

Risk-Informed Regulatory Approaches

NRC Meeting with Stakeholders

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Key Points

Implementation of risk-informed initiatives has slowed due to increased focus on issues with minimal safety impacts

- Limited guidance on the role of risk insights in decision-making hinders the implementation of risk-informed initiatives

Successful risk-informed licensing requires clear, reliable, and efficient reviews

- Time and resource expenditures are not always commensurate with safety benefit

Risk-informed decision-making improves safety

Ongoing Risk-Informed Initiatives

NRC approach to risk-informed decision-making

- Review of PRA technical adequacy for risk-informed applications

Consideration of low-risk/low-safety-significant issues

- Process for treating and resolving these issues should be clearly defined based on risk considerations

Fire PRA realism

- Challenges to timely NRC acceptance of more realistic PRA resulted in resource expenditures that were not commensurate with safety benefits

Industry risk-informed steering committee

- Continue to await NRC position on crediting use of FLEX equipment in risk-informed decisions

Recommendations for Improving Risk-Informed Approaches

Clarify risk-informed decision-making to establish a disciplined, reliable, and predictable process

- Provide uniform guidance to NRC staff on risk-informed decision-making
- Industry standards for PRA peer reviews should be appropriately credited

Expedite development and implementation of a process to evaluate and resolve issues that have little or no safety impact

- Redirect resources from no/low-safety significant issues to safety significant issues

Place high-priority on improving fire PRA realism

- Industry has performed technical work necessary to improve fire PRA realism
- NRC acceptance of new methods would improve safety focus and efficiency