



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 31, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO: Philip McKenna, Deputy Director  
Division of Reactor Oversight  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Brian Benney, Senior Project Manager *Brian Benney*  
Generic Communications and Operating Experience Branch  
Division of Reactor Oversight  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 15, 2025, COMMENT  
GATHERING PUBLIC MEETING ON THE NRC'S  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADVANCE ACT OF 2024

On January 15, 2025, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations held a public meeting gather public comments and discuss the implementation of the ADVANCE Act of 2024. Section 507 of the Act requires the NRC to develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that identifies specific improvements to the nuclear reactor and materials oversight and inspection programs carried out pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) that the Commission may implement to maximize the efficiency of such programs through, where appropriate, the use of risk-informed, performance-based procedures, expanded incorporation of information technologies, and staff training. Key language in Section 507 includes optimizing resource use, revising inspection planning, evaluating the cross-cutting issues program, and aligning resource allocation with safety significance and licensee performance. This public meeting focused on ideas that could be implemented for operating reactor oversight and inspection in the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP).

The meeting notice and agenda are located at Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. [ML25014A022](#). The slides for the staff presentation are available at [ML25014A010](#). There were no requests by stakeholders to deliver prepared remarks. A list of meeting attendees is provided in the enclosure.

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The NRC staff provided an overview of the ongoing efforts for agencywide implementation of the ADVANCE Act's requirements, providing updates with a focus on Section 507, which aims to improve oversight and inspection programs. The slides outlined specific tasks assigned to track implementation progress, sharing a timeline and contact information for the Core Team and staff leading individual projects. The presentation included details on a dedicated ADVANCE Act public website offering resources like a repository of past and upcoming meetings, as well as a feedback mechanism. Regarding Section 507 progress, discussions centered on meeting Act requirements through enhancements to the Reactor Oversight Process and adjustments to inspection programs.

The NRC staff discussed several ideas to meet Section 507 requirements, including a complete revision of the ROP performance indicators and an accompanying rebaselining of the ROP baseline inspection program, revising team inspection efforts from two weeks onsite to one week onsite and one week remote, streamlining documentation of very low-safety significant issues, revising the Cross-Cutting Issues Program, and evaluating dual-path findings for enforcement violations. Additional ideas include giving licensees credit for identifying findings that screen to White in the significance determination process (SDP), modifying the ROP Action Matrix so that White findings no longer aggregate into a degraded cornerstone, making inspection entrance meetings optional, holding exit meetings virtually, and improving the inspector library. Additionally, the staff discussed plans to begin the effectiveness review of the engineering inspection program beginning in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2025 for potential revisions to be implemented with the rebaselining of the ROP baseline inspection program.

Industry representatives focused on the NRC's use of templates and technology under the ADVANCE Act. NEI inquired about plans to create or improve templates and leverage technology. NRC highlighted a significant change with Inspection Reports (IRs) using the Inspection Scheduling, Tracking, and Reporting (ISTAR) program and noted potential improvements in the documentation of green and severity level (SL)-IV issues to reduce inspector effort. Regarding quicker IR availability, NRC staff mentioned team discussions about producing reports more efficiently and hypothetical future technology to document samples immediately. NEI also asked about the timeline for the security SDP review and revision, and it was discussed that there would be an update on the effort at the scheduled January 29, 2025 ROP Bi-monthly meeting.

NEI also commented on the tracking hours spent by headquarters staff on very low safety-significance issues (VLSSIs). The staff confirmed that an agencywide announcement to advertise the IMC 2515 revision applies to all business lines in the NRC and that NMSS is in the process of updating its guidance. NEI highlighted the value of tracking time spent for self-assessment and ensuring time-intensive issues are properly escalated through the Very Low Safety Significance Resolution (VLSSR) process or the TAR (Technical Assistance Request) process. NEI also discussed applying risk-informed criteria to significance determination process (SDP) and how risk-informed completion times may lead to unintended consequences, such as exceeding greater-than-green (GTG) timeframes when risk-informed tools are used.

NEI highlighted previous discussion on Performance Indicators (PIs) and how they lead to Supplemental Inspections. NEI emphasized the importance of engagement in this area when a PI revision effort begins. NEI suggested including all inspections, such as Comprehensive Engineering Team Inspection (CETI), Focused Engineering Inspection (FEI), In-Service Inspection (ISI), and Radiation Protection (RP), in a unified review to avoid separate

assessments. NRC validated that other areas are under review, with groups addressing immediate actions in RP, security, and Emergency Planning (EP). A comprehensive review and rebaselining of performance indicators (PIs) will eventually encompass all areas.

In regard to a discussion on licensee documentation requests, NEI proposed a process where inspectors confirm that they have the correct information rather than submitting formal requests, which could simplify the process for licensees. NEI asked about plans for implementing ideas that do not require Commission approval but may require Commission notification. NRC explained that some initiatives, like report-writing, could be implemented individually, while others may be packaged together.

One member of the public expressed strong concerns about the NRC's proposals, particularly those involving changes to the assessment process and action matrix. He argued that such changes could confuse the public and that increasing inspection findings over the past three years suggest oversight should not be reduced. He highlighted the need to address the aggregation of green findings if an A+ category is introduced, noting current inconsistencies where plants with numerous green findings remain in Column 1. He cautioned that changes to cross-cutting issues (CCIs) program and Problem Identification & Resolution (PI&R) inspection program could lead to critical oversights, referencing past issues like Davis-Besse, and urged against substantial reductions in oversight in response to the ADVANCE Act.

Another member of the public expressed support for the NRC's proposed changes in response to the ADVANCE Act, emphasizing that they align with the regulator's role of safeguarding public health and safety while holding licensees accountable for plant operations.

One final public comment expressed support for the NRC's efforts and clarified that the ADVANCE Act aims to improve efficiency, not reduce oversight. She highlighted two key points from the act: eliminating duplicative or unnecessary activities and ensuring periodic training for staff on risk-informed criteria. The commenter also suggested clearer presentation of training progress through the NRC dashboard and emphasized using appropriate technology alongside proper staff training.

At the end of the meeting, NRC and industry management gave closing remarks. The industry representatives expressed appreciation for the open dialogue and willingness of NRC staff to hear industry views. The NRC management stressed the importance of the NRC being focused on providing reasonable assurance of public health and safety when considering changes to the ROP. The NRC staff also discussed that the next ADVANCE Act Section 507 public meeting for the ROP was scheduled for January 29, 2025.

The enclosure provides the attendance list for this meeting.

Enclosure:  
List of Attendees

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DATED: JANUARY 31, 2025

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**\*via email**

<b>OFFICE</b>	NRR/DRO/IOEB	NRR/DRO/DD	NRR/DRO/IOEB
<b>NAME</b>	BBenney	PMcKenna	BBenney
<b>DATE</b>	1/30/2025	1/31/2025	1/31/2025

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting  
on NRC'S Implementation of the ADVANCE Act  
January 15, 2025**

**Participant List**

Alan Konkal	NRC
Alex Prada	NRC
Amy Chamberlain	Southern Nuclear
Andrew Bowman	Unknown
Andrew Kauk	DPS
Andrew Mauer	NEI
Andrew Siwy	NRC
Andrew Zach	EPW
Angel Moreno	NRC
Annie Ramirez	NRC
Audrey Christiano	NRC
B. Cizin	PSEG
Balla Barro	NRC
Bob Orlikowski	NRC
Bradley Dolan	TVA
Brian Benney	NRC
Brice Bickett	NRC
Carlos Sisco	Winston and Strawn
Carrie Seipp	Xcel Energy
Charity Pantalo	NRC
Christine Wallace	Unknown
Christopher Hunt	NRC
Claire Nicolae	INL
Corban Ryan	NRC
Cordie Dorman	NRC
Dan Geary	NRC
Daniel Merzke	NRC
Danny Ouk	NRC
David Curtis	NRC
David Garmon	NRC
Deann Raleigh	Curtiss-Wright
Derek Widmayer	NRC
Doni Bogedain	NRC
Douglas Bollock	NRC
Dwayne Myal	NRC
Edward Stutzcage	NRC
Edwin Lyman	UCS
Eric Bowman	NRC
Eric Brothman	NRC

**Enclosure**

Eric C Michel	NRC
Eric Frank	Unknown
Eric Iliyev	NRC
Erin Carfang	NRC
Ethan Adams	NRC
Fred Madden	Certrec
Geoffrey Miller	NRC
Gladys Figueroa Toledo	NRC
Glenn Dentel	NRC
Greg Warnick	NRC
Helen Levendosky	AEP
Ian Bitner	Unknown
Ismael Garcia	NRC
James Anderson	NRC
James Gaslevic	NRC
James Hartman	NRC
James Slider	NEI
Jan Boudart	Unknown
Jason Lising	NRC
Jason Schussler	NRC
Jay Bodnar	Unknown
Jeremiah Rey	NRC
Jeremy Wachutka	NRC
Jesse Brown	Constellation Nuclear
Jesse Carlson	NRC
Jimmy Wong	NRC
John Cassidy	NRC
John Giddens	Entergy
John Hughey	NRC
John Robbins	NRC
John McKirgan	NRC
Jonathan Braisted	NRC
Jordan Tyman	Unknown
Josh Rhodes	NRC
Joy Jiang	Breakthrough Institute
Justin Bowden	NRC
Justin Hassler	NRC
Justin Wearne	PSEG
Kevin Cook-Smith	NRC
Khaing Hsu Wai	NRC
Kimberlee Edwards	NRC
Kimberly Hulvey	Unknown
Kobe Oley	NRC
Kris Smetana	NRC

Laura Pearson	NRC
Lauren Casey	NRC
Lauren Nist	NRC
Leslie Fields	NRC
Linda Dewhirst	Unknown
Lindsey Cooke	NRC
Liz McAndrew-Benavides	NRC
Luis Betancourt	NRC
Lundy Pressley	NRC
Maribel Valdez	Unknown
Mark Franke	NRC
Mark Hagen	NRC
Marty Murphy	Xcel Energy
Matt Endress	NRC
Matthew Fannon	NRC
Matthew Leech	NRC
Maxine Keefe	NRC
Michael Brown	NRC
Michael Shock	NRC
Michael Whitlock	Unknown
Mike Franovich	NRC
Mike McCoppin	NRC
Mike True	DEV Generation - 3
Mimi King-Patterson	TVA
Nicole Good	STARS Alliance
Noel Pitoniak	NRC
Pete Snyder	NRC
PetriaRoxana Hartsock	NRC
Phil Mckenna	NRC
Phil OBryan	NRC
Phyllis Clark	NRC
Prema Chandrathil	NRC
Rani Franovich	Nuclear ROSE Consulting, LLC
Rebecca Sigmon	NRC
Reinaldo Rodriguez	NRC
Rich Smith	NRC
Rob Krsek	NRC
Robin Ritzman	Curtiss-Wright
Rodney Fanner	NRC
Ronald Gaston	NRC
Roy Linthicum	Constellation Nuclear
Russell Felts	NRC
Russell Thompson	TVA

Sam Gellen	NRC
Sam Graves	NRC
Sam Sayampanathan	NRC
Samuel Gibson	Unknown
Scott Burnell	NRC
Shakur Walker	NRC
Shane Gatter	Unknown
Shaun Matthews	Unknown
Shayan Sinha	Services - 6
Silas Kennedy	NRC
Steve Wyman	NRC
Steven Garry	NRC
Susan Perkins	NEI
Tammie Rivera	NRC
Tara Inverso	NRC
Tim Marshall	NRC
Tim Riti	NEI
Tony Betts	NRC
Travis Iskierka-Boggs	NRC
Zack Hollcraft	NRC