

MOVING AT THE PACE OF CHANGE

ACHIEVING REGULATORY READINESS AS A MODERN, RISK-INFORMED REGULATOR

Luis Betancourt

Chief, Accident Analysis Branch

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

October 5, 2021



| NRC AT A GLANCE



The NRC licenses and regulates civilian use of radioactive materials to:

- Protect public health and safety
- Promote common defense and security
- Protect the environment

- 5-member Commission
- Headquarters (MD)
- 4 regional offices (PA, GA, IL, TX)
- Resident inspector offices
- Technical training center (TN)
- FY22 budget request
 - \$887.7 M including 2,879 FTE





► Nuclear Reactors in the USA

- 93 commercial nuclear power plants, which generate about 20% of our nation's electrical use
- Average age is ~ 38 years old
- Oldest operating plant
 - Nine Mile Point unit 1, NY (1969)
- Newest operating plant
 - Watts Bar unit 2, TN (2016)
- Two AP1000 under construction at Vogtle 3 & 4, GA
- 31 research and test reactors

**The NRC's goal is
to be a modern,
risk-informed
regulator**



The NRC is strategically transforming and modernizing to prepare for safe deployment of

ADVANCED REACTORS

Stakeholder
Engagement



Transforming
Our Workforce



Strategic
Policymaking



Modernizing
Our Tools



Supporting
Innovation

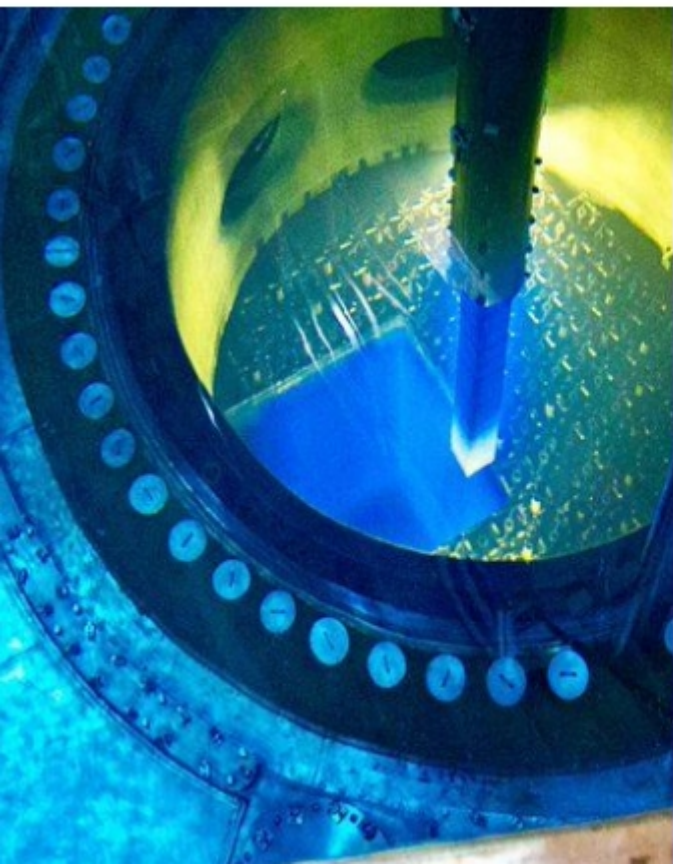


Flexible
Review Strategies

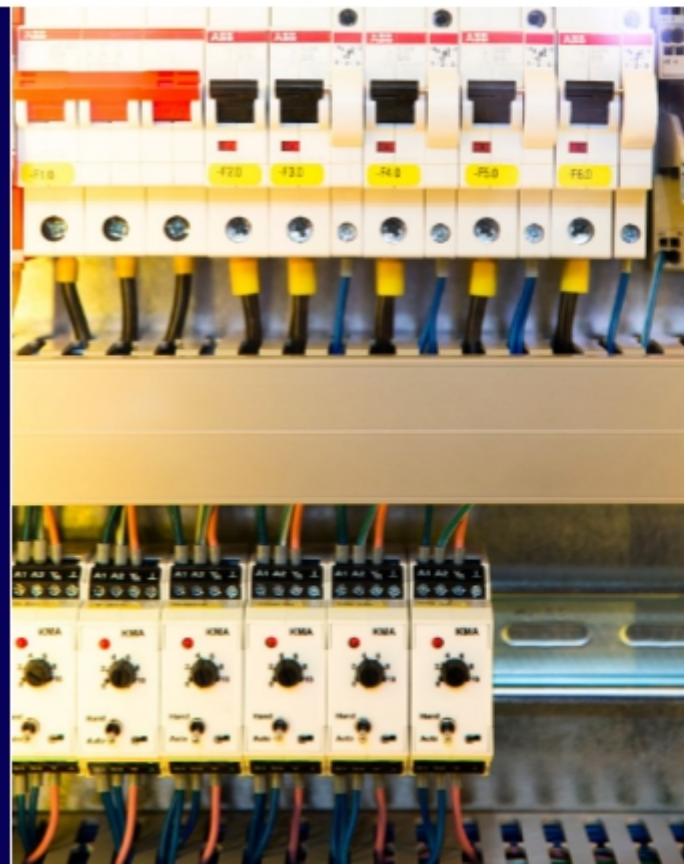




MODERNIZING OUR REGULATORY INFRASTRUCTURE TO BETTER ENABLE NEW TECHNOLOGIES



ACCIDENT
TOLERANT FUELS



DIGITAL
INSTRUMENTATION
AND CONTROLS

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

The nuclear industry is investigating and using artificial intelligence applications

The NRC recognizes a need to use data analytics and artificial intelligence for regulatory decisionmaking

The NRC must be prepared to understand and evaluate these technologies

**DATA SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REGULATORY APPLICATIONS WORKSHOPS**

Virtual - Microsoft Teams Meeting

Website: <https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conferences.html>

NRCAIWorkshop@nrc.gov



Developing Our 21st Century Workforce

In executing our mission, our people remain our most important asset



**Culture
Initiatives**



**Diversity and
Inclusion**



**Professional
Development**



**Knowledge
Management**

Strengthening Readiness through Research

Reference Plant Models
Code Development
Technical Basis for
Consensus Standards

Collaborating Internationally to Enhance Licensing the Reactors of the Future

US - Canada MOC
IAEA - SMR Regulators Forum
NEA - Working Group on the
Safety of Advanced Reactors



► Closing Remarks

- Continued safety and security in the nuclear industry is paramount
- Embrace new and innovative ways to better meet our mission
- Strong partnerships with domestic and international counterparts