Reactor Oversight Process Resource Expenditures

Table 1, "Resources Expended (Inspection-Related Staff Effort Expended at Operating Power Reactors)," summarizes the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff resources expended, in hours, for the Reactor Oversight Process during the past three calendar year (CY) inspection cycles. In CY 2013, the overall resource expenditures decreased, when compared to CY 2011 and CY 2012. This can be primarily attributed to the decommissioning of the San Onofre, Kewaunee, and Crystal River plants and Indian Point Unit 2 and 3 transitioning from two single-unit site staffing with four resident inspectors to a dual-unit unique site budget model with three resident inspectors. With respect to Indian Point, based on a number of years of inspection results and assessment insights, and the fact that Entergy has implemented site-wide processes and integrated their staff into a common organization, Region I concluded that an integrated site inspection and oversight program provided by a unique site budget model and informed by remaining site differences and stakeholder involvement was warranted.

Baseline inspection hours include direct inspection effort, baseline inspection preparation and documentation, and plant status activity. Baseline inspection hours decreased commensurate with the overall reduction in resource expenditures discussed above. The extended shutdowns at Fort Calhoun and Arkansas Nuclear One further contributed to reductions in this area. The extended shutdowns effectively reduce the number of appropriate baseline inspection sample opportunities that can be completed under certain baseline inspection areas. Additionally, the Government shutdown and the corresponding government employee furlough resulted in cancelling and rescheduling some long-lead resource intensive team inspections, such as Component Design Bases Inspections.

Plant-specific inspections include supplemental inspections conducted in response to greater-than-green inspection findings and performance indicators, reactive inspections in response to events, and 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 increased in 2013 when compared to 2011 and 2012. This can be primarily attributed to inspection procedure 95003, "Supplemental Inspection for Repetitive Degraded Cornerstones, Multiple Degraded Cornerstones, Multiple Yellow Inputs or One Red Input," being performed at Browns Ferry and Fort Calhoun, which are highly resource intensive.

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. Resource expenditures for generic safety issue inspections remain relatively high, primarily due to inspections related to potential aircraft threats, the industry initiative to control degradation of underground piping and tanks, and the Near-Term Task Force recommendation reviews in response to the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Accident. The hours expended during the 3-year period shown in Table 1 demonstrate the variation in the level of effort that is possible in this area from year to year.

Regional effort for licensee performance assessment decreased commensurate with the overall reduction in resource expenditures discussed above, particularly the decommissioning of three plants.

The effort reported for other activities includes inspection-related travel, the significance determination process (SDP), and routine communications necessary for regional support, enforcement support, and the review of technical documents. Resource expenditures for other activities decreased primarily due to the decommissioned reactors and government employee furloughs.

Table 1 Resources Expended[1]
(Inspection-Related Staff Effort Expended at Operating Power Reactors)

	CY 2011 hrs	CY 2012 hrs	CY 2013 hrs
Baseline Inspections	**316,297**	**311,376**	**288,790**
Direct Inspection Effort	156,871	154,221	141,562
Inspection Prep/Doc	111,194	110,825	102,107
Plant Status	48,232	46,330	44,120
Plant-Specific Inspections	**21,670**	**27,382**	**35,805**
Direct Inspection Effort	11,700	13,974	16,081
Inspection Prep/Doc	9,970	13,408	19,724
Generic Safety Issue Inspections	**11,868**	**9,665**	**13,081**
Direct Inspection Effort	6,302	5,696	5,102
Inspection Prep/Doc	5,566	3,969	7,979
Performance Assessment (Regional Effort Only)	**10,247**	**10,417**	**9,227**
Other Activities[2]	**78,918**	**77,465**	**73,589**
Total Staff Effort	**439,000**	**436,377**	**420,492**
Total Staff Effort/Operating Site	**6,652**	**6,612**	**6,782**

[1] Resources expended include regional, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response hours.

[2] Other activities consist of inspection-related travel, the SDP, enforcement support, communications, regional support, and technical reviews