



U.S.NRC

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protecting People and the Environment

Issue Identification Categories

December 18, 2007



Licensee-Identified Issues

- Most, but not all, are discovered through a licensee program or process that is designed to identify those issues (i.e., for a test the issue was an objective or expected response of the test).
- Licensee programs that will likely result in identifying such issues include: construction tests, quality assurance program (quality assurance / control verifications, hold points and reviews), post maintenance testing, surveillance testing, preoperational and startup testing, ASME Section XI testing, drills, critiques, event assessments, evaluations, or audits conducted by or for the licensee.
- Other examples are those issues that are identified by the licensee as a result of their deliberate and focused observation during the course of performing their normal duties



Licensee-Identified Example

During a QA inspection of safety-related concrete placement the QA inspectors identify that workers were not always following compaction procedures to prevent voids.



NRC-Identified Issues

- Are found by NRC inspectors and the licensee was not previously aware of or had not been previously documented in the licensee's CAP.
- Include previously documented licensee issues to which the inspector has significantly added value.
- Added value means that the inspector has identified previously unknown weakness in the licensee's classification, evaluation, or corrective actions associated with the licensee's correction of an issue.



NRC-Identified Example

NRC inspectors observe welders making repairs to high pressure safety-related piping without documenting them as required.



Self-Revealing Issues

- Are self-evident and require no active and deliberate observation by the licensee or NRC inspectors to determine whether a change in process or equipment capability or function has occurred.
- Become readily apparent to either NRC or licensee personnel through a readily detectable degradation in the material condition, capability, or functionality of equipment or plant operations.
- Was the result of an applicant / licensee program or process that was designed to identify the issue (i.e., for a test the issue was an objective or expected response of the test), but failed to identify the issue. If the program or process (testing) has not been performed then the issue would not be considered self-revealing.
- Treated the same as NRC-identified issues for the purposes of documenting them in inspection reports.



Self-Revealing Example

During construction testing a diesel generator trips on low lube oil pressure due to rags left in the sump clogging the lube oil pump strainer.