

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Who can propose a Generic Issue?

Anyone can propose a Generic Issue including the general public and NRC staff.

### Why should I propose a Generic Issue?

The Generic Issues Program is an excellent way to initiate review of potential safety issues meeting the *seven criteria*. All proposed Generic Issues are rigorously processed using the procedure described in this brochure. Generic Issues screened into the Program appear in a semiannual report to Congress and are likely to result in regulatory action. Even if issues are found not to meet the *seven criteria*, they are routed to the appropriate regulatory program office to be addressed.

### How do I propose a Generic Issue?

The Generic Issues Program maintains Web sites (see back panel) that provide information and online forms for submitting an issue. Alternatively, the public and the NRC staff can submit a letter or memorandum that describes the issue. Generic Issues Program staff members are glad to assist with drafting a Generic Issue proposal or answering questions about the Generic Issues Program.

*Note for NRC staff: Each NRC office has a designated Key Office Contact. Staff members should review the Program Web site or contact the Generic Issues Program Manager for a list of the current Key Office Contacts.*

### Is a generic issue the same as a Generic Issue?

No, they are different. A formal *Generic Issue* (formerly referred to as a *Generic Safety Issue*) is a technical issue that meets the *seven criteria*. In contrast, a *generic issue* may not meet one or more of the *seven criteria* although it may affect more than one facility.

## HOW TO LEARN MORE

Visit a Generic Issues Program Web site or contact program staff directly for more information and instructions for submitting an issue.

### Web site for the public:

[www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/gen-issues.html](http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/gen-issues.html)

### Web site for NRC staff:

[www.internal.nrc.gov/RES/projects/GIP/index.html](http://www.internal.nrc.gov/RES/projects/GIP/index.html)

### Program staff's contact information:

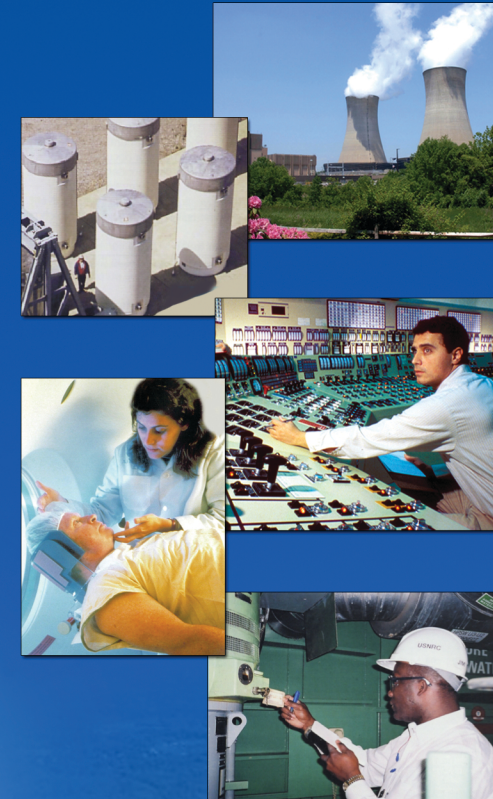
[GIP.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:GIP.Resource@nrc.gov)

### Key Generic Issues Program documents:

NUREG-0933, "Resolution of Generic Safety Issues"  
Management Directive 6.4, "Generic Issues Program"  
RES TEC-002, "Procedure for Processing Generic Issues"

### To report a safety or security concern:

1-800-695-7403 (NRC Toll-Free Safety Hotline)



## The Generic Issues Program

*Improving safety by  
addressing difficult issues*



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

[www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)

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# THE GENERIC ISSUES PROGRAM

The Generic Issues Program addresses potential safety or security issues that do not clearly fit elsewhere at the NRC. The Program is agencywide and managed by the Operating Experience and Generic Issues Branch in the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research. The Program is mandated by Congress and has been in place since the 1970s. The status of active Generic Issues is described in a semiannual report to Congress.

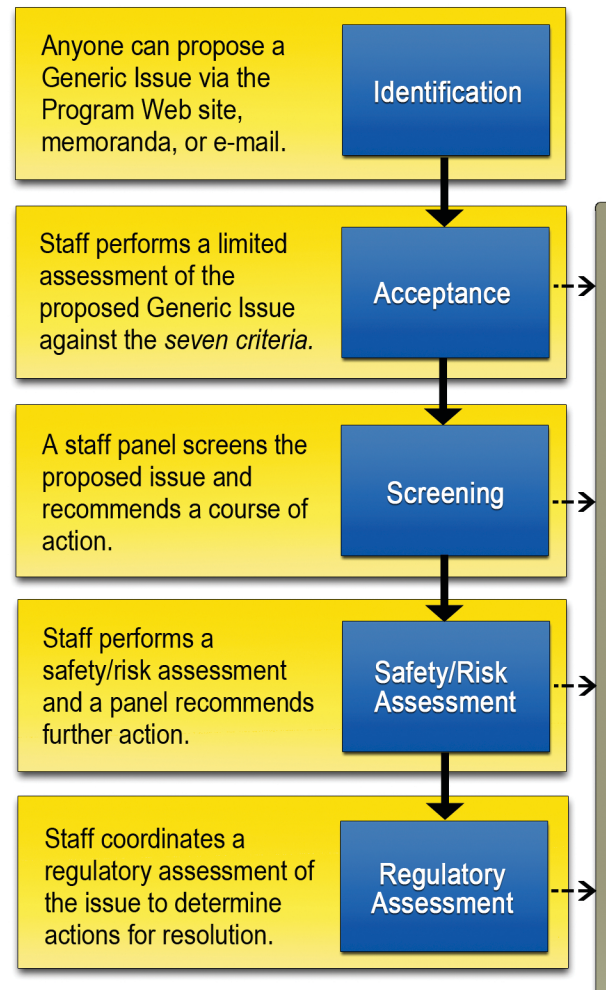
## WHAT IS A GENERIC ISSUE?

A Generic Issue is a regulatory matter that meets *all* of the following **seven criteria**:

- May affect public health and safety
- Applies to two or more facilities
- Is not readily addressable through other established regulatory processes
- Can be resolved by regulation, policy, or guidance
- Can have its risk or safety significance adequately determined or estimated
- Is well defined, discrete, and technical
- May involve review, analysis, or action by the licensee

# PROGRAM PROCESS

The Generic Issues Program consists of a five-stage process.

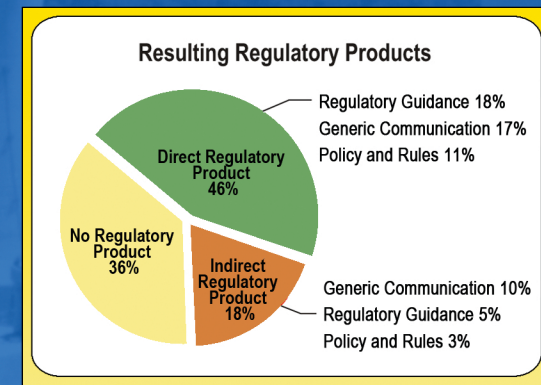


At any stage after identification, an issue may exit the Generic Issues Program for any of the following reasons:

- Does not meet one or more of the *seven criteria*
- Is referred for regulatory action
- Is referred for additional research

# PROGRAM PRODUCTS

Resolution of a Generic Issue may lead to regulatory changes that enhance safety. Since 1983, **over 60 percent of Generic Issues** that passed the screening phase resulted in new regulatory products. These products include new rules, NUREG documents, generic letters, Standard Review Plan updates, staff reports, SECY papers, and policy statements.



## EXAMPLE GENERIC ISSUES

**Anticipated Transient Without Scram (ATWS)** - Resulted in the "ATWS Rule" (10 CFR 50.62)

**Station Blackout** - Resulted in the "Station Blackout Rule" (10 CFR 50.63)

**Multiple Steam Generator Tube Leakage** - Resulted in new technical specification requirements

**Fire Protection** - Resulted in the development of the fire protection functional inspection program