

# Reactor Oversight Process Enhancement

## Assessment Area



### Background

The NRC staff’s suggested enhancements include revising a) how the agency determines when inspection findings and/or performance indicators apply to where a nuclear power plant lands in the NRC’s oversight categories (called the Action Matrix); b) how White and Yellow inspection findings are labeled; and c) how the agency notifies State, tribal and local representatives about White findings.

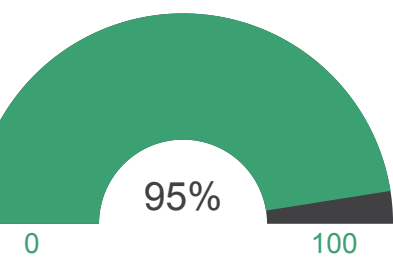
### Changes Recommended by NRC Staff

#### Prompt Closure of Greater than Green Findings

If approved, greater than green (GTG) inspection findings would be closed once nuclear power plant operators resolve the issue, complete related actions, and the NRC confirms this via follow-up inspections/reviews. This would more efficiently remove GTG inspection findings from the Action Matrix, motivating plant operators to address these issues in a timely fashion.

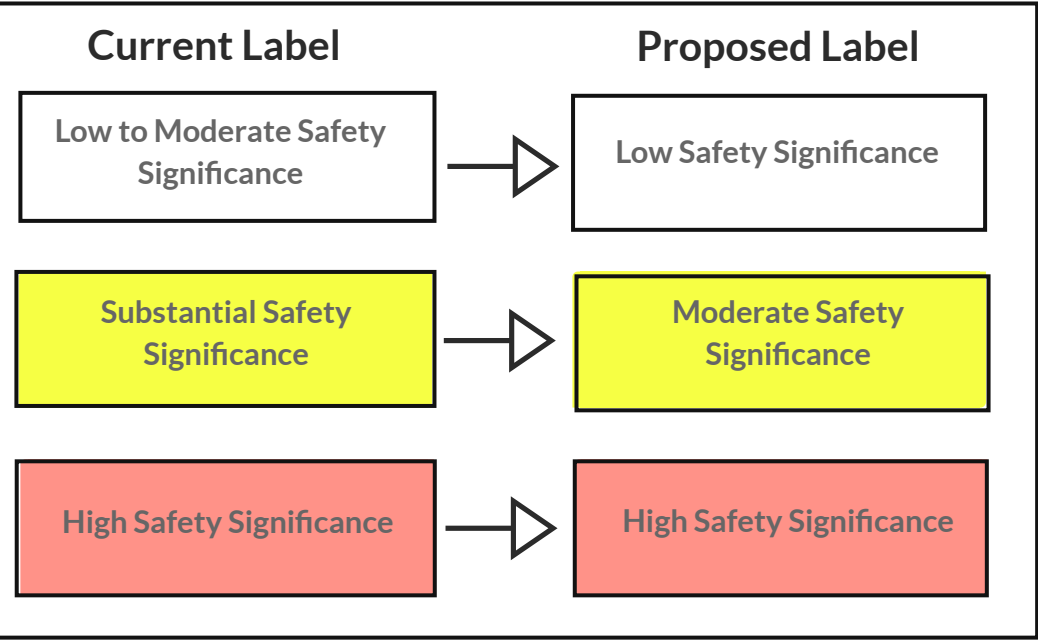


#### Ensuring that we Properly Follow-up on Performance Indicators



If approved, GTG performance indicators (even if the category returns to Green) would retain their status until corrective actions have been completed and verified as adequate by the NRC. This will ensure plant operators promptly address intermittent issues.

#### Refining How the Agency Labels Inspection Findings



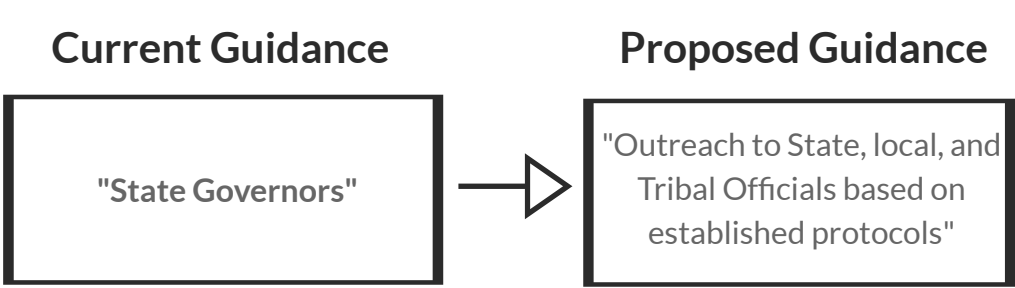
The NRC staff provided a Nuclear Energy Institute recommendation to the Commission for consideration. The recommendation would reword White and Yellow inspection finding labels to better clarify the difference in those findings’ significance.

*Qualitatively, a White significance indicates an acceptable level of performance by the licensee, but outside the nominal risk range. Cornerstone objectives are met with minimal reduction in safety margin*

Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, "Significance Determination Process"

#### Modification of Outreach Expectations to State and Local Officials

If approved, the recommended minor changes to the Action Matrix would include clarifying the expectation that Column 2 performance results be communicated to State, local and tribal officials using existing relationships and protocols.



### Recommendations that Require Additional Evaluation

The staff is considering additional ROP assessment enhancements, including:

- Standardizing the process for addressing issues raised in industry communications
- Increasing the ROP’s proactive features
- Assessment of Cross Cutting Issue Tools and Processes
- Using the Significance Determination Process for Green Findings