



Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Bimonthly Public Meeting



Hosted by the
Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor
Inspector (CNRI)
July 23, 2026

Purpose, Outcome, Plan (Agenda)



Purpose and Outcome: Provide clear, timely communication to stakeholders on key developments, issues, and ongoing activities related to the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP), ensuring transparency, fostering shared understanding, and supporting effective regulatory engagement.

Agenda Time	Topic	Presenter
09:00 AM – 09:10 AM	Opening Remarks	NRC and NEI
09:10 AM – 09:30 AM	NRC Oversight and Inspection Performance Goals and Indicators	Phil McKenna, CNRI
09:30 AM – 09:40 AM	Revised ROP Implementation	Heather Jones, CNRI/DOCP/RIB
09:40 AM – 10:00 AM	Status of Frequently Asked Question for Hatch and White Papers	Ami Agrawal, CNRI/DOCP/RAB
10:00AM – 10:20AM	Reorganization to Form the Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector (CNRI)	Shakur Walker, CNRI/DOCP
10:20AM – 10:30AM	BREAK	
10:30AM – 11:15AM	Open Discussion	NRC, NEI, Industry
11:15AM – 11:30AM	Update on Enforcement Guidance Memorandum and Information Notice on Uncoordinated Circuits	Charles Moulton, NRR/DRSS
11:30AM – 12:00PM	Additional Opportunity for Public Comments	Members of the Public
12:00 PM	Meeting Adjourned	



Opening Remarks

NRC and NEI





NRC Oversight and Inspection Performance Goals and Indicators



Phil McKenna, Deputy Office Director
Inspection and Investigations
Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector

Agency Metric: Percent of assigned very low safety or security significance items resolved within 45 days of the end of inspection



- May be referred to metric as “1.1.3”
- Metric 1.1.1.3 measures the timeliness of resolution of very low significance issues that remain open once “on-site” inspection activities are completed and is the latest among numerous agency efforts to re-focus resources toward issues of potentially higher safety significance.
- Metric 1.1.1.3 covers all agency business lines and both materials and non-materials facilities.
- Background
 - Very Low Safety Significance Resolution (VLSSIR) Process
 - Timeliness Goals for using VLSSIR
 - Development of a Metric
- The 1.1.3 metric does not govern the dispositioning of issues, but instead is a measure of the agency’s timeliness in dispositioning very low safety significance issues remaining open at the end of an inspection
- Metric 1.1.1.3 sets a goal of 45 days to disposition any questions or issues that remain open following the end of planned inspection activities.
 - Clock starts at the end of the inspection quarter for resident inspection activities.
 - Clock starts at the end of planned inspection activities for non-resident inspections.

Agency Metric: Percent of assigned very low safety or security significance items resolved within 45 days of the end of inspection



- Excluded from the metric:
 - Potential issues of concern identified during Plant Status or performance of an inspection procedure where only a “limited amount of time” has been spent and determined that further review or engagement with the licensee will be deferred to a future inspection activity beyond the current period (no further effort will be expended until start of future inspection activity). Would re-enter process with future inspection activity.
 - Issues determined to require disposition through a formal NRC process. For example:
 - Inspection Finding Review Board (IFRB)
 - Detailed Risk Evaluation (DRE)
 - Significance Evaluation Review Panel (SERP)
 - Enforcement Panel
 - Allegation Process
 - An item that is initially considered white then goes green will not fall into the 45-day metric. Such an item would have entered the IFRB process to manage timeliness of escalated issues and that would have kicked it out of the 45-day metric.



Revised ROP Implementation



Heather Jones, Chief
Reactor Inspection Branch
Division of Oversight and Compliance Programs
Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector

Inspection Program Improvements



- Implementation of revised ROP began July 1st
 - Maintained 2 resident inspectors on-site
 - Issued updated inspection manual chapters and inspection procedures (IPs)
 - Trained inspectors on revised inspection procedures
- Consolidated IPs in areas of
 - Reactor Safety (71111 Series)
 - Emergency Preparedness (71114 Series)
 - Radiation Protection (71125 Series)
 - Security (71130 Series)
- Revised periodicity of several inspections including
 - Engineering inspection on a triennial frequency
 - Problem Identification and Resolution team inspection retained on a triennial frequency
 - Radiation Protection inspections on a triennial frequency
 - Emergency Preparedness NRC resident inspector drill evaluation on a biennial frequency

Enhanced Consistency in More-Than-Minor (MTM) Screening



- Updated MTM screening guidance became effective May 18
- Clarified MTM screening criteria to reduce subjectivity and enhance consistency
- Eliminates Green findings that involve speculative or negligible impact (e.g., small losses of margin)
- Licensees are still required to restore compliance for all NRC violations, Minor or More-Than-Minor
- Security SDP update with MTM has been issued and took effect on July 9
- Temporary guidance still in effect for Radiation Protection MTM screening guidance
- Staff is monitoring implementation, collecting feedback, and will update guidance, if necessary

Force-On-Force Inspection Revision



- Triennial inspection – one NRC conducted FOF exercises along with a separate NRC observation of a licensee conducted exercise
- Updated exercise outcome characterization to remove effective/ineffective labels to shift the inspection emphasis to overall readiness, continuous learning, and the correction of weaknesses
- Option for increased licensee involvement in scenario development will be implemented in January 2027

Current and Future Work



- Section 507 of the ADVANCE Act
 - Review the ROP Self-Assessment Process, including streamlining annual self-assessment reports
 - Develop a framework and invest in foundational tools, such as the use of AI to more effectively focus inspection resources
- Report to Congress (SECY-25-0045)
 - Review the ROP Supplemental Inspection Program
 - Review the ROP Reactive Inspection Program
 - Review of MD 8.3, “NRC Incident Investigation Program”
 - Review of Inspection Manual Chapter 0309, “Reactive Inspection Decision Basis for Power Reactors”
- Staff Requirements Memorandums
 - Revise the refresher training program for all regional inspectors
 - Implement a formal process to periodically assess the effectiveness of inspector training to identify any gaps in knowledge or performance
 - Conduct a holistic assessment of the cumulative effects of the ROP changes as well as other ongoing regulatory changes to ensure the continued effectiveness of the oversight program (within 24 months of issuance of final EO 14300 rules)



Status of Frequently Asked Question for Hatch and White Papers



Ami Agrawal, Chief
Reactor Assessment Branch
Division of Oversight and Compliance Programs
Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector



Reorganization to Form the Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector (CNRI)



Shakur Walker, Director

Division of Oversight and Compliance Programs
Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector

Purpose of Reorganization



- Align organizational structure with mission areas
- Improve efficiency, decision making, and operational effectiveness
- Reduce management layers and strengthen alignment between staff functions and agency priorities

Key Structural Changes

- Reduction of Deputy Division Director positions in selected offices
- Adjustment of division structures to streamline inspection and oversight program implementation

Reorganization implementation occurred June 15, 2026



- New Offices Created
 - Office of Advanced Reactor (OAR)
 - Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector (CNRI)
- Realignment of Staff Reporting
 - Operating reactor inspection and oversight staff (HQ + regions) report to CNRI
 - Regional inspection staff report through Regional Administrators
 - Materials licensing and inspection staff (HQ + regions) report directly to NMSS, not regions
- Programmatic Realignments
 - Nuclear security and incident response functions integrated into NRR
 - Inspection functions for security, emergency preparedness and radiation protection consolidated under CNRI
 - Technical training functions—including the Technical Training Center—move from OCHCO to RES
- Mission Support Improvements
 - Evaluation of agency support functions to enhance service delivery and HQ—program alignment
 - Review of supervisory ratios with a target of ~10 staff per supervisor



Office of the Chief Nuclear Reactor Inspector (CNRI-HQ)



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Update on Enforcement Guidance Memorandum and Information Notice on Uncoordinated Circuits



Charles Moulton

Risk Assessment and Fire Protection Branch (RAFPB)

Division of Risk Assessment and Safety Systems

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Questions

