

PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS

**USNRC/NRR REGULATORY INFORMATION CONFERENCE
MARCH 14, 2001 W-2 REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS**

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**NEW ENGLAND COALITION
ON NUCLEAR POLLUTION**

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**To enhance public confidence in the
ROP, NRC must demonstrate that :**

- 1. public expectations of service are being met, that is, NRC is an independent, impartial, and vigorous enforcer of protective regulations,
and**
- 2. past assurances regarding nuclear power safety are intact, or at least not being discarded without good reasons that are articulated widely, loudly, and clearly.**

The ROP will not be acceptable to the public interest community until:

- 1. There is reasonable assurance that the assumptions and information base on which it is built are solid.**

- Design

- Modifications

- Operation

- Construction

- Maintenance

- Analysis

- 2. There are clear lines drawn for safety significance and enforcement.**

- Predictability

- Timeliness

The ROP is too complicated and it is shot through with uncertainties about what is actually being measured.

Some ways the ROP may be tested and proven:

- 1. Against an extended period of experience**
- 2. Against the next accident**
- 3. Against a periodic “global safety**

assessment” of a representative sample population of power plants. This option would provide a somewhat empiric test that the ROP is measuring what it is designed to measure and that it is doing so reliably.