

**RIC 2002**  
**Session W15**  
**Technical Specification Initiatives**

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# Risk-Informed Technical Specifications

- What?
- When?
- Why?
- Maximizing Benefits

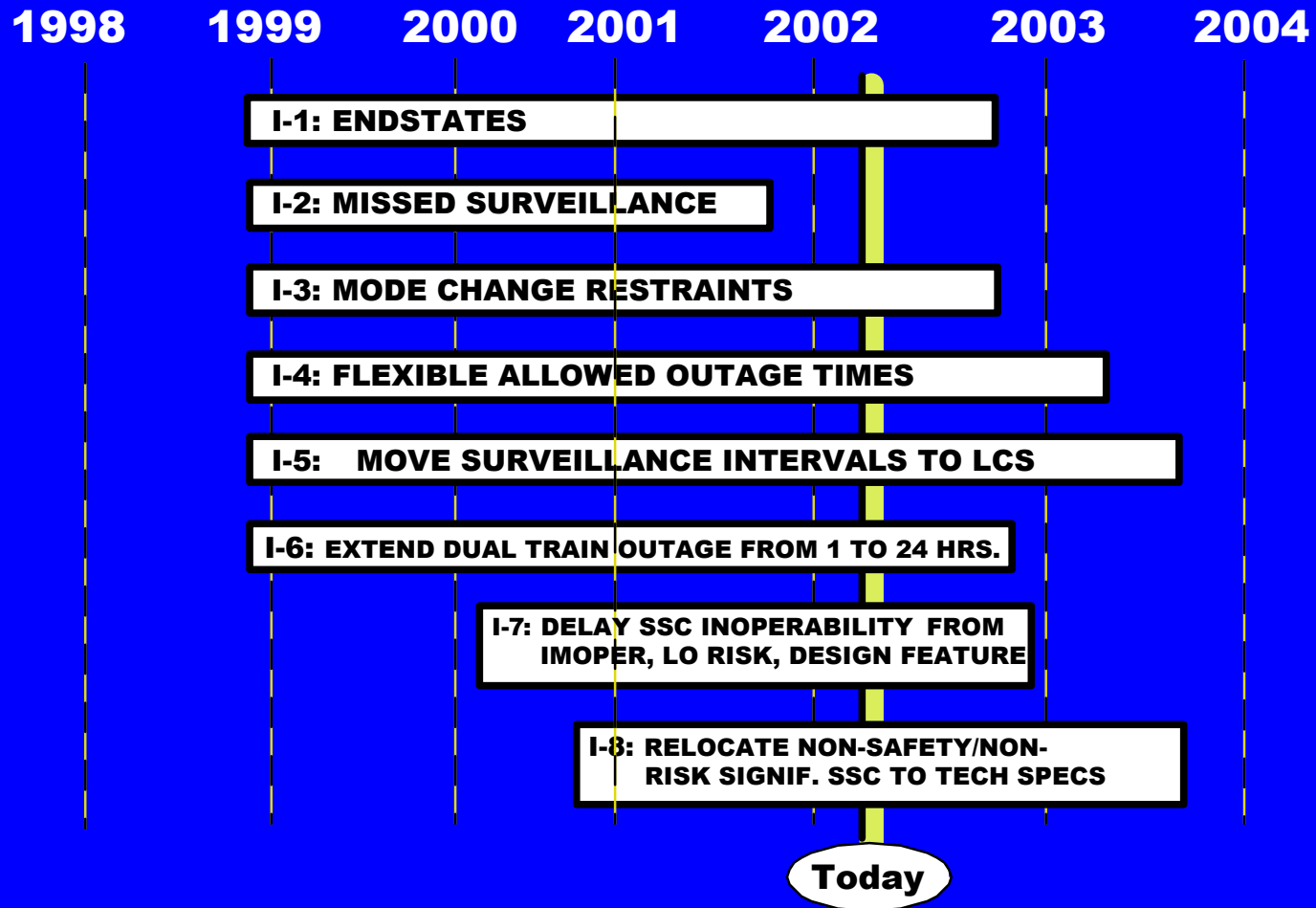
# What?

- 8 risk-informed initiatives designed to permit increased flexibility in plant operations
- NRC/Industry joint effort since December 1998

# When?

- Initiative 2 (Missed Surveillances) approved in October 2001
- Remaining initiatives are in various stages of development
- Scheduled completion from 2002 to 2003

# Status/History of Initiatives



# When?

## Current Initiatives

- Are not exclusive
- Recommendations for additional initiatives are needed

# Why?

## The NRC is Supporting Risk Informed Technical Specification Initiatives

- To assist in accomplishing three of the NRC performance goals:
  - Maintain safety
  - Make NRC more effective, efficient, and realistic.
  - Reduce unnecessary regulatory burden

- (ref: NRC Strategic Plan 2000-2005: NUREG-1614, Volume 2, Part 1)

# Why?

## The Industry is Supporting Risk-Informed Technical Specification Initiatives

- Prevents unnecessary shutdowns
- Removes unnecessary power ascension restrictions
- Prevents unnecessary technical specification action entries and inappropriate violations
- Focuses attention and resources on risk significant components and configurations



# Maximizing Benefits

The 8 Risk-Informed Technical Specification initiatives will provide real and meaningful benefits to the NRC, Industry, and other Stakeholders,

BUT . . .

# Maximizing Benefits

Implementation of Risk-Informed Technical Specification initiatives can also improve *safety and safety culture*.

# Maximizing Benefits

By “Safety Culture” I mean:

- Management emphasis on Safety as a priority
- Personnel training on responsibilities for ensuring safe operations
- Conservative, safety-conscious decision-making
- Philosophy of continuous improvement
- Continual self-assessment and a questioning attitude
- Ability to raise concerns without fear of retaliation

# Maximizing Benefits

- To achieve maximum benefits of Risk-Informed Technical Specifications requires:
  - a quality PRA model
  - a solid, “real-time” infrastructure
  - confidence and belief in the tool and results

# Conclusion

Risk Informed Technical Specifications—along with enhanced risk-informed capability, quality and infrastructure—can improve plant operations and result in improvements in safety and safety culture.