Supplemental Project Notice

STANDARDIZED TASK EVALUATION PROGRAM

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

EPRI's Standardized Task Evaluation Program provides a streamlined process for evaluating supplemental workers and for enabling a portable workforce on many common tasks. Potential benefits include:

- Reduction in time spent in training and on-site waiting to start work.
- Improvement in worker performance through more efficient completion of tasks with less likelihood of rework
- Expansion of pool of supplemental workers available to support outages.

Background, Objectives, and New Learnings

The goal of the Standardized Task Evaluation (STE) Program is to facilitate the development, maintenance, and oversight of industry standardized task evaluations. STEs can be used to ensure that the workforce is competent to reliably perform the many tasks associated with operating and maintaining industry facilities. EPRI and program participants collaboratively develop new evaluations that support high-priority industry needs while also continuously reviewing and updating existing evaluations.

Maintaining the operational safety and performance of nuclear power plants requires sustaining a qualified nuclear workforce. This includes qualification of workers that perform the same tasks at different nuclear power plants. Standardized and portable evaluations can enable workers to go from site to site without being reevaluated on specific task. Through this project, participants gain access to STE that enable nuclear power plant owners and workforce providers to evaluate supplemental workers on a variety of tasks.

The STE Program includes tasks in the following categories:

- Electrical construction and maintenance
- Mechanical maintenance
- Valve maintenance and testing
- Instrumentation and controls maintenance
- Cross discipline tasks (torquing, rigging and lifting, aerial work platforms, etc.)
- Radiation Protection
- Digital Instrumentation and Control (I&C)

Evaluation of future needs includes Chemistry and Engineering standardized tasks.

Benefits

The nuclear industry can realize the following benefits from the implementation of STEs:

- Access to tools that can ensure personnel (both site employees and supplemental personnel) are technically competent to perform their assigned tasks, resulting in

improved performance, less rework, less probability of lost generation and fewer challenges to nuclear safety systems.

- Reduced time and cost associated with processing supplemental personnel for refueling outages and other activities.
- Ability to maintain fewer qualification exams, thereby conserving site resources.

A number of U.S. utilities have reported savings and efficiency gains through use of the STEs. One utility documented a savings of 940 person-hours (per year/fleet) and $285,000 per year saved in labor costs by not retraining supplemental RP technicians (see *Tennessee Valley Authority Successfully Implements EPRI Radiation Protection STEs*, EPRI 3002026026). STEs are not restricted to U.S. applications only, as the basis of the program can be adapted to address various country's standards and worker needs.

Project Approach and Summary

Each STE includes a task analysis and objectives, knowledge examination through the on-line testing system, and a performance (practical) evaluation. These three elements of an STE are developed by quarterly industry collaboration workshops. These workshops are conducted to develop new STEs and revise existing STEs.

The STE completion registry is updated daily with member submitted successful results allowing for timely verification of completion by all program members. The verification of these successful completions can result in less retraining/retesting of individuals. These completions assist in the portable credentials for workers who may travel from site to site for outage work.

Participants of the STE Program utilize the following systems and processes to implement the program:

- Access to an EPRI on-line testing system with immediate results and feedback to the examinee.
- Access to completion registry for verification of results.
- Support for workforce provider administration of STEs through the EPRI Administration Protocol for Portable Practicals (AP3) compliance process. The AP3 process establishes the standards that EPRI and nuclear plant owners expect of workforce providers for administration of STEs, thus enabling utility organizations to accept workers completion results that were administered by a workforce provider.

Deliverables

- Implementation of quarterly collaboration workshops
- Digital I&C task list development and evaluations
- Chemistry and Engineering STEs as determined by the STE steering committee
- Updated completion registry documenting successful completions for worker verification
- Success story of workforce providers's benefits on implementation of AP3
- AP3 compliance reviews as requested by workforce providers
- Website improvements

Price of Project

The price for nuclear operators is a function of nuclear generating capacity. Participation is priced per year according to the following formula: $20,000 per participant plus $3/MW. Note that non-nuclear, non-hydro assets can be included at an incremental price of $1/ MW per year. Non-utility organizational price is $25,000 per year with a three-year commitment.

Project Status and Schedule

The scope expansion for Digital I&C tasks started in 2023 and is expected to continue through 2025. Implementation workshops will be held throughout the duration of the project. Website improvements are expected on a periodic and as-needed basis with full implementation of new website features by 2026.

Who Should Join

The project results will be applicable to nuclear power plants, organizations that provide outage services, trade unions and other nuclear support entities.

Contact Information

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