

REGULATING NUCLEAR SAFETY IN GREAT BRITAIN (GB)

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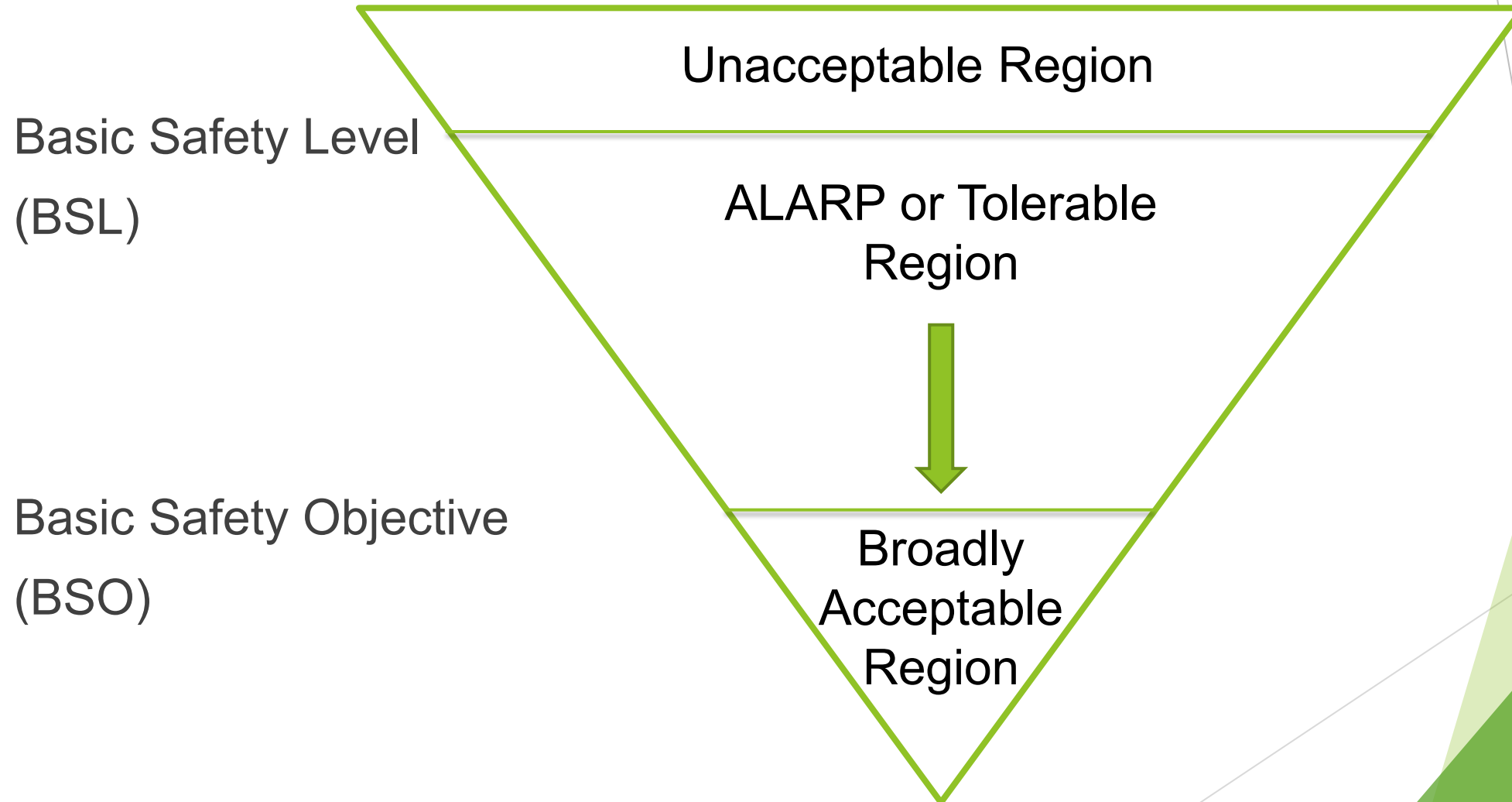
- ▶ Regulatory approach in Great Britain.
- ▶ Regulatory process efficiency.
- ▶ Regulatory interactions with NPP licensees.
- ▶ Regulatory communications with the public.

Regulatory approach in GB – Flexible

- ▶ Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – safety, security, safeguards, transport & industrial.
- ▶ Regime is non-prescriptive / goal-setting – duties conferred through 36 standard Licence Conditions (LC) & other law.
- ▶ The Safety Case (SC) underpins the granting of the Site Licence but is not formally Approved by ONR – the Licence has no expiry date.
- ▶ Policy is to be proportionate and targeted at areas of greatest risk and hazard through sampling.

GB risk-informed framework

▶ ALARP triangle



Regulatory Process Efficiency (1)

- ▶ ONR engage in early dialogue with licensee to identify and resolve any emerging issues (use a database to grade [1- 4] and track all issues).
- ▶ ONR publishes its Safety Assessment Principles (SAPs); these reflect modern safety standards.
- ▶ Transparency on expected timescales for regulatory decisions – no public involvement in these.
- ▶ Generic Design Assessment (GDA) for new NPP – minimises uncertainty for potential operators but are not a legal requirement.

ONR Safety Assessment Principles

 Office for
Nuclear Regulation

Safety Assessment Principles
for Nuclear Facilities

2014 Edition
Revision 0

- Fundamental principles
- Leadership & management for safety
- Siting aspects
- Engineering principles
- Radiation protection
- Fault analysis
- Numerical targets
- Accident management and emergency preparedness
- Radioactive waste management
- Decommissioning
- Land quality management

Regulatory Process efficiency (2)

- ▶ Use of Project Inspectors to coordinate approvals e.g. 10 yearly PSR, Category 1 modifications, reactor restarts etc.
- ▶ Comprehensive up-to-date management system with clear delegated authorities for all decisions.
- ▶ Honest self-assessment and external Peer Reviews are important “to see ourselves as others see us” [ref Robert Burns]
- ▶ In future we should take greater account of the work of other national regulators.

ONR Interactions with NPP operators (1)

- ▶ No resident site inspectors – monthly visits by nominated site inspector (3 - 4 year rotation)
- ▶ Inspectors have many legal powers e.g. site access at any time, directing the licensee to undertake actions, taking evidence etc, etc but very seldom used.
- ▶ Inspectors mainly use discretion, judgement and power of persuasion to effect any necessary improvements.
- ▶ Planned/announced (~80%) inspections vs Reactive/unannounced (~20%).
- ▶ Inspection teams for safety systems & emergency ex.
- ▶ Annual Review of Safety with site lead team.

ONR Interactions with NPP operators (2)

- ▶ Licensee's safety categorisation is key for managing ONR workloads and extent of involvement.
- ▶ Reactor periodic shutdown (AGR 3 yearly, PWR 18 monthly) more inspection during the outage prior to issue of legal Consent to restart.
- ▶ CNI Themed inspections – benchmark across different licensees' sites e.g. ageing management.
- ▶ Hierarchy of routine meetings between ONR and licensees' senior staff - up to CNI/CEO
- ▶ A relationship based on mutual respect, trust and openness between licensee's personnel and ONR inspectors is vital.

Regulatory communications with the public

- ▶ Licensees establish Site Stakeholder Groups (SSG) – meet periodically (2- 4 times/year) with the local populace (ONR site inspector attends and writes a quarterly report on its activities but is not an official member).
- ▶ FOI - most documents available to the public on request; inspection and project assessment reports published on ONR website.
- ▶ 6 monthly meeting with national and local interest groups including anti-nuclear ones.
- ▶ ONR CNI Annual Report – provides a view of safety performance across the industry

Thanks for your attention

Any Questions ?