

Incorporation of Risk Management Concepts in Regulatory Programs Survey

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering development of a strategic vision and related options to better incorporate risk management concepts into its regulatory programs. As part of this initiative, the agency is seeking comments from external stakeholders regarding possible challenges to developing risk management approaches for the various types of materials and activities regulated by the NRC. The survey consists of the following questions:

1. Do you believe there is a common understanding and usage of the terms risk-informed, performance-based, and defense-in-depth within the NRC, industry, and other stakeholders? Which terms are especially unclear?
2. What are the relevant lessons learned from the previous successful and unsuccessful risk-informed and performance-based initiatives?
3. What are the relevant lessons learned from the previous successful and unsuccessful deterministic regulatory actions?
4. What are the key characteristics for a holistic risk management regulatory structure for reactors, materials, waste, fuel cycle, and security?
5. Should the traditional deterministic approaches be integrated into a risk management regulatory structure? If so, how?
6. What are the challenges in accomplishing the goal of a holistic risk management regulatory structure? How could these challenges be overcome?
7. What is a reasonable time period for a transition to a risk management regulatory structure?
8. From your perspective, what particular areas or issues might benefit the most by transitioning to a risk management regulatory approach?