



# **NRC Regulatory Information Conference**

## ***Session W15 – Optimizing the Reactor Oversight Process***

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**Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation**  
**March 13, 2019**

# Background

- The Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) enhancement initiative began in 2018 as part of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) overall effort to transform and innovate agency activities.
- The agency received nearly 100 recommendations from internal and external stakeholders to improve the ROP.
- A multidisciplinary team was established to evaluate and disposition recommendations with extensive industry involvement.

# Goals for ROP Enhancement

- Better risk-inform the ROP, taking advantage of improved risk tools and industry initiatives.
- Improve performance-based aspects of the ROP considering the current nuclear landscape.
- Ensure proposed changes are consistent with the NRC Principles of Good Regulation.

# Objectives for ROP Enhancement

- Focus resources on issues of higher safety significance; provide for more timely resolution of issues of relatively low safety significance.
- Enhance the Significance Determination Process through improved risk assessment.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of ROP inspection programs.
- Improve communications between the NRC and industry oversight matters.

# Key Areas for Enhancement

- Optimize the regulatory response to White inspection findings.
- Identify and implement efficiencies for the ROP inspection program.
- Improve the process and tools to characterize the significance of inspection findings.

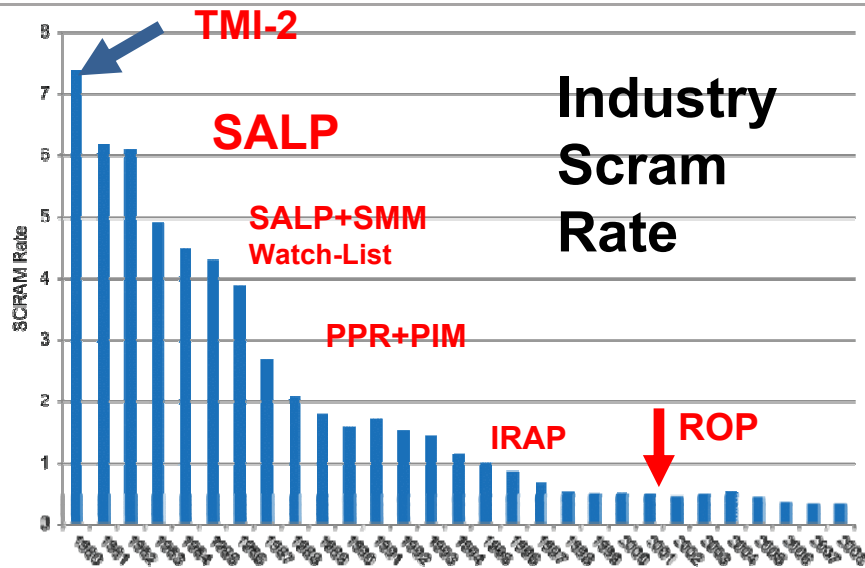
# Project Plan and Deliverables

- Assign thematic area leads and develop specific project plans.
- Establish the Regional Advisory Panel.
- Develop a Commission paper by June 2019 consistent with SRM/COMSECY-16-022.
- Continue ongoing improvement efforts beyond June 2019.



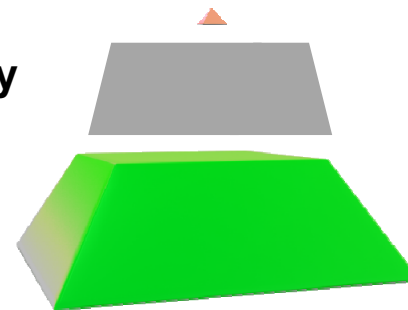
# Panelist Opening Remarks

## SALP transformed into the ROP



Modernize

## Treatment of Whites is Large Area of Gain in Efficiency



We put a lot of resource and effort in the discussion around very low and low safety significance issues

18,325  
●  
99%

235  
○  
1.3%

23  
●  
0.12%

5  
●  
0.03%



# **UCS Talking Points on Changing the ROP**

**Edwin Lyman**

**Acting Director, Nuclear Safety Project**

- **The ROP is a critical tool for ensuring**
  - **Accurate and timely communication of nuclear plant safety issues to the public**
  - **Appropriate and effective regulatory responses**
- **UCS opposes changes to the ROP that would**
  - **Raise the bar for issuing greater-than-Green findings, therefore lowering the standards for good performance**
  - **Diminish the regulatory treatment of greater-than-Green findings**
- **Changes that UCS opposes include**
  - **Eliminating or diminishing the impact of White findings**
  - **Combining Action Matrix columns 1 and 2, explicitly or implicitly**
  - **Changing the SDP to give credit for self-assessment, FLEX equipment**
  - **Reducing baseline inspections for sustained column 1 performers**
  - **Further weakening the force-on-force SDP**

## **Reactor Oversight Process Enhancement Initiative**

- ROP assessment performance over 20 years.
- Program improvement built into the ROP.
- Recent ROP change initiatives.
- ROP enhancement improvements align with the Principles of Good Regulation.
- Feedback from across the NRC in 8 thematic areas with strong Regional participation.

## **Reactor Oversight Process Enhancement Initiative**

- Inclusion of Regional Perspectives is an integral part of the Initiative
- Regional Advisor Panel: focus on efficiency and effectiveness of implementation of proposed changes
- Solicitation of Resident Inspector and Region based inspector insights on proposed changes
- Regional feedback used to shape the enhancement proposals



# Panelist Session



# Question and Answer Session