



Risk-Informed Steering Committee PRA Technical Adequacy Working Group (WG1) NRC and Industry Working Group Status Update

Stacey L. Rosenberg
Chief, PRA Licensing Branch
David J. Gennardo

Reliability and Risk Analyst, PRA Licensing Branch
July 9, 2015

Summary of WG1 Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Develop a suitable for making new PRA methods available for risk-informed regulatory applications.
- **Objective 2:** Improve process for closure of peer review Facts and Observations (F&Os).
- **Objective 3:** Evaluate gaps in current peer review process.

Overview of Recent WG1 Activities

- NRC WG members held discussions with the NRC Office of the General Counsel (OGC) regarding the new methods process.
- Industry incorporated NRC feedback and provided the final whitepaper on June 12, 2015.

NRC Feedback on Vetting Panel

- The vetting panel for new methods would not constitute an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as long as:
 - Vetting panel would not be “established” by NRC.
 - Vetting panel would not be “utilized” by NRC.
- NRC will not select the industry vetting panel participants. Therefore the panel is not established by the NRC.
- NRC will not manage/coordinate the activities of the vetting panel. NRC staff will only participate as members of the vetting panel. Therefore the panel is not utilized by the NRC.

NRC Feedback on Vetting Panel

- A formal closure process is still required after the vetting panel provides its recommendation to establish a regulatory footprint.
- Detailed guidance for the implementation of the vetting panel needs to be developed.

Closure Process

- The industry whitepaper was revised to account for a formal closure process to avoid any concerns over delegation of government functions.
 - NEI will transmit the vetting panel decision to the NRC for acceptance.
- Use of new methods “at risk” after approval by the vetting panel but pending acceptance by the NRC would be treated similarly to other methods not yet accepted by the NRC.

Objectives 2 and 3

- The industry whitepaper provides recommendations for addressing the closure of peer review Facts and Observations (F&Os) and improving the peer review process.
 - The recommended approach (i.e., the Hybrid Approach) for F&O closure is in conceptual form in the whitepaper.
 - Industry will develop and maintain a catalogue of PRA methods available for risk-informed regulatory applications.

Path Forward

- NRC WG1 is reviewing the final whitepaper.
- NRC staff to provide NRC RISC a draft memo with recommendations related to the industry whitepaper. (Similar to the approach employed by WG2.)
- NRC WG1 will be sunset and future work will be addressed by the appropriate line organizations.
- NRC will make the draft memo publicly available and will hold a public meeting with industry to discuss the NRC views.
- NRC to prepare final memo after incorporating input from RISC and industry.