

# Low Safety Significance Issue Resolution

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"Risk-informed approach:...a philosophy whereby risk insights are considered together with other factors..."

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### Risk-informing isn't new, but it can be improved.

- Long-standing commitment to risk-informing:
  - Successful in a lot of areas
  - Existing processes that cover many contexts
- Working group stood up in November 2018:
  - Identify means to <u>enhance</u> NRC internal processes to mitigate situations where an inappropriate expenditure of resources and attention is applied to issues of low safety significance
  - Initial focus is on operating nuclear reactors; concepts are broader
  - Common culprits: dispute on licensing basis standing, safety significance



### The exception, not the rule



U.S.NRC United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Protecting People and the Environment

#### To find your way home, you must know where you are on the map.

	NOT clearly within the existing licensing basis	Clearly within the existing licensing basis		
E.g., Backfit	NRC has the discretion (and	Issue must be resolved per	E.g., Order	High safety significance
E.g., Generic communication	responsibility) to manage its resources in the best interest of	governing statute (compliance) – only the means and	E.g., Enforcement Discretion	
E.g., No action	public health and safety	timeline are negotiable	E.g., Change requirement (rulemaking)	Low safety significance
				U.S.NRC United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Protecting People and the Environment

#### We are recommending specific changes, and further exploration. [Preliminary, and subject to change...]

- Enhance existing processes to make licensing basis standing and safety significance more integral to resource management during issue exploration
  - Earlier litmus test in inspection issue handling
  - Explicit screening and evaluation in Technical Assistance Requests
  - Training for enhanced processes
- Exploring longer-term activities for more efficiently resolving low-safety compliance issues



UNDER



## Next steps

- Recommendations to NRR Office Director Forthcoming
- Guidance document updates and review/issuance Ongoing
- Staff training Planned
  - Will need to sync with other ongoing changes (e.g., Commission direction on backfitting and forward-fitting)
- Exploration of longer-term initiatives TBD
  - Will also need to sync with other activities (e.g., SECY-18-0060 recommendation on risk-informing 10 CFR 50.59)

