



# Risk Analysis Methods & Tools for Advanced Reactors

Research Update

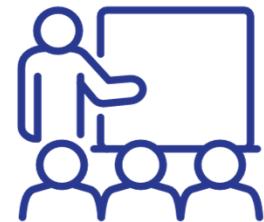
Eric Thornsberry  
Principal Technical Leader

NRC Regulatory Information Conference  
March 12, 2024



# Advanced Reactor Roadmap

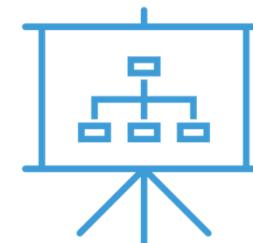
A shared strategy to ensure success at scale



**Serving** government,  
academic, industrial,  
and public **stakeholders**



Almost 100 GWe of **new nuclear** will be needed by 2050. This means around **300 ARs** in the next **30 years**



**7 Enablers** and **46 key actions** chart our path towards a **net-zero future**

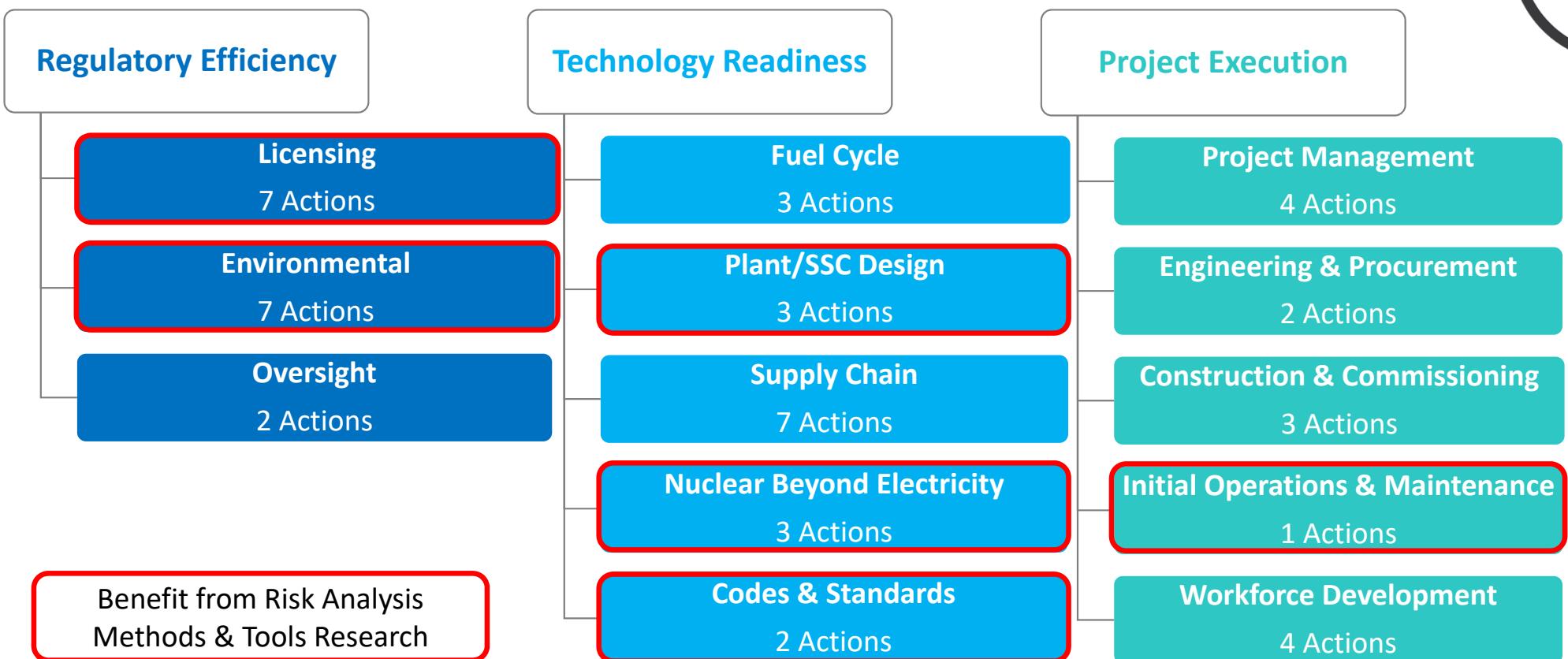


Convening the industry for **strategic action**

## Industry's roadmap to the future fleet



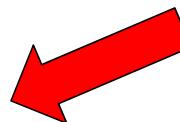
# AR Roadmap: Strategic Elements



# AR Roadmap: Actions Related to Risk Methods Research

## ■ Technology Readiness

- Demonstrate risk-informed and performance-based approach
- Develop and qualify analytical tools for advanced reactor design
- Develop guide on leveraging legacy reactor experience
- Establish decoupling framework for Nuclear Beyond Electricity users



## ■ Regulatory Efficiency

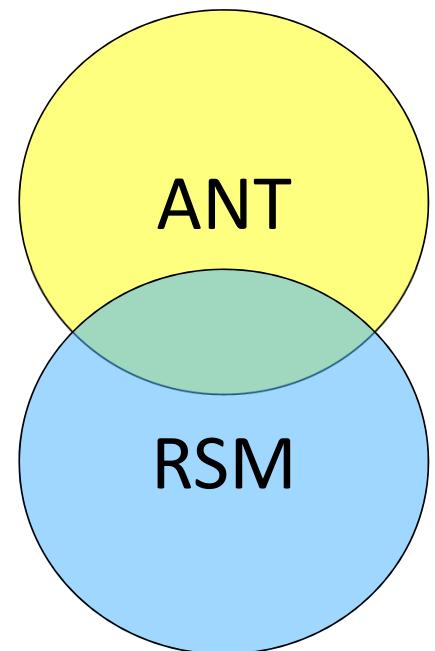
- Develop enhancements to licensing process
- Develop industry recommendations for regulatory guidance on operator staffing
- Develop technical input to siting criteria

## ■ Project Execution

- Reduce operating and maintenance costs to a level similar to other thermal plants

# Coordinating the EPRI ANT & RSM Programs

- Risk Analysis Methods and Tools for Advanced Reactors
  - Unique partnership between two EPRI divisions
    - Advanced Nuclear Technology (ANT)
      - EPRI Nuclear Sector
      - Future Fleet division
    - Risk and Safety Management (RSM)
      - EPRI Nuclear Sector
      - Current Fleet / Engineering division
  - Joining forces through a matrixed approach to address common challenges



**Advanced Reactors: Gen-III+ LW-SMRs & Gen-IV Non-LWRs**

# EPRI Research on Risk Analysis Methods & Tools for ARs

## OBJECTIVES

- Determine the readiness of current risk methods and tools for use in Advanced Reactors
- Develop and execute a research roadmap to guide EPRI research to address new technology and new decisions
- Support related ANT research
  - DOE sponsored work on advanced reactor design
  - Technical Methodology to Demonstrate the Separation of Nuclear Facilities from Adjacent Facilities

## PRODUCTS

- Published EPRI report with identified gaps and a research roadmap (August 2023)
- Stakeholder collaboration group to share common challenges and approaches to solutions

## NEXT STEPS

- Continue monitoring & prioritizing the key challenges to assist the development and deployment of Advanced Reactors
- Expanding research activities in 2024...

**EPRI Report 3002026495**  
**Evaluation of Risk Analysis Methods & Tools**  
**for Advanced Reactors**



**EPRI Report 3002026499**  
**Technical Methodology to Demonstrate the Separation**  
**of Nuclear Facilities from Adjacent Facilities**

# Risk Analysis Methods and Tools for New Technology



## Basis

- Risk analysis is an important input to final designs and initial licensing
- New technologies used in advanced reactor designs present new challenges to the existing risk analysis toolset



## Actions

- Develop guidance for collection & analysis of reliability and performance data for new components & systems
- Develop common approaches for passive system reliability analysis
- Develop tools for treating of digital systems in PRA
- Ensure HRA methods capture the impacts of new human interfaces



## Value

- Common methods, tools, and data that support realistic risk analysis in support of design and licensing activities



# Advanced Risk-Informed Decision-Making Approaches



## Basis

- Risk analysis for advanced reactors is expected to produce different results and insights than the current fleet and regulators are familiar with
- The current risk-informed decision-making approaches may not be the most realistic approach for advanced reactors



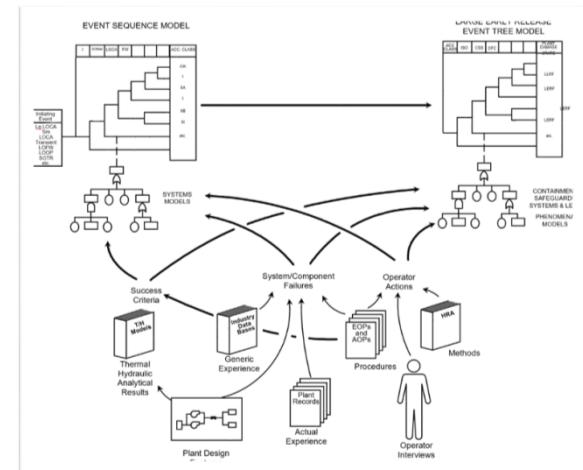
## Actions

- Develop guidance for selecting appropriate risk metrics for realistic decision making
- Improve the technical basis for the treatment of very low frequency external events
- Expand PRA methods and tools to support broader economic risk analysis

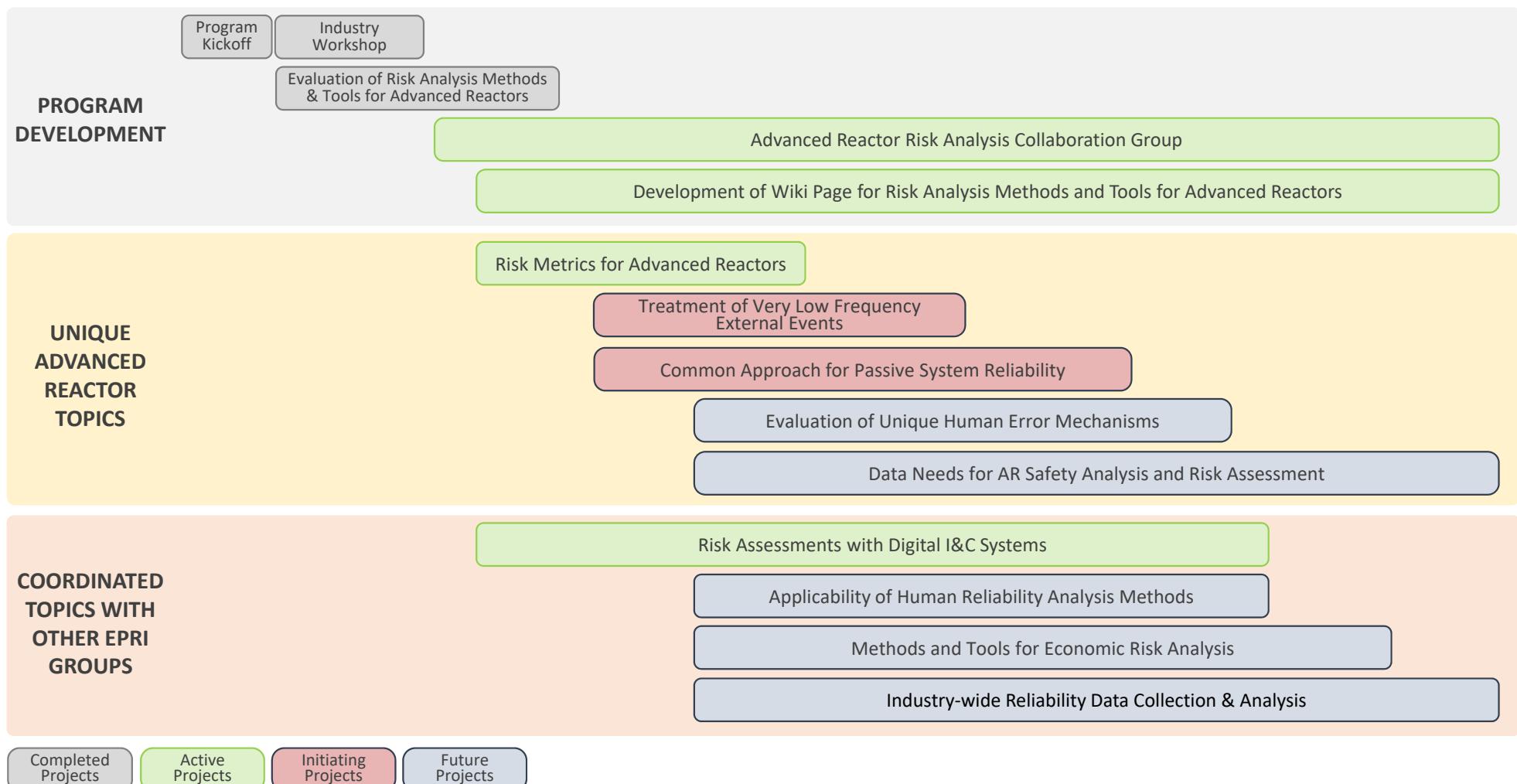


## Value

- Streamlined risk analysis approaches, results, and insights that are appropriate for advanced reactors



# Roadmap for Risk Analysis Methods & Tools



The background of the slide is a dense collage of numerous small, diverse portraits of people, creating a pattern of faces across the entire slide area.

**TOGETHER...SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ENERGY®**