



**REG CON
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U.S. NRC HEADQUARTERS, TWO WHITE FLINT NORTH AUDITORIUM

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

Timely Regulatory Decision Making in An Environment of Reducing Resources

John McKirgan, Chief
Spent Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

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Safety First

- Mission: The NRC licenses and regulates the Nation's civilian use of radioactive materials to protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment.
- The NRC is a safety organization and must remain committed to that mission.
- Safety requires constant vigilance.
- Safety and efficiency complement each other.



Principles of Good Regulation

- Independence, Openness, **Efficiency**, **Clarity**, **Reliability**
- With safety as the foundation
 - Consider and adopt efficiencies which maintain safety with reduced resources.
 - Efficiency enhancements to be discussed at the conference: MAPS, SRP Update, NEI 12-04, Graded-approach pilot.
 - Further efficiencies will be needed.



Resource Environment

- Resources in the SFST business line have decreased in recent years consistent with overall agency budgets.
- SFST must continue preparations to work with fewer resources.
- Timely decision making is important to both efficiency and reliability.



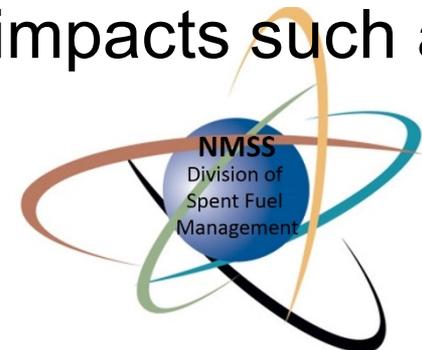
Timely Decisions

- Timely Regulatory Decision Making
 - External stakeholders should expect timely sound decision making through a clear and predictable regulatory process.
 - Consequences of delays in decision making are significant and erode trust and confidence.
 - Delays in the resolution of broad issues have resulted in the necessary submission of overlapping licensing actions.
 - Unnecessary expenditure of resources without commensurate safety benefit.



Contributing Factors and Mitigation Plan

- Revisit work load prioritization scheme
 - Division Instruction on prioritizing case work.
 - SFM-26 - Operational Strategies and Management Expectations
 - Planning Promotes Proper Performance
 - Execute the plan
 - NRC and Industry must commit to execution discipline
 - High quality submittals are essential
 - Timely decisions are essential
 - Communicate potential resource impacts such as deferring the start of cases.



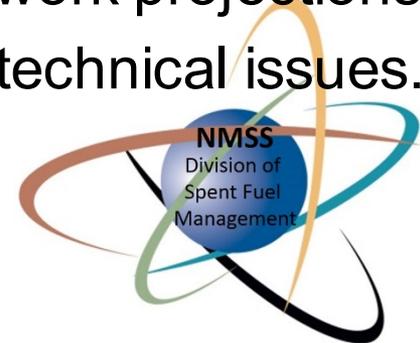
Safety Focused Reviews

- The NRC is a highly technical organization whose decisions are based on sound science and engineering principles.
 - Focus on safety significant features and events.
 - Reduce (or eliminate) resource expenditures on events that are not credible.



Challenge to Industry

- Key messages
 - Accept the challenge of zero RSIs.
 - Continue to apply lessons learned from prior applications. (Eliminate repeating RAIs)
 - Incorporations by reference should be clear and specific.
 - Adopt best practices
 - Pre-application meetings and share work projections.
 - Public meetings to discuss complex technical issues.
 - Clarity and common understanding.



Summary

- Maintain safety.
- Enhance efficiency.
- Prepare for prioritizing incoming casework.
- Industry can help with clear complete high quality submittals.

