

Certificate Renewal for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Brian Smith, Chief
Enrichment and Conversion
Branch

Who is the NRC?

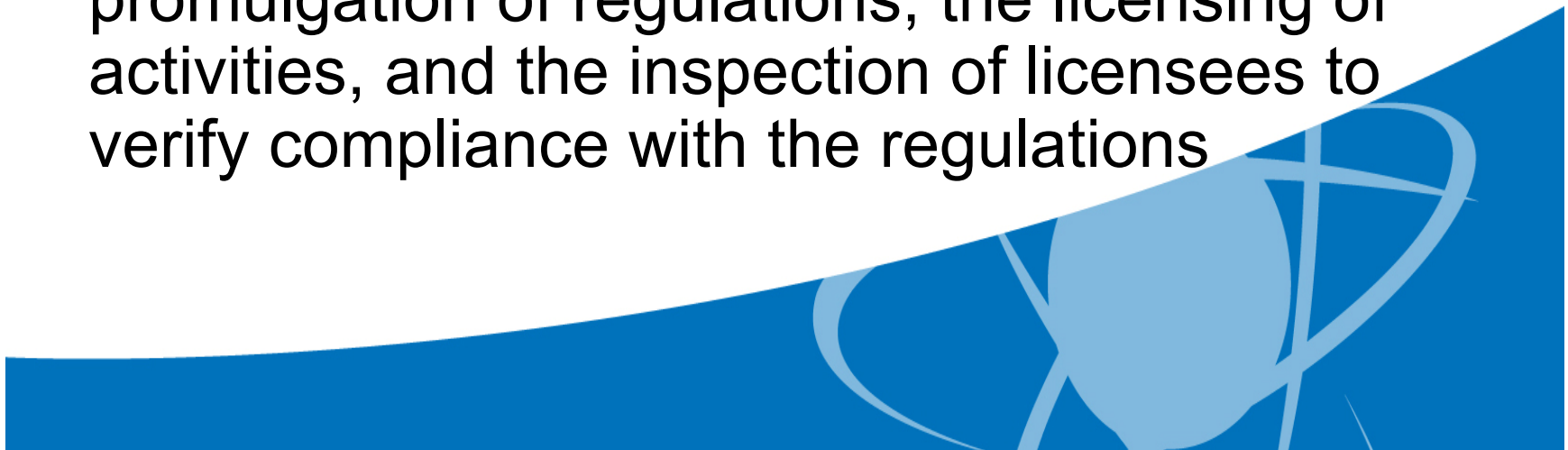


- NRC is an independent agency responsible for ensuring protection of public and worker health and safety in use of radioactive materials as well as ensuring adequate security for radioactive materials and sensitive information
- NRC is not a promoter of Paducah or any other project

NRC Mission



- To regulate the nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment
- We accomplish this mission through the promulgation of regulations, the licensing of activities, and the inspection of licensees to verify compliance with the regulations



Michael Raddatz

**Sr. Project Manager for the
Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant**

NRC Involvement with Paducah



- USEC Privatization Act of 1992
 - Created USEC as a private entity
- Review of the initial application for a Certificate of Compliance
 - Issued in 1996
- NRC assumed regulatory oversight in 1997
- Creation of the Compliance Plan

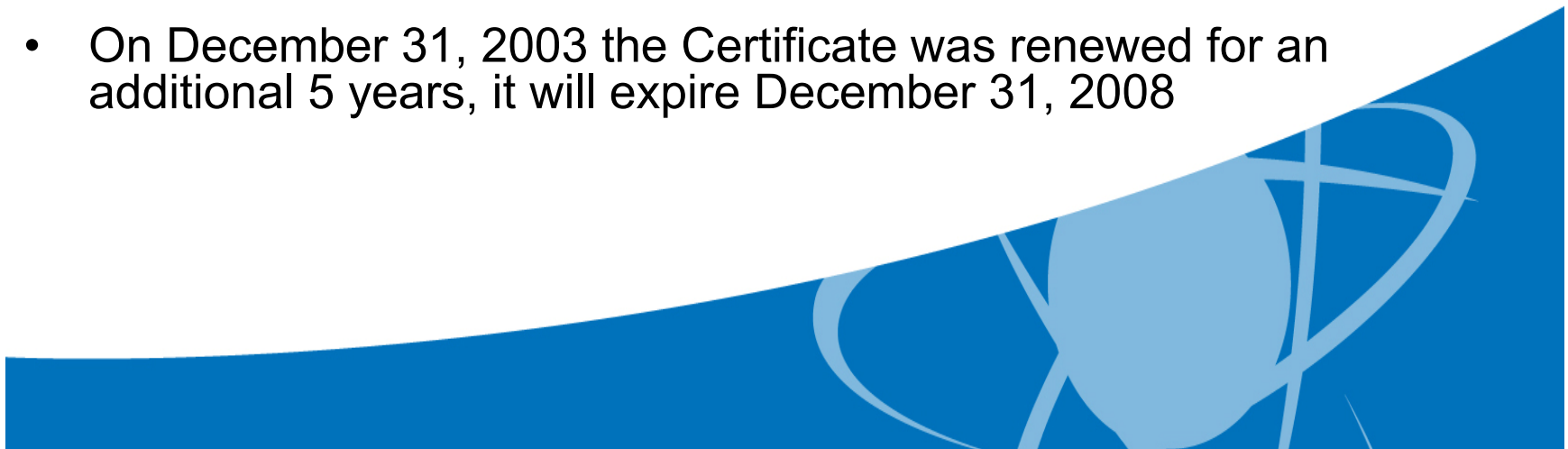
Compliance Plan

- Purpose was to bring Paducah into compliance with the DOE requirements
- Contained 57 individual areas of noncompliance or "issues," at PGDP
- Addressed many areas of facility operations including:
 - Seismic Qualifications, Criticality Controls, Upgrades to both the SAR and Plant Procedures, Fire Protection, Record Management, Public Warning Systems, and QA Programs
- All issues were dispositioned by 2003

Certificate Renewal History



- On November 26, 1996, NRC issued Certificate of Compliance GDP-1 for the Paducah GDP. NRC assumed regulatory oversight over the Paducah GDP on March 3, 1997
- On November 18, 1998, NRC issued renewed Certificate of Compliance with an expiration date of January 29, 1999
- In January 1999 NRC issued renewed Certificate of Compliance with an expiration date of December 31, 2003
- On December 31, 2003 the Certificate was renewed for an additional 5 years, it will expire December 31, 2008



The Certificate Renewal Process



- NRC will perform a Technical Review of the application to ensure it meets NRC health and safety requirements contained in 10 CFR Part 76
- Technical review will take about 6 months.
 - Request additional information, if needed
 - Document safety review in Compliance Evaluation Report
- The results of that review will form the foundation for a recommendation to the Director of NMSS on the Recertification request

How is this different from a License Renewal?



- No Opportunity for a Hearing is offered
- No Environmental Review is performed
- Report to Congress will be prepared



Report to Congress



- The Atomic Energy Act requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to report to Congress on the status of health, safety, and environmental conditions at the GDPs.
- The Report was last issued in December of 2003, and a new Report must be issued prior the renewed certificates.

What is in the Application?

- (1) the safety analysis report (SAR);
- (2) technical safety requirements (TSRs);
- (3) the emergency plan;
- (4) the quality assurance program (QAP);
- (5) the environmental compliance status report (ECSR);
- (6) the fundamental nuclear material control plan (FNMCP);
- (7) the Compliance Plan;
- (8) the consolidated GDP security program [(GDPSP) encompassing a physical security plan, a transportation security plan, and a classified matter security plan];
- (9) the radioactive waste management program;
- (10) the depleted uranium management plan (DUP);
- (11) the decommissioning funding program (DFP); and
- (12) supplemental environmental information.

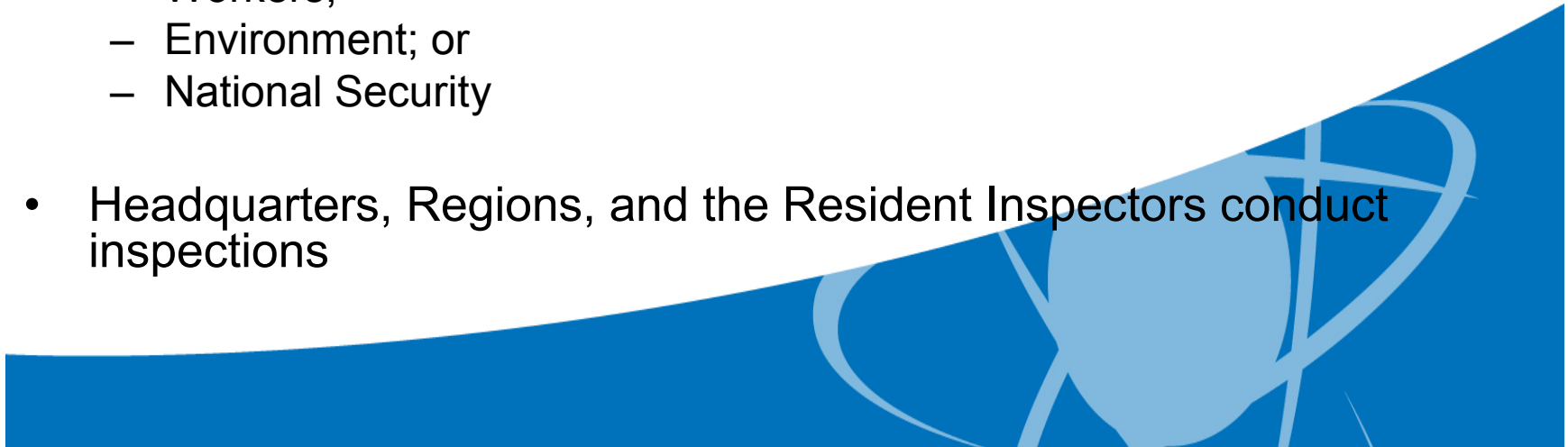
Considerations During the Review



- Enforcement History
- Operational Activities
 - Underway
 - Planned
- Changes in the Regulations since last renewal
- Any Requested Changes from the current certificate
- Inspection Findings since last renewal
- Results of most recent Performance Reviews

The Inspection Program

- We inspect to assess whether facilities like Paducah are operated safely and in accordance with both NRC regulations and their Certificate
- Through this process we ensure that certificate holder activities do not pose undue safety and safeguards risks to either the:
 - Public;
 - Workers;
 - Environment; or
 - National Security
- Headquarters, Regions, and the Resident Inspectors conduct inspections



The Inspection Program

- Inspection activities are commensurate with risk and facility performance
- Inspections are conducted in many areas, including:
 - plant operations
 - plant maintenance
 - health physics
 - environmental
 - plant support
 - engineering
 - fire safety
 - chemical process safety
 - Nuclear Criticality Safety
 - Nuclear Material Control and Accountability
 - security of classified information



Summary of Activities



- Renewal Application Received April 2008
- Federal Register Notice issued in May 2008
- Technical Review and Evaluation of submitted material is underway
- Recommendation to the Director of NMSS due in October 2008
- Report to Congress must be issued prior to the Director's Decision
- A Federal Register Notice announcing the decision will be issued in December 2008

How Stakeholders can be Involved



- NRC uses an open licensing process
 - Public has several opportunities to provide input to the decision
 - This meeting is first one;
 - Responding to the Federal Register Notice is another; and
 - There will be a final Federal Register Notice announcing the renewal decision followed by a 30-day opportunity to request review of the Director's Decision by the Commission.

Questions/Comments?



- Michael Raddatz, Sr. Project Manager
 - Michael.Raddatz@NRC.GOV
- Important Documents Available in ADAMS
 - <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>
 - ML081070229 Paducah Application for Renewal
 - ML081130223 Federal Register Notice of the Renewal