

Digital Regulatory Environment

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What Are We Seeing?

- Current guidance is dated
- No guidance for multi-system submittal content / timing
- Duke Energy submittal issues
- NRC Research Plan – how will this impact existing or new plant design requirements?
- Adopting risk insights into D3 analyses and digital designs
- Staff resources for reviewing applications may become limiting factor
- Mismatch between existing vendor designs for digital upgrades and NRC acceptance criteria

What Are We Hearing?

- New plants are **NOT** going to introduce updates to digital technology in their applications – will stick with current digital technology (ACRS Meeting)
- NRC Staff “still forming opinions” on several key issues (RIC)
- New plant guidance (SRP) – will complete comprehensive review and revisions Fall 2007 for new plant applications (RIC)
- International guidance may impact upcoming revisions to NRC guidance
- Many existing plants concerned about today’s regulatory environment – delaying and/or changing plans for upgrades

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Areas For Improvement

- Industry / vendor communication with NRC staff on new plant plans and designs
- Industry communications with NRC staff on upgrade plans
- Industry communications with NRC staff on technical bases for regulatory positions
- Industry developing a consensus on its priorities for NRC staff
- Industry input into NRC research plan

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Industry Actions Going Forward Some Thoughts

- March 2006 Workshop
- Implement plan for new plant vendor communications with NRC staff on reactor I&C designs and technology advancements
- Need to develop consensus on what we believe NRC staff should be working on from an industry perspective
- Need to develop a mechanism for working with NRC staff on technical changes to existing regulatory guidance
- Need to get more existing plants to discuss their plans with NRC staff
- Need to review and develop thoughts on digital OE across multiple industries, military, both in the US and across the world

