

Future of the National Materials Program Working Group

Huda Akhavannik

Intergovernmental Liaison Project Manager

Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards

Division of Materials Safety, Security, State, and Tribal
Programs

The National Materials Program (NMP)

The NMP is the broad collective framework within which both the NRC and the Agreement States function in carrying out their respective regulatory programs for radioactive material.

Through the NMP, the NRC and Agreement States function as regulatory partners.

The NMP is continually evolving - we enhance communication and collaboration to strengthen our partnership.

There are 39 current Agreement States and there will be more in the future.

Learn more:

<https://www.nrc.gov/materials/nmp.html>

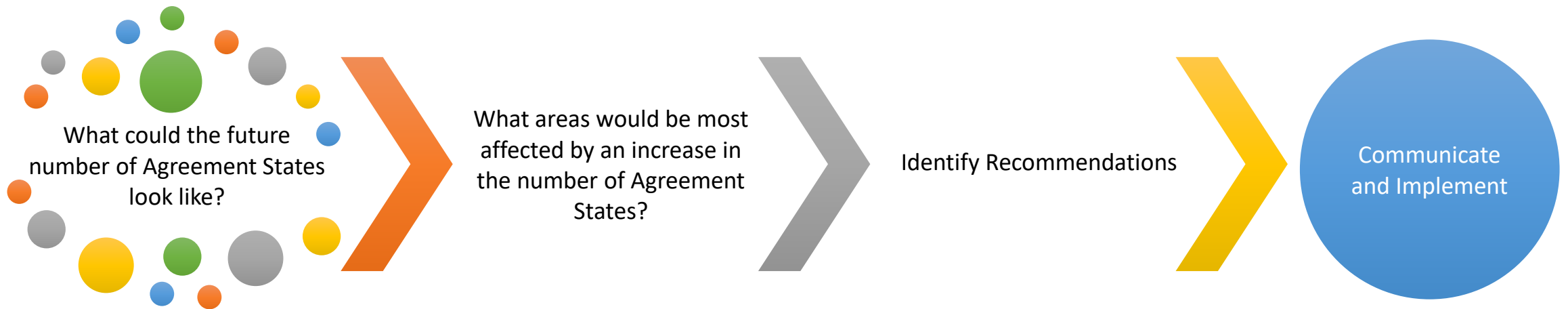


Working Group Activities – Planning for the Future

Objective:

Developing recommendations on the future structure and function of the NMP based on anticipated changes in the number and type of Agreement State and NRC licensees.

Identifying areas for increased efficiency and effectiveness for when the number of Agreement States increase and emerging technologies are developed.



Consistency through Communication, Collaboration, and Knowledge Management



Technical expertise and experience with current and emerging technologies will increasingly be with the Agreement States.



NRC and Agreement States must continue to promote consistency in important regulatory activities such as issuing licenses and performing inspections.



Collaboration between NRC and Agreement States will continue to increase to develop guidance for new technologies or update current guidance.



Training efforts will increase, especially during the transition to become an Agreement State.



Agreement States will need to continue to demonstrate adequacy in protecting public health and safety and compatibility with NRC regulations.

What are some of the impacts from an increase in the number of Agreement States and emerging technologies?

Area	NRC	Agreement State	Licensees
Regulations	Increased activity, considering emerging technologies and compatibility reviews	Continue to adopt NRC requirements as appropriate to maintain compatibility	Agreement State regulations must be compatible with NRC regulations. Comply with Agreement State regulations
Reciprocity (cross-jurisdictional)	Decreased activity, fewer NRC jurisdictions	Same level of effort	Increased number of jurisdictions
Inspections	Decreased activity, fewer NRC licensees	Same level of effort	Agreement State now performs inspections under their authority
Licensing	Decreased activity, fewer NRC licensees	Same level of effort	Agreement State now reviews and issues licenses under their authority
Guidance Development	Increased activity, develop guidance for new technologies in joint working groups	Increased activity, increased participation in joint working groups	No impact

NRC Resource Impacts

- The NRC recovers most of its annual budget through fees
- Activities associated with providing support and oversight for the Agreement States are excluded from this fee-recovery requirement
 - Examples of activities: developing regulations and guidance, approving new Agreement States, assessing technical adequacy and compatibility of Agreement States, providing NRC training, etc.
- NRC fees are amended annually ([87 FR 37197](#))



NRC Resource Impacts Cont.

- A change in the number of NRC licensees from the increase in the number of Agreement States would require rebalancing the staffing plan to sustain a fair and equitable fee recovery structure
- Even with fewer Non-Agreement States, the NRC must continue to maintain its oversight and support role in the NMP
- New and current Agreement States fund their programs through their own fee structures

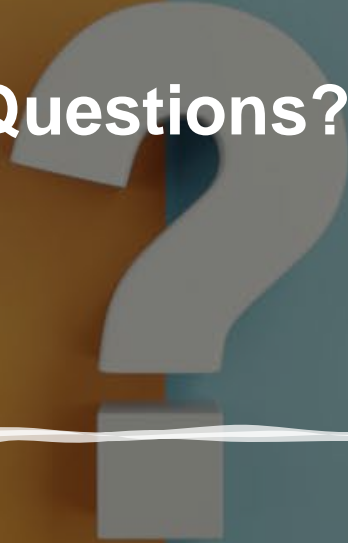


Next Steps

- The Working Group has developed recommendations to better promote consistency throughout the NMP and sustain a fair and equitable fee structure.
- The Working Group will document these recommendations in an informational paper to the Commission (March 2023).



Questions?



Thank you for your time!

Contact:
Huda.Akhavannik@nrc.gov