Digital I&C



NRC Commission Briefing

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Digital I&C Project Drivers

- Obsolescence
- Single point vulnerability elimination
- Equipment Reliability
- Operational Efficiency
- Innovation
- Cost reductions









Benefits



- Maintenance dramatically improved reliability (MTBF) and reduced maintenance
- Engineering equipment diagnostics, higher accuracy, and simplified fault detection
- Operations greatly enhanced Operator interface and vision into the plant
- Commonality Common platforms for Protection and Control minimize maintenance and training



Digital Upgrades-

Tangible Performance Improvements



- Exelon began installing digital upgrades in the early 90's beginning with the feedwater systems at Dresden, LaSalle, Quad Cities and Limerick
- Turbine controls were upgraded beginning in 2004 at Byron, Braidwood, Dresden, LaSalle, Quad Cities and Limerick and continue across the balance of the fleet
- 500+ "unit years" of operating experience conclusively demonstrates a significant reduction in initiating events



Ongoing Projects

- A number of Digital I&C replacement projects are ongoing across the industry.
- Issuance of RIS 2002-22 Supplement 1 has facilitated many of these projects
- Examples:
 - Emergency Diesel Generator Controls
 - Radiation Monitors
 - Rod Control
 - Safety-related Chiller Controls



Risks and Challenges

- No Large Safety-Related DI&C Upgrades (RPS/ESFAS) Currently Planned or In-Progress
- Why?
 - Regulatory uncertainty
 - Cybersecurity Compliance
 - Cost



Needs/Next Steps

- NEI 96-07, Appendix D approval
- BTP 7-19 revision approval
- Implement Standard Digital Engineering Process and SDP interfacing procedure (NISP-EN-04)
- Collaboratively work with the staff on the IAP modernization plans

A predictable regulatory path based on reasonable assurance of adequate protection.

