

RIC 2005 Session F-1 ROP / Inspection Program

ROP Top Three Challenges / Solutions

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Challenge #1 – Improve Timeliness / Efficiency of SDPs

- NRC timeliness goals are not being met
- Inordinate resource expenditure by both industry and NRC
- Reactor safety SDP is generally risk-based
 - Places undue reliance on PRA to quantify very low numbers
 - Discerning whether a finding is very low or low to moderate significance (1 E-6 Green/White threshold)

Solution #1 - Improve Timeliness / Efficiency of SDPs

- Form joint NRC/industry working group
- Examine the process, collect data, and recommend process improvements that restore the original intent and provide incentives for value-added actions



Challenge #2 – Proliferation of Cross Cutting Issues (CCIs)

- The number of CCIs has ballooned
 - Averaged about 60/year from 2000 to 2002
 - Totaled 392 in 2004
- No correlation to performance indicator results or greater than green inspection findings

Solution #2 – Proliferation of Cross Cutting Issues (CCIs)

- Form a joint working group to develop guidance on identification, significance, and closure of CCIs.

Challenge #3 – Assess Overall Quality of Baseline Inspection Program

- Need a mechanism to assess the overall quality of the baseline inspection program
- This parrots the OIG recommendations from its December 2004 report
- Ensure that the program focuses on safety
- Several new initiatives (MSPI, 50.69) that will provide a better safety focus
- The baseline inspections need to adapt as our state of knowledge improves



Solution #3 – Assess Overall Quality of Baseline Inspection Program

- The NRC should develop an assessment mechanism, get stakeholder feedback, and put in place a process for continuous improvement of the baseline inspection program