




UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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August 11, 2025

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

FROM: David Aird, Chief  Signed by Aird, David
on 08/11/25
Reactor Assessment Branch
Division of Reactor Oversight
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS SELF-
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff requested in COMSECY-25-0001 ([ML24271A119](#)) the suspension of certain self-assessment activities in light of similar NRC actions required under Section 507(b) of the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2024 (ADVANCE Act). These activities included the annual report to the Commission on self-assessment activities, the Nuclear Materials and Waste Safety Program report, the Annual Decommissioning report, the Agency Action Review Meeting (AARM) and Commission meeting on the results of the AARM. The Commission approved the request in SRM-COMSECY-25-0001 ([ML25104A272](#)) which instructs staff to evaluate these activities if they are duplicative and to determine if there are efficiencies to be gained when they are resumed.

In SRM-COMSECY-25-0001, the Commission also required staff to ensure that self-assessment activities that were and will be completed in the future are made available to the public to the extent possible. This memorandum summarizes the 2024 Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) self-assessment activities conducted in accordance with Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0307. Consistent with the staff's plan in COMSECY-25-0001, certain activities were completed to ensure the ROP remains effective, objective, risk-informed, and predictable in overseeing nuclear power plant safety and security. These activities include the 2024 ROP Metrics Report, the Region III ROP Implementation Audit, ongoing efforts of the Baseline Security Significance Determination Process (SDP) Working Group, bi-monthly public meetings, and reports to Congress.

CONTACT: Greg Stock, NRR/DRO
570-449-4306

The 2024 ROP Metrics Report evaluated 17 performance metrics. 16 metrics received green ratings, indicating strong performance. One metric received a yellow rating. Metric I-5, Continuity of Resident Inspector (RI)/Senior Resident Inspector (SRI) Site Staffing, was Yellow due to nine resident offices falling below 90% staffed in 2024. The report demonstrates improvement from previous assessments. The 2024 report as well as previous years assessments are publicly available on the [ROP Evaluations](#) page of the NRC website.

The 2024 Region III ROP Implementation Audit, in accordance with IMC 0307, Appendix C, appraised regional program performance in terms of effectiveness and uniformity of ROP implementation. The audit team concluded that Region III is implementing the ROP effectively and uniformly in accordance with NRR program office guidance. The audit team identified four strengths/best practices in the Region III implementation of the ROP and four recommendations for improvement for Region III to pursue or consider. In addition, the audit team developed eight recommendations for the program office to initiate action or to consider in strengthening ROP implementation guidance. These program recommendations have been entered into the ROP Lessons Learned tracker for disposition.

Consistent with SECY-19-0067 ([ML19070A036](#)), the intent of the Baseline Security SDP Working Group is to simplify and improve objectivity to the security SDP. The working group will revise procedures to focus on safety impacts and reducing complexity while engaging licensees through public meetings and workshops. This is an ongoing effort however, in 2024, two public meetings were held to engage with the industry and the public on the status of the working group. Additional public meetings occurred in 2025. As the SDP and supporting documents are developed or revised, communications on the working group's efforts will be made publicly available with consideration of the sensitive nature of the Security SDP. A SECY paper, providing the working group's recommendations to the Commission, is anticipated by October 2025.

Additional self-assessment activities have been completed which prioritized transparency with the public. ROP Bi-monthly public meetings, which are announced on the [Public Meetings](#) page of the NRC website, continued in 2024. The goal of these meetings is to gather feedback from licensees, industry, and the public on ROP related topics. For example, previous discussions improved inspection procedure clarity and implementation, SDP and regional consistency among other improvements. Semi-annual reports to Congress, posted on the [Reports to Congress](#) page of the NRC website, summarized metrics, findings, and self-assessment outcomes. These reports were developed and published on schedule in 2024. Per Senator Carper's request (now Senator Capito), quarterly reports were published for 2024, publicly available on the [Commission Documents](#) page of the NRC website. These reports provide a broad review of topics including ROP findings, workforce development and management, and inspection activities.

Continuing the efforts started in response to the ADVANCE Act, the NRC staff is performing a broad, comprehensive review of the ROP which will allow for consideration of improvements in industry performance and advancements in technology. Part of this effort will be a review of the ROP Self-Assessment Program.

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ACTIVITIES IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024 DATE: August 11, 2025

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PMcKenna, NRR

DAird, NRR

GStock, NRR

AGarmoe, NRR

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OFFICE	NRR/DRO/IRAB	NRR/DRO	NRR/DRO/IRAB
NAME	GStock	PMcKenna	DAird
DATE	6/25/2025	8/6/2025	8/11/2025

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