NRC Mission Statement

• Primary mission is to protect public health and safety, and the environment from the effects of radiation from nuclear reactors, materials, and waste facilities.
NRC Oversight

• Licensees have primary responsibility for safe operation of their facilities.

• NRC is licensing authority and provides independent oversight of licensee activities.
NRC Strategic Performance Goals

• Maintain Safety

• Enhance Public Confidence

• Make NRC Activities and Decisions More Effective, Efficient and Realistic

• Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burden
Reactor Oversight Process Development

- Took over 2 years to develop and continues to evolve
- Involved extensive stakeholder involvement
- A risk-informed process was developed to determine significance of inspection issues
- Inspection and assessment procedures were revised
Reactor Oversight Process Development (cont’d)

- Now acknowledged by industry as having improved NRC objectivity, predictability, consistency, and understandability

- NRC continuing to improve the ROP

- Risk assessment, inspection focus areas and performance indicators are being emphasized
Reactor Oversight Process Resources

- Degree of NRC oversight did not substantially change from previous program

- Inspections are better focused on areas of potentially greater risk significance to public

- About 5000 inspection hours per year for a 2-Unit reactor site is minimum inspection effort

- Inspection hours increased by supplemental inspection if declining performance occurs or when important operational events occur

- Assessment process is more predictable and understandable but overall effort is about same
Credit for Licensee Self-Assessments

• NRC evaluating a process which would provide licensees credit for self-assessments in lieu of certain NRC inspections

• Self-assessments overseen by NRC inspectors and include industry individuals external to the organization being assessed

• Issues identified entered into licensee corrective action program and subject to further NRC review

• NRC consideration only after a thorough review of the pilot program results
Pros and Cons of Self-assessment Option

• Likely savings for industry and NRC

• Enhanced cross training of licensee personnel

• Potential that self-assessments not as rigorous as NRC inspections

• Insufficient incentives for licensees to identify issues