



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

January 26, 2026

SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael F. King  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Carrie M. Safford, Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-25-0045 –  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISING THE REACTOR  
OVERSIGHT PROCESS

The Commission has approved the following planned enhancements to revise the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). With respect to the Assessment Program, the Commission has approved Option 1, revising the treatment of licensee-identified White inspection findings, such that they would not be Action Matrix inputs but would still be closed out through follow-up inspection; Option 2, revising the Action Matrix criteria so that multiple White Action Matrix inputs in Column 2 of the Action Matrix do not aggregate to result in assessment in Column 3; and Option 3, revising the Agency Action Review Meeting (AARM) Commission meeting requirements to only conduct a standalone AARM Commission meeting when a licensee meets the MD 8.14, "Agency Action Review Meeting" criteria.

With respect to the Cross-Cutting Issues Program, the Commission has approved the staff's recommended Option 2 to characterize inspection findings at the cross-cutting area level rather than at the cross-cutting aspect level.

With respect to NRC-Developed Power Reactor Initial Operator Licensing Examinations, the Commission has approved the staff's recommended Option 1, to modify guidance to shift away from each region preparing at least one power reactor initial operator licensing examination per year.

Regarding the upcoming comprehensive review of the ROP, the staff should use data to provide a level of confidence that any reductions to inspections will be well-substantiated, targeted adjustments that will still result in processes that identify and resolve any declines in safety- or security-related performance as early as possible.

As part of the broader ROP enhancement initiative, the staff should reevaluate the thresholds for identifying a cross-cutting theme or propose another objective means of assigning a cross-cutting theme.

The staff should update inspection manual guidance and utilize appropriate communication channels (e.g., licensee entrance and exit meetings, public meetings, etc.) to clearly define a licensee-identified White finding.

After Commission direction is provided on the comprehensive review of the ROP (as provided in two upcoming SECY papers, one for safety and one for security/force-on-force), the staff should

modify Management Directive 8.13, "Reactor Oversight Process," accordingly, such that the staff informs the Commission, via Commissioners' Assistants Note or Information SECY, of ROP changes currently requiring Commission approval per Section II.I.1. The staff should also modify Section II.I to establish appropriate notification methods for other ROP changes.

cc: Chairman Nieh  
Commissioner Wright  
Commissioner Crowell  
Commissioner Marzano  
Commissioner Weaver  
OGC  
CFO  
OCA  
OPA  
ODs, RAs, ACRS, ASLBP  
PDR