

Highlights of ROP / Fukushima Working Group Efforts

Background

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) working group was established on October 2, 2017 to consider how to integrate the results of regulatory actions, taken by the NRC following the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident, into the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) (ML17164A285). Multiple NRC offices, including all Regions, are represented. The goal is to begin implementation of any new ROP program documents by January 1, 2020. The first milestone (March 31, 2018) is to develop final proposals (e.g. NRC management approval on proposal for inspection requirements, level of effort, resource estimates, etc.)

Highlights of Effort to Date

- The working group has completed review of Flexible Mitigation Strategies (FLEX) and is tentatively recommending incorporation into the ROP as follows:
 - Revise guidance in existing Inspection Procedure (IPs) to reiterate flexibility in sample selection of FLEX when utilized in risk-significant conditions. (IP 71111.01, “Adverse Weather Protection,” IP 71111.13, “Maintenance Risk Assessments and Emergent Work Control,” IP 71111.15, “Operability Determinations and Functionality Assessments,” and IP 71111.20, “Refueling and Other Outage Activities”)
 - Expand scope requirements in existing IP to allow for flexibility in sample selection of FLEX when utilized in risk-significant conditions. (IP 71111.22, “Surveillance Testing”)
 - Development of a new beyond design basis IP to be performed on a triennial (or longer) basis. Overall direct inspection effort would be around 8-16 hours. IP would inspect defense in depth aspects of FLEX. Will need to coordinate with Engineering Working Group to ensure coordination of regional based inspection resources.

Next Near-Term Efforts

- Continue working group efforts to consider aspects of hardened containment vents, Severe Accident Management Guidelines, multi-source dose assessment, and focused evaluations & integrated assessments that may warrant oversight and potential IP revisions.
- Continue to engage external stakeholders and NRC management to solicit feedback.