

Reactor Oversight Process Enhancement Project
Baseline Inspection Program
Inspection Area – Follow-up of Events and Notices of Enforcement
Discretion

Background

In accordance with Management Directive (MD) 8.3, "NRC Incident Investigation Program", U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) management makes decisions regarding the level of investigatory response for a significant operational event or degraded condition. These decisions are based upon deterministic and risk criteria. On-site inspectors review plant status, equipment, and operator performance in order to provide input to NRC management and risk analysts as required to evaluate event and degraded conditions using the deterministic and risk criteria.

The objective of Inspection Procedure (IP) 71153, "Follow-up of Events and Notices of Enforcement Discretion," is to evaluate licensee events and degraded conditions for plant status and mitigating actions in order to provide input in determining the need for an Incident Investigation Team, Augmented Inspection Team, or Special Inspection. An additional objective is to review personnel performance during planned non-routine plant evolutions and/or contribution to unplanned non-routine evolutions, events, and transient operations, to review written License Event Reports, and granted Notice of Enforcement Discretions.

Analysis

The regional, resident and headquarters inspectors and subject matter experts provided feedback on suggested changes to the baseline inspection procedure with intent to enhance flexibility, increase inspection efficiency, and adjust inspection requirements to emphasize increased focus of inspection on the more risk significant activities versus routine activities. Also, special consideration was given to value added inspector field observations that did not result in a finding but where there was an observed safety impact. Inspection procedure owner's assessment and ROP feedback forms were reviewed as part of the analysis.

Recommendations

Based on the review of all regional inputs, no changes are recommended at this time. The inspectors believe that IP 71153 provides the right balance of guidance, requirements, resources and flexibility.

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