

NRC Risk Network

NRR/DRA

The NRC staff uses a suite of risk tools to support oversight of nuclear reactors such as risk assessment software, Standardized Plant Analysis Risk (SPAR) models, databases, guidance for the Significance Determination Process (SDP), and associated training. The Risk Network (previously referred to as Risk Tool Enhancement) project represents a structured assessment involving internal stakeholders in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), and each Region to define, prioritize, and implement enhancements to risk tools used by risk analysts, inspectors and their management. In February 2010, the staff issued a Risk Network project plan that organizes input received from internal stakeholders on enhancements for maintaining the quality, improving the efficient use, and advancing the state of the art of the NRC's risk tools.

There are currently 73 tasks managed under the Risk Network Project that address the enhancement or maintenance of NRC risk tools, procedures, or training. Technical leads for each task were identified and the tasks were prioritized in terms of their benefit to the agency and resources needed. In addition, the agency established the Risk Network oversight team, consisting of managers from NRR, RES, and each Region. The purpose of this team is to oversee the Risk Network project schedule and work products. The desired outcome of the Risk Network project is to ensure the availability of high quality NRC risk analysis tools that are technically sound and to ensure adequate training for the staff to use the risk tools. Approximately 20 of the 73 tasks have been completed.