

RIC 2001
MARCH 13, 2001
Region III Breakout Session (T6)

PANEL MEMBERS

- ◆ ***Jim Dyer, NRC-RIII***
- ◆ ***Brian Sheron, NRC-NRR***
- ◆ ***Bob Saunders, FENOC***

TOPICS

- 1. Operator Licensing***
- 2. Processing Risk Significant
Issues***
- 3. ROP Communications***
- 4. Midcycle Inspection Plans***

ROP COMMUNICATIONS

(NRC)

- !** Regulatory Impact Form Results
 - S** 88 filed in Region III since April 2000

- !** Thresholds for Documenting Inspection Findings
 - S** Receiving enhanced oversight by Region III, OE, NRR

- !** Level of Detail During Inspector Exit Meetings
 - S** Inspectors continue to provide their insights

- !** Annual Meetings, Assessment Letters and Press Releases
 - S** Minimal communications with public unless there is a significant issue

- !** WEB Page Effectiveness
 - S** Continuing improvements

PROCESSING RISK SIGNIFICANT ISSUES **(NRC)**

- !** Significance Determination Process (SDP)
 - S** Reactor Safety Area
 - Articulates safety significance of inspection findings
 - Significant resource expenditure and delays
 - S** Non Reactor Safety Areas (Security, RP, Fire Protection and EP)
 - Fire protection SDP difficult to apply
 - Security changes are an improvement
 - S** Cross Cutting Issues Not Fully Developed
- !** Event Response Risk Assessments
 - S** Prompt communications and followup with SRI/SRA
- !** Notices of Enforcement Discretion (NOED)
 - S** Importance of PRA and compensatory measures
 - S** Written submittal with followup verbal discussions

MID-CYCLE INSPECTION PLANS **(NRC)**

- ! Annual Inspection Cycle Under The ROP**
- ! Updated Inspection Plans Issued Every 6 Months**
- ! Switching To A Calendar Year Inspection Cycle**
- ! Schedule Inflexibility**

OPERATOR LICENSING

(NRC)

- !** Significant Growth in Initial Exams for Region III
- !** Voluntary Licensee Preparation of Initial Licensed Operator Exams Improving
- !** Operator Requalification SDP issued December 2000
 - S** Exam pass/fail rates
 - S** Exam grading
 - S** Exam quality
 - S** Exam security
 - S** Simulator fidelity
 - S** Record maintenance

OPERATING LICENSING

(Licensee)

- ! Significant Growth in Initial Exams
 - S Stability negated need for new licenses in the past
 - S Demographics of our work force shows action needed now
 - S Rotational assignments needed (i.e., 20 year R.O.)

- ! Licensee Preparation of Exams
 - S Requires dedicated, smart people greater than 6 months to prepare exam
 - S NUREG 1021 inconsistently interpreted; e.g. “Systematically random picking of exam questions”
 - S Test standards inconsistently applied
 - S Success requires extensive communication with lead examiner during exam preparation

PROCESSING RISK SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

(Licensee)

- ! Significance Determination Process (SDP)
 - S Reactor Safety Area
 - NRC needs to update SDP with plant specific PSA
 - Faulted Hours Consequences
 - S Non-Reactor Safety Areas (Security, RP, Fire Protection and EP)
 - Determinations not always well presented in inspection reports
 - Difficult to follow logic applied using the SDP flow charts
 - Findings in EP on drill performance detract from it being a learning experience
 - Security Compensatory measures
- ! Event Response Risk Assessments
 - S Licensee needs prompt, quick and thorough communications with residents and region
- ! Notices of Enforcement Discretion
 - S No safety significance and it makes sense, then discuss with region

ROP COMMUNICATIONS

(Licensee)

- ! Resident Inspector -- Excellent
 - S Candid, open, high quality
 - S “Improved Due To” not in reports
 - S Phase 3 PRA evaluation needs more communications up front

- ! Thresholds for Inspection Findings
 - S Lower in Region III

- ! Annual Meetings Assessment Letters and Press Releases
 - S Minimal attendance by public
 - S Presentations dry and formal

- ! Web Page Effectiveness
 - S Needs a high-level, overall summary of sites’ safety for the general public

MID-CYCLE INSPECTION PLANS

(Licensee)

- ! Annual Inspection Cycle Under the ROP
 - S Implementation/plan consistent
 - S Planning process is generally good
 - S Better than previous inspection schedules published in PPR

- ! Updated Inspection Plans (6 months)
 - S Have been communicated verbally and followed up in writing

- ! Schedule Inflexibility
 - S When accommodation has been sought, it has been granted

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

(Licensee)

- ! Is it better?
- ! Does it make sense?
- ! Does it properly depict the industry?
- ! **YES**
 - S Inspection procedures are more objective and risk informed
 - S Less licensee time spent responding to low-value issues (Level IV violation)
 - S NRC/licensee dialogue focused on safety