



**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