

Reactor Oversight Process Enhancement

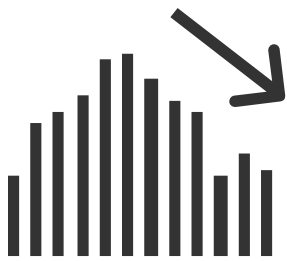
Cross-Cutting Issues Effectiveness Review



Background

The NRC’s cross-cutting issues (CCI) program identifies performance trends in human performance, problem identification & resolution, and safety conscious work environment. The program’s results inform nuclear power plants operators about the NRC’s concerns, encouraging actions before significant performance issues appear. The staff’s review is focusing on how effectively the program is meeting its objective

Review of the CCI Program



Performance Trends and Decrease in Inspection Findings
The program is generally meeting its objective, in part by utilizing inspection findings. The staff is examining whether a recent decreasing trend in inspection findings is affecting the CCI program through decreased sensitivity to performance trends.



The Staff is Exploring Program Adjustments
The staff is reviewing how to maintain the program’s effectiveness in an environment with reduced inspection findings.

Changes Recommended by NRC Staff

Simplify the Program



The staff is assessing how simplifying the CCI program would enhance the reliability of identified trends and more efficient use of NRC resources.

Improve Program Openness



The staff is reviewing where the CCI program can be more transparent. Options include establishing standardized criteria for reviewing and closing cross-cutting issues, as well as increasing documentation of crosscutting insights in assessment letters to nuclear power plants.

Review Program Thresholds



The staff is reviewing cross-cutting program thresholds to balance sensitivity to emerging performance trends against avoiding the identification of false trends.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to seek input on the proposed CCI program changes – Stay tuned to the NRC’s public meeting announcements for more details. CCI program changes may require Commission notification or approval.