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Restoring Predictability of the Licensing Function

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Historical Perspective

- Development of Improved Standard Technical Specifications (ISTS) was intended to put all sites on the same “playing field”
- The TS Task Force (TSTF) Traveler and Consolidated Line Item Improvement (CLIIP) followed
- Supplemented by staff pre-approval of topical technical reports



Historical Perspective

- Staff strongly encouraged implementation of ISTS by all licensees
- The generation of TSTF Traveler and CLIIP continues to evolve including generic SE
- Licensees maintained a strong commitment to the process in early years but subsequently started applying for TSTF travelers on a selective basis



Today's Health Checkup

- 28 of 104 active Licensees have not adopted ISTS (Kewaunee application in review)
- The approval of TSTF Travelers has essentially stalled with only 2 of 9 approved in 2009
- Licensing actions that have been approved at another site are not a given model for success
- Previously approved licensing actions have been challenged during the review process



The Reasons

- Licensees failed to commit fully to the vision
- Licensees have maintained the desire to maintain the flexibility to pick and choose
- Many of the experienced licensee and NRC staff have since retired losing the knowledge base for the past decisions
- In a few cases Licensees have not incorporated lessons learned from recent challenges



Plan for the Future

Licensee Actions

- Reinvigorate the vision for adoption of ISTS – needs NRC/Industry Cooperation
- Charter industry oversight function (NEI) as central advisory team for both NRC/Licensees
- Each Licensee to re-baseline their individual plans for what remains on the TSTF open list
- Develop consolidated strategy to reinvigorate the Licensing process



Plan for the Future

Staff Actions

- Reaffirm what in the backlog is still valid vs. those that need to be generically rethought; communicate results
- Establish a process to handle changes or technical challenges to approved actions. Process should :
 - Clarify how the new position is validated,
 - Define action for treating validity of the old position,
 - Quantify safety benefit of changing the position,
 - Address the generic impacts of changing the position,
 - Include an opportunity for the licensee to provide information supporting their current licensing basis,
 - Notification of all affected parties (e.g., Topical Report owner, other licensees)



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Questions?