

ROP Resources

Summary of 2006 ROP Resources

A summary of staff resources expended for the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) during the past five annual review periods is provided in Table 1¹.

Overall, inspection effort and ROP requirements have increased since 2002. Increases in the regional inspection budget in 2004 through 2006 and aggressive actions by regional offices in filling open inspector positions have eliminated the difficulties in completing the baseline inspections experienced in 2002 and 2003.

Overall staff effort in 2006 was essentially unchanged compared with 2005 with a decrease of 0.4%, although there was variation in the distribution of effort among the various elements of the ROP.

Baseline inspection effort in 2006 was comparable with 2005. The reduction in “plant status” effort is the result of accounting changes in mid-2006 for effort related to daily reviews of licensee corrective action activities. This effort is now charged to Inspection Procedure (IP) 71152 instead of “plant status,” which increased accordingly.

Plant-specific inspections include supplemental inspections conducted in response to inspection findings and degraded performance indicators, reactive inspections such as Augmented Inspection Teams (AITs) and Special Inspections (SIs) performed in response to events, and infrequently performed inspections that are not part of the baseline or supplemental inspection program. The effort for supplemental inspections (IP 95001, IP 95002, and IP 95003) decreased in 2006 compared with 2005. However, this decrease was offset by increases in the other plant-specific inspections resulting in an overall increase in the 2006 inspection effort for plant-specific inspections. A noticeable increase was reported in SIs in response to events and in infrequently performed inspections. The effort in this area includes inspection activity at sites with approved deviations for additional inspection and inspection activity at Browns Ferry Unit 1.

Additional noteworthy changes include a decrease of 17.1% from 2005 to 2006 in inspection effort related to Generic Safety Issue inspections (GSIs), and an increase in the hours reported for the “other activities.” The GSIs are typically one time inspections of specific safety issues with significant variability in effort possible from year to year. In addition, the majority of the work on the mitigating system performance index (MSPI) Temporary Instruction occurred in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2006. Since resource data are obtained and reported on a fiscal year basis, these hours are not captured in the fiscal year data. The increase in the “other activities” was in the aggregate of Routine Communication/Regional Support/Enforcement Support/Review of Technical Documents. Hours charged for inspection-related travel and Significance Determination Process remained similar to 2005 hours. The staff will continue to

¹The ROP is implemented on a calendar year basis; however, the staff obtains and reports resource data on a fiscal year basis.

monitor the hours charged to these activities in order to understand and address the causes of any changes.

2006 Inspection Cycle

The revised resident inspector staffing policy that permits early assignment of new resident and senior resident inspectors to a site and the increased regional inspection budget has improved the site staffing levels with experienced and qualified resident inspectors and alleviated the resource burden in completing the baseline inspection program. As in 2005, all four regions completed their baseline inspections in 2006 using the allocated regional resources; no indications of the staffing difficulties previously experienced in 2002 and 2003 were evident during the 2006 inspection cycle.

ROP Resource Model/ Regional Inspection Budget

The regional inspection budget for FY 2007 and beyond was increased to reflect ROP resource requirements. Issues related to inspection resources are reviewed as part of the ongoing ROP self-assessment and resources are adjusted as required by program needs.

One initiative piloted in 2006 in Region I is a resource model that includes a “unique site” designation in addition to single-, dual- and triple-unit sites. The previous resource model treated Millstone, Units 2 and 3, as two single-unit sites instead of one dual-unit site. This treatment allocated additional inspection resources to Millstone in order to address unique site features and historical circumstances that are currently being resolved.

The staff is conducting a review of the inspection data and model for the Millstone (MILL), Nine Mile Point (NMP), and Beaver Valley (BV) sites as part of an overall reevaluation of inspection resource requirements for a number of dual-unit sites that are "unique" due to design, vintage or operational differences between the units. In order to address Region I's recommendation, this “unique site” model was tested and evaluated in 2006 at MILL, NMP, and BV.

The impact of this unique site model on regional inspection resource requirements and the resulting implications for the regional inspection budget is currently being evaluated by the staff. If the review concludes that this approach has merit, the “unique site” will be factored into the ROP resource model for future budget formulation.

ROP Efficiency Initiatives

A number of initiatives are currently underway that may improve program efficiency and effectiveness. These initiatives include a realignment of resources allocated to the individual baseline inspection procedures, revised design engineering inspections, regional best practice initiatives, continued SDP improvements, and implementation of the PI improvements. These initiatives are discussed in other sections of this paper.

Table 1
Resources Expended
(Total Inspection-Related Staff Effort Expended at Operating Power Reactors)

	52 weeks FY 2002 9/23/01-9/21/02	52 weeks FY 2003 9/29/02-9/27/03	52 weeks FY 2004 9/28/03-9/25/04	52 weeks FY2005* 9/26/04-9/24/05	52 weeks FY2006* 9/25/05-9/23/06	% Δ FY05-06
Baseline/Core						
Direct Inspection Effort	119,884	123,027	133,028	145,042	144,117	
Inspection Prep/Doc	91,385	91,230	100,904	110,837	107,042	
Plant Status	<u>44,228</u>	<u>46,755</u>	<u>51,073</u>	<u>55,394</u>	<u>51,488</u>	
Subtotal	255,497	261,012	285,005	311,273	302,647	(2.8)%
Plant Specific Inspections						
Direct Inspection Effort	9,354	14,647	12,720	14,818	16,709	
Inspection Prep/Doc	<u>7,715</u>	<u>9,978</u>	<u>9,971</u>	<u>9,149</u>	<u>11,130</u>	
Subtotal	17,069	24,625	22,691	23,967	27,839	16.1%
GSI Inspections	1,718	3,953	7,293	10,011	8,295	(17.1)%
Performance Assessment	17,293	20,013	21,261	19,284	16,885	(12.4)%
Other Activities (Inspection Related Travel, Routine Communication, Regional Support, Enforcement Support, Significance Determination Process, Review of Technical Documents)	43,627	48,058	54,040	59,290	66,156	11.6%
Total Staff Effort	335,204 hrs	357,661 hrs	390,290 hrs	423,825 hrs	421,822 hrs	
Total Staff Effort/Operating Site	5,003 hrs/site	5,338 hrs/site	5,825 hrs/site	6,326 hrs/site	6,296 hrs/site	-0.4%

* Includes Regional, NRR and NSIR hours. Prior years do not include NSIR hours.