

CHARTER
REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION PANEL

1. The Committee's official designation:

Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel (IIEP)

2. The Committees objectives and the scope of its activity:

The NRC has implemented a revised reactor oversight process (ROP) for commercial nuclear power plant licensees. The ROP is described in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 2515. Background information on the development of the ROP is contained in Commission papers SECY-99-007, "Recommendations For Reactor Oversight Process Improvements," dated January 8, 1999, SECY-99-007A, "Recommendations For Reactor Oversight Process Improvements (Follow-up to SECY-99-007)," dated March 22, 1999, and SECY-00-049, "Results of the Revised Reactor Oversight Process Pilot Program," dated February 24, 2000. These Commission papers describe the scope and content of performance indicator reporting, a new risk-informed baseline inspection program, a new assessment process, and revisions to the enforcement policy. Commission paper SECY-00-049 also describes the results from the Pilot Program Evaluation Panel (a previous Federal Advisory Committees Act (FACA) panel), including a recommendation from the panel to proceed with initial implementation of the ROP at all power reactor facilities. On March 28, 2000, the Commission approved initial implementation of the ROP, and on May 17, 2000, the Commission directed the NRC staff to convene another evaluation panel under FACA to evaluate the first year of implementation of the ROP. The staff has established this IIEP in response to the Commission's directions.

The IIEP will function as a cross-disciplinary oversight group to independently monitor and evaluate the results of the first year of initial implementation of the ROP and provide advice and recommendations to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation on reforming and revising the ROP. IIEP meetings will be announced to the public in advance and (unless closed according to the provisions of FACA) open to the public. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, all material made available to or prepared for or by the IIEP will be made available to the public. Meetings will be transcribed and meeting summaries will be prepared following each meeting to document the results of the meetings. The transcripts and meeting summaries will be publicly available.

The IIEP will evaluate the ROP results against performance measures. The IIEP will provide a written report containing an overall evaluation of the ROP to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. This report will include the consensus views of the panel, or the majority and minority views when panel consensus cannot be achieved. The NRC staff will use the IIEP evaluation as a major input to its deliberative process to determine what modifications, if any, are needed to the ROP following initial implementation.

3. The period of time necessary for the Committee to carry out its purpose:

Nine months

4. The NRC official to whom this Committee will report:

Committee Chairman
Loren Plisco
Director, Division of Reactor Projects
Region II

5. The NRC office and individual responsible for providing support for the Committee:

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Designated Federal Official
John Monninger
Technical Assistant, Associate Director for Inspection & Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

6. A description of the duties for which the Committee is responsible, and if such duties are not solely advisory, a specification of the authority for such functions:

The panel will provide advice and recommendations only.

7. The estimated annual operating costs, in dollars* and staff years, for the Committee:

a. \$120,000 (*Includes travel and per diem)

b. 0.50 FTE

8. The estimated number and frequency of the Committee meetings:

Approximately 3 meetings will be held, on an as needed basis, during the period the panel is in existence.

9. Organization - The IIEP will create any subcommittees which may be necessary to fulfill the IIEP's mission. In addition, NRC and IIEP will establish such operating procedures as are required to support the group, consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended.

10. The Committee's termination date, if less than two years from the date of establishment:

July 31, 2001

11. Charter Filing Date:

October 17, 2000

/RA/

Andrew L. Bates

Advisory Committee Management Officer
Office of the Secretary of the Commission