

Reactor Oversight Process Resources

Table 1 summarizes the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff resources expended, in hours, for the Reactor Oversight Process during the past three calendar year (CY) inspection cycles. Overall staff effort in CY 2011 increased by approximately 1 percent compared with CY 2010 for the activities listed in Table 1.

Baseline inspection hours include direct inspection effort, baseline inspection preparation and documentation, and plant status activity. Baseline inspection hours increased slightly in 2011 when compared with 2010, but the change was less than one percent and therefore not statistically significant.

Plant-specific inspections include supplemental inspections conducted in response to greater-than-green inspection findings and performance indicators; reactive inspections, such as augmented team inspections and special inspections performed in response to events; and the infrequently performed inspections listed in Appendix C, "Special and Infrequently Performed Inspections," to NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2515, "Light-Water Reactor Inspection Program—Operations Phase," dated September 24, 2009, and Appendix C, "Generic, Special, and Infrequent Inspections," to IMC 2201, "Security Inspection Program for Commercial Nuclear Power Reactors," dated September 8, 2009, which are not part of the baseline or supplemental inspection programs. Plant-specific inspection effort decreased in 2011 when compared to 2010. However, effort in this area for 2011 remains higher than 2009 due to a few resource-intensive, plant-specific circumstances in both 2010 and 2011, which were not a factor in 2009. Some of these plant-specific inspections are still ongoing.

Generic safety issue inspections are typically one-time inspections of specific safety and security issues, with significant variability in effort possible from year to year. A significant increase in inspection effort in this area was seen during 2011. This is primarily the result of inspections conducted in response to the events at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Station in Japan.

Regional effort for licensee performance assessment has shown a decreasing trend, particularly when compared to CY 2009, but the numbers are in line with previous years and don't appear to indicate a statistically significant trend.

The effort reported for other activities includes inspection-related travel, the significance determination process (SDP), and routine communication that encompasses regional support, enforcement support, and the review of technical documents. The increase in 2011 for these other activities was primarily in routine communication activities.

Table 1 Resources Expended¹
(Inspection-Related Staff Effort Expended at Operating Power Reactors)

	<u>CY 2009 hrs²</u>	<u>CY 2010 hrs²</u>	<u>CY 2011 hrs</u>
Baseline Inspections	313,788	314,947	316,297
<i>Direct Inspection Effort</i>	155,803	156,319	156,871
<i>Inspection Prep/Doc</i>	107,462	109,550	111,194
<i>Plant Status</i>	50,523	49,078	48,232
Plant-Specific Inspections	15,454	26,229	21,670
<i>Direct Inspection Effort</i>	9,376	16,552	11,700
<i>Inspection Prep/Doc</i>	6,078	9,677	9,970
Generic Safety Issue Inspections	3,061	6,506	11,868
<i>Direct Inspection Effort</i>	1,698	3,643	6,302
<i>Inspection Prep/Doc</i>	1,363	2,863	5,566
Performance Assessment (Regional Effort Only)	11,482	10,439	10,247
Other Activities³	67,868	75,902	78,918
<hr/> Total Staff Effort	411,653	434,023	439,000
Total Staff Effort/Operating Site	6,237	6,576	6,652

¹ Resources expended include regional, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response hours.

² The hours presented for CY 2009 and CY 2010 have been revised because the calculation methods and software used to query the database were updated. All hours reported reflect a consistent and defined approach to allow for an accurate year to year comparison going forward.

³ Other activities consist of inspection-related travel, the SDP, enforcement support, communications, regional support, and technical reviews