

RIC 2004

Reactor Oversight Process, Session W5

The ROP – Good Start, Lessons Learned

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Overview

- The First Four Years
- Current Issues
- Conclusions

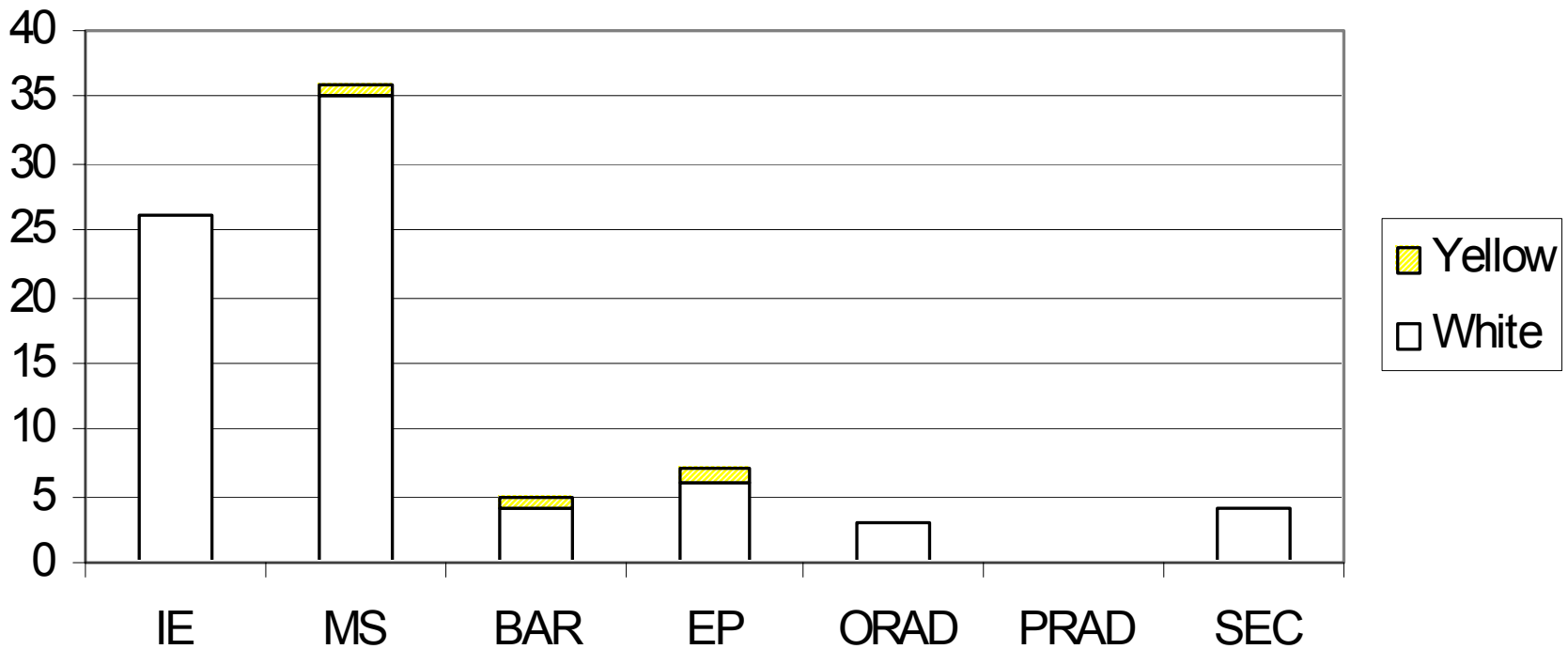
The First Four Years

- The process is more transparent, focused on safety, and objective than SALP
- The FAQ process provided a focal point for PI issue identification and resolution
 - Over 350 FAQs processed and resolved
 - Need similar process to improve SDPs
- Number of greater than green PIs and inspection findings not widely divergent



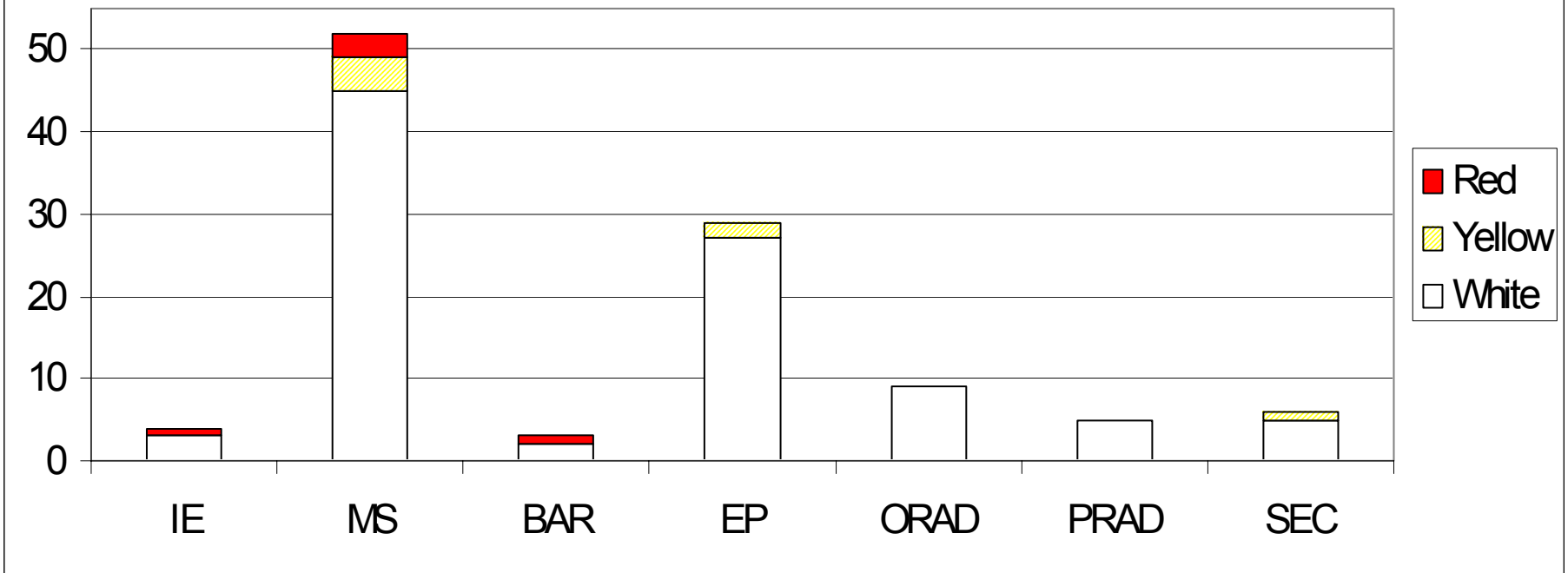
Greater than Green PIs by Cornerstone

Total = 81 (since ROP inception)

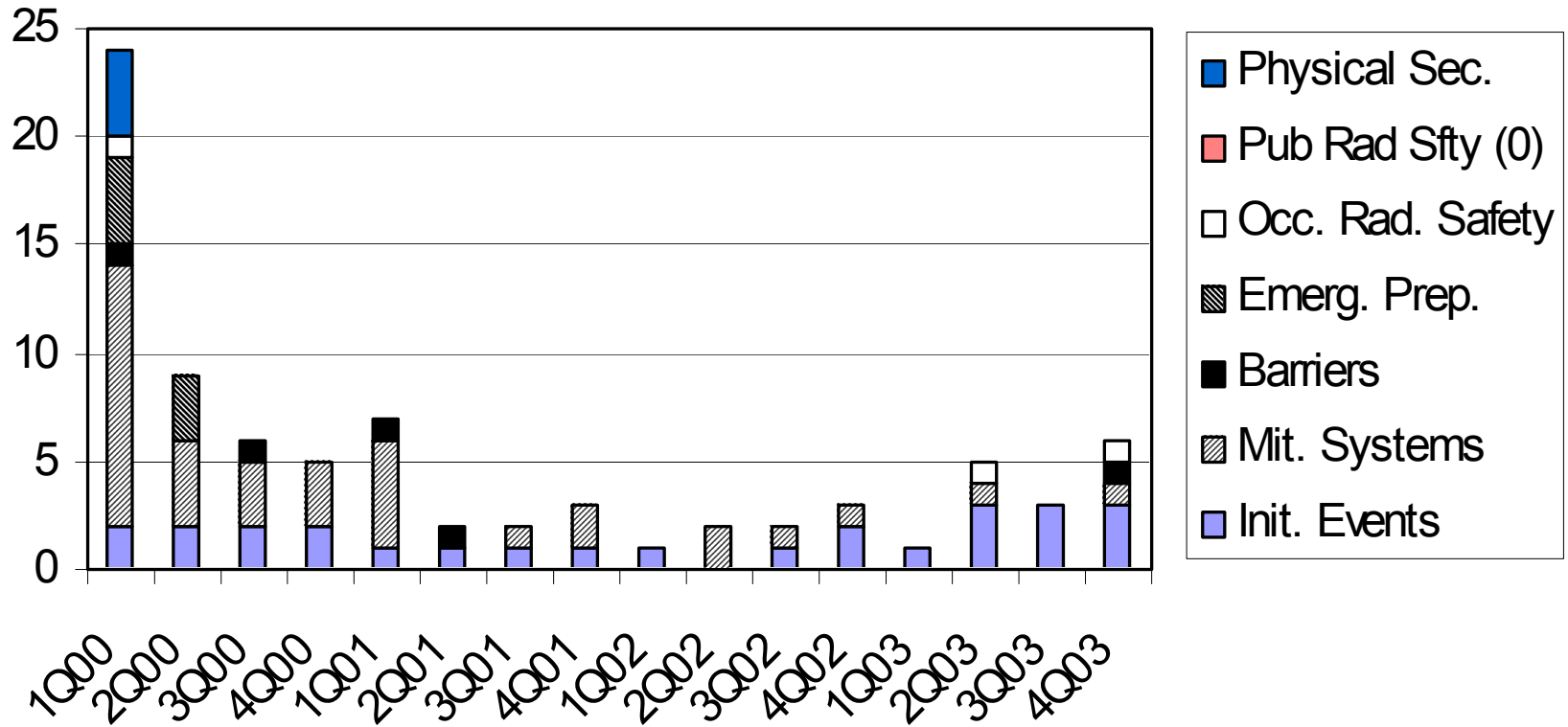


Greater than Green Findings by Cornerstone

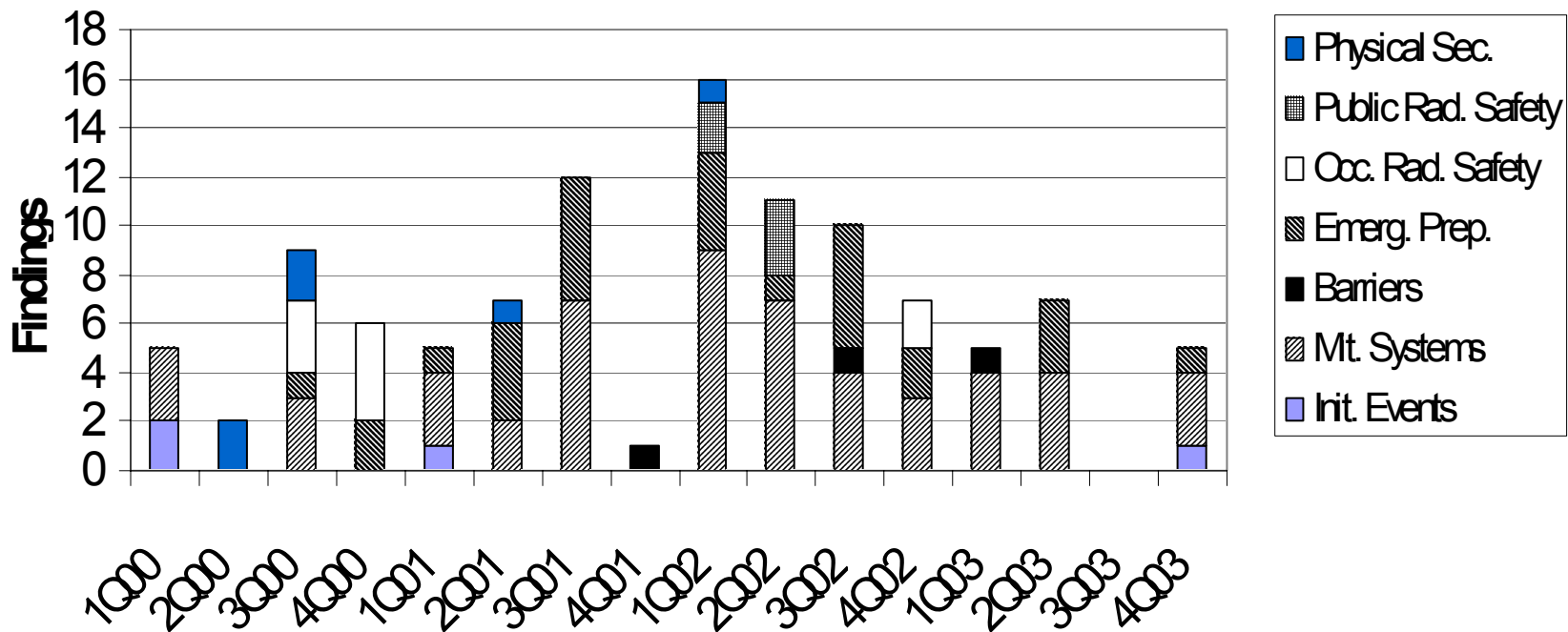
Total = 108 (since ROP inception)



New PIs > Green by Quarter



New Findings > Green by Quarter



Current Issues

- Scrams with Loss of Normal Heat Removal
- Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI)
- Significance Determination Process

Scrams w/ LONHR

- Guidance/interpretations evolved since outset of ROP
- Industry recommended elimination
 - Duplicative of all scrams indicator
 - NRC inspects every scram
 - Not a leading indicator or precursor
 - Interpretation burden for NRC and industry

Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI)

- Piloted as a replacement for Safety System Unavailability PIs
- Incorporates reliability and availability of key equipment with plant-specific importance measures
- Some upfront burden, but substantial long-term benefits



Benefits of MSPI

- Data consolidation with maintenance rule, PRAs, and WANO
- Simplifies accounting by eliminating:
 - Fault exposure times (T and T/2)
 - Cascading of support systems
 - Unavailability monitoring during shutdown
- Focuses on risk-significant functions
- Replaces generic performance thresholds with plant-specific risk-informed thresholds



Significance Determination Process

- Purpose is to characterize safety importance of inspection finding for input to inspection resource allocation
- Problems
 - Timeliness
 - Resource intensive for NRC staff and licensee
 - Not transparent
- Collectively, above problems negate fundamental intent of the process



SDP – One Potential Solution

- When the significance of a finding is borderline, NRC should go ahead and conduct the IP 95001 inspection
 - Use inspection to determine extent of condition and use result to determine significance
 - Input to the action matrix
 - Move on



Conclusions

- ROP has met its objectives
- We can continue to improve the process
 - Focus on self assessment, problem identification, and corrective action
- The collaborative spirit of ROP with stakeholders is a major plus

