

## Reactor Oversight Process Resources

### Summary of 2009 Reactor Oversight Process Resources

Table 1 summarizes the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff resources expended, in hours, for the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) during the past three fiscal years (FYs).<sup>1</sup> Overall staff effort in FY 2009 increased by 1.4 percent, compared with FY 2008, for the activities listed in Table 1.

Baseline inspection hours include direct inspection effort, baseline inspection preparation and documentation, and plant status activity. Baseline inspection hours increased in 2009, primarily as a result of increased effort in performing Inspection Procedure (IP) 71152, "Identification and Resolution of Problems," and IP 71130.03, "Contingency Response—Force-on-Force Testing." The hours charged to other baseline procedures remained relatively unchanged. As in previous years, all four Regions completed the required baseline inspections in 2009.

Plant-specific inspections include: (1) supplemental inspections conducted in response to greater-than-Green inspection findings and performance indicators, (2) reactive inspections, such as augmented inspection teams and special inspections performed in response to events, and (3) the infrequently performed inspections listed in Appendix C, "Special and Infrequently Performed Inspections," to NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2515, "Light-Water Reactor Inspection Program—Operations Phase," and Appendix C, "Generic, Special, and Infrequent Inspections," to IMC 2201, "Security Inspection Program for Commercial Nuclear Power Reactors," which are not part of the baseline or supplemental inspection programs.

Plant-specific inspection effort decreased in FY 2009, compared with FY 2008, caused, in part, by completion of IP 95003, "Supplemental Inspection for Repetitive Degraded Cornerstones, Multiple Degraded Cornerstones, Multiple Yellow Inputs, or One Red Input," at the Palo Verde site. There was also a decrease in event response and in supplemental inspections in FY 2009, with a corresponding decrease in preparation and documentation effort for these inspections. The decrease in supplemental inspections reflects the decrease in the number of plants in columns 3 and 4 of the ROP action matrix in FY 2009, compared with FY 2008.

Generic safety issue inspections are typically one-time inspections of specific safety and security issues, with significant variability in effort possible from year to year. The decreased effort in generic safety issue inspections reflects reduced activity in this area in FY 2009 and the completion, in December 2008, of inspections related to "Verification of Site Specific Implementation of B.5.b Phase 2 & 3 Mitigating Strategies."

The effort reported for "other activities," including inspection-related travel, significance determination process (SDP), and routine communications (which now encompasses regional support, enforcement support, and review of technical documents), increased slightly in 2009. The effort for these activities typically corresponds to the baseline inspection effort. The regional effort for licensee performance assessments has remained relatively steady during the past three FYs and suggests that the performance assessment effort has reached a steady state.

<sup>1</sup> The staff implements the ROP on a calendar year basis; however, it obtains and reports resource data on an FY basis.

## **ROP Resource Improvement Initiatives**

The staff continued to implement a number of initiatives to improve program efficiency and effectiveness to reduce inspection resource requirements. These initiatives include a realignment of resources allocated to the individual baseline IPs (including design engineering inspections), regional best practice initiatives (including the ROP reliability initiatives), continued SDP improvements, and implementation of the performance indicator improvements. Enclosure 1 of this paper discusses these initiatives.

**Table 1 Resources Expended<sup>1</sup>**  
**(Inspection-Related Staff Effort Expended at Operating Power Reactors)**

	52 weeks FY 2007 <u>09/24/06–09/22/07</u>	52 weeks FY 2008 <u>09/23/07–09/20/08</u>	52 weeks FY 2009 <u>09/21/08–09/19/09</u>
<b>Baseline Inspections</b>			
Direct Inspection Effort	156,547	147,396	156,348
Inspection Prep/Doc	111,770	99,522	104,825
Plant Status	<u>48,804</u>	<u>49,481</u>	<u>50,192</u>
Subtotal	317,121 hr	296,399 hr	311,365 hr
<b>Plant-Specific Inspections</b>			
Direct Inspection Effort	12,278	14,063	9,149
Inspection Prep/Doc	<u>8,174</u>	<u>9,909</u>	<u>6,338</u>
Subtotal	20,452 hr	23,972 hr	15,487 hr
Generic Safety Issues Inspections	11,212 hr	13,492 hr	8,619 hr
Performance Assessment (Regional Effort Only)	14,349 hr	13,517 hr	15,478 hr
Other Activities <sup>2</sup>	68,493 hr	65,754 hr	67,972 hr
<b>Total Staff Effort</b>	<b>431,627 hr</b>	<b>413,134 hr</b>	<b>418,921 hr</b>
<b>Total Staff Effort/Operating Site</b>	<b>6,540 hr/site</b>	<b>6,260 hr/site</b>	<b>6,347 hr/site</b>

<sup>1</sup> Resources expended include regional, NRR, and NSIR hours.

<sup>2</sup> Other activities consist of inspection-related travel, SDP, and routine communications (which include regional support, enforcement support, and review of technical documents).