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A Vendor's Perspective on the Use of Topical Reports

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Key Points

The Topical Report process can benefit all stakeholders

Many elements of the process are working well

There's always room for improvement

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Benefits of Topical Reports

Timely licensing and introduction of improved technology benefits public health and safety

As generic documents, topical reports can aid in the timely licensing of new technology by

- Reducing NRC, vendor and licensee workload
- Providing consistent conditions and limitations
- Enhancing regulatory stability

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What's Working Well

Focusing reviews via audits prior to issuing formal Requests for Additional Information (RAIs)

Safety Evaluation Report (SER) Conditions and Limitations

Well-defined process for plant-specific application of topical reports

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What Could Be Improved

Commitment to timely reviews
- NRC and vendor commitment to schedules
- Shepherding through the review process
- Administrative support for SE

Coordination between Office of New Reactors (NRO) and Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) on joint review of topicals

Increase in resources available for topical reports

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In Summary

Topical reports are an effective, efficient means of licensing and implementing improved technology.

Resources should be allocated to topical report review and process / project management improvements should be considered to improve the use of those resources.

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