



NRC Public Meeting  
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# LWRS Program Research on Common Cause Failure Analysis, Safety Evaluation and Design Optimization of Safety-Related Digital I&C Systems

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# Light Water Reactor Sustainability (LWRS) Program

## LWRS Goal

Enhance the safe, efficient, and economical performance of our nation's nuclear fleet and extend the operating lifetimes of this reliable source of electricity

Plant  
Modernization

Enable plant efficiency improvements through a strategy for long-term modernization

Flexible Plant  
Operation &  
Generation

Enable diversification and increase revenue of light water reactors by extracting electrical and thermal energy to produce non-electrical products

Risk Informed  
System Analysis

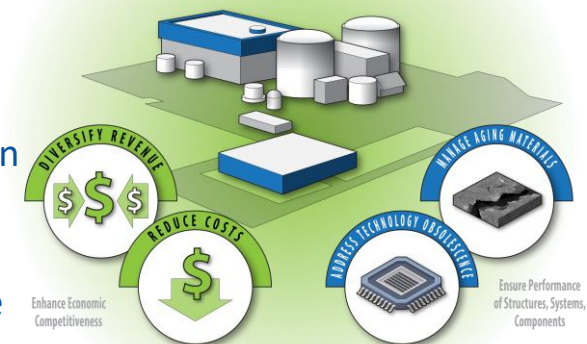
**Develop risk assessment methods and tools to optimize the safety, reliability, and economics of plants**

Materials  
Research

Understand and predict long-term behavior of materials in nuclear power plants

Physical Security

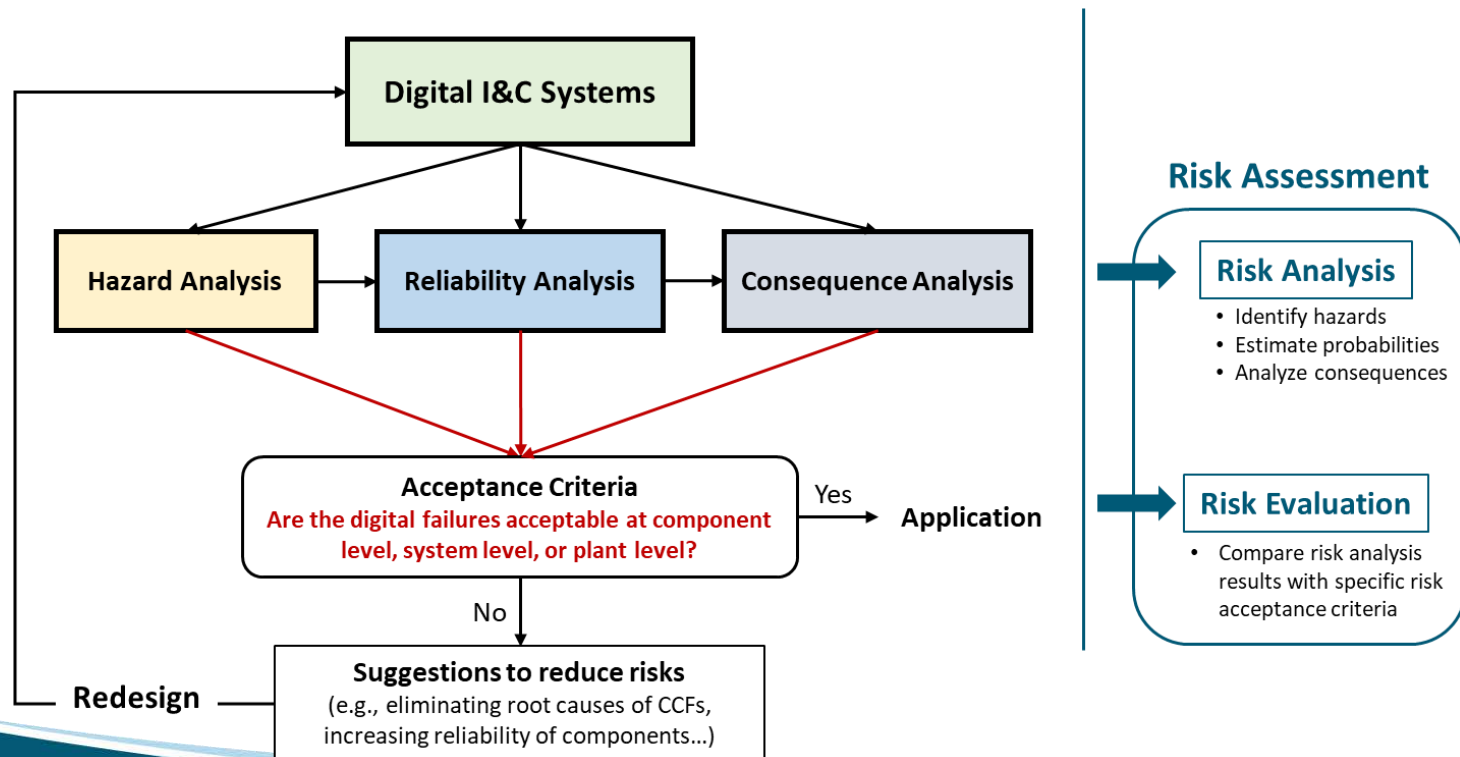
Develop technologies and the technical bases to optimize physical security postures



# Integrated Risk Assessment for Digital I&C Systems (IRADIC) - Framework

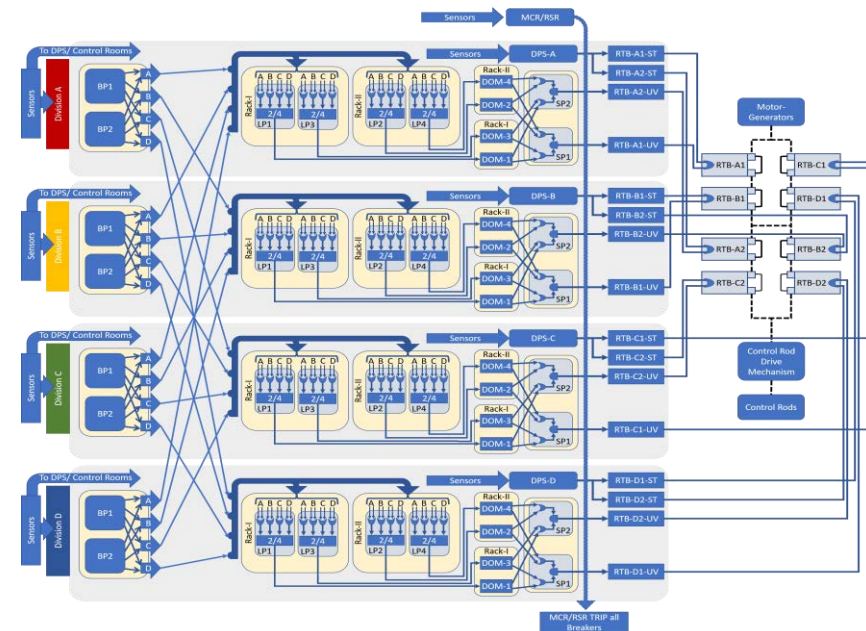
- **Goals of RISA Efforts on Digital I&C (DI&C) Risk Assessment:**

- Develop an advanced risk assessment framework to support industry's transition from analog to digital technologies for safety-related I&C systems
- Develop an integrated platform that includes all aspects of a typical risk assessment: hazard analysis, reliability analysis, and consequence analysis
- Provide a systematic, verifiable and reproducible approach based on technically-sound methodologies



# IRADIC Framework (continued)

- **IRADIC** is envisioned and developed as **an integrated risk-informed tool** to support the nuclear industry in addressing regulatory requirements in DI&C system implementation.
- **Quantitative Risk Analysis**
  - Software and Hardware Failure Probabilities → DI&C System Failure Probability →  $\Delta CDF$  /  $\Delta LERF$
- **Risk-Informed Design**
  - Management strategy of **CCFs**
    - All elimination vs. selective elimination
  - **Level of redundancy**
    - 4 divisions vs. 2 divisions
    - 4 vs. 2 local logic processors per division
  - **Level of diversity**
    - Design: Analog? Digital? A combination of both?
    - Software: Design requirements, programming language, etc.
    - Hardware Equipment: Manufacturers, designs, architectures, etc.



*A Four-Division Digital Reactor Trip System*

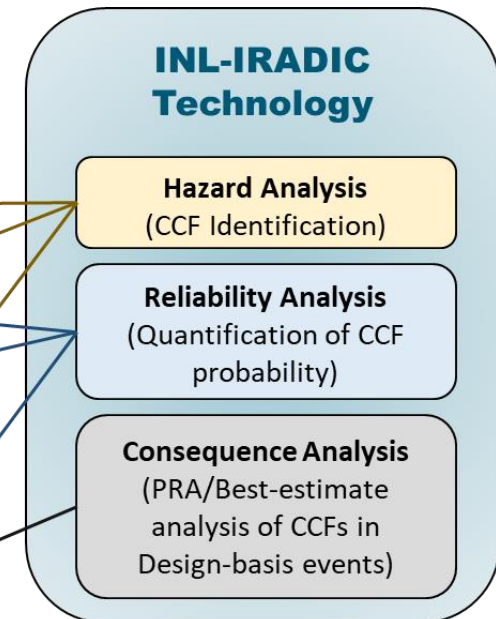
# Addressing CCF Considerations

- **IRADIC** is expected to provide technical bases and risk-informed insights for **addressing CCF considerations** for safety-significant DI&C systems.

## NRC Branch Technical Position 7-19

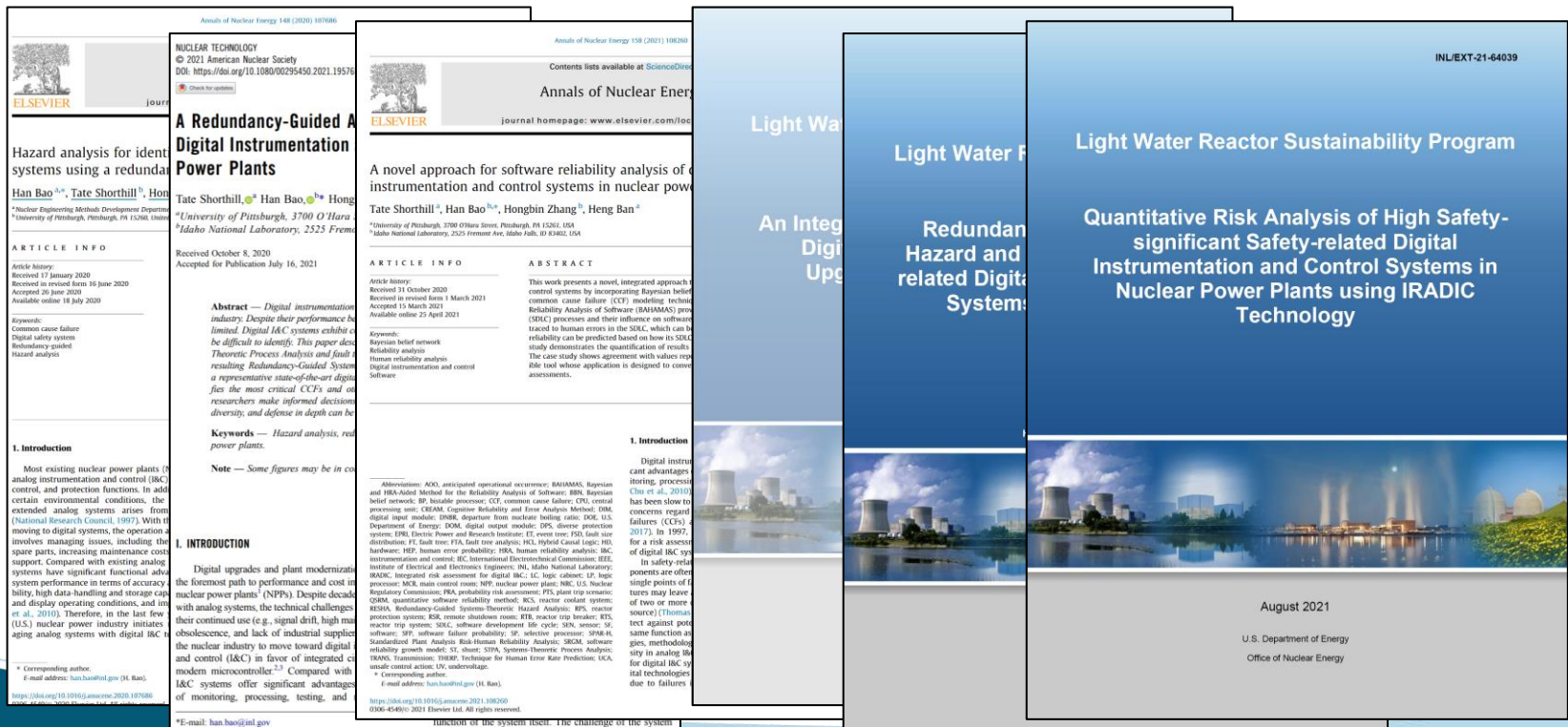
### Clarification on Acceptable Methods for Addressing CCF

Category	Method Name and Description
Eliminate	<b>Internal Diversity</b> If sufficient diversity exists within in the protection system, then vulnerabilities to Common Cause Failure (CCF) can be considered to be appropriately addressed without further action.
	<b>Simple Design</b> A system is sufficiently simple such that every possible combination of inputs and every possible sequence of device states are tested, and all outputs are verified for every case.
Limit	<b>Design Measures</b> Design measures are used to reduce the likelihood of a CCF (e.g., self-diagnostic, failure analysis, etc.).
Mitigate	<b>Existing Equipment</b> An existing system or equipment is used to perform the diverse or different function to mitigate the loss of the safety function performed by the digital I&C system during a Design Basis Event (DBE).
	<b>Manual Operator Action (MOA)</b> Actions that can be reasonably taken by operators to identify CCF failures and mitigate consequences within a realistic time frame during a DBE.
	<b>Diverse Actuation System (DAS)</b> Independent and diverse system that can activate protection systems if primary system fails during a DBE. Technology used can be analog or digital.
Accept	<b>Consequence Calculation</b> Consequence models, using best estimate methodologies, demonstrated that CCF failures concurrent with DBEs and Anticipated Operational Occurrences do not result in doses that exceed 10% of the applicable siting dose guideline values.

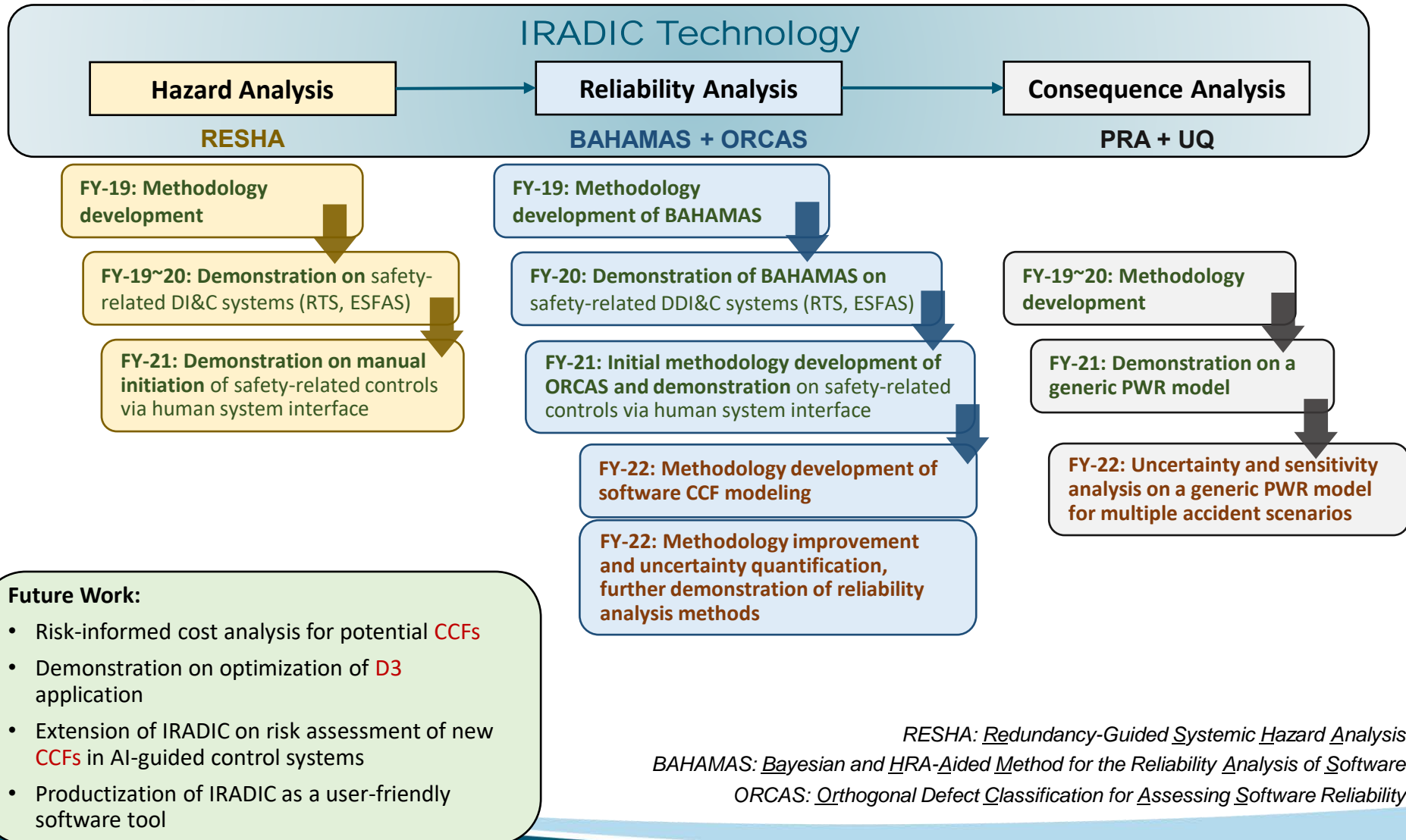


# IRADIC: Current Status

- Collaborating with universities (e.g., NCSU) to develop **risk assessment framework for AI-guided control system designs** (e.g., **identification of new CCF modes**).
- Building capability to address **cyber vulnerabilities** (e.g., **cyber-attacks leading to CCFs**) in digital systems and networks.
- **Publications:** 3 journal articles, 3 milestone reports, 6 conference papers.



# IRADIC Development Timeline





## Contacts

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## JOURNAL PUBLICATION

- H. Bao, T. Shorthill, H. Zhang. “Hazard Analysis for Identifying Common Cause Failures of Digital Safety Systems using a Redundancy-Guided Systems-Theoretic Approach,” *Annals of Nuclear Energy*, 148, pp. 107686 (2020). DOI: [10.1016/j.anucene.2020.107686](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anucene.2020.107686).
- T. Shorthill, H. Bao, H. Zhang, H. Ban. “A Novel Approach for Software Reliability Analysis of Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems in Nuclear Power Plants,” *Annals of Nuclear Energy*, 158, pp. 108260, (2021). DOI: [10.1016/j.anucene.2021.108260](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anucene.2021.108260).
- T. Shorthill, H. Bao, H. Zhang, H. Ban. “A Redundancy-Guided Approach for the Hazard Analysis of Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems in Advanced Nuclear Power Plants,” *Nuclear Technology* (2021). DOI: [10.1080/00295450.2021.1957659](https://doi.org/10.1080/00295450.2021.1957659).

## TECHNICAL REPORT

- H. Bao, T. Shorthill, E. Chen, H. Zhang, “Quantitative Risk Analysis of High Safety-significant Safety-related Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems in Nuclear Power Plants using IRADIC Technology,” INL/EXT-21-64039, Idaho National Laboratory, 2021. [https://lwrs.inl.gov/RiskInformed%20Safety%20Margin%20Characterization/Quantitative\\_Risk\\_Analysis\\_High\\_Safety.pdf](https://lwrs.inl.gov/RiskInformed%20Safety%20Margin%20Characterization/Quantitative_Risk_Analysis_High_Safety.pdf).
- H. Bao, T. Shorthill, H. Zhang, “Redundancy-guided System-theoretic Hazard and Reliability Analysis of Safety-related Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems in Nuclear Power Plants,” INL/EXT-20-59550, Idaho National Laboratory, 2020. <https://www.osti.gov/biblio/1668835>.
- H. Bao, H. Zhang, K. Thomas. “An Integrated Risk Assessment Process for Digital Instrumentation and Control Upgrades of Nuclear Power Plants,” Technical milestone report, INL/EXT-19-55219, Idaho National Laboratory, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.2172/1616252>.

## CONFERENCE PAPER / PRESENTATION

- H. Bao, H. Zhang, T. Shorthill, E. Chen. “Common Cause Failure Evaluation of High Safety-significant Safety-related Digital Instrumentation and Control Systems using IRADIC Technology”, *16th Probabilistic Safety Assessment & Management conference (PSAM 16)*, Honolulu, HI, June 26 – July 1, 2022.
- T. Shorthill, H. Bao, H. Zhang and H. Ban. “A Bayesian and HRA-Aided Method for the Novel Reliability Analysis of Software”, *The 2021 International Topical Meeting on Probabilistic Safety Assessment and Analysis (PSA 2021)*, Columbus, OH, November 07-12, 2021.
- E. Chen, H. Bao, H. Zhang, T. Shorthill. “Systems-theoretic Hazard Analysis of Human-machine Interface for Digital Reactor Trip System”, *12th Nuclear Plant Instrumentation, Control and Human-Machine Interface Technologies (NPIC&HMIT 2021)*, Providence, RI, June 13-16, 2021.
- H. Zhang, H. Bao, T. Shorthill, E. Quinn. “Integrated Risk Assessment of Digital I&C Safety Systems for Nuclear Power Plants”, *12th Nuclear Plant Instrumentation, Control and Human-Machine Interface Technologies (NPIC&HMIT 2021)*, Providence, RI, June 13-16, 2021.
- H. Bao, T. Shorthill, H. Zhang. “Hazard Analysis of Digital Engineered Safety Features Actuation System in Advanced Nuclear Power Plants using a Redundancy-guided Approach”, *28th International Conference on Nuclear Engineering (ICONE28)*, Anaheim, CA, August 2-6, 2020.
- T. Shorthill, H. Bao, H. Zhang and H. Ban. “Demonstration of Integrated Hazard Analysis for Reactor Trip Systems”, *ANS Winter Meeting*, Washington D.C., November 17-20, 2019.



# Sustaining National Nuclear Assets

*<http://lwrs.inl.gov>*