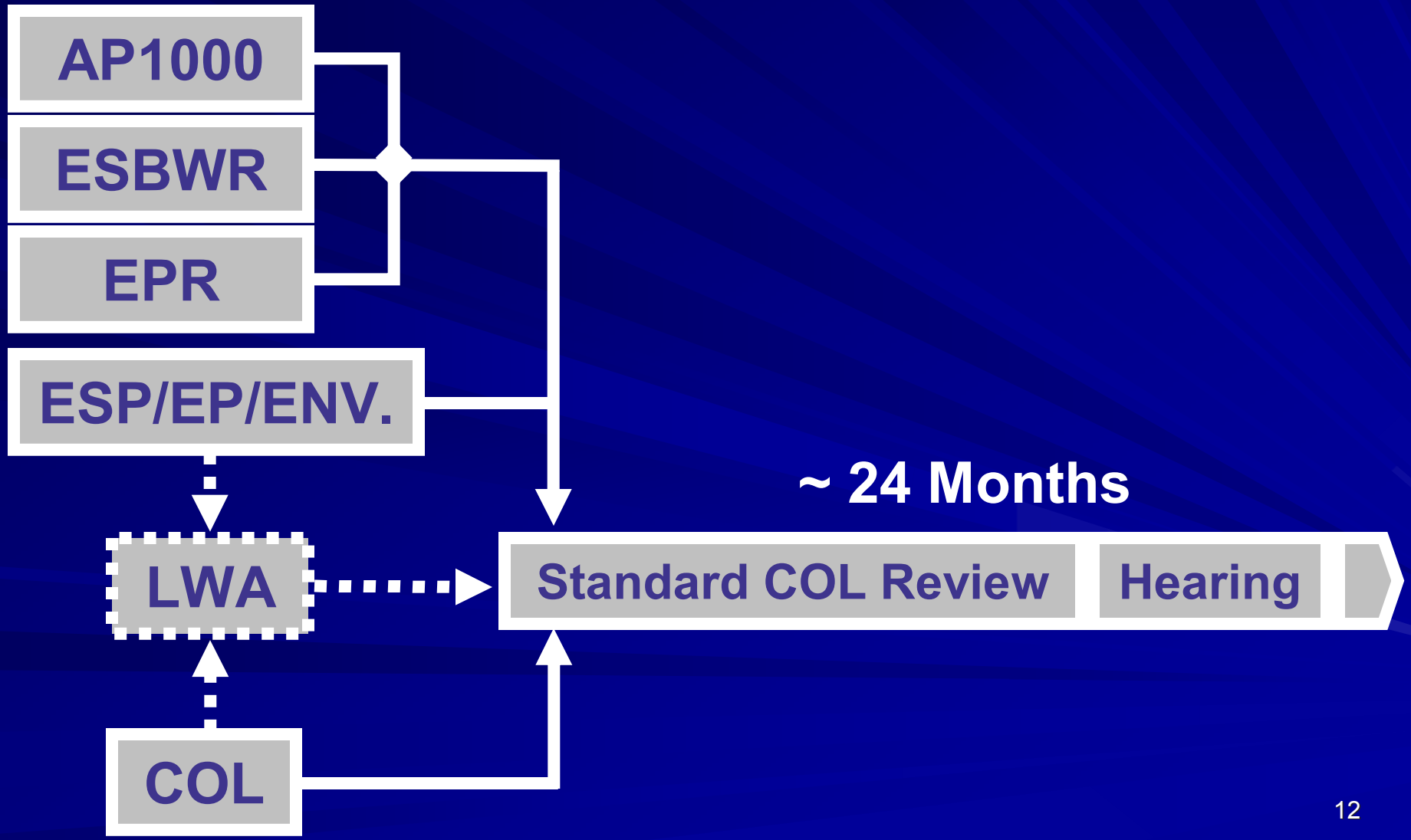
Strategies for New Plant Licensing

- Design-Centered Approach
- Parallel reviews of design certifications and COLs
- Amending Design Certification Rules

Standardization Standardization Standardization Standardization

- Standardization of design certification, including supplemental rulemakings (Proposed 52.63)
- Standardization in COL applications
- Standardization in COL reviews (“one-for-all”)

A Possible Overview of NRC Reactor Licensing (Beyond 2010)



- The NRC is continuing to forge a new licensing and regulatory framework for today, for tomorrow, and for the future.

- The Commission and the staff support and rely on the strength of the institution to discharge its responsibilities.