

Regulatory Framework and Cornerstone Structure

Figure 1 shows a diagram of the structure for the Revised Fuel Cycle Oversight Process (RFCOP) regulatory framework and its relationship to the cornerstones. The diagram shows the highest level as the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) mission and flows down to the cornerstone inspectable areas. The inspectable areas would be implemented through inspection procedures. Each of the levels in Figure 1 is defined below.

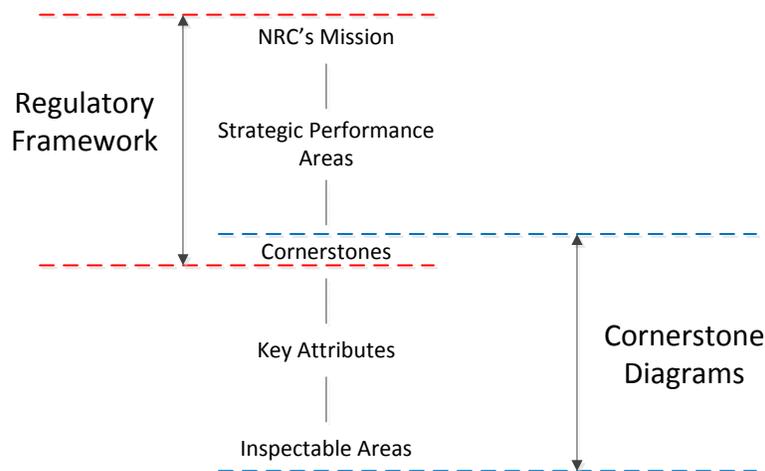


Figure 1. RFCOP Regulatory Framework and Cornerstone Structure

NRC's Mission - The NRC's mission – to protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment – presides at the top of the framework because it is the primary goal of the RFCOP. To achieve the NRC's mission, the NRC's Strategic Plan (NUREG-1614, Vol. 6) describes the strategic goals of safety and security.

Strategic Performance Areas - The strategic performance areas reflect the strategic objectives outlined in the NRC's Strategic Plan (NUREG-1614, Vol. 6). The strategic performance areas are related to regulations and licensing basis documents which provide the regulatory requirements that licensees must meet.

Cornerstones – The cornerstones are the fundamental building blocks of the regulatory oversight process. Acceptable licensee performance in each cornerstone provides reasonable assurance that the NRC is meeting its overall mission of protecting public health and safety, promoting the common defense and security, and protecting the environment.

Key Attribute – A characteristic of a cornerstone that needs to be achieved or maintained to verify that the licensee adequately assures public health and safety, and common defense and security.

Inspectable Area – Those aspects of the physical plant or the licensee's programs or processes that are verified to achieve or maintain a key attribute of a cornerstone.