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Protecting People and the Environment

Meeting to Discuss a Revised Fuel Cycle Oversight Process

NRC Region II Office

Atlanta, Georgia

June 4 – 5, 2009

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Goals and Benefits

- Commission set the goal
- Risk-informed, performance-based, objective, predictable, transparent, leveraging ISA insights
- Revised process will benefit public health and safety, licensees, and NRC

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Previous Efforts and Moving Forward

- Previous effort in 2000 to revise oversight
- Interim efforts have made changes to discrete elements such as inspection focus
- Forward effort will restructure oversight process

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Oversight Framework

- Central element is licensee assessment
- Framework developed earlier works for power reactors but maybe not for fuel cycle facilities
- Cornerstones are key for inspection and assessment processes

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Risk Assessment using ISA Results

- ISA is the best available risk information that NRC has for timely assessments
- NRC response to events informed by ISA risk insights
- NRC response to safety performance issues informed by ISA insights

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Significance Determination Process

- SDP tools are key to an objective and predictable process
- Some cornerstone SDP tools would need to be more deterministic
- Envision a screening approach with 3 phases – very similar to Reactor Oversight Process

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Performance Assessment and Regulatory Response

- Current LPR process is too subjective
- Assessment based on licensee cornerstone performance
- Assessment results more predictable

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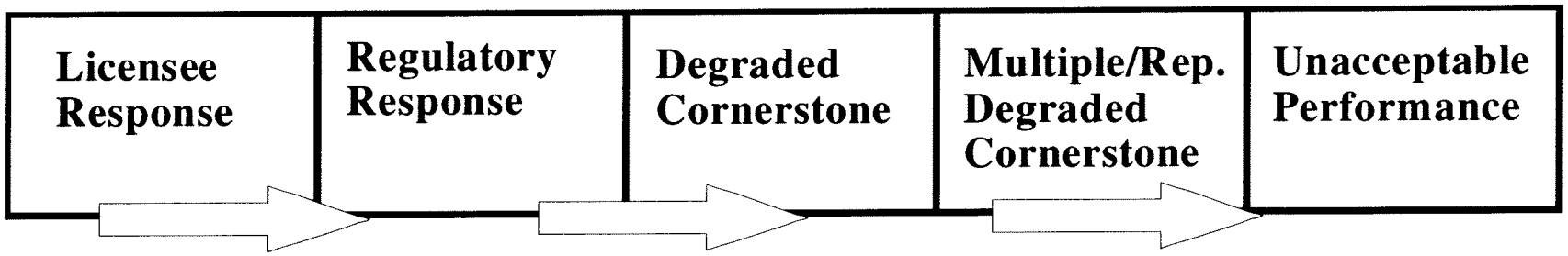
Assessment and Response Concept



Increasing Safety Significance

Increasing NRC Inspection Efforts

Increasing NRC/Licensee Management Involvement

Increasing Regulatory Actions

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Enforcement Policy and Corrective Action Programs

- Finish risk-informing using ISA insights
- "Credit" for effective corrective action program
- Elements of an effective corrective action program

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Performance Indicators

- Performance Indicators are a way to complement the inspection program
- Slate is clean now
- Voluntary

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Safety Culture

- Incorporating safety culture into the oversight process can be a leading indicator of performance
- Licensees' programs incorporate safety culture components to some degree
- Commission draft Policy Statement

Path Forward

- What can be accomplished by December 2009?
- Approaches considering limited staffing – lead facility?
- Identify framework, SDP, assessment, performance indicators, and safety culture elements by September 2009?
- Feasibility assessment by November 2009?