

**COMMISSION MEETING SLIDES/EXHIBITS**

**BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF  
THE FUEL CYCLE FACILITY OVERSIGHT  
PROGRAM REVISION**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2000**



**IMPROVEMENT OF  
OVERSIGHT PROGRAM  
FOR  
FUEL CYCLE FACILITIES**

# **NRC PERFORMANCE GOALS**

- **Highest Priority: Maintain Safety and Common Defense & Security**
- **Increase**
  - **Effectiveness, Efficiency & Realism**
  - **Public Confidence**
- **Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burden**

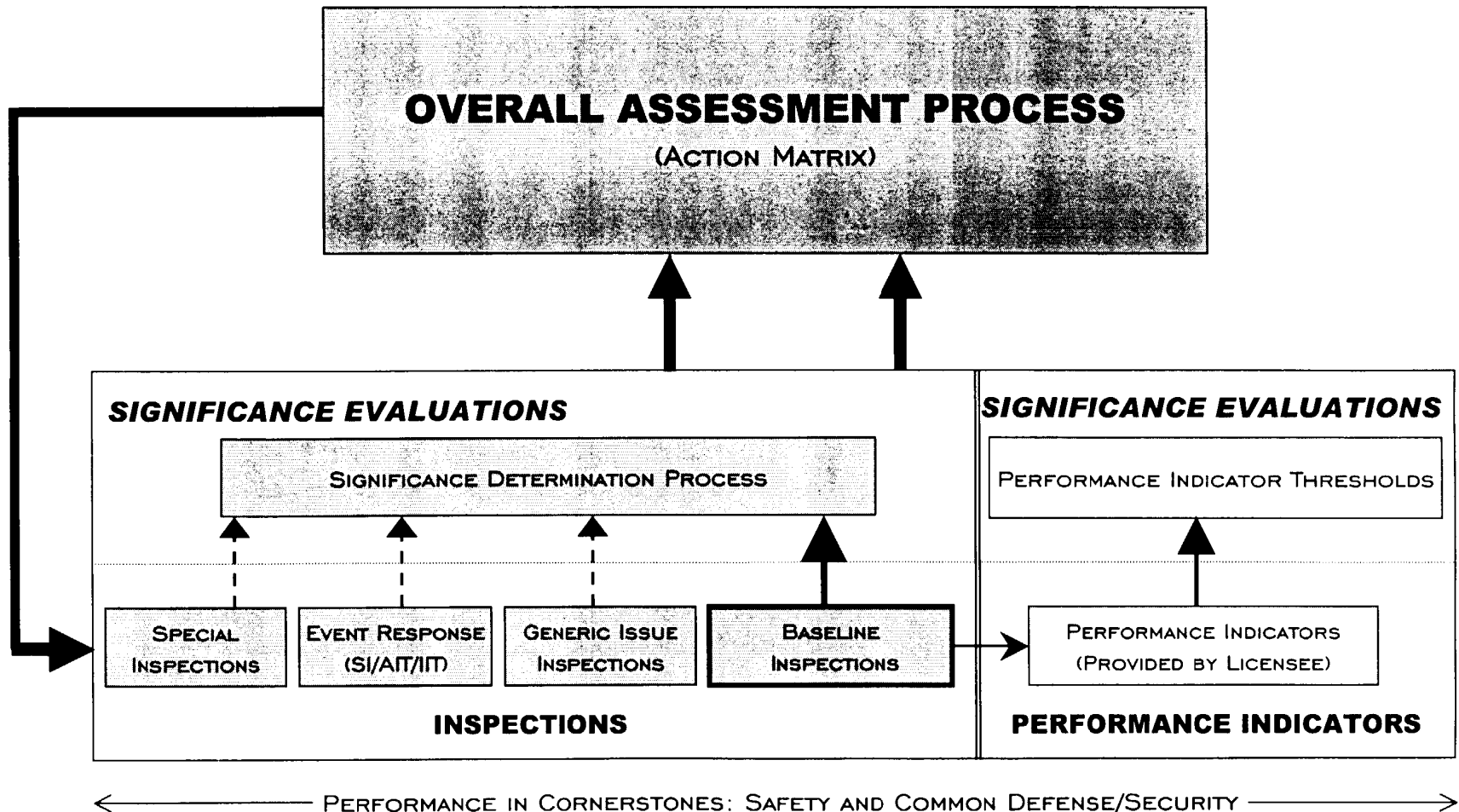
# **DRIVING FORCES**

- **Expected Benefits**
- **Mature Industry/Technology**
- **Improving Safety Performance**
- **New Part 70**

# **REVISED OVERSIGHT**

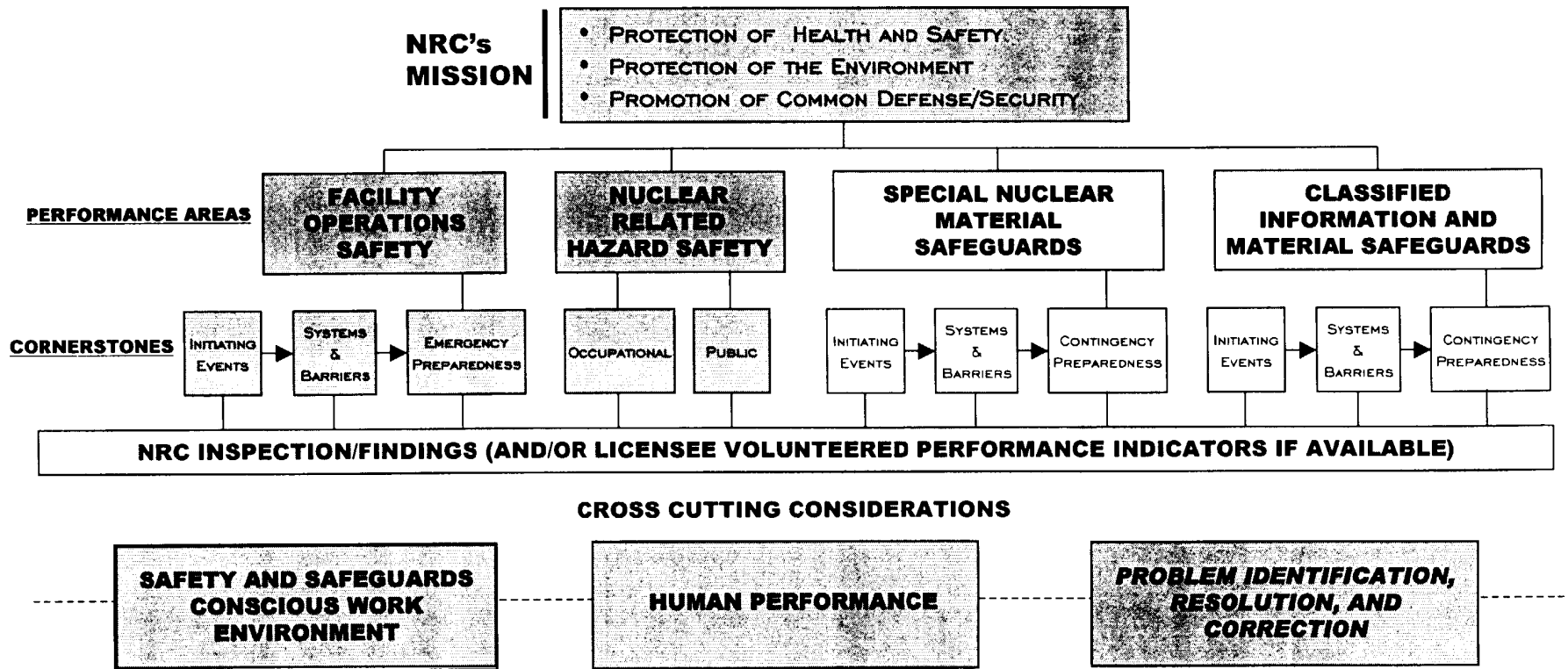
- **Risk-Informed and Performance Based Program**
- **Inspection Baseline (Core)**
- **Objective Assessments**
- **Predictable Response**
  
- **Corrective Action Program**

# FUEL CYCLE FACILITY OVERSIGHT FRAMEWORK



# FUEL CYCLE FACILITY CORNERSTONES

REASONABLE ASSURANCE NRC MISSION/GOALS ARE MET  
WHEN CORNERSTONE OBJECTIVES ARE MET



NOTE: DARKER SHADING INDICATES AGREEMENT OR ALIGNMENT

# **STATUS OF ACTIONS**

- **Learned Lessons from Other Initiatives**
- **Seven Public Workshops**
- **Stakeholder Support**
  - **Defined Performance Areas**
  - **Agreed Upon Oversight Framework**
  - **Agreed Upon Safety Cornerstones**
- **Stakeholder Communication Plan**

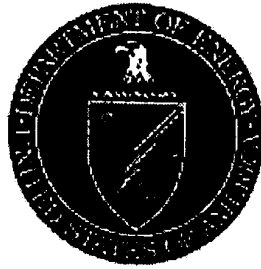


# **REMAINING TASKS**

- **Safeguards/Security Cornerstones**
- **Licensee Corrective Action Program**
- **Significance Determination Process**
- **Inspection Procedures**
- **Performance Assessment Process**
- **Enforcement Policy**
- **Performance Indicators/Thresholds**

# **CHALLENGES**

- **Timing**
- **Paradigm Shift (Stakeholder Buy-In)**
- **Corrective Action Program**
- **Risk/Performance Determination**



# **Fuel Cycle Facility Oversight Program DOE's Perspective**

**Randall M. DeVault  
DOE Oak Ridge Operations  
Regulatory Oversight  
Manager  
December 20, 2000**

# DOE's Interest



- **Share regulatory responsibilities at the Gaseous Diffusion Plants with NRC**
- **Common areas of interest for worker/public safety:**
  - **Nuclear and Chemical Safety**
  - **Safeguards and Security**
- **Stakeholder and continuing participant**

# DOE's Perspective



- **Consistent assessment process for safety, safeguards and security**
  - **Focuses on greatest potential risks and risk significant performance**
  - **More objective performance measures**
- **Consistent with DOE objectives for common areas of interest**

# **DOE's Experience on Oversight Program Revision**



- **Appears to maintain safety, safeguards and security**
- **Increases public confidence in oversight process**
- **More realistic and efficient**
- **Continues to effectively involve stakeholders via public workshops**



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# **Field of Pipe Dreams: Inactions Yield Lack of Public Participation**

**David Lochbaum**

**Nuclear Safety Engineer**

**December 20, 2000**



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# Situation Report

**In the movie “Field of Dreams,” Kevin Costner’s character was advised, “build it and they will come.”**

**In real life, Walt Schwink built a platform for meaningful public participation in the fuel cycle facility oversight program revision, but they did not come.**





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# Probable Causes



- **Lack of confidence in NRC**
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# Circumstantial Evidence

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**Majority of public interest groups, including UCS, boycotted August 5, 1999, non-public meeting.**

**All public interest groups, except UCS, view revised reactor oversight process as bad.**



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# Situation Report Update

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**Based on poor track record,  
public is very reluctant to trust  
NRC staff to do the right thing.**

**Perception is an obstacle to  
public participation even when  
NRC staff is innocent, as in Walt  
Schwink's case.**



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# Recommendations



## **NRC staff must:**

- give the public the right not to remain silent at “public” meetings**
- provide the public with timely and complete responses to their questions and concerns**



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# Recommendations



## **NRC staff must:**

- complete the fuel cycle facility oversight process revision effort as soon as possible**
- consider reallocating resources from burden reduction activities to this important safety initiative**