

**Agenda Item 6.2 – Regulatory Issues in the Member States
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

New Reactor Construction Activities

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducts construction inspections to ensure that the as-built facility conforms to the conditions of the combined license (COL), including whether the inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria (ITAAC) have been met, and to determine the readiness of the licensee to carry out the initial fuel load and to conduct startup testing. Today, the agency has in place the structure and procedures required to conduct the new reactor construction oversight process for ongoing and near term construction activities. The process for oversight of new reactor construction has been documented in Inspection Manual Chapters (IMCs) and Inspection Procedures (IPs). All IPs that are required to implement inspections of licensee activities related to ITAAC have been approved and issued for use. The NRC continues to make significant progress in the development and improvement of programs and procedures to support inspection of activities occurring later in construction. These include procedures such as those required for inspection of licensee operational readiness. These remaining procedures are in development and their planned completion date in Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011 will fully support the inspection requirements for those applicants with the earliest construction schedules.

A construction assessment process has been established and is in place as described in IMC 2505, "Periodic Assessment of Construction Inspection Program Results," issued December 2009. The process was implemented in July 2010 to assess licensee performance related to construction activities at the Vogtle site. As directed by the Commission, the staff is currently reviewing the construction assessment process for possible improvements. One of the goals is to address the possible inclusion of objective elements such as construction programs performance indicators and a significance determination process analogous to those used in the Reactor Oversight Process for the operating fleet. The staff will present options to the Commission by September 2010.

Link: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/oversight.html>