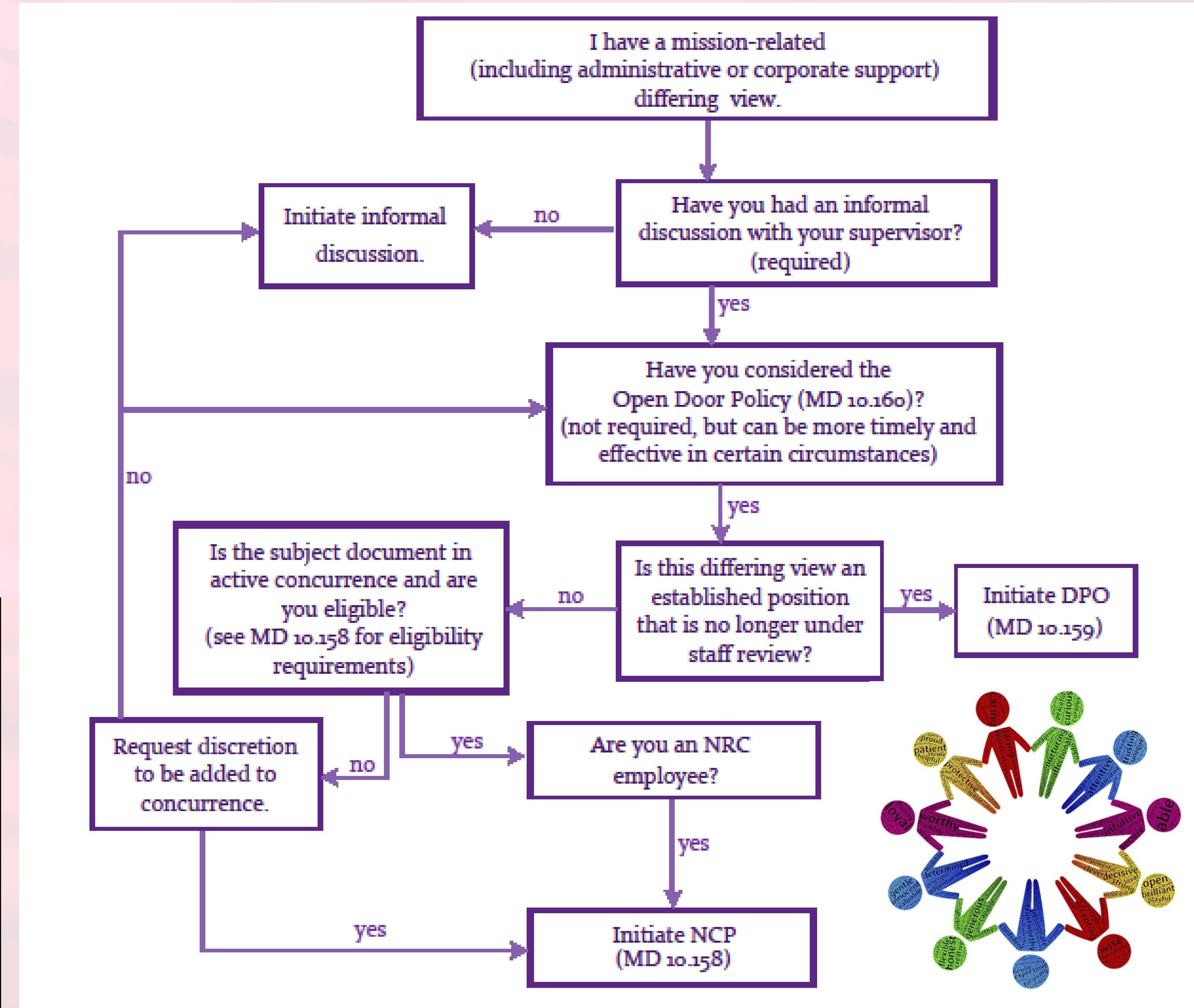


Understanding and Using the NRC's Differing Views Program

All U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) employees and contractors are encouraged to raise concerns and differing views promptly without fear of reprisal. A respectful environment that promotes the free and open exchange of ideas is the ideal forum for raising and addressing concerns and differing views in an efficient and timely manner. Raising and addressing differing views both improves decisionmaking processes and supports the agency's mission.

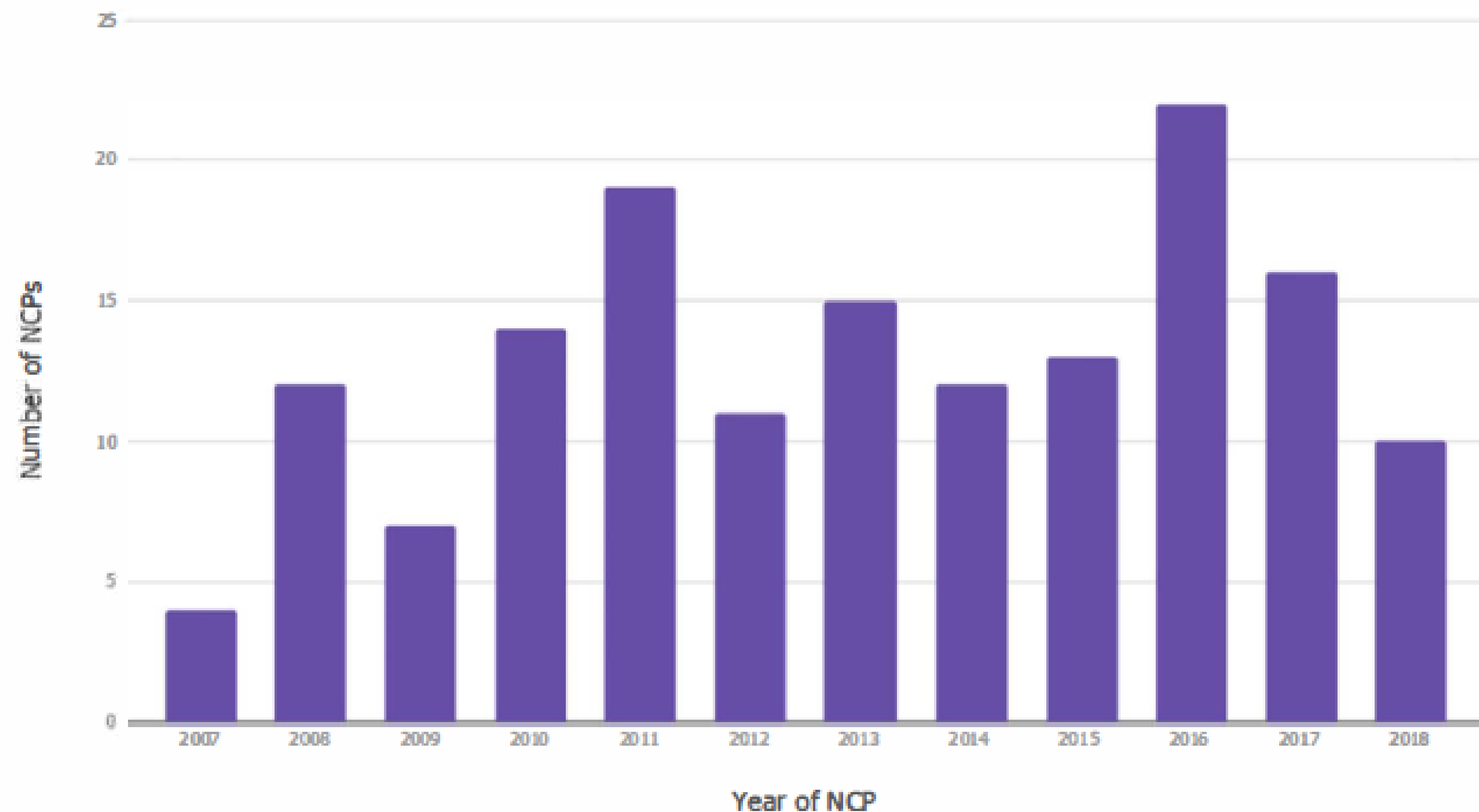
Differing views can be communicated through the following mechanisms:

- Informal Discussions
- [Open Door Policy](#)
- [Non-Concurrence Process \(NCP\)](#)
- [Differing Professional Opinion \(DPO\) Program](#)



Non-Concurrence Process (NCP)

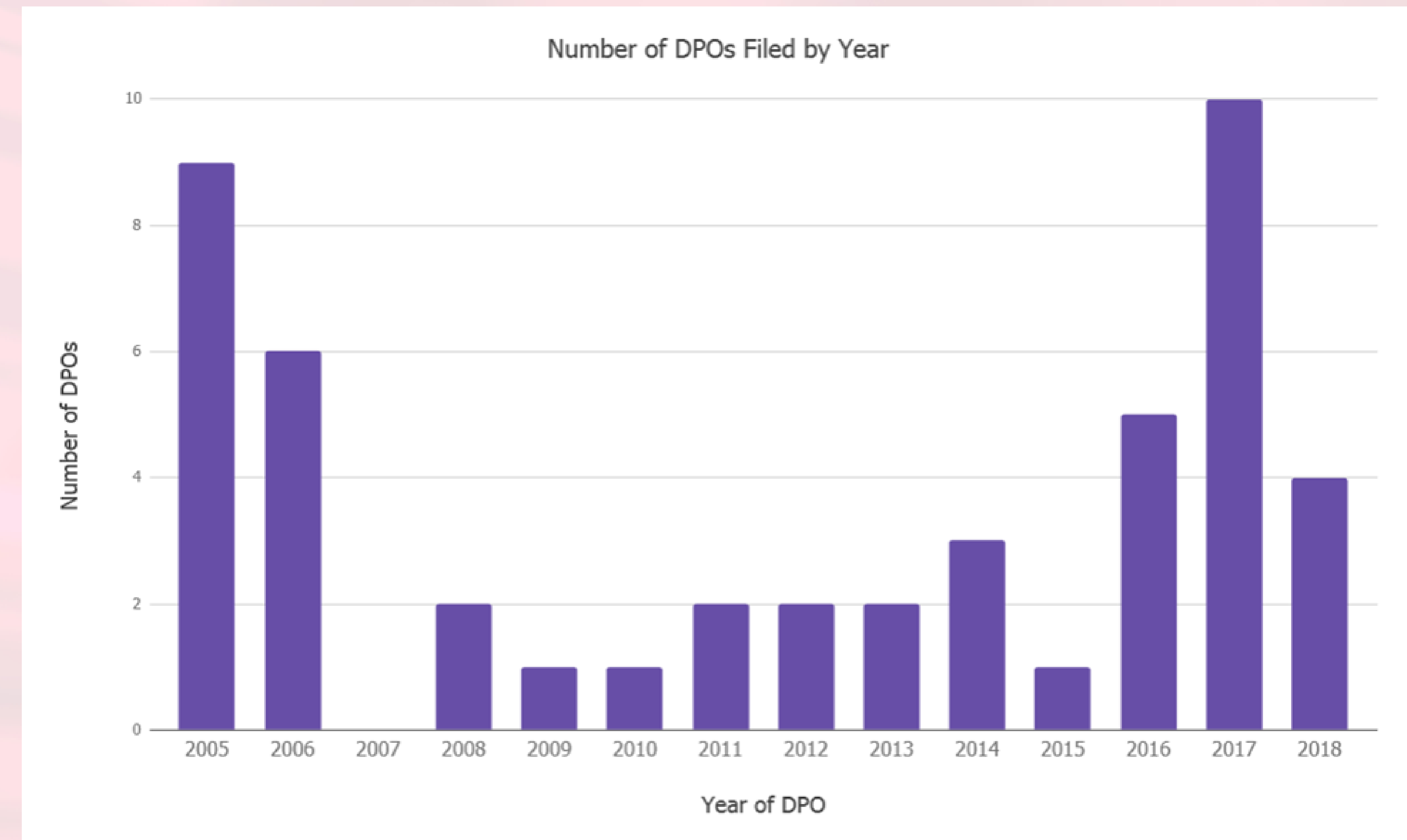
Number of NCPs Filed by Year



- An NRC employee who has a role in creating or reviewing a document ***in the concurrence process*** can submit a non-concurrence as a means of formally communicating disagreement with the document.
- The primary purpose of the NCP is to provide a consistent approach to processing non-concurrences to ensure that a differing view is heard, understood, and considered to ***inform and support the decisionmaking process***.
- NRC staff can learn more about the NCP in [Management Directive 10.158](#), “NRC Non-Concurrence Process.”

Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) Program

- A DPO is a means of communicating a position that differs from an **established** staff view, disagrees with a management decision or policy position, or takes issue with an **established** agency practice involving technical, legal, or policy issues (including administrative or corporate support issues).
- The DPO Program differs from the NCP because the NCP applies only to positions that are still under staff review in a draft document before a final position is established.
- NRC staff can learn more about the DPO Program in [Management Directive 10.159](#), “NRC Differing Professional Opinion Program.”



NRC Differing Views Campaign for NRC Staff

The Office of Enforcement is sponsoring a Differing Views Campaign throughout the month of April 2019. NRC staff members are encouraged to participate in a range of activities to learn more about the NRC Differing Views Program.

The campaign includes activities such as the following:

- Guest speakers from the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- A panel discussion on staff and management experiences using the NCP and the DPO Program
- Open house with Differing Views Program staff for informal questions and answers
- Discussions highlighting recent programmatic changes to the differing views processes, which were implemented to better serve stakeholders by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of these processes





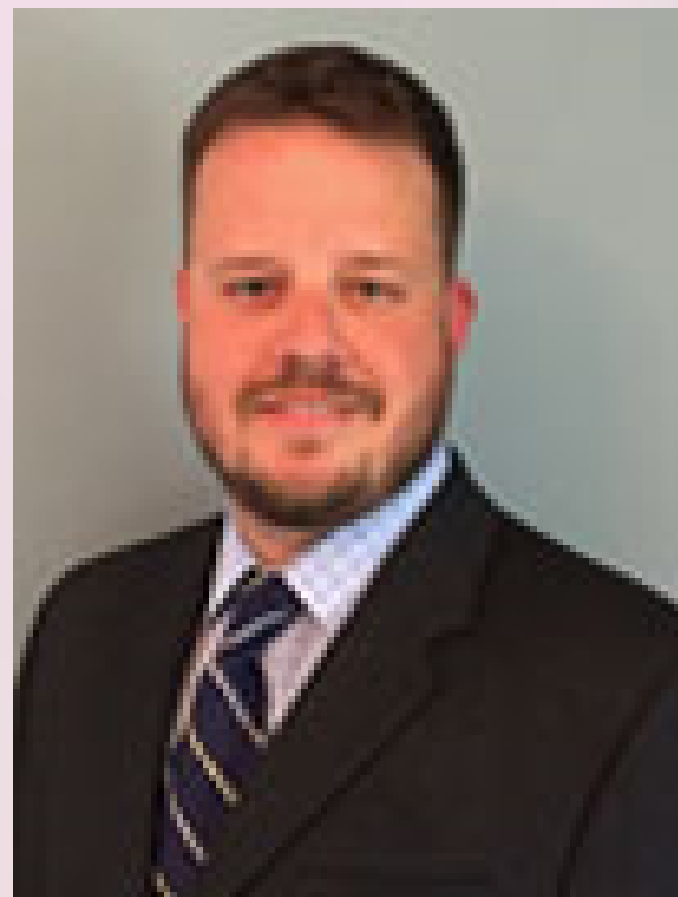
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