

RIC 2024 Hybrid

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
36th Annual Regulatory Information Conference

The Baseline Security Significance Determination Process (BSSDP): Looking for Improvements in Security Issue Screening

MARCH 12-14, 2024

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel
and Conference Center
Rockville, Maryland

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What is the BSSDP?

- The BSSDP is a process used by the NRC to evaluate the significance of security findings at reactor sites.
- The BSSDP is publicly available and can be found on the NRC's website under IMC 0609, Appendix E, Part I.



A History of Improvements

- The BSSDP was created in 2004 to assess findings associated with physical protection, contingency response, access authorization, and access control. Since then, the BSSDP has undergone several revisions to add or improve methods of assessing different types of security findings including:
 - Material control and accountability (2008)
 - Protection of safeguards information (2012)
 - Protection of unattended openings intersecting security boundaries (2015)
 - Target sets (2018)

Current Efforts to Improve

- In 2023, NRC staff began reviewing the BSSDP to identify any aspects of the tool that can be improved or further risk-informed.
- A working group (WG) of subject matter experts from various NRC offices is assembled and will take a phased approach to reviewing the BSSDP.

WG Phase I (Jan-June 2024)

- Evaluate data collected on the current BSSDP (e.g., survey responses, finding reviews, etc.)
- Identify areas for improvement and present options

WG Phase II (TBD)

- If needed, the second phase of the effort will develop changes to enhance the BSSDP



**ADAPTING TO A
CHANGING LANDSCAPE**

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Committed to Principles of Good Regulation

- The NRC will engage external stakeholders during the process to solicit feedback.
- Any modifications to the BSSDP will ensure that the tool continues to provide clear and reliable methods for screening security findings, consistent with the NRC's Principles of Good Regulation.
- This effort is an example of the NRC's strategic plan to maintain and further risk-inform its regulatory framework using operating experience, lessons learned, external and internal assessments, and changes in the threat environment.

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