REGULATORY ISSUE RESOLUTION PROTOCOL (RIRP)

GENERAL PROBLEM STATEMENT

The focus on nuclear safety can be affected when issues identified at one plant affect multiple plants, and are not addressed in a timely fashion with all pertinent inputs being considered.

This is not consistent with principles of good regulation — independence, openness, efficiency, clarity, and reliability. Regulatory uncertainty and inefficient use of Industry and NRC resources can be the result if multi-plant issues are addressed only on a limited plant-by-plant basis.

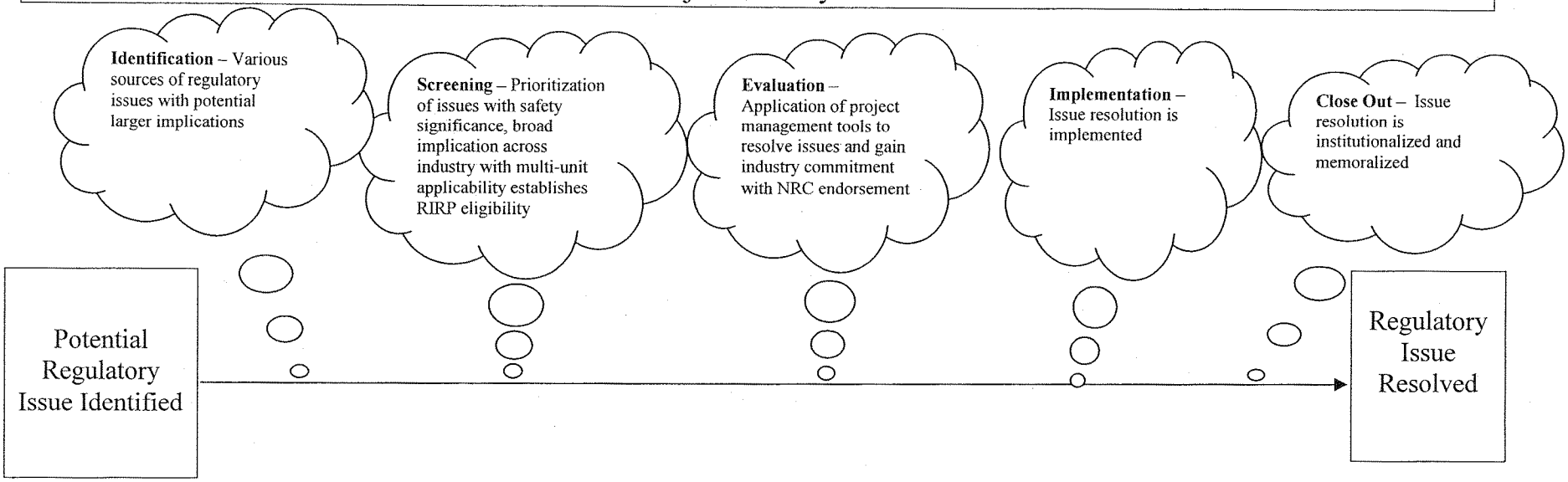
NRC and Industry need a protocol for more effective use of existing processes to resolve issues identified during plant-specific licensing reviews and inspections that have multi-unit applicability.

An NRC/Industry dialogue is needed to improve the following issue-resolution attributes:

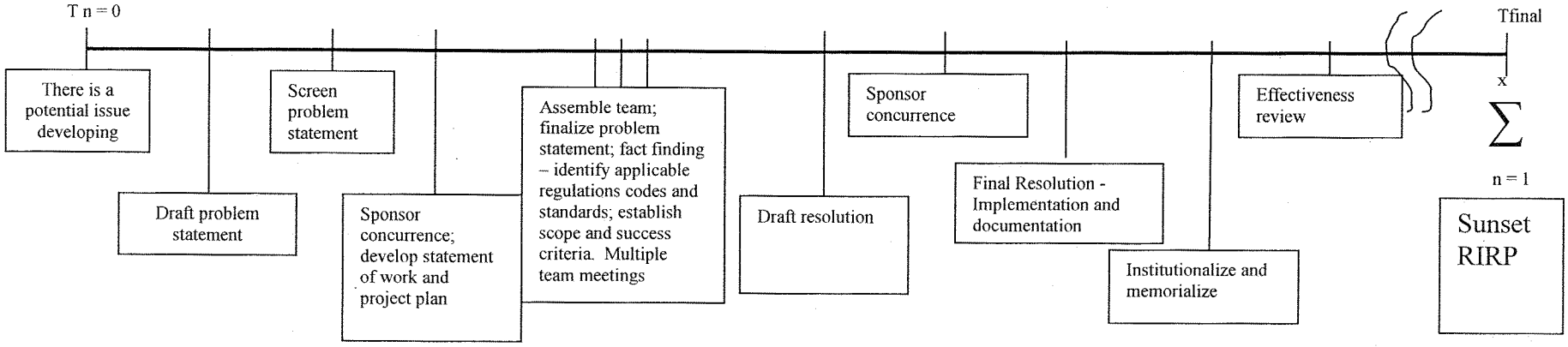
- Efficiency
- Certainty
- Transparency
- Predictability
- Timeliness

DRAFT

Regulatory Issues Resolution Protocol
Project Life Cycle



TIME LINE

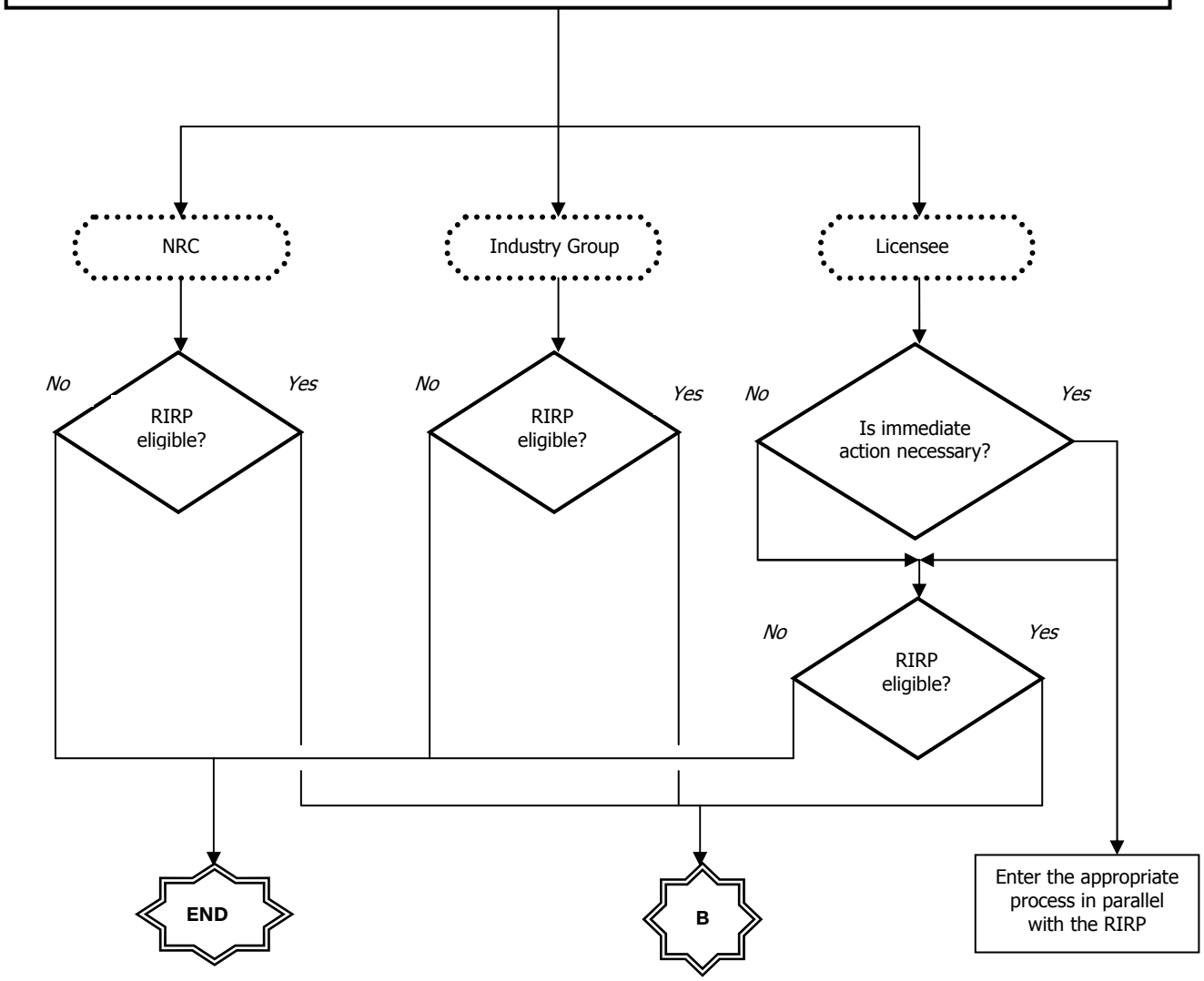


IDENTIFICATION PHASE (A)

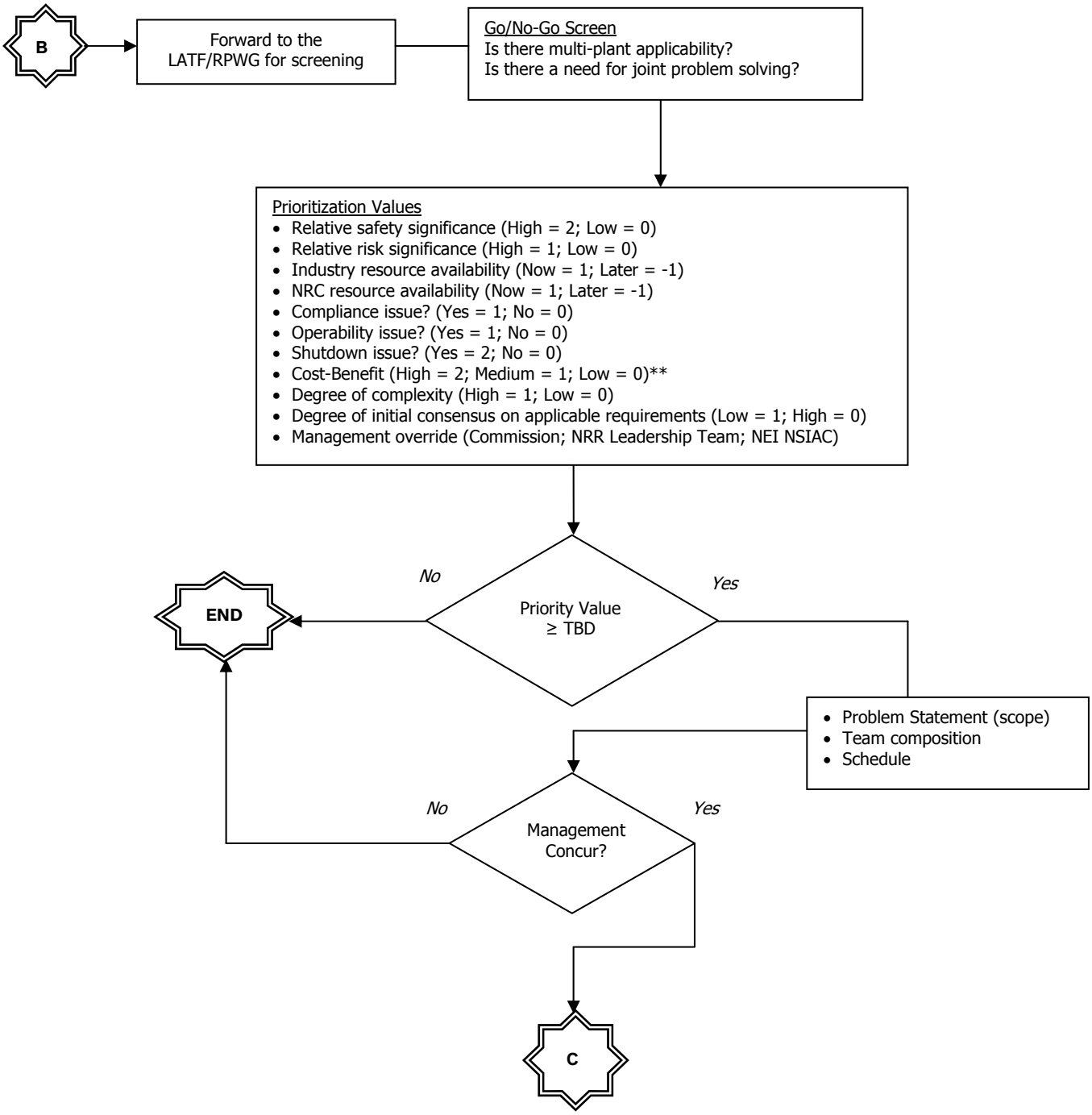
Any NRC/Industry person or group may identify a multi-plant issue that warrants screening to determine the value-impact of resolution via the Regulatory Issue Resolution Protocol (RIRP). The following is a *[partial]* list of sources for potential RIRP issues:

- requests for additional information (licensing actions and Topical Reports)
- inspection reports (URIs; NOVs; etc.)
- task interface agreements
- NOEDs
- operating experience reports (INPO)
- licensee event reports (10 CFR 50.72/50.73)
- generic communications
- license amendments (10 CFR 50.90)
- exemptions (10 CFR 50.12)
- requests for relief/alternative (10 CFR 50.55a)
- telecons, meetings, and workshops

Note: The RIRP does not alleviate the responsibility of each licensee to follow all applicable regulatory requirements.

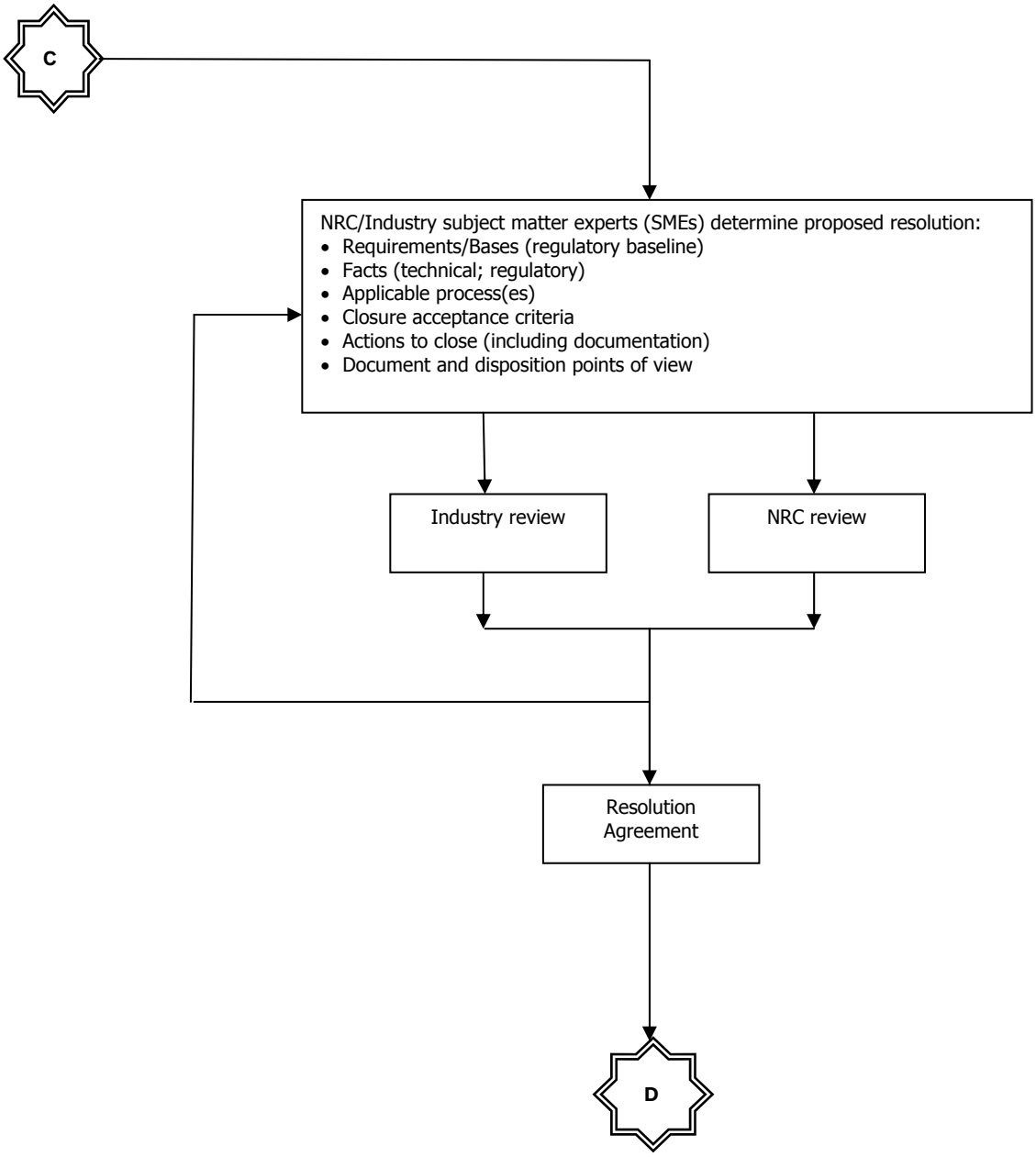


SCREENING PHASE (B)

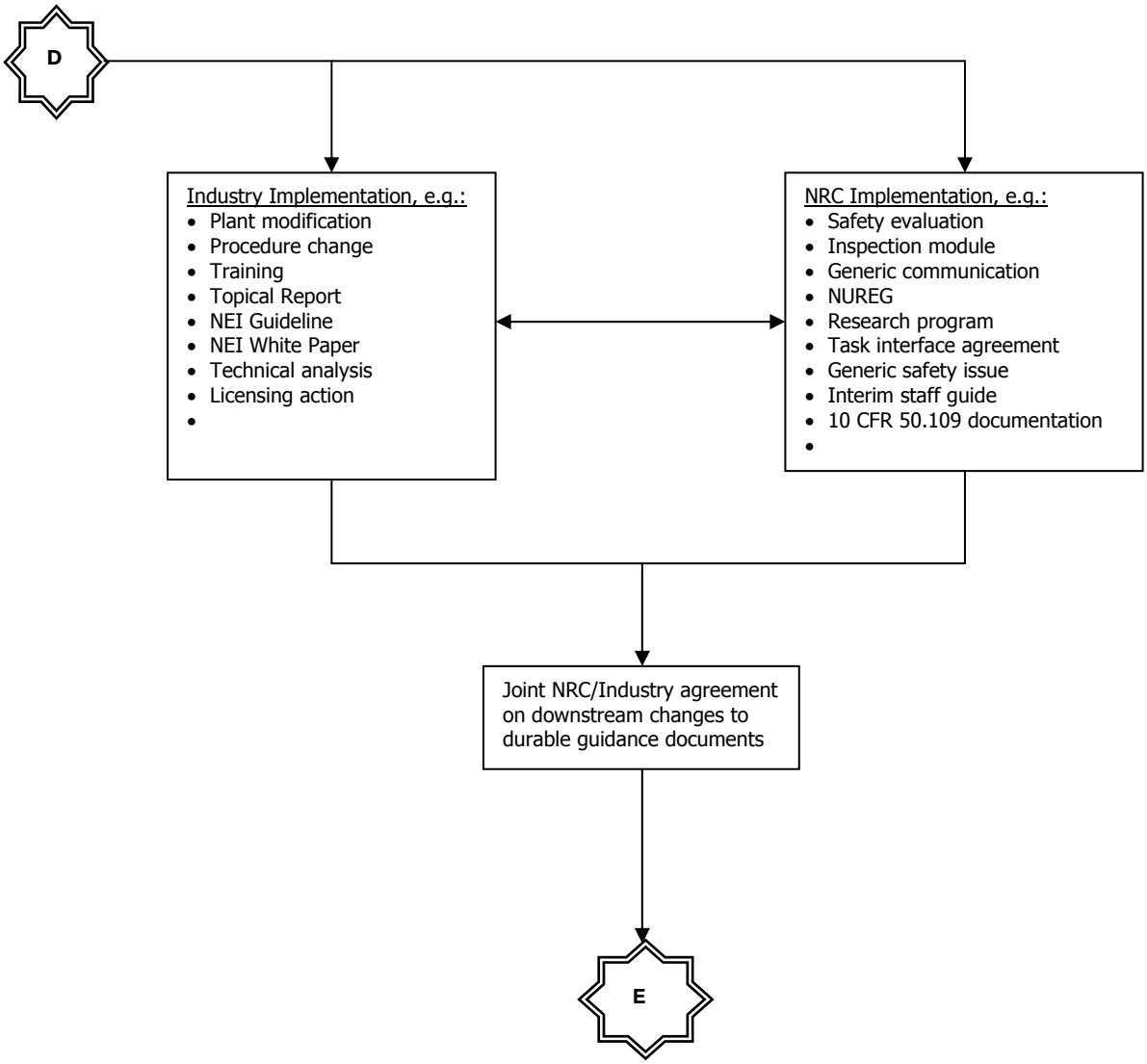


** Cost-Benefit = Value (non-monetary) ÷ Cost (monetary)

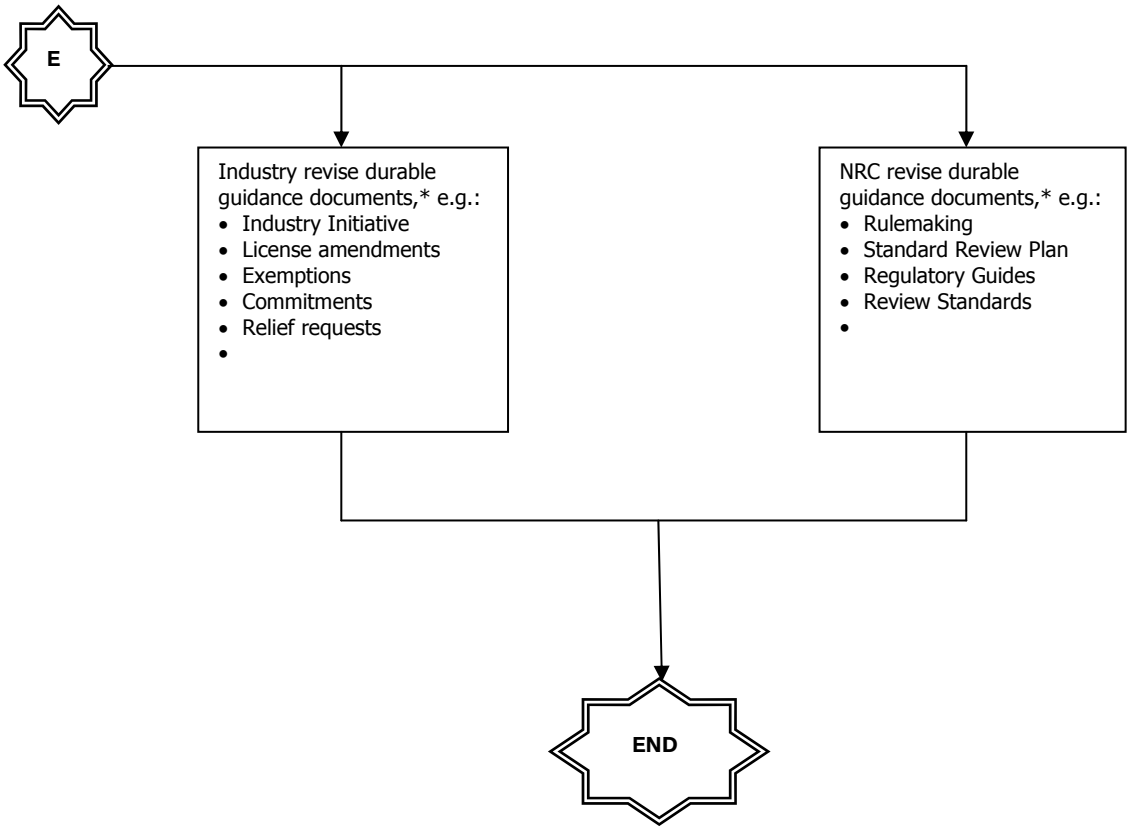
ANALYSIS PHASE (C)



IMPLEMENTATION PHASE (D)



DOCUMENTATION PHASE (E)



*Durable Guidance Document = a document that is managed with a change process.