

RIC 2004

Operating Experience, Session T4

Operating Experience Task Force

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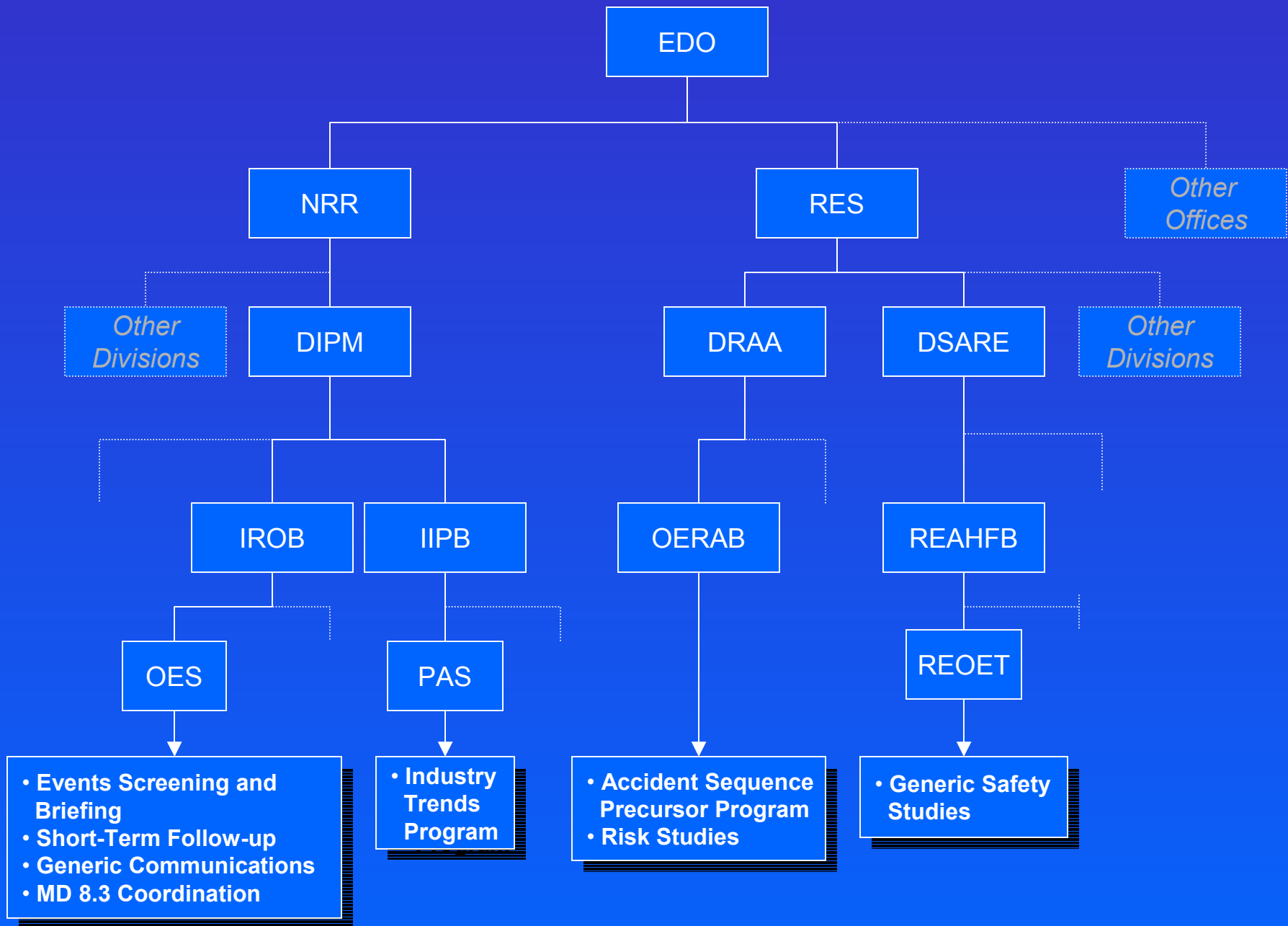
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Operating Experience Task Force Charter

- “ . . . to evaluate the agency’s reactor operating experience program and to recommend specific program improvements . . . which addresses the recommendations of the Davis-Besse Lessons Learned Task Force . . . ”



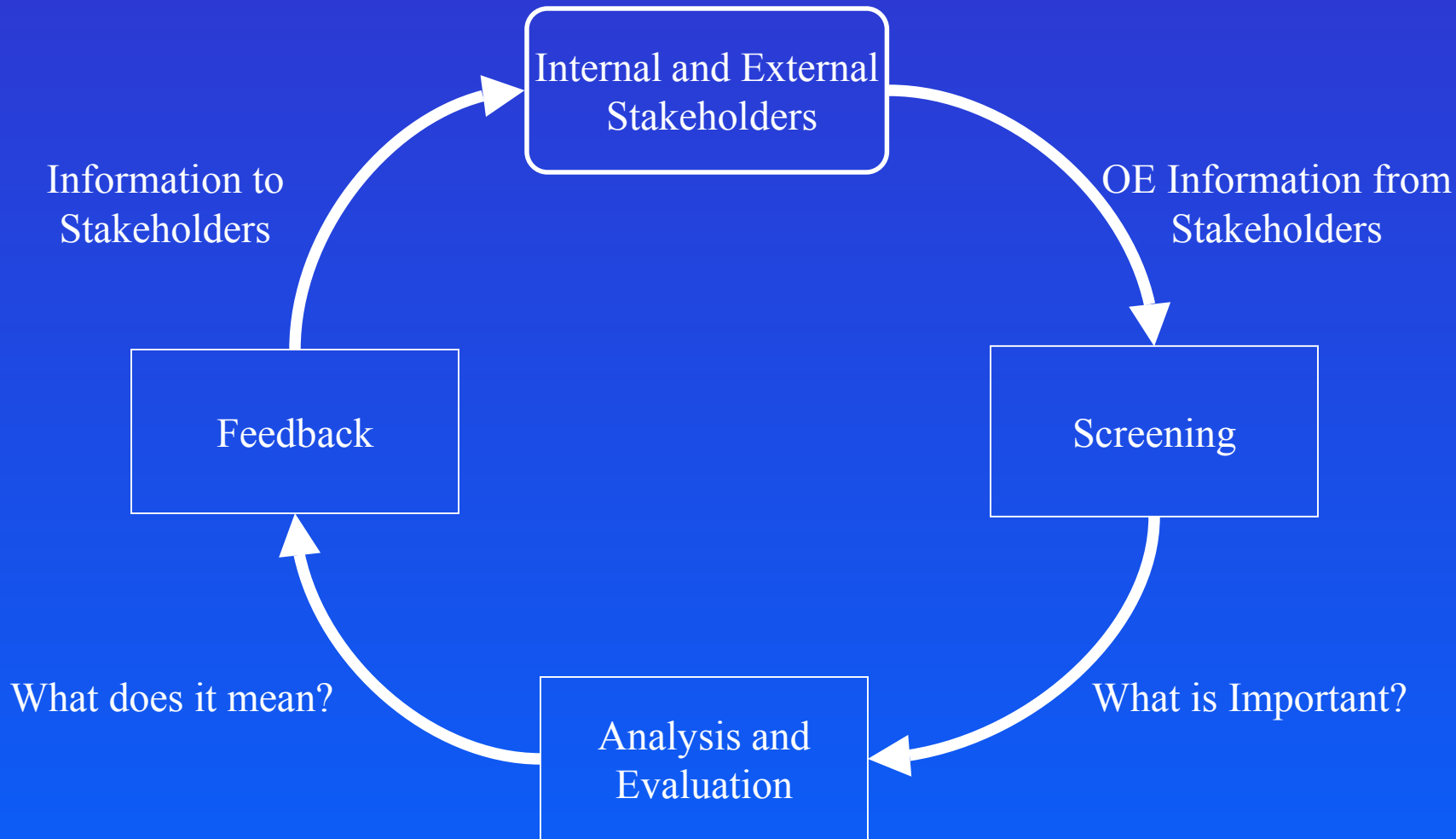
Task Force Approach

- Interoffice Task Force representing NRR, RES, and Regional perspectives
- Operating experience (OE) program viewed broadly to include end-users
- Identify effective agency OE program objectives and attributes
- Define functional needs to meet program objectives and attributes
- Recommend specific program improvements and their bases

Recommended Program Objectives

- I. OE is collected, evaluated, communicated, and applied to support the agency goal of ensuring safety
- II. OE is used to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and realism of NRC decisions.
- III. The public, Congress, and other external stakeholders are provided with accurate, timely, and balanced information regarding OE, including actual or potential hazards to health and safety.

Operating Experience Program Functions



Overarching Functions

Clear Roles and Responsibilities Clear Communication Channels Periodic Effectiveness Review

Overall Conclusions and Recommendations

- Current operating experience activities include necessary functions for an effective program
- Enhancements identified to improve internal communications and coordination
- Enhancements identified to improve feedback of operating experience into regulatory processes

Major Recommendations

- Update agency procedures to communicate vision of OE program and roles and responsibilities for OE activities
- Assign a single point of contact to coordinate activities for the agency's reactor OE program
- Clarify the responsibilities and expectations for using OE lessons learned

Recommendations (cont)

- Establish a central clearinghouse to:
 - Collect, screen, prioritize, and distribute OE information
 - Track OE decisions and follow-up
 - Communicate OE lessons learned
 - Coordinate overall NRC reactor OE activities

- Improve mechanisms for technical staff to identify potential safety issues and for providing OE based feedback to inspectors

- Additional OE evaluations should be performed to identify trends, recurring events, or safety issues

Recommendations (cont)

- Adopt systematic processes and standardized criteria that provides for timely agency decisions and guides agency actions in response to OE
- Improve the process for follow-up of OE that verifies adequate resolution of the issues of concern
- Conduct periodic assessments of OE program