

Task Interface Agreement (TIA) Program Revitalization Status

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing (DORL)
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TIA Program Revitalization Summary

TIA Revitalization

Risk-informing

Modernized decision-making

NRR/NRO Merger

Stakeholder Engagement

Low Safety Significant Issue Resolution (LSSIR)



Status

- Major enhancements to the program identified
- Proposed rebranding of the TIA program
- Preliminary updated draft guidance completed
- Effort for merging NRR/NRO programs underway

Key Messages

The TIA revitalization effort is intended to result in an efficient process that focuses resources on matters that are most important to safety, effectively utilizes modern technology, and meets the needs of stakeholders.

The revised TIA process is expected to be a fact-gathering exercise that informs other NRC processes like inspection, enforcement and backfit.

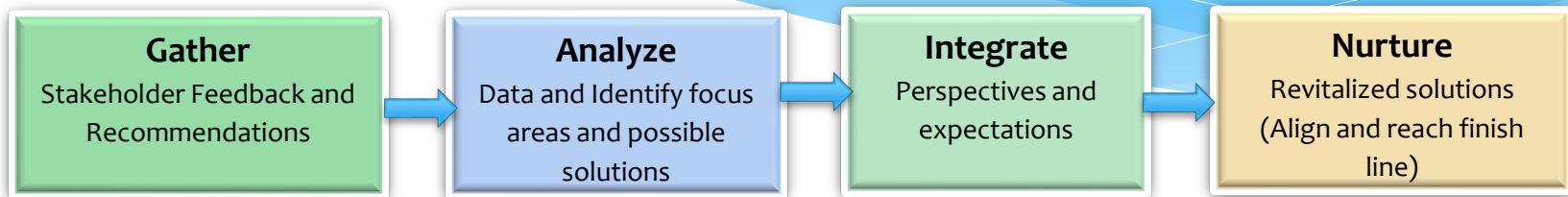
The TIA process rebranded as the Technical Assistance Request (TAR) will incorporate the concepts of the Low Safety Significant Issue Resolution (LSSIR) effort.

- ✓ The project is being executed by an inclusive agency working group.
- ✓ The WG received good alignment on the proposed revitalization concepts from staff, management and industry.
- ✓ Public meetings with industry were held on March 19 and May 29, 2019.

TIA Program Revitalization

Transformational Drivers: Risk-informing and Modernized decision-making

Project Execution Method



Sources of Insights

Driver: Holistically redesign the program with fresh inputs to fulfil agency mission



TIA Program Challenges

1. Timeliness
2. Effectiveness

Effort on low safety significant issues

Delayed hand-offs to other processes

Issues outside the scope of the TIA

Inconsistent licensee engagement

Lack of early and/or inconsistent alignment

Industry Recommendations*

Opportunities for Enhancement in the TIA Program

- Increase Process Rigidity
- Greater Emphasis on Backfit
- Establish Exit Criteria for Low Safety Significance Issue Resolution
- Include an Appeal Process
- Eliminate Pre-decisional Consideration
- Enhance Communication
- Enhance TIA Coordinator Position



*- Inputs received in public meetings on Feb. 21, and March 19, 2019

TIA Program in a New AvaTAR

Proposed Solutions

Graded approach commensurate with significance

Enhanced rigor in framing acceptable questions

Enhanced screening for timely dispositioning or resolution of issue

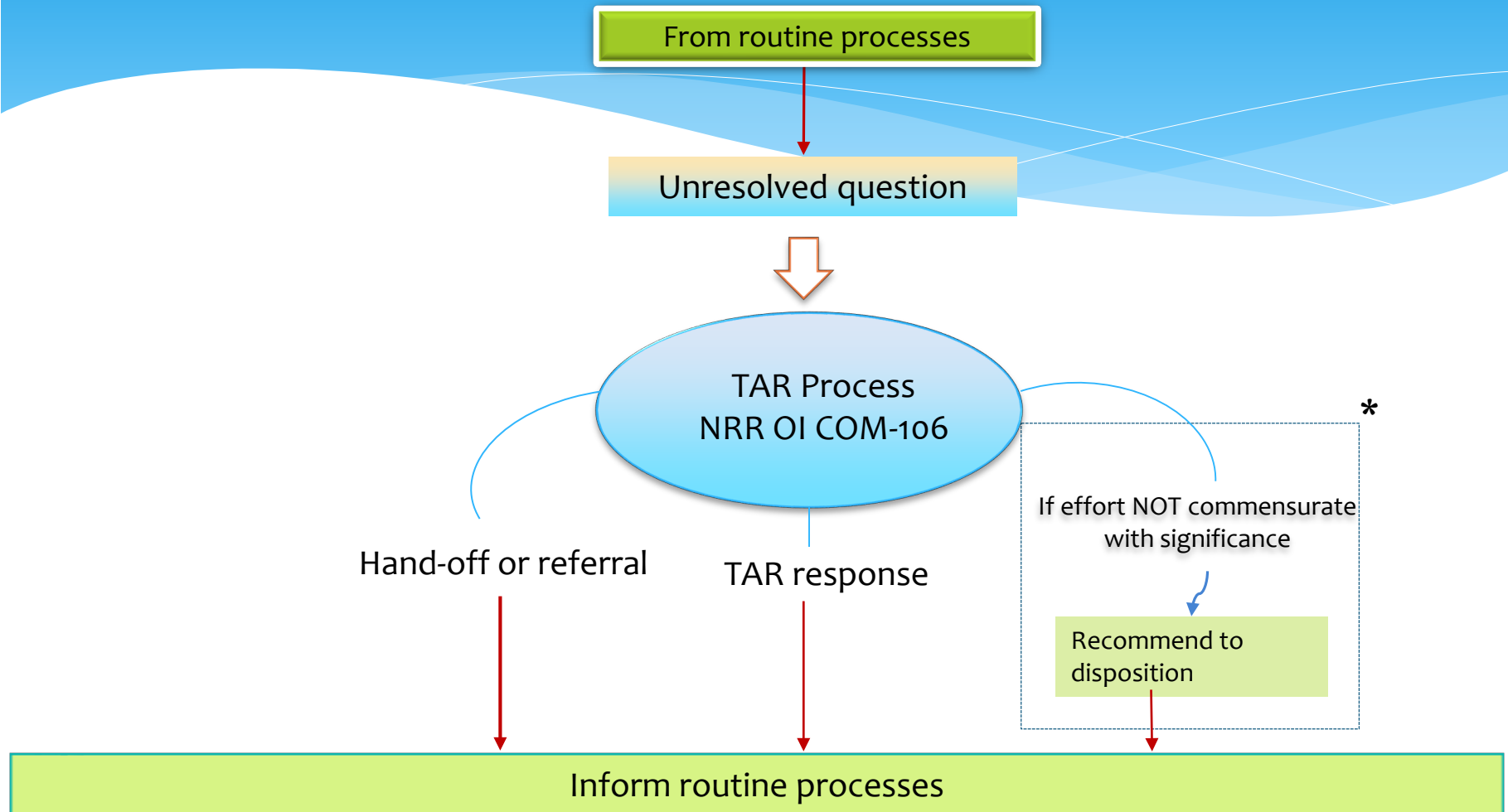
Integrated Core Tiger teams

Enhanced licensee engagement

Streamlined tools and templates

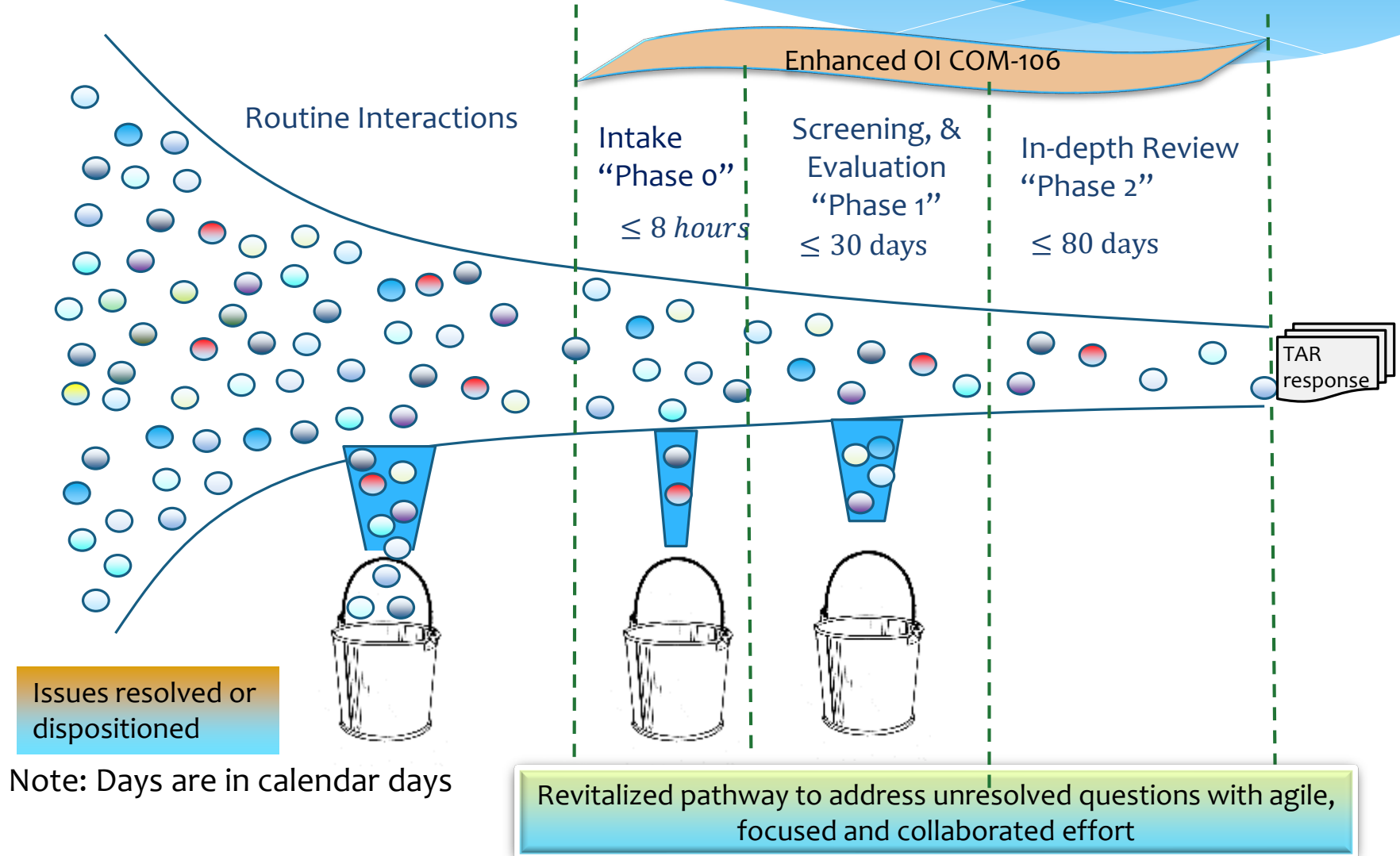
New Proposed Name: TAR- Technical Assistance Request

Basic Purpose is Unchanged: TIA (TAR) Supports Informed Decision-making



* Working in coordination with low safety significant issue resolution (LSSIR) effort.

New: Graded Approach to Effective and Efficient Scoping, Dispositioning, and Resolution



The Intake Phase

Phase 0- “Intake”



TAR Coordinator lead

Staff/ BC level interactions

- Fact-gathering framework
- Characterization of issue/questions
- Licensee input
- Safety significance information
- Resolution/ Disposition possible!

Complete Intake template

The Screening & Evaluation Phase

Phase 1- “Screening & Evaluation”

Safety
Significance
Determination
Tool

- Requesting office/region division management approval to enter
- Integrated Tiger Team with specialized expertise
- Enhanced rigor in scoping and refining questions
- Screening for safety significance
- Integrate diverse views
- Issues resolved or dispositioned; OR referred to an appropriate process OR referred to TAR Phase 2
- Exceptions for referring to Phase 2 with both office OD/RA approval

Screening Template

The “In-depth Review” Phase

Phase 2- “ In-depth Review”



- Acceptance criteria met and well formulated questions from Phase 1
- Enhanced licensee engagement
- Option to retain members of Tiger Team
- Enhanced collaboration with requestor, plant PM, tech staff and OGC
- Clear, concise and fact-based response

TAR Coordinator lead

Response template

Testing the Proposed Graded Approach: Summary from WG Discussions

- 7 Past TIA examples were considered in WG discussions to see how the mechanics of the revitalized process would have worked
- 1 May have been resolved in “Phase 0”
- 4 May have been dispositioned in “Phase 1”
- 2 May have been recommended for “Phase 2”

In a revitalized process, safety significance consideration would likely have resulted in dispositioning issues early.

Benefits of TIA Revitalization

Effort commensurate with significance

Streamlined documentation

Integrate diverse views early!
Effective collaboration from get go!
Systematic licensee engagement

≤ 80 days

Phase 2 “In-depth Review”

Fact-based response!

Response template

≤ 30 days

Phase 1 “Screening & Evaluation”

Screening Template and Tool

≤ 8 hours

Phase 0 issue “Intake”

Intake template



Team! Integrated decision

Enhanced rigor in issue scoping!

Flexibility to resolve issue of low safety significance if effort is low!

Next Steps

Internal refinement of COM-106 draft and Conduct internal table-tops by Sept. 2019

Industry engagement to share updates and test scenarios by early October 2019

Integrate NRO merge components in the draft by Nov. 2019

Merged NRR COM-106 completion estimated by Jan. 2020

THANK YOU!

