

Quality Assurance Audits and Inspections

Rob Seipel
Senior Manager, Corporate QA
Tennessee Valley Authority

Audits

- Origin is 10CFR50 Appendix B “Audits”
- A comprehensive system of planned and periodic audits shall be carried out to verify compliance with all aspects of the quality assurance program and to determine the effectiveness of the program. The audits shall be performed in accordance with the written procedures or check lists by appropriately trained personnel not having direct responsibilities in the areas being audited. Audit results shall be documented and reviewed by management having responsibility in the area audited. Followup action, including reaudit of deficient areas, shall be taken where indicated.

Audits

- Implementation is through ANSI N45.2 and NQA-1
- Both standards apply to both internal and external (vendor) audits
- Periodicity of these vendor audits is typically once every 36 months, as described in Reg Guide 1.28, Quality Assurance Program Requirements (Design and Construction)

Audits

- Requires an annual evaluation which considers the following:
 - Supplier-furnished documents and records (i.e. certificates of conformance, nonconformance notices, corrective actions)
 - Previous source verifications, audits, inspections
 - Operating experience of identical or similar products by the same supplier
 - Results of other audits (NRC Inspections, Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC))

What is Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC)?

- NUPIC is a group of utility members that organizes and performs joint audits and surveys of suppliers
 - Formed in 1989, in response to the Nuclear Management and Review Committee Comprehensive Procurement Initiative
 - Performance Based audit methodology
 - Engineering involvement in the audit process

What is Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC)?

- NUPIC was a merger of the Coordinating Agency for Supplier Evaluation (CASE) and the Nuclear Supplier Quality Assurance Committee (NSQAC)
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by all US nuclear utilities in 1989 forming NUPIC
- All nuclear utilities in North America and many others from around the world are now members of NUPIC (40 + member utilities including 12 international)

What does NUPIC do?

■ Key Functions:

- Provide a cooperative program for the evaluation of vendor/supplier performance
- Plan and conduct joint audits/surveys
- Exchange results of individual utility audits/surveys
- Develop methodologies to monitor vendor/supplier performance

What does NUPIC do?

■ Key Functions:

- Provide a forum for discussion of procurement quality assurance issues
- Exchange vendor/supplier performance information
- Discuss concerns resulting from quality assurance regulatory information
- Assist vendors/suppliers in the resolution of member concerns

Summary

- Source requirements associated with the auditing of suppliers of safety-related components and services
- Founding of the Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC)
- Key functions associated with NUPIC

Questions

