



EPRI | ELECTRIC POWER
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Meeting Objectives

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**EPRI / NEI Digital I&C and Control
Room Licensing Issues Workshop**

**March 28 - 29, 2006
Washington D.C.**

Meeting Objectives (1 of 2)

- Identify and prioritize unsettled technical and regulatory issues that need near term, coordinated attention to:
 - Resolve regulatory uncertainties
 - Facilitate review process for I&C and control room upgrades at operating plants
 - Avoid delaying new plant schedules
- Identify and discuss candidate resolution strategies for each issue
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Timing / schedule requirements
 - Interactions between industry and NRC
- Agree on consensus direction for next steps
 - Activities and schedules
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Getting commitments from stakeholders (utilities, suppliers, EPRI, NEI and NRC)

Meeting Objectives (2 of 2)

- Establish dialogue between utilities, vendors and regulators
 - Review plans and schedules for:
 - Digital upgrades in existing plants
 - New plant design and licensing
 - Review plans and schedules for updating regulatory positions and processes
 - Standard review plan updates
 - Regulations, regulatory guides, SERs, standards, etc.
 - NRC research plan
 - Identify process-related issues that may need attention
 - Consistency in applications
 - Competing for NRC resources

Resolution Strategy Examples

- **“Industry consensus” approach** – for issues that affect all operating and new plants
 - Based on existing vendor, utility, NRC and EPRI results and reports, standards, etc.
 - Industry working group guides / advises
 - Review cycles with working group, other stakeholders
 - Submit topical report for NRC review and endorsement
- **Design-specific approach** – for issues that affect one plant type
 - Vendor develops licensing submittal
 - Solution conforms with industry consensus “generic” positions
- **Process improvements** – for issues that are sensitive to communication and schedule problems
 - Sponsor workshops for all stakeholders (utilities, vendors, NRC,...)
 - Involve NRC in industry working groups
 - Improve training for new people
 - Etc.

Ground Rules for Meeting Participation

- Need everyone's help to:
 - Make it through the agenda
 - Ensure that everyone is heard
- Please
 - Help presenters stay on schedule
 - Avoid repeating points already made
 - Curtail discussion once "consensus direction" has been identified
 - Keep discussion on point - use "parking lot" flip charts to capture side issues for later discussion
- Comments from the "public" will be invited at the end of the meeting discussion periods (only)
 - Public is defined as those not originally invited to participate

A High Risk Meeting – Political Debacle or Highly Productive Discussion

- Contentious issues, real and perceived
- Plenty of stressors, e.g.,
 - Economics
 - Schedules
 - Politics
 - Process constraints
- Also plenty of potential
 - Smart people
 - Common needs
- Let's keep the focus on the objectives of the meeting
 - Issues
 - Resolution strategies

Issues, Resolution Strategies, Issues, Resolution Strategies, Issues, Resolution Strategies, Issues

- Straw man issues list posted around room
- Want real-time refinement during meeting, e.g.,
 - New issues
 - Issues that might be combined
 - Proposed resolution strategies
 - Related issues/concerns/notes
- Challenge presenters to keep focused on this
- Basis for discussion on Wednesday
 - Prioritization
 - Consensus direction of this group
 - Action items