



ROP Independent Assessment Public Meeting

June 18, 2013



U.S.NRC ROP Independent Assessment

- Greetings/Meeting Logistics
- ROP Independent Assessment
 - Team Introduction
 - Meeting Goals



ROP Independent Assessment

- ROP IA Charter
- Scope
- Methodology



ROP Independent Assessment

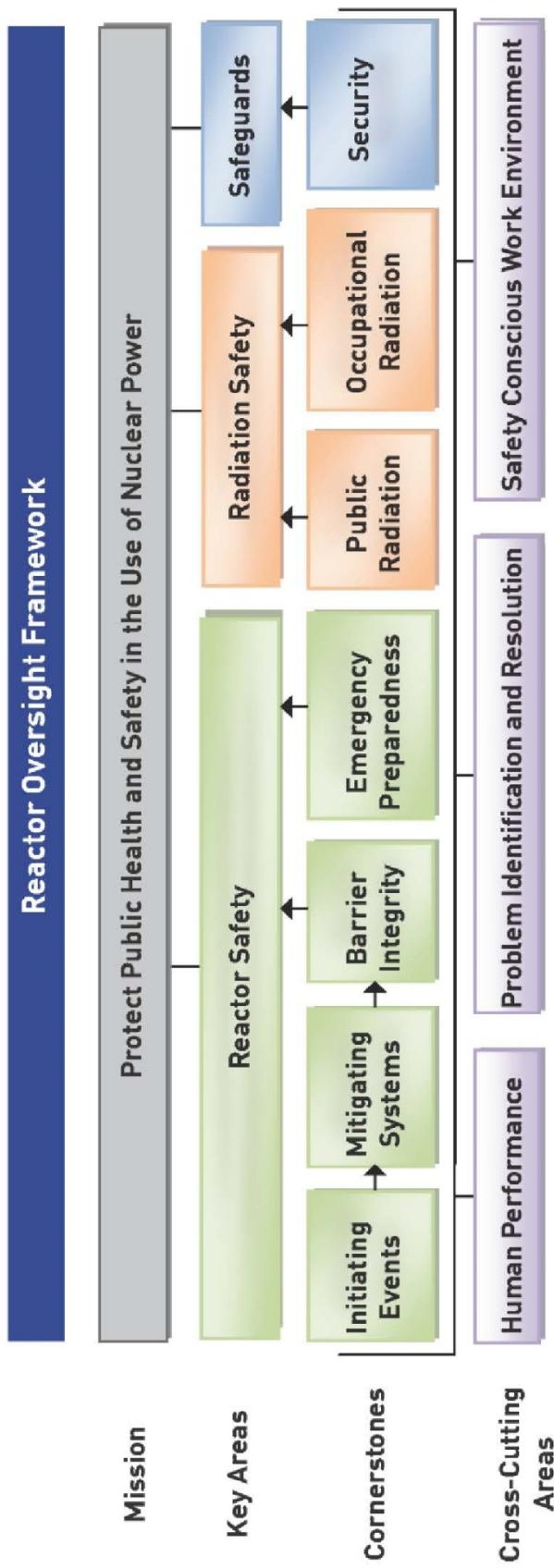


Figure 1. Reactor oversight framework

REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS

NUREG/BR-0508, March 2013
ML13064A291
www.nrc.gov



ROP Independent Assessment

• ROP Program Goals*

- Maintain Safety
- Increase Openness
- Make NRC Activities and Decisions More Effective, Efficient, and Realistic
- Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burden

*Per NRC Inspection Manual IMC-0308 – ROP Basis Document



U.S.NRC ROP Independent Assessment

- Discussion of ROP Focus Areas/Themes

- Significance Determination Process
- Action Matrix
- Identification and Use of Substantive Cross-Cutting Areas/Safety Culture
- Communications – Performance Indicators & Impact of Messaging on Stakeholder Perceptions
- NRC Self-Assessment
- Generic Issues



ROP Independent Assessment

• Significance Determination Process

- Background
- Stakeholder Feedback

- Possible over-reliance on the use of Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) tools.
 - Does the SDP process provide tools to assist decision makers with managing known certainties inherent in the use of such risk tools and flexibility in decision making when uncertainties are recognized?
 - Is there a disproportionate amount of reliance placed on the outcome of these risk tools, given such uncertainties?
 - What might stakeholders conclude about the SDP process, given these issues? Do these issues contribute to the perception amongst stakeholders that NRC decisions, at times, are risk-based versus risk-informed?



ROP Independent Assessment

- Significance Determination Process

- Stakeholder Feedback
 - SDP decision making is not always timely.
 - Does the process provide NRC management with the tools (drivers) necessary to support timely decision making when the significance of findings falls in the gray area between thresholds (Green-White, White-Yellow)?
 - Does the fact that NRC PRA tools may not be as sophisticated as licensee tools effect the timeliness and outcome of finding characterization?



US NRC ROP Independent Assessment

- Action Matrix

- Describes graded approach for addressing licensee performance; poorer performing plants get more oversight.
- Stakeholder Feedback:
 - Role of Action Matrix as “input” to performance assessment – vs. – sole determination of response.
 - Are performance inputs treated the same by regions?
 - Deviations used as “work arounds” for applying more resource to account for SCCIs and unique issues.
 - Sustained performance improvement prior to moving a plant to a lower column.
 - Does “Column 5” mean a plant is unsafe?



ROP Independent Assessment

- Identification and Use of Substantive Cross-Cutting Areas/Safety Culture
 - Background Information
 - Stakeholder Feedback
 - Observations
 - Strategic Insights



ROP Independent Assessment

- Communications – Performance Indicators & Impact of Messaging on Stakeholder Perceptions
 - Transparency of Significant Determination Process (SDP)
 - Task Interface Agreement (TIA) processes
 - Representation of white findings.
 - Performance Indicators
 - Action Matrix uses vs. resource allocation
 - Use of Action Matrix Column 5 vs. 0350, 0351, CAL, etc.
 - Plain language
 - Usefulness of annual public meetings and the messages that are conveyed



ROP Independent Assessment

- NRC Self-Assessment

- Current self assessments provide a robust mechanism to identify operational enhancements to the ROP
- Current process is fairly resource intensive...are the enhancements worth the value?
- Could the self-assessment process be re-configured into two aspects:
 - A streamlined version of the current process to continue to identify operational enhancements
 - A periodic broader assessment of accomplishment of the ROP strategic goals, incorporating independent staff similar to the independent assessment being discussed today



US NRC ROP Independent Assessment

• Generic Issues

- Periodic follow-up of generic issues:
 - NRC near term follow-up, typically through Temporary Instructions, is good
 - Can the program better periodically confirm that licensee corrective actions continue to be effective?
- Generic treatment of performance issues:
 - Some findings identified at a site resulted in similar findings being issued to other sites - could such issues be better addressed by NRC and industry by utilizing other NRC processes to better ensure a robust generic response?
 - Regions can ask questions of headquarters technical staff using Task Interface Agreements, the response to which can often have generic implications. Could this process benefit from having steps for stakeholder engagement?



U.S.NRC ROP Independent Assessment

- Open Discussion
- Next Steps
- Meeting Closeout