Building a Smarter Fuel Cycle Facility Licensing Program

Donnie Harrison
Senior Level Advisor for Risk Assessment
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Outline

• Reminder of Working Group Purpose & Task
• Summarize Progress & Recent Changes
• Identify Next Steps
• Solicit Additional Input & Feedback
Working Group (WG) Purpose/Task

Conduct holistic assessment of Fuel Cycle licensing program to improve effectiveness & efficiency

• Look for areas of transformation and innovation
• Adhere to the NRC Principles of Good Regulations
• Engage a broad range of external & internal stakeholders
• Assess licensing process & guidance
• Consider processes & guidance from other divisions/offices
• Collect & develop suggestions
• Evaluate suggestions
• Develop WG report to Division management with conclusions and recommendations
Summarize Progress

Currently Compiled 32 Suggestions

• Suggestions from industry, working group members, and other NRC staff
  – Letters, public meetings, staff internal meetings and interactions
• Many suggestions are interrelated
• Drafted proposed resolutions for suggestions
  – Suggestion/Resolution table will be included as attachment to working group report
Summarize Progress

Draft Report Under Development

• Suggestions grouped into 5 areas
  – Improve Communication/Openness
  – Increase Knowledge/Awareness
  – Re-Enforce Good Practices
  – Improve Process/Metrics
  – Enhance Review Efficiency/Effectiveness

• General considerations going forward
Grouping Examples

Communication/Openness (6)
1. Solicit input from each licensee regarding milestones that should be established
2. Share standard metrics along with hour estimates in acceptance letter

Knowledge/Awareness (6)
24. Develop “licensing manual” to catalogue licensing guidance
26. Apply lessons learned to future, new types of applications

Good Practices (5)
8. RAIs should have clear regulatory bases – use uniform template
21. Document scope and focus of licensing review in SER

Process/Metrics (12)
5. Combine multiple steps of licensing process for simple reviews
22. Use electronic interface with licensee for RAIs, dashboards, etc.

Efficiency/Effectiveness (7)
7. Optimize review (and RAI) effort via timing of site visits
13. Maintain quality and efficiency of reviews despite staff and/or management turnover
Additional Consideration

October merger of FCSE and DSFM into new Division of Fuel Management (DFM)

• Suggestion added to ensure all activities are coordinated between these business lines
  – Development of business line instruction for RAIs

• Developing integrated licensing guidance for both business lines
  – Will address/prioritize working group recommendations
  – Will incorporate best practices
Next Steps

End of November
• Complete Working Draft Report for Internal Review

December
• Make Draft Report Publicly Available
• Hold Public Meeting on Draft Report Recommendations
• Finalize Report

March 2020
• Move Forward on Approved Actions from Division Integration Team

End of 2020
• Implement Approved Actions
Additional Input & Feedback

1. Share goals
2. Share ideas
3. Find best way to approach goal
4. Other people’s help/support
5. Success! Feel good :)

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Protecting People and the Environment