

# Risk-Informed Decision Making

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## Risk-Informed Decision Making (1)

- **Decision making must be based on the current state of knowledge of the decision maker (DM)**
  - The current state of knowledge regarding design, operation, and regulation is key.
  - The current state of knowledge is informed by science, engineering, and operating experience, including past incidents.
- **What we know about plant behavior is not easily available to the DM**
  - Accident sequences, human performance, risk significance of systems, structures, and components, etc
  - Example: Until the Reactor Safety Study, the significance of support systems and human errors had not been appreciated

## Risk-Informed Decision Making (2)

- **PRAs provide this information to the DM**
  - PRAs do not predict the future
  - PRAs tell us what we know **now** regarding potential accident sequences, their likelihood, and consequences
- **Since decision making should be based on the totality of our knowledge, the characterization “risk-informed” would appear to be superfluous**
  - A fuzzy concept that may be abused
- **However, it is useful as a communication tool among industry and regulatory staffs.**

## Communication with the Public

- **The traditional “deterministic” regulatory system does not communicate well**
  - **Saying that plants are safe because they meet the regulations is a mystifying message to the public**
  - **Even communication among experts is impeded**
- **Risk metrics such as core damage frequency (CDF) and large release frequency (LRF) communicate clearly the risks that are being managed**
- **Understanding the concept of residual risk is important**
  - **No industrial activity or facility imposes zero risk**

## Evolution of RIDM in the U.S.A.

- The NRC's 1995 PRA Policy Statement encourages (but does not require) increased use of PRA methods to promote regulatory stability and efficiency.
- *The use of PRA should be increased to the extent supported by the state of the art and data and in a manner that complements the defense-in-depth philosophy.*
- *PRA should be used to reduce unnecessary conservatisms associated with current regulatory requirements.*

## NRC Policy Statement on the USE of PRA in Regulations (1995)

- **Deterministic approaches to regulation consider a **limited set** of challenges to safety and determine how those challenges should be mitigated.**
- **A probabilistic approach to regulation enhances and extends this traditional, deterministic approach, by:**
  - (1) Allowing consideration of a **broader set** of potential challenges to safety,**
  - (2) providing a logical means for prioritizing these challenges based on risk significance, and**
  - (3) allowing consideration of a broader set of resources to defend against these challenges.**

## Experience with RIDM in the U.S.A.

- **Supplementing the traditional regulations**
  - **Station Blackout Rule (10 CFR 50.63)**
    - ✓ Its significance identified by PRA
  - **Maintenance management (10 CFR 50.65)**
  - **Fire protection (10 CFR 50.48(c))**
    - ✓ Voluntary
- **New reactor certification and licensing (10 CFR 52.47 and 52.79)**
- **Changes in the plant licensing basis (Regulatory Guide 1.174 )**
- **Prioritization of issues according to risk significance has saved resources thus improving safety indirectly**

# Reactor Oversight Process

- **Motivation**

- The previous inspection, assessment and enforcement processes were not clearly focused on the most safety important issues and were overly subjective

- **Challenges**

- Hundreds of affected NRC and industry staff
- Development of performance indicators using plant data
- Quality of the licensee PRAs
- Establishing the Action Matrix

- **Outcomes**

- Improves the consistency and objectivity of inspections
- Provides explicit guidance on the regulatory response to inspection findings
- Focuses NRC and licensee resources on those aspects of performance that have the greatest impact on safe plant operation



## Realizing the Full Benefits of RIDM in Japan

- The establishment of ROP is a major step forward
- It is not the final goal
- Establishing RIDM is a major undertaking for both the regulator and the industry
- We need a roadmap to identify the needs and solutions in a systematic way, including:
  - Infrastructure development (people, organizations, standards; peer reviews; safety goals)
  - “Good” PRAs meeting international standards of practice
  - Developing acceptable PRA models for hazards of great interest in Japan (earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanos)
  - Developing processes for risk-informing regulations (would the regulator use its own PRAs or rely on the peer-reviewed industry PRAs?)

## NRRC Activities

- **Position paper for proper application of RIDM in Japan**
  - Establishment of RIDM Promotion Team
  - Pilot projects for establishing “Good” PRAs: Ikata Unit 3, Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Units 6 and 7
- **White paper on RIDM applications in the U.S.A.**
  - What was the motivation?
  - How can Japan benefit from the U.S. experience?
- **Research projects**
  - Human Reliability Analysis
  - Seismic PRA
    - ✓ SSHAC process for Ikata Unit 3 (Senior Seismic Hazard Analysis Committee)
  - Fire PRA
  - Volcano PRA

## Summary

- **Decision making should be based on the current state of knowledge**
  - **PRA results are an essential part of this knowledge**
- **PRAs provide metrics that facilitate communication with the public**
- **PRAs consider a broader set of potential challenges to safety and prioritize these challenges based on risk significance (we can't do everything)**
- **RIDM allows more effective and efficient use of resources, thus improving safety indirectly**
- **A roadmap is needed for developing RIDM processes in a systematic way**