Nuclear Operational and Safety Performance at All-Time Highs

A comprehensive review of publicly available operational and safety performance metrics demonstrates that the U.S. nuclear industry has consistently and substantially improved both performance and safety. Industry’s high level of performance manifests itself in many ways, including public safety, worker safety and plant reliability.

KEY POINTS

U.S. nuclear plants are operating at the highest levels of performance ever and the highest levels of safety and reliability in the world.

- This performance trend is so significant that, over the past 20 years, every average INPO and NRC performance indicator for the U.S. nuclear industry has improved.
- Performance improvements have consistently occurred across the entire spectrum of U.S. plants and are reflected in both average and limiting performance measures.

There is a clear nexus between operational performance and improved safety.

- Industry performance improvements have enhanced nuclear safety and plant reliability and reduced risk.
- The same actions, programs and processes that drive improved operational performance also enhance safety.

A risk-informed focus improves safety.

- Focusing resources on the most significant safety issues increases safety and reduces risk.
- NRC’s data and risk models demonstrate the significant improvement in safety achieved over the past 20 years.

Additional information is provided in NEI 20-04, “The Nexus Between Safety and Operational Performance in the U.S. Nuclear Industry.”