



AGENCY'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020



Opening Remarks

Margaret Doane

Executive Director for Operations

AGENDA



Opening Remarks

Margie Doane, Executive Director for Operations



NRC Internal COVID-19 Activities

Mark Lombard, Lead, COVID-19 Task Force



Nuclear Reactor Safety Program

Craig Erlanger, Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, NRR



Nuclear Materials Safety Program

Christian Einberg, Chief, Medical Safety and Events Branch, NMSS/MSST



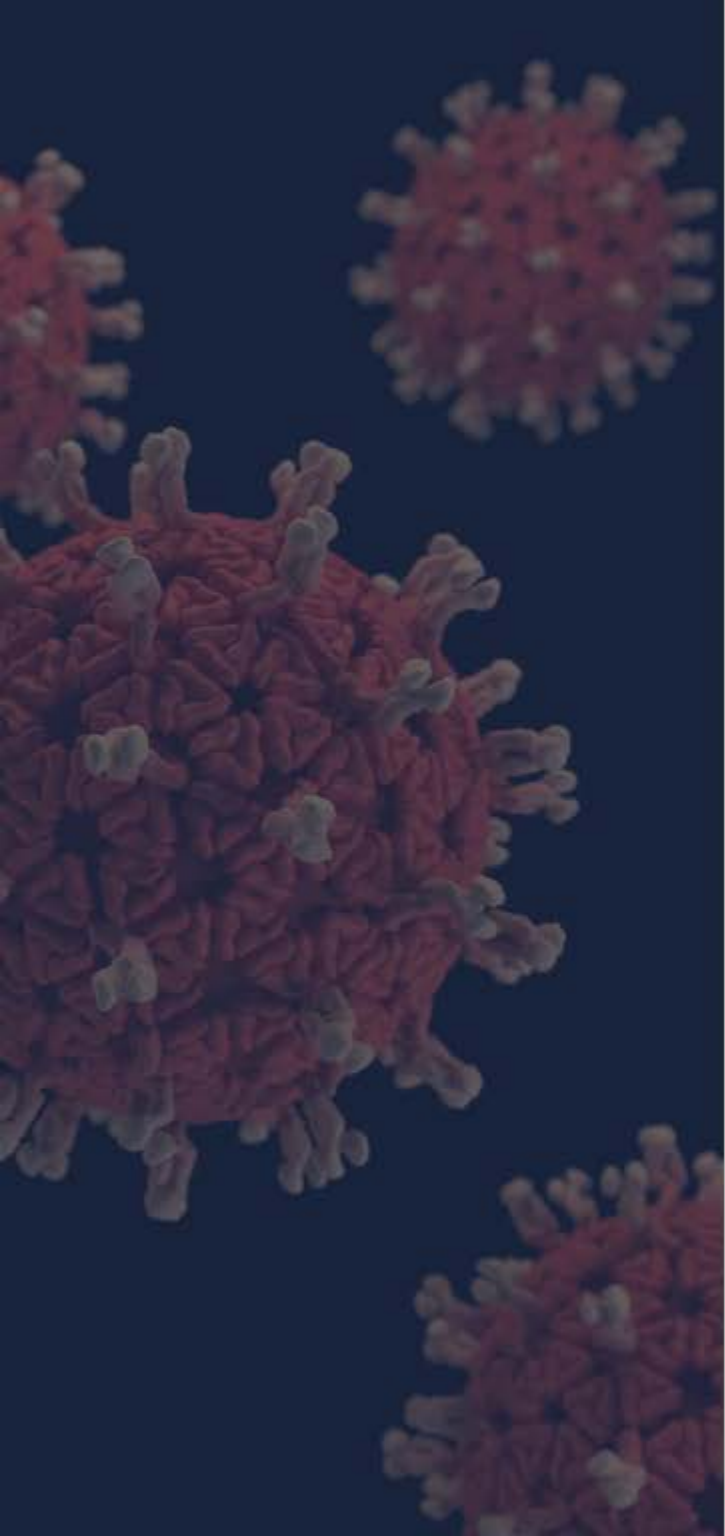
Nuclear Security and Incident Response Program

Shana Helton, Acting Deputy Office Director, NSIR



Enforcement Program

George Wilson, Director, OE



NRC Internal COVID-19 Activities

Mark Lombard

Lead, COVID-19 Task Force



FOUNDATION

Top Priority: Safety and Health of NRC Workforce

Establishment and Makeup of Team

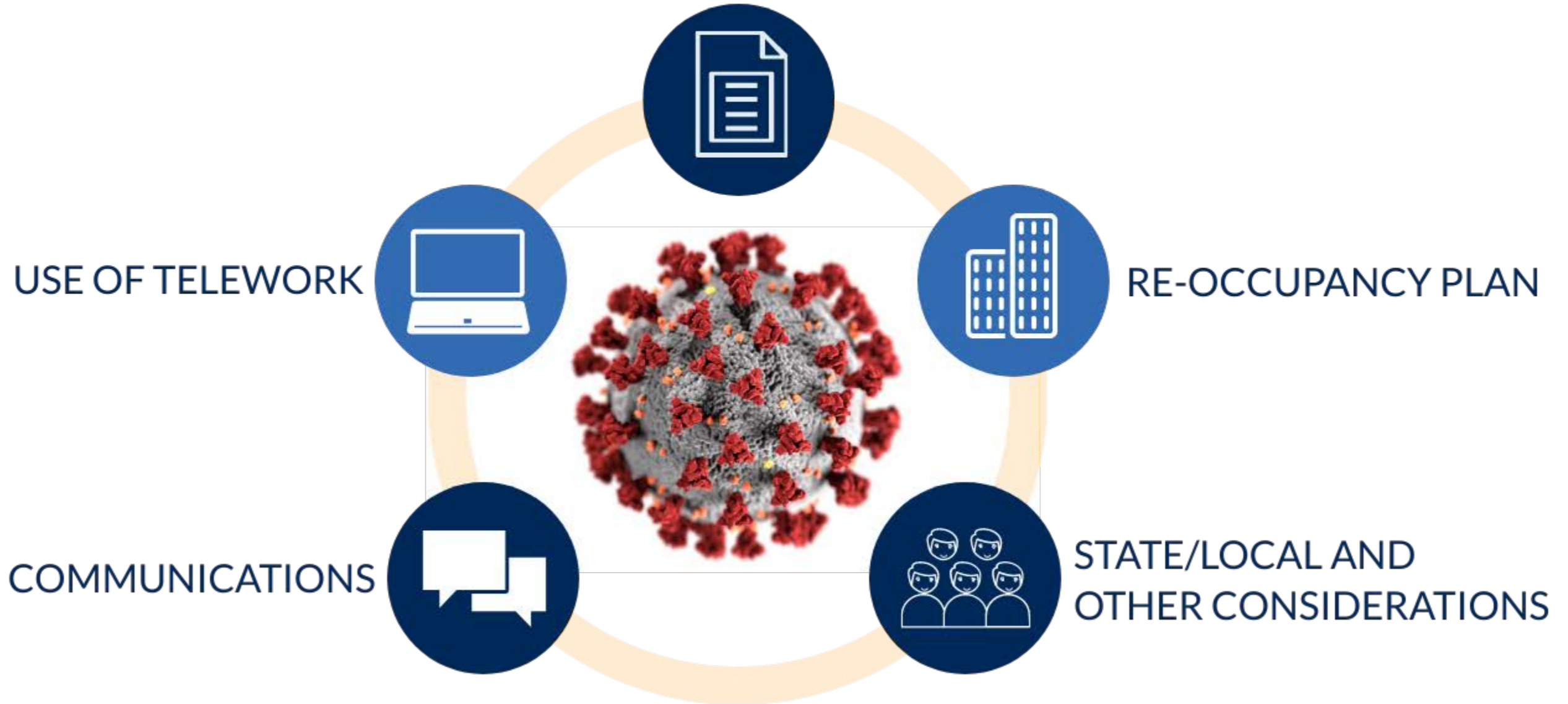
- Working Group
- Task Force

Operational Strategy

- Classic incident response
- Simple, agile, flexible
- Make quick progress
- Use best tools available

| IMPLEMENTATION

WHITE HOUSE/OMB/OPM/CDC GUIDANCE



NRC COVID-19 DEFENSE IN DEPTH





Nuclear Reactor Safety Program

Craig Erlanger

Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

COVID-19 Regulatory Activities for Nuclear Reactors

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

COVID-19 Activities: [Operating Reactors](#) | [Nuclear Materials](#) | [Security and EP](#)

Our Goal

**Protecting Public Health and Safety
During a National Emergency**



Current Regulatory Issues

Focusing on Safety While Providing Temporary Flexibility



**10 CFR Part 20 Respiratory
Radiological Protection
Requirements**

[Online Submissions Now Available]



**10 CFR Part 26
Work Hour Requirements**

[Online Submissions Now Available]



**10 CFR Part 50.48
Fire Brigade Requirements**



**10 CFR Part 55
Operators' Licenses**

[Online Submissions Now Available]



**10 CFR 50.55a
Codes and Standards**

[Online Submissions Now Available]

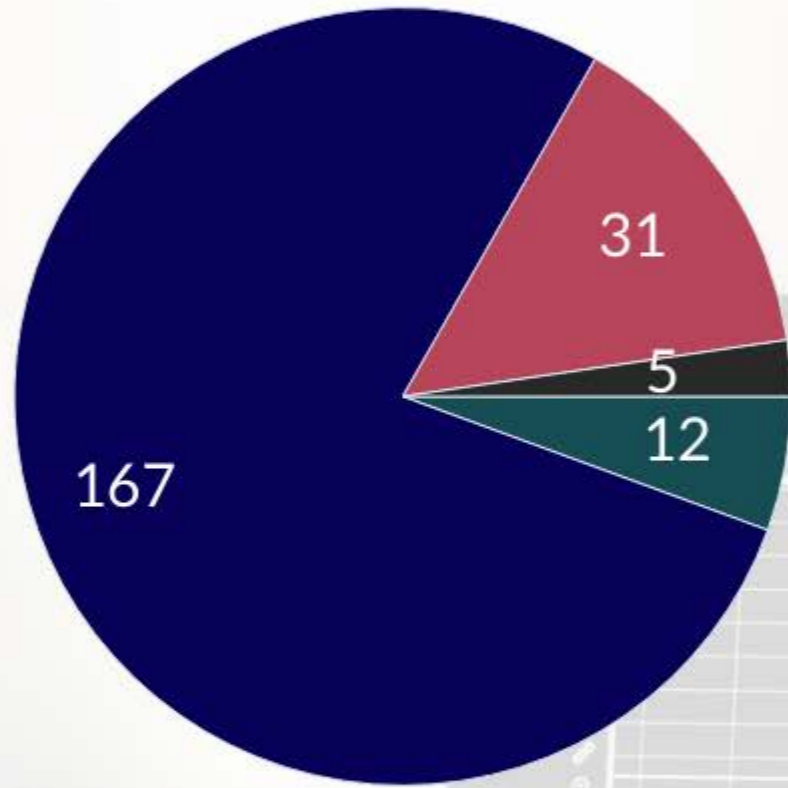


**10 CFR 50.55a
Owner's Activity Reports**

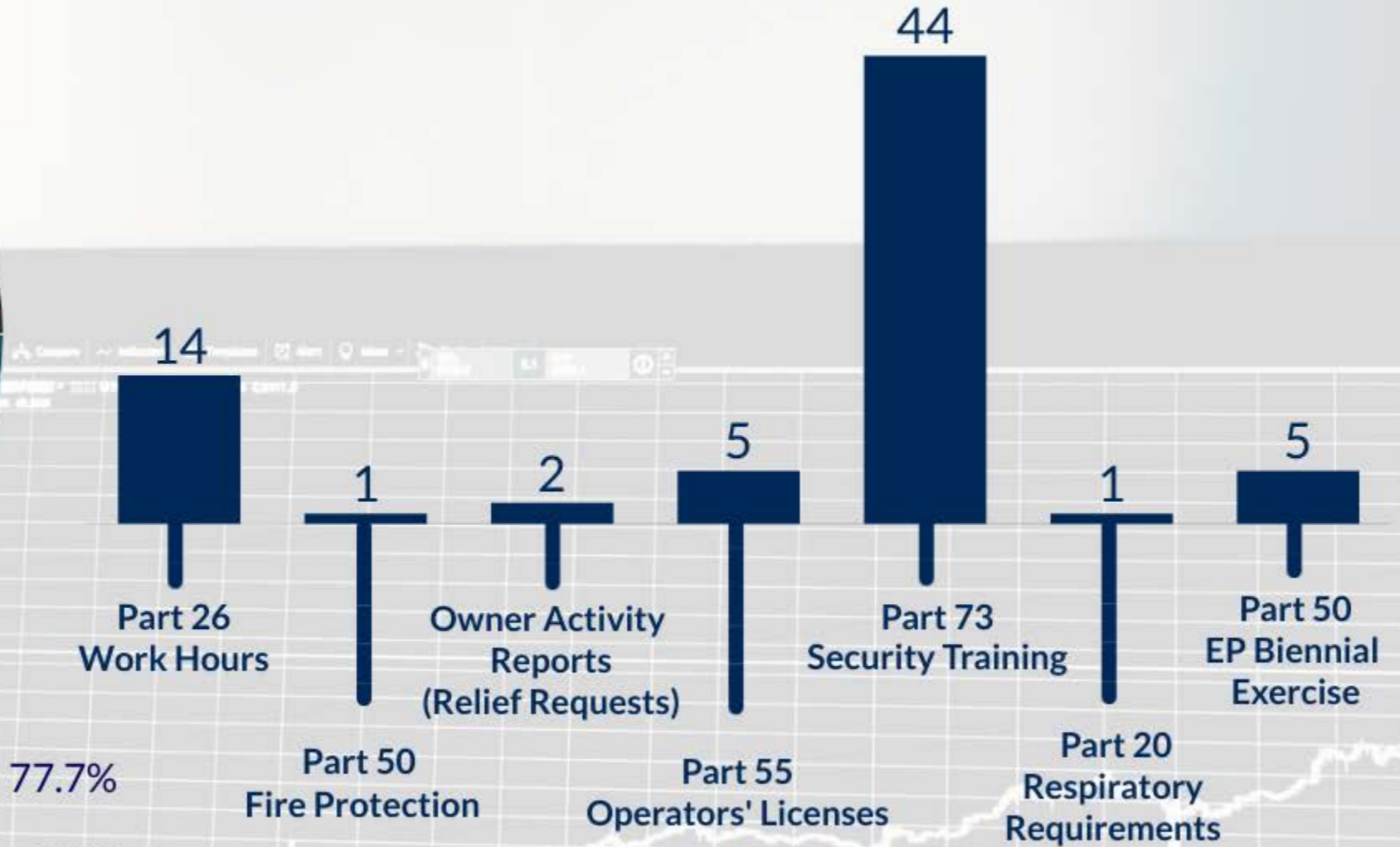
- Collective contributions across the agency enabled mission success
- Established NRR COVID-19 Coordination Team (NCCT)
- Engaged with industry on regulatory requirements that posed challenges
- Determined appropriate type of regulatory relief

Approved COVID-19 Licensing Actions by Type

COVID-19 Requests by Letters



■ LAR 5.6%
 ■ Exemption 77.7%
■ Relief Request 14.4%
 ■ Other 2.3%



Data as of 8/31/2020



ADDRESSING OVERSIGHT CHALLENGES

- Inspection/oversight strategy is a combination of remote and onsite activity
- Protect health and safety of public and personnel
- Guidance for completing Reactor Oversight Process in 2020
- Completing at least the minimum inspection samples

USING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION

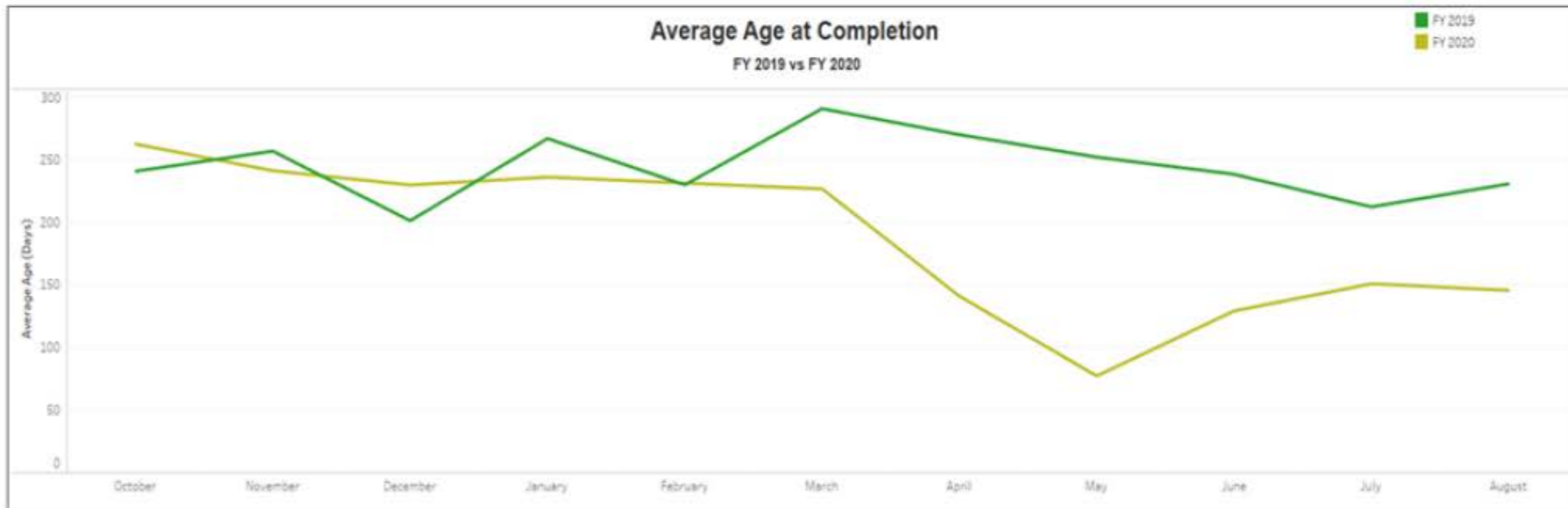
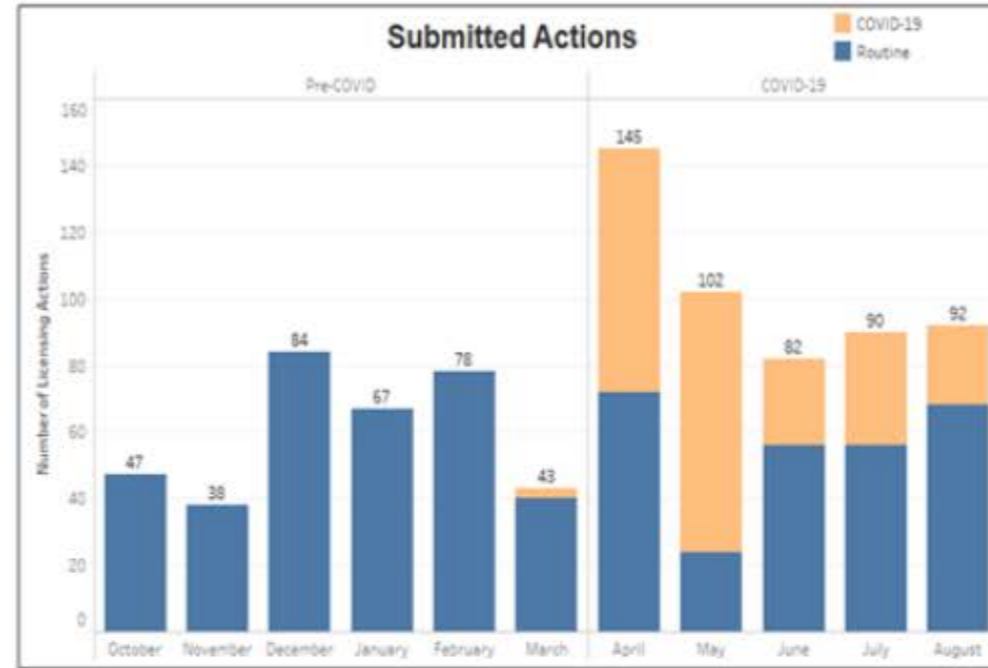
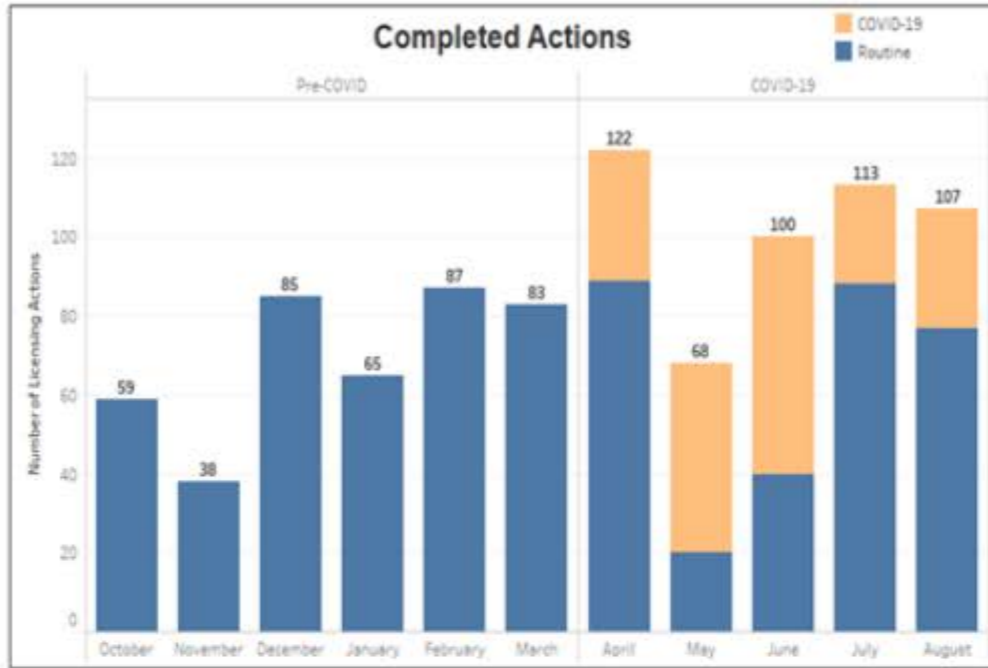
- Dashboards to share information with stakeholders
- Process to submit an exemption or relief request online
- Tools for increased use of web-based licensing submittals
- Resident inspectors' ability to access plant parameters remotely

Data has a better idea

DELIVERING RESULTS AND ACCELERATING DRIVE FOR INNOVATION

- Normal licensing workload in addition to COVID-19 related actions
- Appropriate focus on pre-COVID-19 operating reactor priorities
- Accelerating ongoing transformation and innovation activities





47%

Increase in completions

72%

Increase in submittals

46%

Decrease in completion time

INCORPORATING LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

Process improvements to make current work more efficient

Identifying new ideas worthy of long-term transformation

Evaluating best approach for full-scale resumption of onsite aspects of oversight program

Engagement across Agency to share best practices



Nuclear Materials Safety Program

Christian Einberg

Chief, Medical Safety and Events Assessment Branch
Division of Materials Safety, Security, State, and
Tribal Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

ADDRESSING LICENSING AND OVERSIGHT COVID-19 CHALLENGES



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545-0001

April 7, 2020

All U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensees
Authorized to Operate Research Test Reactors
Special Nuclear Materials Use Licensees
Decommissioning Licensees
Fuel Cycle Licensees
The Exclusion Licensees

REGULATORY

SUBJECT

RELIEF

COVID-19 PUBLIC

On January 31, 2020, the United States declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). During a pandemic, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is interested in maintaining situational awareness of the status of its regulated activities. NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2010-04, "Monitoring the Status of Regulated Activities During a Pandemic," addresses the need for information on evolving pandemic situations at licensee sites and any requests for regulatory relief as a result of the pandemic. The RIS provides information that may be useful to licensees in addressing issues associated with the COVID-19 PHE.

54

Nuclear Materials Licensees

EXEMPTIONS

requested and received exemptions to certain NRC requirements while still maintaining safety during the public health emergency



STAKEHOLDER

ENGAGEMENT



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545-0001

June 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: David C. Lew, Regional Administrator, RI
Laura A. Dudes, Regional Administrator, RI
John P. ...

FROM:

Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Lewis

Date: 2020.06.01
16.12.49-0400

SUBJECT:

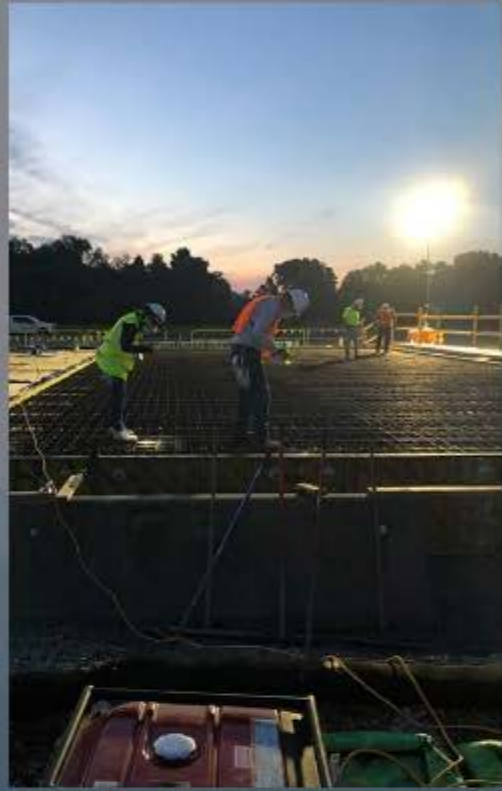
INSPECTION GUIDANCE

The purpose of this guidance is to provide information for the organizations responsible for inspections as COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease across the country. This guidance is intended to balance the importance of protecting the health and safety of our inspectors and site personnel along with the need to conduct effective oversight that supports the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) critical safety mission. During the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the NRC will continue to exercise flexibilities as defined in the applicable inspection manual chapters to implement the oversight programs for spent fuel storage, decommissioning sites, uranium recovery, transportation packaging, fuel facilities, and materials licensees. Materials, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), Fuel Facilities, and Decommissioning programs should continue to perform inspection activities.

MAINTAINING A STRONG NATIONAL MATERIALS PROGRAM



MANAGING WORKLOAD



USING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



COVID-19 Regulatory Activities for Nuclear Materials Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

COVID-19 Activities: [Operating Reactors](#) | [Nuclear Materials](#) | [Security and EP](#)

Our Goal

Protecting Public Health and Safety During a National Emergency

In this unprecedented time for our country, the NRC remains committed to our mission and our Principles of Good Regulation—Independence, Openness, Efficiency, Clarity and Reliability. This site is the gateway to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards' regulatory activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NRC is prepared to use its existing authority to consider granting relief from specific regulatory commitments when requested by a licensee under certain circumstances. Licensees should reach out to the appropriate NRC point of contact as soon as possible upon identifying any potential compliance issues resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Staff will work with the licensee to align around the information necessary to process the request and the needed timelines for relief. The NRC has assured and will continue to assure that licensed facilities operate safely during COVID-19.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



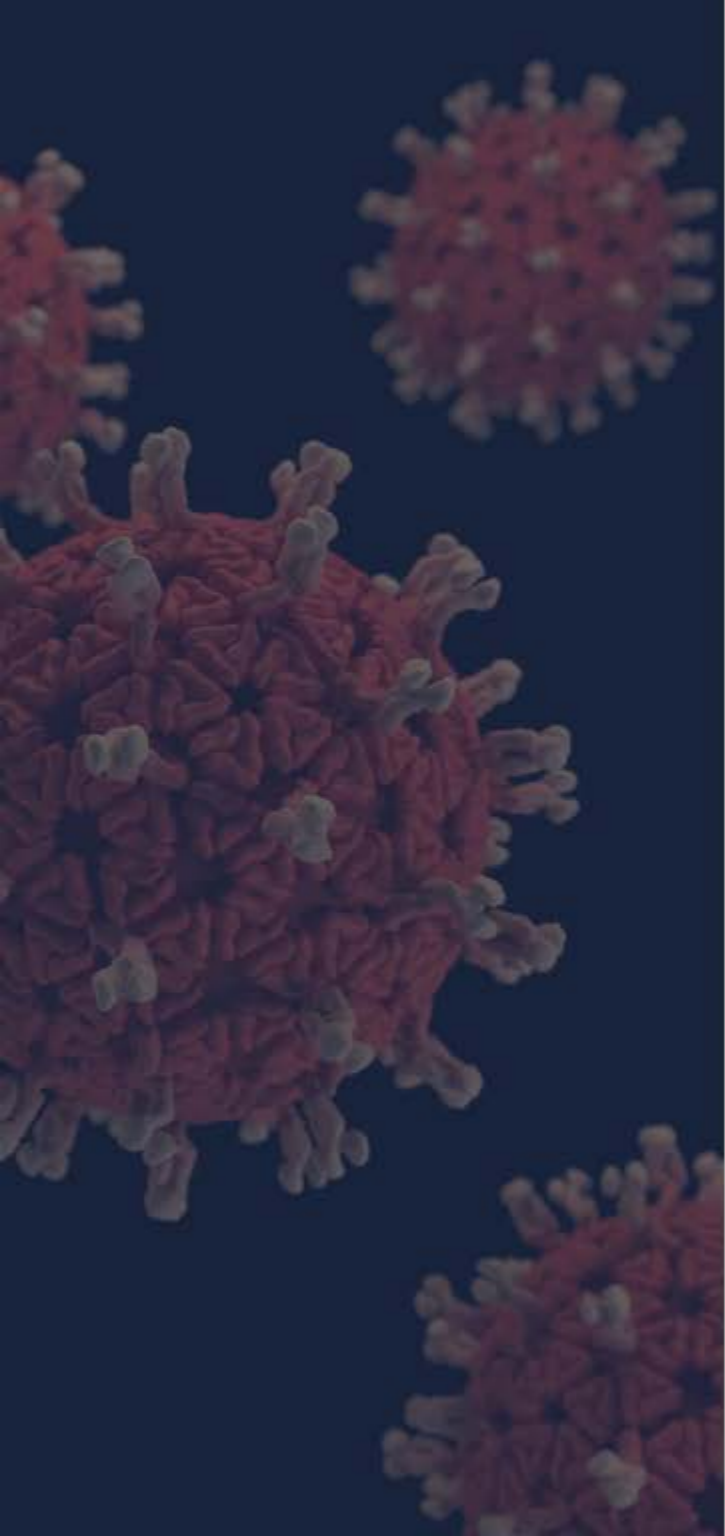
Extensions for Exemptions

Casework

Virtual Public Meetings

Workforce

Lessons Learned



Nuclear Security and Incident Response Program

Shana Helton

Acting Deputy Office Director
Office of Nuclear Security and Response



PRUDENT APPROACH TO SECURITY OVERSIGHT

- Paused to assess path forward during PHE
- Engaged stakeholders
- Launched special inspection

Focusing on Emergency Preparedness Coordination and Outreach



DEVELOPED GUIDANCE ON SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING EXEMPTIONS

COVID-19 Regulatory Activities for Security and Emergency Preparedness
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

COVID-19 Activities: [Operating Reactors](#) | [Nuclear Materials](#) | [Security and EP](#)

Our Goal

Preventing Nuclear Security Incidents and Preparing for and Responding to Safety and Security Events During a National Emergency

Current Regulatory Issues

Security and Emergency Preparedness



Power Reactor Training and Qualification for Personnel Performing Security Duties



Emergency Preparedness



Open Source Read Book



ADVANCING TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION

IPAWS

INTEGRATED
PUBLIC ALERT
WARNING SYSTEM

Be riskSMART





Enforcement Program

George Wilson

Director

Office of Enforcement

ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM



- Developed an overarching methodology to enable the agency to give discretion/relief for all NRC licensees that was legally defensible and repeatable with existing processes.
- Effective collaboration with program offices, regions, and OGC to successfully develop and deploy the appropriate EGMs as well as providing guidance and support for other licensing options (exemptions and NOEDs) always ensuring reasonable assurance of adequate protection.

CURRENT ACTIONS AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

- Issued an umbrella EGM with multiple attachments during the COVID 19 PHE
- Working with the other offices to evaluate potential future needs, such as the potential usage of discretion for NMSS medical licensees
- We used technology to continue the mission of the agency by utilizing Skype, WebEx, or Zoom and digital signatures for document processing



Closing Remarks

Margaret Doane

Executive Director for Operations

| ACRONYMS

- **CDC** - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **COVID-19** - Coronavirus Disease 2019
- **EGM** - enforcement guidance memorandum
- **EP** - emergency preparedness
- **IPAWS** - Integrated Public Alert Warning System
- **LAR** - license amendment request
- **MOU** - memorandum of understanding
- **MSST** - Division of Materials Safety, Security, State, and Tribal Programs
- **NCCT** - NRR COVID-19 Coordination Team

| ACRONYMS

- **NMSS** - Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
- **NOED** - Notice of Enforcement Discretion
- **NRC** - U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- **NRR** - Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
- **NSIR** - Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response
- **OE** - Office of Enforcement
- **OGC** - Office of the General Counsel
- **OMB** - U.S. Office of Management and Budget
- **OPM** - U.S. Office of Personnel Management
- **PHE** - public health emergency