

N230. Reducing Costs and Radiation Exposures in the Nuclear Power Industry

Two areas that present the biggest opportunity for reducing operating and maintenance costs involve improving plant availability and right-sizing the nuclear staff.

Staffing And Power Generation:

- Staffing at U.S. plants vary widely
- Plants in other industrialized countries are often operated with much smaller staffs than the average U.S. plant.
- Excellence is not achieved by adding more staff.
- Plant availability (and radiation exposure) is dominated by the length of planned outages, and there is a wide variation among U.S. plants.
- The average outage length in a number of countries overseas is much shorter than the average outage length in the United States.
- Well planned, shorter outages tend to result in better plant performance between outages.
- Plants with sustained records of excellent performance (in availability and radiation exposures) tend to have lower O&M costs.

Abridged from Remarks of Zack T. Pate, INPO CEO Conference, INPO/NUMARC Special Session, Friday, November 6, 1992, Atlanta Georgia. Submitted by Bob Giordano, General Electric, Phone (215) 992-6003.