





Generic Regulatory Issues Resolution & How Do We Accomplish It

Bob Link, Manager, EHS&L

Richland, WA

June 12, 2012

FCIX



The Issue



- ▶ **The devil is in the details**
 - ◆ **Rules, regulations, guidance imperfect**
 - ◆ **History, tribal knowledge not consistently or universally held**
 - ◆ **Expectations and understandings not always aligned between NRC and Licensee**
- ▶ **Leads to misunderstandings at best; non-compliance & enforcement at worst**
- ▶ **Enforcement not the best way to get alignment and understanding but sometimes necessary**

Examples



▶ **Task forces – three years of effort – mixed success**

- ◆ 10 CFR 70 Appendix A reportability
- ◆ 10 CFR 70.72 – configuration control
- ◆ Soluble uranium
- ◆ Enforcement policy
- ◆ Digital I&C

▶ **Design features – ongoing since 2009**

▶ **Dermal exposure – revised NRC position, no guidance**

▶ **Safety culture**

▶ **Fuel cycle oversight process**

▶ **Part 21 – revised NRC position**

▶ **...**

List grows – resources stay fixed or decline



Process (or lack thereof)



▶ Variety of mechanisms

- ◆ Formal/informal

▶ Output or products

- ◆ Rule changes
- ◆ NRC-issued orders
- ◆ Guidance – various forms – NUREGs, Reg. Guides
- ◆ Updated ISAs
- ◆ Generic Communications, e.g., Bulletins, Notices, RIS

Process (or lack thereof)



► Stakeholder involvement/participation

- ◆ Necessity for technical reasons and process credibility
- ◆ Logistical challenge
- ◆ Availability issues – other priorities – need alignment on priority of regulatory initiatives
- ◆ Draft documents – timely distribution and feedback on disposition of stakeholder comments

► Decisions or lack thereof

- ◆ Decision making authority
- ◆ Form of communication

Goal



- ▶ **Prioritization of regulatory initiatives**
- ▶ **Timely issue resolution process**
- ▶ **Transparent vetting of issues and inputs**
- ▶ **Clear mutually understood outcomes – knowledge management**
- ▶ **Practical, implementable outcomes**
- ▶ **Appropriate format and hierarchy of product – rule, guidance, etc.**
- ▶ **Risk informed/performance based**
- ▶ **Technically based and value added to safety**

Suggestions for Improvement



- ▶ **Crystallize problem statement**
 - ◆ Getting this right can be half the solution
- ▶ **Upfront agreement on scope, desired outcome and priority**
- ▶ **Provide management oversight of process, scope, milestones, outcomes and achieve internal alignment**
- ▶ **Monitor progress and stay on track**

Suggestions for Improvement (cont)



- ▶ **“Git ‘Er Done” – make incremental and final decisions and move on**
- ▶ **Perfection unachievable; Accept incremental improvement**
- ▶ **Improve knowledge and outcome transfer**