

Reactor Oversight Process Resources

Table 1 summarizes the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff resources expended, in hours, for the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) during the past three calendar year (CY) inspection cycles. Overall staff effort in CY 2010 increased by 4.2 percent compared with CY 2009 for the activities listed in Table 1.

Baseline inspection hours include direct inspection effort, baseline inspection preparation and documentation, and plant status activity. Baseline inspection hours remained essentially unchanged in 2010 compared with 2009. As in previous years, all four NRC Regions completed the required baseline inspections in 2010.

Plant-specific inspections include supplemental inspections conducted in response to greater-than-green inspection findings and performance indicators, reactive inspections such as augmented team inspections and special inspections performed in response to events, and the infrequently performed inspections listed in Appendix C, "Special and Infrequently Performed Inspections," to NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2515, "Light-Water Reactor Inspection Program - Operations Phase," and Appendix C, "Generic, Special, and Infrequent Inspections," to IMC 2201, "Security Inspection Program for Commercial Nuclear Power Reactors," which are not part of the baseline or supplemental inspection programs.

Plant-specific inspection effort increased noticeably in 2010 compared with 2009 as a result of several significant special inspections at the Crystal River and Davis-Besse sites and an augmented team inspection at Robinson. Significant plant-specific inspection activity was also reported at the Byron, Fermi, LaSalle, Perry, and Vermont Yankee sites. The overwhelming majority of plant-specific inspections in 2010 were not supplemental inspections in response to inspection findings or performance indicators but were related to operational events and other plant issues, including inspections of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations.

Generic safety issue inspections are typically one-time inspections of specific safety and security issues, with significant variability in effort possible from year to year. The hours expended for generic safety issue inspections in 2010 are unremarkable and reflect increased activity in this area compared with 2009. The hours expended during the 3-year period shown in Table 1 demonstrate the variation in the level of effort that is possible in this area from year to year.

The effort reported for other activities, including inspection-related travel, the significance determination process (SDP), and routine communication (which encompasses regional support, enforcement support, and review of technical documents), increased in 2010. The increase was primarily in routine communication activities and inspection-related travel.

The regional effort for licensee performance assessment continues to remain relatively level, comparable to that for recent years.

The staff continued to implement a number of initiatives to improve program efficiency and effectiveness and to reduce inspection resource requirements. These initiatives include a realignment of resources allocated to the individual baseline inspection procedures (including design engineering inspections), regional best practice initiatives, continued SDP improvements, and performance indicator improvements. Other sections of this SECY discuss these initiatives.

Table 1 Resources Expended¹
(Inspection-Related Staff Effort Expended at Operating Power Reactors)

	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010
Baseline Inspections			
Direct Inspection Effort	148,455	156,452	155,938
Inspection Prep/Doc	99,176	107,566	108,973
Plant Status	<u>49,492</u>	<u>50,959</u>	<u>48,972</u>
Subtotal	297,123 hr	314,977 hr	313,883 hr
Plant-Specific Inspections			
Direct Inspection Effort	11,097	9,783	16,732
Inspection Prep/Doc	<u>8,056</u>	<u>6,172</u>	<u>9,641</u>
Subtotal	19,153 hr	15,955 hr	26,373 hr
Generic Safety Issue Inspections	19,100 hr	3,097 hr	6,532 hr
Performance Assessment (Regional Effort Only)	13,688 hr	16,010 hr	13,797 hr
Other Activities ²	65,259 hr	69,365 hr	76,342 hr
Total Staff Effort	414,323 hr	419,404 hr	436,927 hr
Total Staff Effort/Operating Site	6,277 hr/site	6,355 hr/site	6,620 hr/site

¹ Resources expended include regional, NRR, and NSIR hours. Previous SECYs reported expended resources on a fiscal year basis. Reporting expended resources by CY aligns the resources spent with the ROP inspection and self-assessment cycles.

² Other activities consist of inspection-related travel, the SDP, and routine communication (which includes regional support, enforcement support, and review of technical documents).