

# Probabilistic Risk Assessment

## Retrospective PRA

### Lecture 7-1

The NRC's policy statement on probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) encourages greater use of the analytical techniques to improve safety decision making and improve regulatory efficiency. The NRC staff's PRA Implementation Plan describes activities now under way or planned to expand this use. These activities include, for example, providing guidance for NRC inspectors on focusing inspection resources on risk-important equipment, as well as reassessing plants with relatively high core damage frequencies for possible backfits.

Another activity under way in response to the policy statement is using PRA to support decisions to modify an individual plant's licensing basis (LB). This regulatory guide provides guidance on the use of PRA findings.

# Schedule

	Wednesday 1/16	Thursday 1/17	Friday 1/18	Tuesday 1/22	Wednesday 1/23
<b>Module</b>	<b>1: Introduction</b>	<b>3: Characterizing Uncertainty</b>	<b>5: Basic Events</b>	<b>7: Learning from Operational Events</b>	<b>9: The PRA Frontier</b>
<b>9:00-9:45</b>	L1-1: What is RIDM?	L3-1: Probabilistic modeling for NPP PRA	L5-1: Evidence and estimation	L7-1: Retrospective PRA	L9-1: Challenges for NPP PRA
<b>9:45-10:00</b>	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
<b>10:00-11:00</b>	L1-2: RIDM in the nuclear industry	L3-2: Uncertainty and uncertainties	L5-2: Human Reliability Analysis (HRA)	L7-2: Notable events and lessons for PRA	L9-2: Improved PRA using existing technology
<b>11:00-12:00</b>	W1: Risk-informed thinking	W2: Characterizing uncertainties	W4: Bayesian estimation	W6: Retrospective Analysis	L9-3: The frontier: grand challenges and advanced methods
<b>12:00-1:30</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>Module</b>	<b>2: PRA Overview</b>	<b>4: Accident Sequence Modeling</b>	<b>6: Special Technical Topics</b>	<b>8: Applications and Challenges</b>	<b>10: Recap</b>
<b>1:30-2:15</b>	L2-1: NPP PRA and RIDM: early history	L4-1: Initiating events	L6-1: Dependent failures	L8-1: Risk-informed regulatory applications L8-2: PRA and RIDM infrastructure	L10-1: Summary and closing remarks
<b>2:15-2:30</b>	Break	Break	Break	Break	
<b>2:30-3:30</b>	L2-2: NPP PRA models and results	L4-2: Modeling plant and system response	L6-2: Spatial hazards and dependencies	L8-3: Risk-informed fire protection	Discussion: course feedback
<b>3:30-4:30</b>	L2-3: PRA and RIDM: point-counterpoint	W3: Plant systems modeling	L6-3: Other operational modes L6-4: Level 2/3 PRA: beyond core damage	L8-4: Risk communication	Open Discussion
<b>4:30-4:45</b>	Break	Break	Break	Break	
<b>4:45-5:30</b>	Open Discussion	W3: Plant systems modeling (cont.)	W5: External Hazards modeling	Open Discussion	
<b>5:30-6:00</b>		Open Discussion	Open Discussion		

## Learning Objectives

- Retrospective PRA – concept and use
- NRC Accident Sequence Precursor (ASP) program and key results
- Related activities
- Other uses

## Resources

- I. Gifford, C. Hunter, and A. Gilbertson, “U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Accident Sequence Precursor Program: 2017 Annual Report,” May 2018. (ADAMS ML18130A856)
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, “Accident Sequence Precursor (ASP) Program <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/research/asp.html>
- N. Siu, et al., “Accidents, near misses, and probabilistic analysis: on the use of CCDPs in enterprise risk monitoring and management,” *Proceedings of ANS International Topical Meeting on Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA 2017)*, Pittsburgh, PA, September 24-28, 2017.

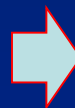
## Other References

- K.A. Coyne, “Risk-Informed Regulation at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,” April 14, 2016. (ADAMS ML16105A427)
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, “Workshop on the Use of PRA Methodology for the Analysis of Reactor Events and Operational Data,” NUREG/CP-0124, 1992.
- V.M. Bier (ed.), *Accident Sequence Precursors and Probabilistic Risk Analysis*, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI, 1998.
- Nuclear Energy Agency, “Proceedings of the Workshop on Precursor Analysis,” NEA/CSNI/R(2003)11, 2003.
- J.R. Phimister, V.M. Bier, and H.C. Kunreuther, *Accident Precursor Analysis and Management: Reducing Technological Risk Through Diligence*, Committee on Precursors, National Academy of Engineering, National Academies Press, New York, 2004.
- J.W. Minarick and C.A. Kukielka, “Precursors to Potential Severe Core Damage Accidents: 1969-1979, a Status Report,” NUREG/CR-2497, June 1982.
- G. Apostolakis and A. Mosleh, “Expert opinion and statistical evidence: an application to reactor core melt frequency,” *Nuclear Science and Engineering*, **70**, 135-149, 1979.
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, “ROP References”  
<https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/oversight/program-documents.html>
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, “NRC Incident Investigation Program,” *Management Directive 8.3*, June 25, 2014. (ADAMS ML13175A294)

## What is a Retrospective PRA?

- Preceding lectures address “prospective PRA analysis”
  - identifying and prioritizing possibilities to assist forward-looking decision making
- “Retrospective PRA analysis” applies a PRA modeling framework and “what-if” thinking to past events: how close did an incident come to becoming an accident?

**What can go wrong?  
What are the consequences?  
How likely is it?**



**What could have gone wrong?  
What would have been the  
consequences?  
How likely was it?**

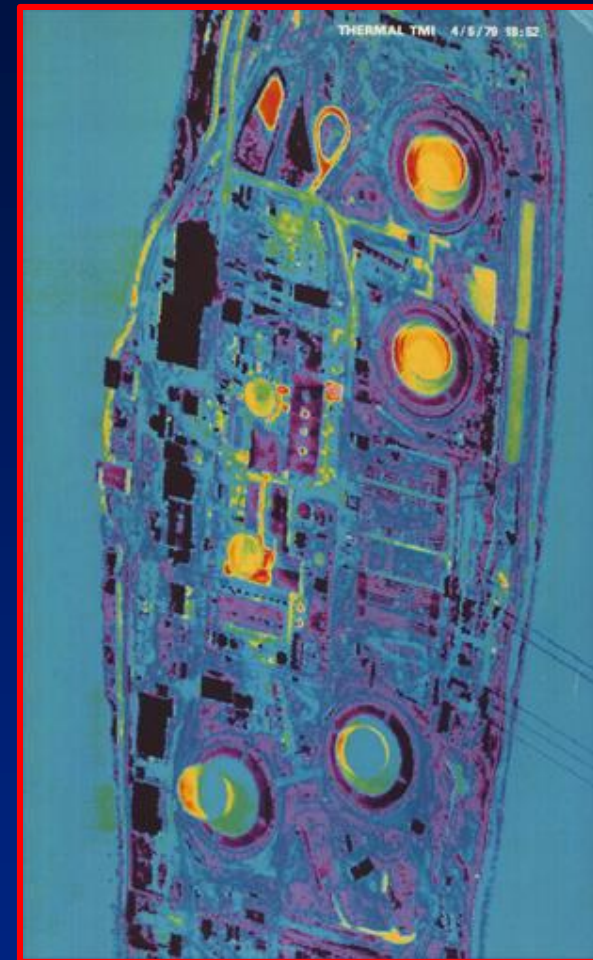
## **Why Use Retrospective PRA?**

- Support risk-informed prioritization of events for attention and further investigation, possible “early warning” signals
- Support risk-informed, graded responses to inspection findings
- Provide a different (but still risk-oriented) perspective on plant safety



## Early Warning Potential

- Davis-Besse (1977) - LER 346/77-016
  - Partial loss of feedwater; stuck-open pressurizer PORV; operators failed to recognize stuck-open PORV
  - CCDP =  $7 \times 10^{-2}$  (analysis ~1982)\*
- Three Mile Island 2 (1979) - LER 320/79-012
  - Total loss of feedwater; stuck-open pressurizer PORV; operators failed to recognize stuck-open PORV; subsequent operator errors led to core damage
  - CCDP = 1



Adapted from cover page, M. Rogovin and G.T. Frampton, Jr., "Three Mile Island: A Report to the Commissioners and to the Public," Nuclear Regulatory Commission Special Review Group, January 1980.

\*Based on then-current models. Current estimate  $\sim 1\text{E-}3$  (still a "significant precursor").

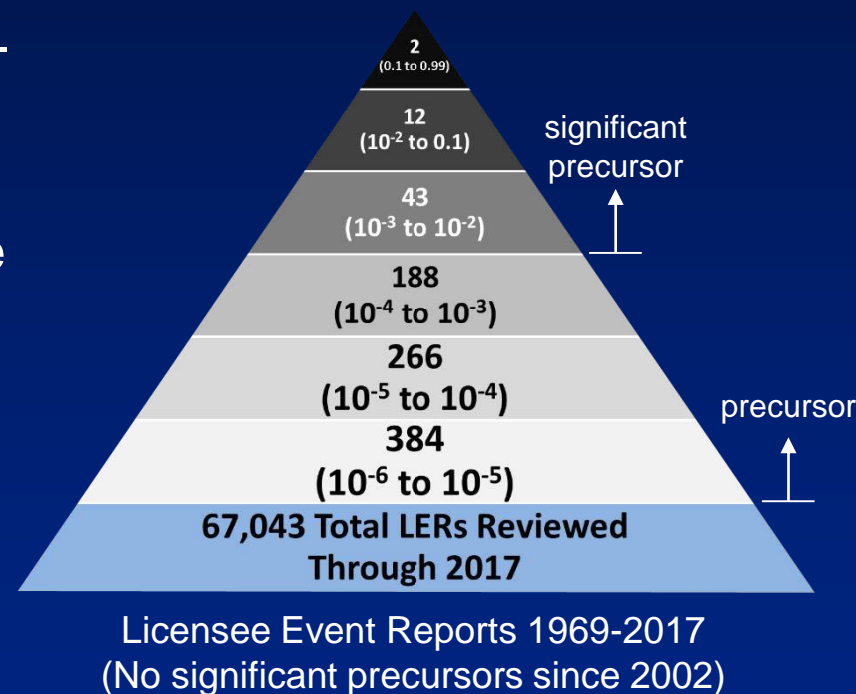


## Reminder – NRC Regulatory Functions



# Accident Sequence Precursor Program

- Program recommended by WASH-1400 review group (1978)
- Provides risk-informed view of nuclear plant operating experience
  - CCDP (events)
  - ΔCDP (conditions)
- Supports reports to Congress\*
- Supported by plant-specific Standardized Plant Analysis Risk models



I. Gifford, C. Hunter, and A. Gilbertson, "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Accident Sequence Precursor Program: 2017 Annual Report," May 2018. (ADAMS ML18130A856)

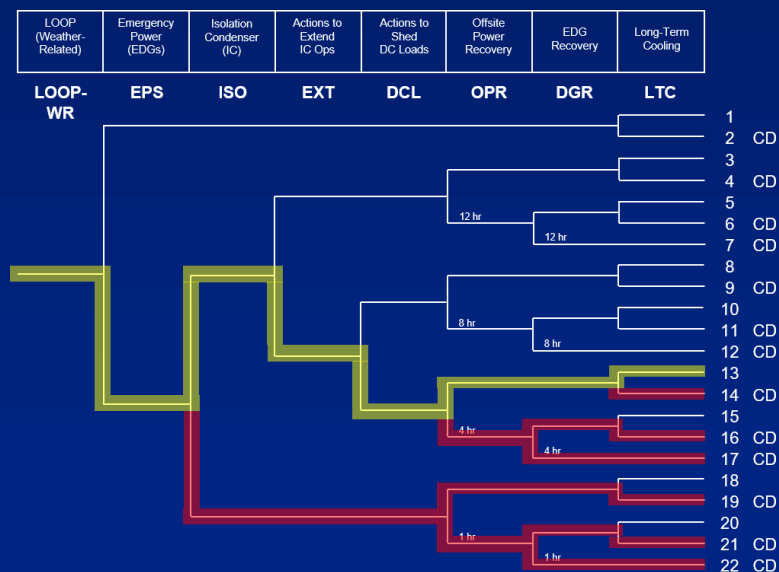
\*Reports: Abnormal Occurrence, Congressional Budget Justification, Performance and Accountability

# Key Metrics

## Events

Conditional Core Damage Probability (CCDP):

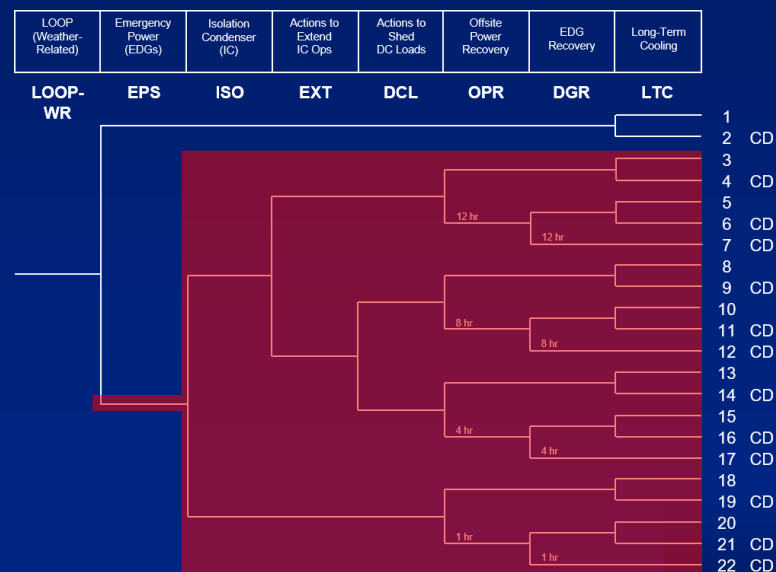
$$CCDP \equiv P\{\text{core damage}|\text{event}\}$$



## Conditions

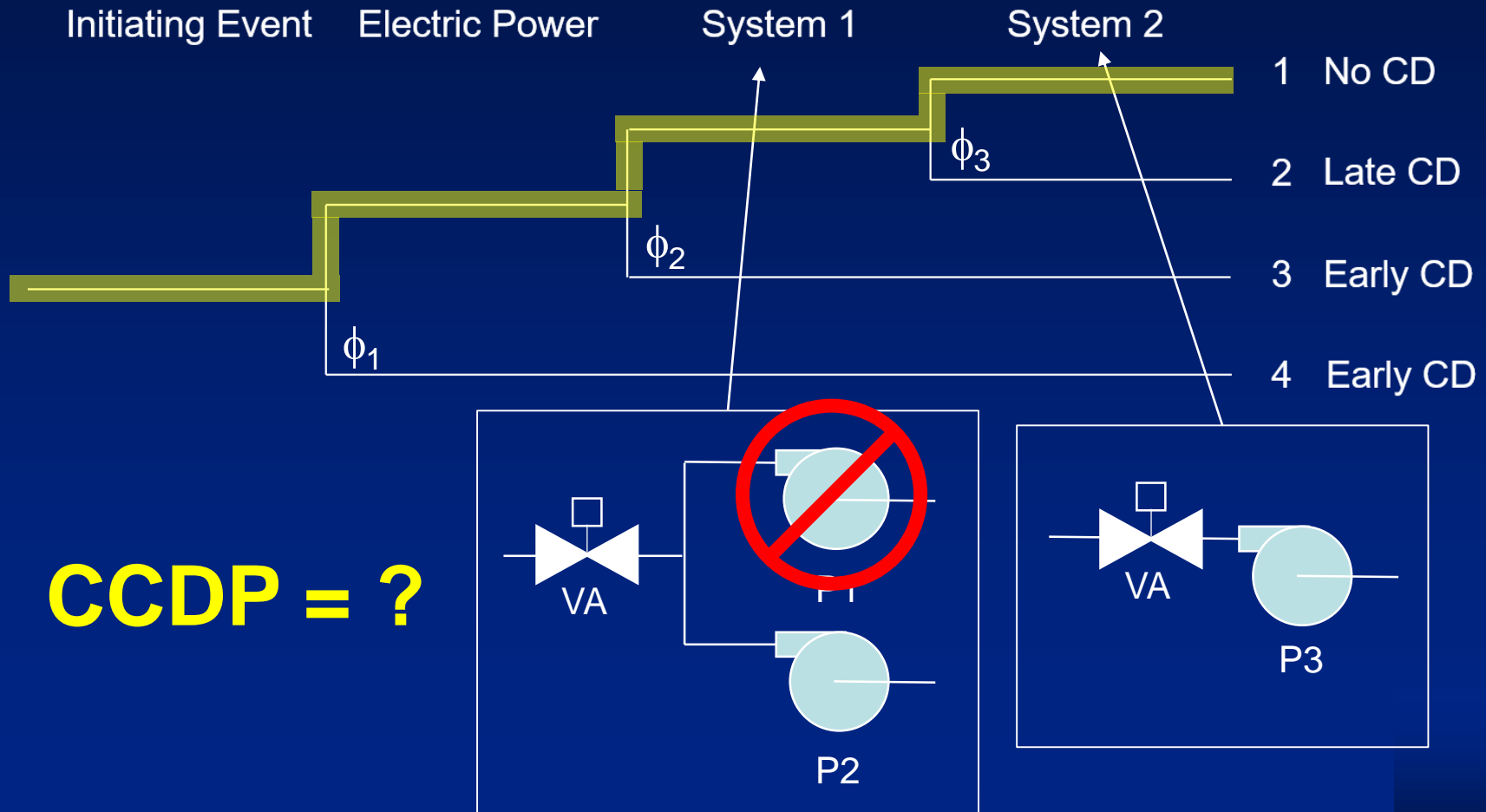
Change in core damage frequency ( $\Delta CDP$ ):\*

$$\Delta CDP \equiv CDP_{\text{condition}} - CDP_{\text{base}}$$



\*Calculated for the duration of the condition.

# Knowledge Check



# Top U.S. Precursors

Plant	Description	CCDP/ $\Delta$ CDP	Event Date	Plant Type
Browns Ferry 1	Cable tray fire caused extensive damage and loss of electrical power to safety systems	0.4	03/22/1975	BWR
Rancho Seco	Failure of non-nuclear instrumentation leads to reactor trip and steam generator dry out.	0.3	03/20/1978	PWR
Oyster Creek	Reactor trip results in loss of feedwater with subsequent failure of isolation condenser.	0.03	05/02/1979	BWR
Davis-Besse	Both emergency feedwater pumps found inoperable during testing	0.03	12/11/1977	PWR
Kewaunee	Clogged suction strainers for emergency feedwater pumps	0.03	11/05/1975	PWR
Turkey Point 3	Failure of three emergency feedwater pumps to start during test	0.03	05/08/1974	PWR
Point Beach 1	Clogged suction strainers for emergency feedwater pumps	0.03	04/07/1974	PWR
La Crosse	Loss of offsite power due to switchyard fire	0.02	03/24/1971	BWR
Davis-Besse	Loss of feedwater; scram; operator error fails emergency feedwater; power-operated relief valve fails open.	0.01	06/09/1985	PWR
Hatch 2	Reactor trip with subsequent failure of high-pressure coolant injection pump to start and reactor core isolation cooling unavailable.	0.01	06/03/1979	BWR
Farley 1	Reactor trip with all emergency feedwater pumps ineffective	0.01	03/25/1978	PWR
Cooper	Blown fuse leads to partial loss of feedwater and subsequent reactor trip; reactor core isolation cooling and high-pressure coolant injection pump fail to reach rated speed	0.01	08/03/1977	BWR
Millstone 2	Loss of offsite power with failure of emergency diesel generator load shed signals	0.01	07/20/1976	PWR
Haddam Neck	Loss of offsite power due to ice storm with failure of emergency diesel generator service water pump to start	0.01	01/19/1974	PWR

# Most Recent Significant Precursors

Plant	Description	CCDP/ $\Delta$ CDP	Event Date	Plant Type
Davis-Besse	Reactor pressure vessel head leakage of control rod drive mechanism nozzles, potential unavailability of sump recirculation due to screen plugging, and potential unavailability of boron precipitation control.	0.006	02/27/2002	PWR
Catawba 2	Plant-centered loss of offsite power (transformer ground faults) with an emergency diesel generator unavailable due to maintenance	0.002	02/06/1996	PWR
Wolf Creek	Reactor coolant system blowdown (9,200 gallons) to the refueling water storage tank	0.003	09/17/1994	PWR
Shearon Harris	High-pressure injection unavailable for one refueling cycle because of inoperable alternate minimum flow valves	0.006	04/03/1991	PWR
Turkey Point 3	Turbine load loss with trip; control rod drive auto insert fails; manual reactor trip; power-operated relief valve sticks open	0.001	12/27/1986	PWR
Catawba 1	CVCS system leak (130 gpm) from the component cooling water/CVCS heat exchanger joint (i.e., small-break loss-of-coolant accident)	0.003	06/13/1986	PWR
Davis-Besse	Loss of feedwater; scram; operator error fails emergency feedwater; power-operated relief valve fails open	0.01	06/09/1985	PWR
Hatch 1	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) water shorts panel; safety relief valve fails open; high-pressure coolant injection fails; reactor core isolation cooling unavailable	0.002	05/15/1985	BWR
La Salle 1	Operator error causes scram; reactor core isolation cooling unavailable; residual heat removal unavailable	0.002	09/21/1984	BWR
Salem 1	Trip with automatic reactor trip capability failed	0.005	02/25/1983	PWR



## **Other Precursor Activities**

- Past Workshops
  - Annapolis, MD, 1992 (NUREG/CP-0124)
  - Madison, WI, 1995 (Bier, 1998)
  - Brussels, Belgium, 2001 (NEA, 2003)
  - Washington, DC, 2003 (Phimister, 2004)
- PSA-Based Event Analysis (PSAEA)
  - Annual international workshops led by Belgium
  - Exchange results and experiences

# Significance Determination Process

- Part of Reactor Oversight Program
- Determines significance of findings
  - Characterize performance deficiency
  - Use review panel (if required)
  - Obtain licensee perspective
  - Finalize
- Differences from ASP
  - Supports fault finding and response
  - Focuses on a single performance deficiency (i.e., not necessarily the combined effect of anomalies)
  - Results are broad categories (colors)

**$\Delta\text{CDF} < 1\text{E-6}$**   
 **$\Delta\text{LERF} < 1\text{E-7}$**

**$1\text{E-6} < \Delta\text{CDF} < 1\text{E-5}$**   
 **$1\text{E-7} < \Delta\text{LERF} < 1\text{E-6}$**

**$1\text{E-5} < \Delta\text{CDF} < 1\text{E-4}$**   
 **$1\text{E-6} < \Delta\text{LERF} < 1\text{E-5}$**

**$\Delta\text{CDF} > 1\text{E-4}$**   
 **$\Delta\text{LERF} > 1\text{E-5}$**

CDF = Core damage frequency  
LERF = Large early release frequency

# Incident Investigation

- Management Directive (MD) 8.3
- Determines NRC response to an incident
  - No additional inspection
  - Special Inspection Team (SIT)
  - Augmented Inspection Team (AIT)
  - Incident Inspection Team (IIT)
- Differences from ASP
  - Quick turnaround
  - Determines level of reactive inspection

Estimated CCDP				
< 1E-6	1E-6 → 1E-5	1E-5 → 1E-4	1E-4 → 1E-3	> 1E-3
No Additional Inspection				
	SIT			
	AIT			
			IIT	

Adapted from U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "NRC Incident Investigation Program," *Management Directive 8.3*, June 25, 2014. (ADAMS ML13175A294)

## **Example: Robinson Fire (3/28/2010)**

- Electrical fault causes fire and subsequent reactor trip with losses of main feedwater (MFW) and reactor coolant pump (RCP) seal injection/cooling (*LER 261-10-002*)
- Incident Response (MD 8.3)
  - $CCDP = 4 \times 10^{-5} \Rightarrow$  augmented inspection
  - Initial evaluation recommended a special inspection; loss of RCP seal injection/cooling not known at the time
- Significance Determination Process (SDP)
  - Two White findings: licensee performance deficiencies involving inadequate training and procedures.
  - Five Green findings
- Accident Sequence Precursor (ASP)
  - $CCDP = 4 \times 10^{-4}$
  - Non-recoverable loss of MFW modeled with RCP seal injection diverted away from RCP seals (unknown to operators) and component cooling water (CCW) isolated via return isolation valve (recovered by operators).

## **IAEA/NEA International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES)**

- Tool for communicating event safety significance to the public
- Logarithmic scale for severity
- Considers impacts on
  - People and the environment
  - Radiological barriers and control
  - Defence in depth
- Voluntary use by Member States
- Not a notification or reporting system for emergency response

Level	Description
7	Major Accident
6	Serious Accident
5	Accident with Wider Consequences
4	Accident with Local Consequences
3	Serious Incident
2	Incident
1	Anomaly

International Atomic Energy Agency, "INES: The International Nuclear And Radiological Event Scale, User's Manual, 2008 Edition," © IAEA, 2013.  
<https://www-pub.iaea.org/books/IAEABooks/10508/INES-The-International-Nuclear-and-Radiological-Event-Scale-User-s-Manual-2008-Edition>

## **Other (Potential) Uses of Retrospective PRA**

- Fleet health index
- Alternative method to estimate average CDF



# Integrated ASP Index (IAI)

- Concept
  - Use numerical results of ASP analyses to indicate fleet performance
  - Increases with number of precursors
  - Increases with severity of precursors

- Definition

$$IAI = \frac{1}{T_{CY}} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{M_I} CCDP_j + \sum_{k=1}^{M_C} \Delta CDP_k \right)$$

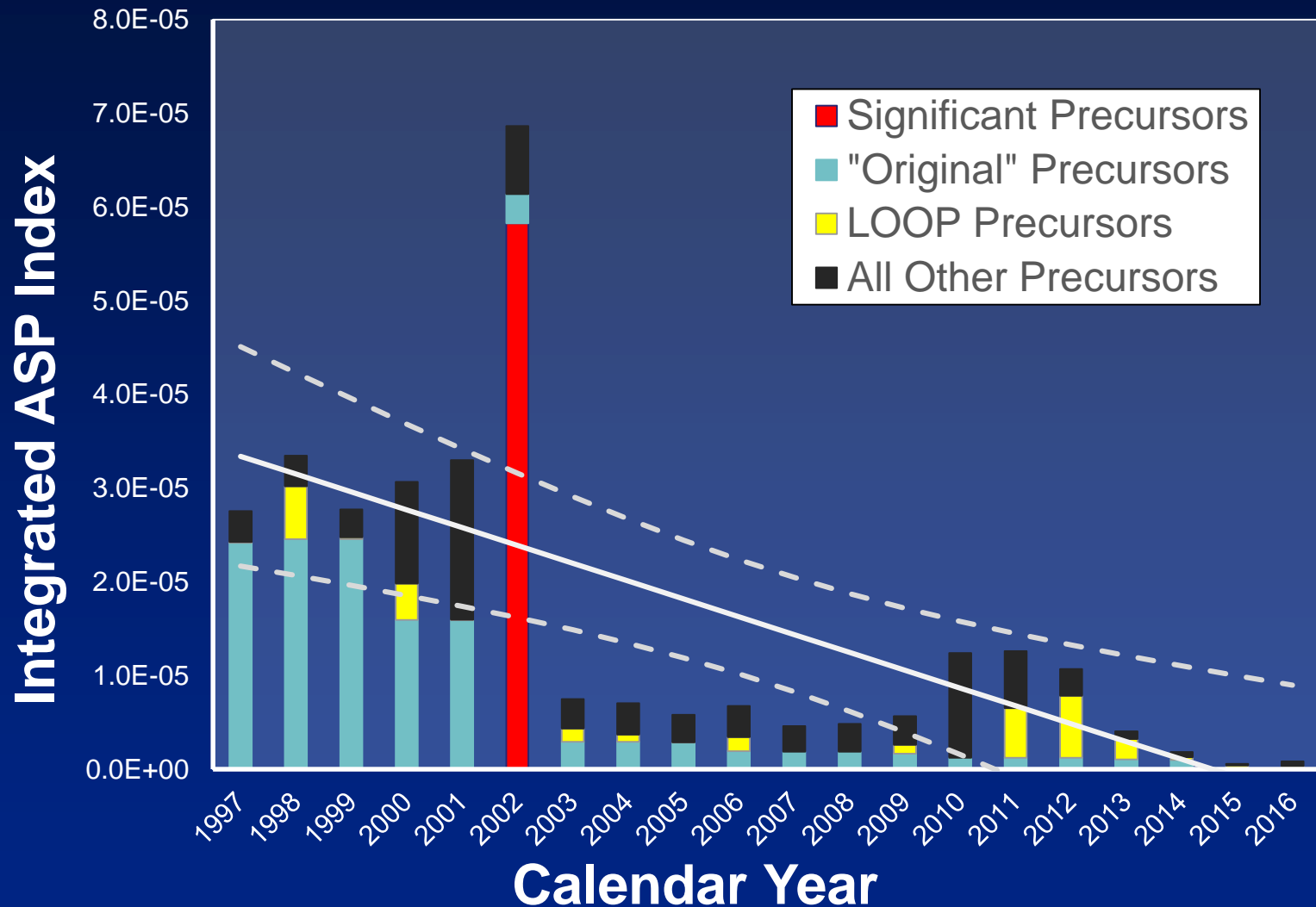
$T_{CY}$  = total calendar years

$M_I$  = # initiating event precursors

$M_C$  = # degraded condition precursors

$CCDP$  = conditional core damage probability

$\Delta CDP$  = change in core damage probability



Adapted from: I. Gifford, C. Hunter, and J. Nakoski, "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Accident Sequence Precursor Program: 2016 Annual Report," May 2017. (ML17153A366)

## Relationship with Fleet CDF?

$$CDF_{fleet} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{fleet}} CDF_i$$

A simple estimator, following Apostolakis and Mosleh (1979):

$$\widehat{CDF}_{fleet} = \frac{1}{T} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{N_{fleet}} \sum_{j=1}^{N_{event,i}} X_{ij} \right] = \frac{1}{T} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{N_{event}} X_k \right] \quad X_k = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{Plant } k \text{ has a CD accident} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$E[\widehat{CDF}_{fleet}] = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{event}} E[X_k] = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{event}} P\{X_k = 1\}$$

- Addresses aleatory uncertainty
- Same mathematical foundation as basic PRA (Barlow and Proschan, 1965)

## An Alternative to “Standard” PRA?

- Concept: use statistical estimates of CDF with CCDPs serving as data
  - Proposed in early days of precursor analysis (1980s)
  - Possibly reviving as part of statistical approaches using actual accidents (e.g., TMI-2, Chernobyl, Fukushima)
- Some earlier technical challenges have been addressed (e.g., more detailed models)
- Continuing technical challenges include:
  - Model limitations (shared with prospective PRA)
  - Specifying the analysis conditions (the “givens”): “failure memory” modeling, neglect of hazard variations
  - Incorporating full set of knowledge built into PRAs (e.g., risk from scenarios not involved in actual incident)

## Comments

- Retrospective PRA is an extremely valuable source of information generally overlooked by the broader PRA community
  - PRA-oriented, structured view of actual events
  - Prioritization of issues needing attention
- Current programmatic challenges to retrospective PRA analyses include:
  - Resources spent on arguments over modeling and analysis results
  - Questions of added value given existing OpE programs (e.g., NRC OpE Clearinghouse)
  - Potential for increased polarization (which is the “right” approach, vs. what we can learn from different approaches)

# NRC OpE Clearinghouse

## Inputs

## OpE Program

## Products

### Domestic OpE: Industry

Daily Event Reports \*  
Plant Status Reports \*  
Licensee Event Reports \*  
Part 21 Reports \*  
INPO Reports

### Domestic OpE: NRC

Inspection Findings \*  
Preliminary Notifications \*  
Regional Project Calls  
Construction Experience  
Studies/Trends

### International OpE

Incident Reporting System (IRS)  
International Nuclear Event Scale  
(INES)  
Bilateral Exchanges

### OpE Clearinghouse

Screening  
Communication  
Evaluation  
Application

Storage

### Influencing Agency programs

Inspection \*  
Licensing \*

### Informing Stakeholders

Generic Communications \*  
OpE Briefings  
COMMunications  
Periodic OpE Newsletter  
OpE Notes  
Notable OpE  
Tech Review Group Report

### Taking Regulatory Actions

Rulemaking \*  
Information Request \*

\* Available on the public NRC Web Page