

**2006 NRC Regulatory Information Conference
Session W4D – Risk Informed Activities
March 8, 2006**

Risk Informed Regulation: Mutilated Beyond Recognition

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What is risk-informed regulation?

- Use of analytical insights derived from PSA, together with operating experience and engineering judgment, to focus licensee and regulatory attention and resources on design and operational issues commensurate with their importance to public health and safety.

What's gone wrong?

- Risk-informed regulation is now focused on matters with the lowest safety significance and managing residual risk
- This focus is driven by hard core deterministic mindsets as well as those enamored with the quantification of risk
 - The result is the worst of both worlds



Examples

- 10 CFR 50.69 – Final rule on risk-informing special treatment requirements
 - See SOC and Regulatory Guide 1.201
 - Obsession with programmatic treatment of RISC-3 systems and components
- 10 CFR 50.46a – Proposed rule on redefining LBLOCA analysis requirements
 - No risk too small to quantify

Conclusions

- PSA is a tool, a means to an end, and is not an end in itself
- The end is a safety-focused, performance-based, stable and efficient regulatory process
- Viable applications are necessary to further the state of knowledge and PSA methods