Performance Indicator Working Group Charter

Background

On July 9, 2024, the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2024 (ADVANCE Act) became law. Section 507 of this Act directed the NRC to submit a report to Congress identifying specific improvements to nuclear reactor and materials oversight and inspection programs. On July 10, 2025, the Commission submitted its report to Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Representative Brett Guthrie, and other Congressional leaders (ML25077A245), fulfilling the Section 507 requirement. This report outlined the changes proposed in SECY-25-0045, "Recommendations for Revising the Reactor Oversight Process," which included a set of modifications intended to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) assessment program. The Commission approved these recommendations and they were implemented on July 1, 2025.

In parallel with implementation of the ADVANCE Act, President Trump issued Executive Order 14300, "Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," on May 23, 2025. Section 5(g) directs the NRC to revise the ROP and reactor security requirements to reduce unnecessary burdens and emphasize credible risk. Shortly after receiving the EO, NRC staff conducted a comprehensive review of the ROP baseline inspection program, including security inspection requirements. This review resulted in issuance of SECY-26-0014, "Recommendations to Revise the Reactor Oversight Process Baseline Inspection Program," and SECY-26-0015, "Recommendations for Revising the Security Baseline Inspection Program Including the Force-On-Force Inspection Program," in February 2026. The Commission later approved these proposals, and the associated ROP changes were implemented on July 1, 2026.

Together, the ADVANCE Act and EO 14300 reforms represent the most significant changes to the ROP in its 25-year history, strengthening risk-informed oversight by emphasizing current plant performance and aligning inspection thresholds and resource usage with risk significance.

However, one major component remains unchanged: the ROP Performance Indicator (PI) Program. Performance indicators provide quantitative, licensee-submitted data that complements inspections, supports early detection of emerging issues, and enhances public transparency. They serve as an important supplement to baseline inspections by capturing data not readily available through direct inspection activities. As described in SECY-26-0014, the NRC staff initiated a review of PIs (ML25125A115)[1]as part of its review of the ROP in response to the ADVANCE Act and EO 14300, however, that effort was terminated when the more immediate need for regulatory reform was identified within the baseline inspection program. Staff determined that risk-informing baseline inspection procedures and validating, adjusting, or eliminating inspection samples would deliver more immediate improvements to the efficiency and risk-alignment of the overall oversight process.

Because this sequencing intentionally prioritized baseline inspection reforms first, the current PI thresholds, and in some cases the indicators themselves, are now misaligned with the broader ROP reforms approved by the Commission. With the baseline inspection program fully revised and implemented as of July 1, 2026, now is the appropriate time to resume work on modernizing the PI Program to ensure consistency with the reforms already put in place under the ADVANCE Act and EO 14300.

[1] Approval of Charter for Advanced Reactor Oversight Process Performance Indicator Working Group, dated May 5, 2025

While working group activities are ongoing, any interim changes to the PI program will be directed via memoranda from the CNRI Director.

Purpose

The purpose of this working group is to modernize the ROP PI program, including the program framework and suite of indicators.

Tasking

1. Review ROP basis documents and supporting material describing the role of performance indicators, relationship between performance indicators and inspection, basis for current indicators and inspection procedures, as well as information from outside sources identifying performance indicators relevant to NRC oversight of reactors
    a. Inspection Manual Chapter 0308, Reactor Oversight Process Basis Document
    b. IMC 0308 Att. 1, Technical Basis for Performance Indicators
    c. IMC 0608, Performance Indicator Program
    d. SECY 99-007 and SECY 99-007A, Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Process Improvements
    e. NUREG 1753, Risk-Based Performance Indicators: Results of Phase 1 Development
    f. NEI 99-02 Rev. 8, Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guideline
    g. INPO 19-002 Rev. 4, Industry Reporting and Information System (IRIS), *Reporting Requirements*
    h. Inspection Procedure 71151, Performance Indicator Verification
    i. IP 71150, Discrepant or Unreported Performance Indicator Data
    j. NEI ROP White Paper 26-02, Reactor Oversight Process Whitepaper – Proposed Elimination of the Mitigating System performance Index (MSPI) ROP Performance Indicator
    k. Use of Safety Performance Indicators to Enhance the Effectiveness of Oversight of Nuclear Power Plants (DRAFT), International Atomic Energy Agency
2. Identify a revised PI framework, including consideration of:
    a. The role of PIs in the Action Matrix
    b. Applications of PIs not tied to the Action Matrix
    c. PI Cornerstone coverage
    d. PI Thresholds
    e. Process to resolve disputed PI data
    f. PI Data collection/submission processes
    g. Inspector PI data review/verification practices
3. Identify potential indicators, with an understanding that indicators should have a clear, risk-informed nexus to performance, with consideration from:
    a. Current indicators
    b. Staff solicitation
    c. Industry input
    d. Public workshops
    e. Indicators utilized by international nuclear regulators
4. Draft an INFOSECY documenting the team's efforts, conclusions, recommendations, and pilot program
    a. PI program structure
    b. Selected PIs
5. Identify other impacted program documents that would need to be revised
6. Identify inspector training that would be needed

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Post-Commission Notification

1. Develop/revise inspection procedures and guidance documents
2. Interface with industry to develop necessary industry guidance
3. Develop inspector training/tools to support implementing the program
4. Implement the pilot program

Team Membership and Functions

Working Group Team Members:

1. *Dan Geary, Reactor Operations Engineer, CNRI/DOCP/RAB (Lead)**
2. *Eric Brothman, Reactor Operations Engineer, CNRI/DOCP/RAB**
3. *Sarah Obadina, Reactor Operations Engineer, CNRI/DOCP/RIB**
4. *Steve Janicki, Reactor Operations Engineer, CNRI/DOCP/RIB**
5. *Len Cline, Senior Reactor Inspector, CNRI/R1DRP/RPBD/PB**
6. *Chris Henderson, Senior Reactor Inspector, CNRI/R4DRP/RPBB/WC**
7. Andy Rosebrook, Senior Reactor Analyst, CNRI/R2DRS/RSB
8. Jonathan Fiske, Emergency Preparedness Specialist, CNRI/DOCP/RAB
9. Molly Keefe-Forsyth, Safety Culture Program Manager, CNRI/DOCP/RAB
10. Jonathan Rivera, Health Physicist, CNRI/DOCP/RIB
11. Jeff Bream, Senior Security Risk Analyst, CNRI/DOCP/RIB
12. Jeremiah Rey, Senior Security Specialist, CNRI/DOCP/RIB
13. Don Wong, Reactor Systems Engineer, CNRI/DRIS/RDGCB

** Core Team Member*

Working Group Senior Executive Service (SES) Sponsor:

Phil McKenna, Deputy Office Director, CNRI

Team Leader Responsibilities

- Schedule and lead team meetings
- Schedule and lead public meetings and workshops
- Ensure action items are identified and tracked
- Circulating draft products for members to review
- Present project status at public meetings
- Provide periodic status briefings to NRC managers as required
- Identify need for separate teams/groups for discrete projects under the umbrella of the overall project

Working Group Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the PI working group include:

- Developing the revised PI framework
- Developing a revise set of risk-informed PIs
- Resolving and aligning key issues that arise during PI program development
- Interacting with industry stakeholders and the public
- Providing project updates to NRC leadership to enhance awareness of project status, progress, and challenges
- Drafting the basis documentation for the revised PI program
- Drafting and issuing a CA Note / INFOSECY paper to the Commission

Meeting Frequency

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The Core Team will meet regularly to stay aligned and ensure consistent progress throughout the project. The Expanded Team will convene less frequently. Portions of the Expanded Team may meet separately while PIs are developed. The frequency of these meetings will be adjusted based on the current stage of project execution and upcoming milestones.

Duration

This charter will be updated as necessary and remain in effect until the revised PI program is implemented. Development is expected to be completed by April 2027, with the INFOSECY submitted by August 2027.

Estimated Timeline (Subject to Change):

Milestone	**Date**
Core Team kickoff meeting	October 14, 2026
Develop draft PI program framework	October 2026 – December 2026
Initial public meeting/workshop	November/December 2026
Brief NRC management on draft PI program framework	December 2026 / January 2027
Develop PIs	January 2027 – April 2027
Public meetings/workshops on proposed PIs	February 2027 – April 2027
Brief NRC management on final PIs	May 2027
Initial Draft INFOSECY (including request for pilot program)	June 2027
INFOSECY to OEDO	July 2027
INFOSECY to Commission	August 2027
Implement pilot program	January 1, 2028
Implement program Industry-wide	January 1, 2029

Level of Effort

Members are expected to review reference information, participate in periodic hybrid or virtual meetings, and complete action items assigned at team meetings. Travel might be necessary for public meetings and workshops.

Communication

The working group team leader will utilize a blended approach for communication to potentially include TEAMS and SharePoint for collaboration.

Revisions to the Charter

This charter is a living document. The PI working group Team Lead will evaluate the effectiveness of the team and adjust the team's objectives and responsibilities as needed. The PI working group Team Lead will coordinate and communicate any changes to this charter with the PI working group SES Sponsor to gain alignment prior to implementing the changes.

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