

Reactor Oversight Process Enhancement

Inspection Area



Background

The inspection program focuses on important areas using a designated range of samples. The NRC staff applied inspection insights from 20 years of experience with the program, proposing minor changes to the sampling ranges for some of the areas. Many risk-significant inspection areas will maintain their sampling ranges.














Careful Consideration



The review ensured the agency maintains effective assessment of nuclear plant performance by having very experienced NRC inspectors carefully choose modest changes to inspection areas and sample sizes. All inspections remain, with only some inspection sample sizes being adjusted to keep inspectors focused on the most significant programs or emergent issues.

Empowering Resident Inspectors

The number of resident inspectors assigned to each plant remain the same. The recommended changes would give resident inspectors more time to focus on areas of greater safety significance. These areas could already be on the planned inspection schedule or be emerging issues.

Number of Units	Resident Inspectors
	 
 	 
  	  

Risk Informed and Performance Based Changes

Eliminating Redundancy



Staff determined a portion of the adverse weather protection inspection overlaps the work of other federal entities and could be removed while maintaining safety.

Considering Site Specifics



Staff recommended that, for sites where analysis showed no external flood hazards, inspection in that area could be waived.

Inspection Experience



Staff recommended reduced inspection samples in certain areas based on inspection experience.

Double Number of Fire Brigade Inspection Samples



Staff recommended doubling inspection samples for fire brigade drill performance to twice a year. The extra sample will improve assessment of a plant's multiple fire brigade crews.