



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

March 25, 2026

SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael F. King
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Tomas E. Herrera, Acting Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS – SECY-26-0014 –
RECOMMENDATIONS TO REVISE THE REACTOR
OVERSIGHT PROCESS BASELINE INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Commission has approved the staff's proposed revisions to the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) baseline inspection program and the inspection finding screening process, specifically the more-than-minor issue screening criteria, for greater efficiency and effectiveness, as directed by the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2024, and as described in SECY-25-0045, "Recommendations for Revising the Reactor Oversight Process," dated June 5, 2025.

The staff should adopt the option described in Enclosure 2 to maintain the Problem Identification and Resolution team inspection, shift to a triennial frequency, reduce the team size by two members, and narrow the scope to licensee corrective action programs.

The staff should develop a strategy to expand the technical and regulatory skillsets of regional inspection staff to enable their effective deployment across NRC licensing programs as the agency's resource focus shifts from oversight to licensing.

The staff should implement a structured refresher training program for all regional inspectors, developed by the new technical training organization in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research in consultation with the Director of the Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector.

The staff should develop initial and refresher training for resident inspectors, as needed, to ensure they possess the required skillset necessary to perform inspections in the expanded areas currently performed by specialized region-based inspectors that they will pick up as part of these ROP changes.

The revised 175-hour engineering team inspection should be conducted every three years rather than annually.

The staff should consider implementing a formal process to periodically assess the effectiveness of inspector training to identify any gaps in knowledge or performance. This should include feedback from both resident inspectors and region-based inspectors, as well as periodic benchmarking against best practices in other regulatory programs.

The staff should suspend the previously scheduled effectiveness review for the engineering inspection program and instead conduct a revised review 24 months after implementation of the new engineering inspection program.

In combination with the self-assessment effectiveness reviews performed per Inspection Manual Chapter 0307, "Reactor Oversight Self-Assessment Program," and within 24 months of issuance of the final Executive Order 14300 rules affecting Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Parts 50 and 52, the staff should perform a holistic assessment of the cumulative effects of these changes as well as other ongoing regulatory changes to ensure the continued effectiveness of the oversight program.

Following the assessment targeted for completion in December 2028, the staff should review the Memorandum of Agreement between the NRC and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations to determine if updates are needed.

The staff should use the authority granted in SECY-25-0045 to adjust the ROP, as needed, to ensure that it remains an effective risk-informed, performance-based oversight process, including the extent and frequency of future ROP assessments. Accordingly, this could also include re-adjusting the inspection program if a significant decline in safety performance is observed in the future.

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

