



**NRC/NIFG Meeting  
Overview  
Dissimilar Metal Weld  
Nondestructive Examination  
Improvement**

Mark Huting  
Xcel Energy; NIFG Chairman  
September 11, 2012

# Goals of meeting

- Review proposed improvements and schedule
- Detailed review of actions currently being worked (presented by utility owners)
- Open forum for questions, comments on draft documents and presentation of material
- We want your feedback
- We want to ensure we're covering NRC's concerns as well as our own

# Overview

- NDE Improvement Focus Group (NIFG) is developing many enhancements to the DM weld examination process
  - Current focus on dissimilar metal (DM) welds
- New processes being developed now for fast track implementation to improve reliability/predictability of DM UT
- Today we will review the status of each of the following draft guidelines/topics
  - Extent of condition analysis
  - Selection process for encoded vs. non-encoded examination techniques
  - Site-specific mock-up requirements
  - North Anna mock-up and search unit evaluation
  - Utility oversight process for DM weld examination
  - Hands-on practice
  - Appendix VIII testing prerequisites
  - Team scanning
  - Scanning time considerations
  - Non-encoded DM weld examination documentation

# Overview

- Key elements to NIFG process
  - Strong utility ownership
  - EPRI engagement from management and staff
  - Strong use of lessons learned from recent events
  - Wide representation from many fleets representing majority of stations (FirstEnergy, Exelon, Entergy, Dominion, FPL, Duke/Progress, Luminant, Xcel, TVA, AEP, PSEG); INPO involved
  - Wide breadth of experience base: senior management, NDE experts, materials experts, BWRVIP, MRP
  - Executive support through PMMP, BWRVIP
  - Bias for action
    - Start making an impact in months, not years
    - Multiple improvements are drafted
    - Early communication to industry in September
    - First Revision to DM Weld Guideline targeted for Spring 2013
    - Needed and Good Practice status will be added as appropriate using NEI 03-08 process

# Overview

- Long term actions being evaluated
  - Better communication of OE through electronic media
  - Improved training for DM UT based on Systematic Approach to Training
  - Computer-based training and communication tools
  - Increased use of modeling

# September 2012 Industry Communication

- Summary letter communicating those critical learnings that may be implementable in Fall 2012 outages
  - Some guidance requires longer lead times
- Recommendation to carefully study and implement in fall 2012 outages as possible
- Not NEI 03-08 requirements now, but likely to be in near future
  
- Draft guideline documents will soon enter the NEI 03-08 review and approval process

# NEI 03-08 process

- NIFG is a technical committee tasked with development of recommendations
- Issuance of guidance with NEI 03-08 implementation categories (Mandatory, Needed, Good Practice) requires a rigorous industry approval process
- Recommendations presented today are in draft form and have not been approved through this process

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