MDEP Vendor Inspection Cooperation Working Group

Richard Rasmussen
Chief, Electrical Vendor Branch
Office of New Reactors
U.S. NRC
Working Group Overview

- Objectives
- Protocol Document
- Types of Engagement
- Logistical Issues
- VICWG Inspections
- Benefits
VICWG Objectives

- To maximize the use of the results obtained from other regulator’s efforts in inspecting vendors
- To understand the similarities and differences between MDEP national regulators’ Quality Assurance/Management (QA/QM) Requirements in order to reach a consensus on the potential for harmonization
- To facilitate the adoption of good vendor oversight practices by national regulators
- To harmonize the vendor inspection practices among MDEP regulators for inspections under the MDEP protocol
- To continue joint and witnessed inspections and perform multinational inspections of vendors according to the common QA/QM requirements
MDEP Protocol
VICWG-01

**Purpose and Scope**

- The purpose of this protocol is to provide guidance to regulators that wish to carry out vendor inspections or participate in or witness other regulators’ vendor inspections or to conduct multinational inspections. It also provides guidance for the sponsoring regulator with regard to its interactions with inspecting, witnessing or participating regulators.
Current Inspection Types

- **Witnessed inspection** – an activity in which a regulator conducts an inspection according to its own regulatory framework and one or more regulators witnesses it.

- **Joint inspection** – an activity in which one regulator conducts an inspection according to its own regulatory framework with the participation of one or more other regulators’ inspectors.
Multinational Inspection

- An inspection performed by multiple regulators to the VICWG Common QA Requirements

- Requires leadership by one country and technical support from participating inspectors

- Pilot – Valinox Nucléaire, July 2014
Key Logistical Issues

- Inspection table maintained on the MDEP website
- Sponsoring Regulator determines language
- May require training or familiarization
- Records governed by Sponsoring Regulator
- Witnessing regulators provide feedback to MDEP library
VICWG Inspections

- 2011 - 7 witnessed inspections and 1 joint inspection
- 2012 - 7 witnessed inspections and 1 joint inspection
- 2013 - 12 witnessed inspections and 1 joint inspection
Benefits

- **Regulators**
  - Greater Ability Understand the Results of Foreign Inspections
  - The ability to Prioritize Inspections Based on Foreign Inspections
  - The Ability to Leverage Foreign Inspectors
  - Increased Communication Regarding Vendor Issues

- **Vendors**
  - Reduced Inspections Because Regulators are Sharing Results
VICWG members
Regulatory authorities of:

Full members:
- Canada
- China
- Finland
- France
- India
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- South Africa
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- United States

Associate members:
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!
Question?

MDEP 3rd Conference - 2014