



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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January 8, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO: Lauren A. Nist, Director
Vogtle Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: James E. Gaslevic, Reactor Operations Engineer /RA/
Vogtle Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS
PERFORMANCE METRIC REPORT FOR CALENDAR
YEAR 2023

The Construction Reactor Oversight Process (cROP) self-assessment program evaluates the effectiveness of the cROP through its success in meeting pre-established goals and intended outcomes. The staff performed the calendar year (CY) 2023 performance metric analysis in accordance with Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2522, "Construction Reactor Oversight Process Self-Assessment Program," dated July 28, 2014, and IMC 2522 Appendix A, "Reactor Oversight Process Self-Assessment Metrics," dated October 4, 2017.

IMC 2522 and its appendix describe performance metrics associated with each of four cROP program areas: the inspection program (IP), significance determination process (SDP), assessment (AS) program, and inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria (ITAAC) program. The staff designates the program-specific metrics as the IP, SDP, AS, and ITA metrics, respectively. The staff also monitors and analyzes a metric of a more general nature, which is designated as the O metric, to assess the overall performance of the cROP.

Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (Vogtle) Unit 4 remained under the cROP for the first half of CY 2023 but transferred to the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) in July 2023, after staff issued the 10 CFR 52.103(g) finding based on its determination that all of the ITAAC in Appendix C of the Vogtle Unit 4 combined license were successfully met. Vogtle Unit 3 transferred to the ROP in August 2022, and is not included in this performance review for CY 2023.

CONTACT: James E. Gaslevic, NRR/VPO
301-415-2776

Enclosure 1 provides a summary of the performance metric analysis results and Enclosure 2 provides the detailed report. The staff found that the cROP successfully met all applicable performance metrics by meeting the acceptance criteria defined in IMC 2522 Appendix A. Four metrics were deemed not applicable for the CY 2023 self-assessment, which were related to technical assistance requests, supplemental inspections, appeals of SDP results, and significant events. In CY 2023, there were no technical assistance requests, no supplemental inspections, and no significant events for Vogtle Unit 4, and no appeals were received.

Enclosures:

1. Self-Assessment Metric Overview
2. Self-Assessment Metric Report

Calendar Year 2023
cROP Self-Assessment Metric Report
(Enclosures 1 and 2)

cROP SELF-ASSESSMENT METRIC OVERVIEW

INSPECTION PROGRAM (IP) METRICS

IP1: Inspection Reports are issued within Timeliness Requirements	IP2: NRC's Response to Technical Assistance Requests (TAR) Is Timely
Met	N/A

SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION PROCESS (SDP) METRICS

SDP1: SDP Results Are Predictable and Repeatable	SDP2: Appeals of SDP Results
Met	N/A

ASSESSMENT (AS) PROGRAM METRICS

AS1: Deviations from the Construction Action Matrix	AS2: Assessment Program Results Are Completed in a Timely Manner	AS3: Timeliness of Supplemental Inspections	AS4: Degradations in Quality of Construction are Gradual and Allow Adequate Agency Engagement of the Licensee
Met	Met	N/A	Met

Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC) METRIC

ITA1: Analysis of ITAAC Reopened After Closure Verification
Met

OVERALL Construction Reactor Oversight Process (cROP) METRIC (O)

O: Analysis of NRC's Responses to Significant Events
N/A

cROP SELF-ASSESSMENT METRIC REPORT

INSPECTION MANUAL CHAPTER 2522 APPENDIX A
CONSTRUCTION REACTOR OVERSIGHT
PROCESS SELF-ASSESSMENT METRICS

2522A-01	INSPECTION PROGRAM (IP) METRICS
IP-1	<u>Inspection Reports are issued within Timeliness Requirements</u>
<u>Met:</u>	Yes
<u>Definition:</u>	Audit 100 percent of reactor construction inspection reports issued during the calendar year in relation to the inspection report timeliness requirements in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0613, "Power Reactor Construction Inspection Reports."
<u>Acceptance Criteria:</u>	At least 90 percent of reactor construction inspection reports issued during the calendar year meet the inspection report timeliness requirements in IMC 0613.
<u>Lead:</u>	Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)/Vogtle Project Office (VPO)
<u>Goals Supported:</u>	Objective, Risk-Informed, Predictable, Effective, Open
<u>Note:</u>	For inspections not conducted by a resident inspector, inspection completion is normally defined as the day of the final exit meeting. For resident inspector and integrated inspection reports, inspection completion is normally defined as the last day covered by the inspection report. For stand-alone team inspection reports, the report is issued no later than 45 calendar days after inspection exit.
<u>Analysis:</u>	All reactor construction inspection reports issued during calendar year (CY) 2023 met the timeliness requirements in IMC 0613.

IP-2 NRC's Response to Technical Assistance Requests (TAR) Is Timely

Met: N/A

Definition: Audit 100 percent of TARs completed in the calendar year in relation to the TAR timeliness requirements in NRR-COM-106, Revision 6, "Technical Assistance Request (TAR) Process."

Acceptance Criteria: Construction TARs are expected to be completed in as timely a manner as possible in keeping with construction schedules and associated inspection and oversight. The nominal expectation for completion of construction TARs is 30 days.

Lead: NRR/VPO

Goals Supported: Objective, Risk-Informed, Understandable, Open, Effective

Analysis: There were no TARs issued for CY 2023.

2522A-02 SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION PROCESS (SDP) METRICS

SDP-1 SDP Results Are Predictable and Repeatable

Met: Yes

Definition: Audit 100 percent of construction inspection program inspection findings issued during the calendar year against the significance determination process in IMC 2519, "Construction Significance Determination Process," and its appendixes.

Acceptance Criteria: If greater than 10 findings were issued during the calendar year, then at least 90 percent of them contain adequate detail to enable an independent auditor to trace through the significance determination process in IMC 2519 and its appendixes and reach the same significance color characterization.

If 10 or fewer findings were issued during the calendar year, then no more than 1 of them did not contain adequate detail to enable an independent auditor to trace through the significance determination process in IMC 2519 and its appendixes and reach the same significance color characterization.

Lead: NRR/VPO

Goals Supported: Risk-Informed, Predictable

Note: The number of inspection findings in a calendar year are those that are issued during that calendar year, independent of the inspection report number.

Analysis: There were 4 GREEN findings documented in 2023 and reviewed through independent audit. All findings contained the necessary detail to enable the independent auditor, using IMC 2519 "Construction Significance Determination Process," to obtain the same finding color characterization.

SDP-2	<u>Appeals of SDP Results</u>
<u>Met:</u>	N/A
<u>Definition:</u>	Track the total number of appeals of final SDP results during the calendar year.
<u>Acceptance Criteria:</u>	Zero appeals of SDP significance that result in a final determination being overturned during the calendar year.
<u>Lead:</u>	Regions, NRR/VPO
<u>Goals Supported:</u>	Risk-Informed, Objective, Predictable, Understandable, Open
<u>Assessment:</u>	There were no appeals of final SDP results during CY 2023.

2522A-03 ASSESSMENT (AS) PROGRAM METRICS

AS-1 Deviations from the Construction Action Matrix

Met: Yes

Definition: Audit all assessment-related letters during the calendar year and count the number of deviations from the Construction Action Matrix.

Acceptance Criteria: Zero deviations from the Construction Action Matrix during the calendar year.

Lead: NRR/VPO

Goals Supported: Objective, Risk-Informed, Open

Assessment: There were no deviations from the Construction Action Matrix during CY 2023.

AS-2 Assessment Program Results (Assessment Reviews, Assessment Letters and Public Meetings) Are Completed in a Timely Manner

Met Yes

Definition: Audit 100 percent of Assessment Reviews, Assessment Letters and Public Meetings issued/conducted during the calendar year in relation to the timeliness requirements in IMC 2505, "Periodic Assessment of Construction Inspection Program Results."

Acceptance Criteria: At least 90 percent of the timeliness goals for the assessment process are met during the calendar year.

Lead: Region, NRR/VPO

Goals Supported: Effective, Open, Predictable

Assessment: All Assessment Reviews, Assessment Letters and Public Meetings issued/conducted during CY 2023 met the timeliness requirements in IMC 2505, "Periodic Assessment of Construction Inspection Program Results."

AS-3 Timeliness of Supplemental Inspections

Met: N/A

Definition: Count the number of instances during the calendar year where a finding was held open for more than six months due to the need to complete the supplemental inspection.

Acceptance Criteria: No instances during the calendar year when a supplemental inspection has not been completed within six months for which the licensee had indicated they were prepared for the inspection.

Lead: Region, NRR/VPO

Goals Supported: Effective, Predictable

Assessment: There were no supplemental inspections required during CY 2023.

AS-4 Degradations in Quality of Construction are Gradual and Allow Adequate Agency Engagement of the Licensee

Met: Yes

Definition: Track the number of instances during the calendar year in which a construction site moves more than one column to the right in the Construction Action Matrix.

Acceptance Criteria: No instances during the calendar year in which performance issues cause a construction site to move more than one column to the right in the Construction Action Matrix.

Lead: NRR/VPO

Goals Supported: Risk-Informed, Predictable

Assessment: There were no instances during CY 2023 in which a construction site moved more than one column to the right in the Construction Action Matrix.

2522A-04 ITAAC METRICS

ITA-1 Analysis of ITAAC Reopened After Closure Verification

Met: Yes

Definition: Audit 100 percent of ITAAC that are reopened after closure verification during the calendar year.

Acceptance Criteria: No ITAAC have been verified as having been met that are reopened during the calendar year because of a deficiency in the process that was within the NRC's ability to identify before closure verification.

Lead: NRR/VPO

Goals Supported: Effective, Risk-Informed

Assessment: There were no ITAAC that were reopened as a result of a deficiency in the process that was within the NRC's ability to identify before closure verification during CY 2023.

2522A-05 OVERALL cROP METRICS

O-1 Analysis of NRC's Responses to Significant Events

Met: N/A

Definition: Review 100 percent of incident investigation teams (IITs) and augmented inspection teams (AITs) reports that are issued during the calendar year to determine if major programmatic voids were identified during the cROP review portion of IITs and AITs.

Acceptance Criteria: No major programmatic voids are identified during the cROP review portion of IITs and AITs.

Lead: NRR/VPO

Goals Supported: Effective, Predictable

Assessment: There were no IITs or AITs performed or issued during CY 2023.

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS PERFORMANCE
METRIC REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023 DATED JANUARY 8, 2024

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JGaslevic, NRR

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NRR-106

OFFICE	RII/DPO	RII/DPO	NRR/VPO
NAME	BDavis	NCovert	JGaslevic
DATE	01/08/2024	01/08/2024	01/08/2024