

# Nuclear Energy R&D Facility Requirements

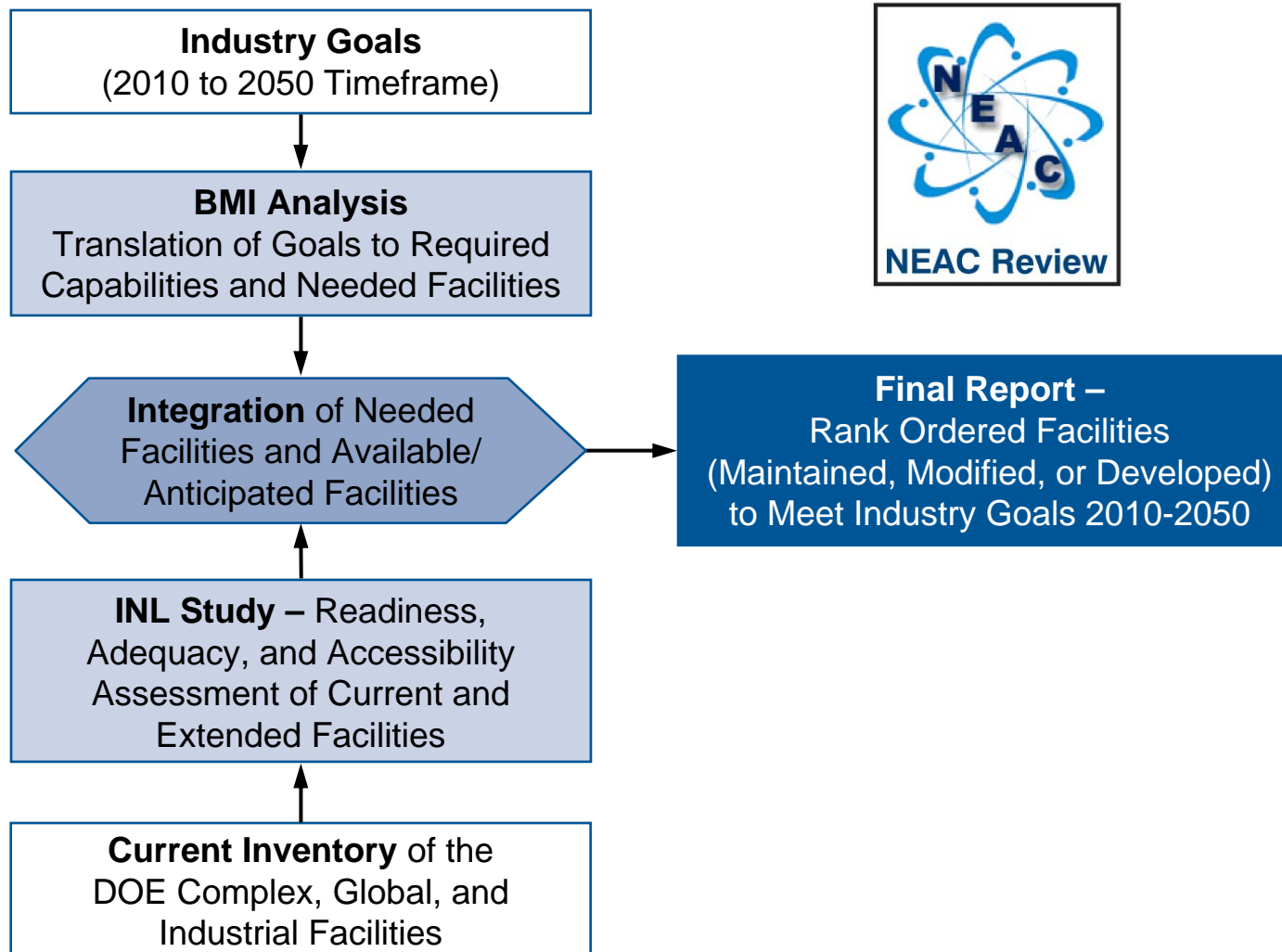
NEAC Meeting  
Progress Report  
June 24, 2008

# Facilitization of U.S. Nuclear R&D Infrastructure

## **Three-step study process:**

- First, ASNE requested Battelle Memorial Institute to develop Industry-and-University–supported list of capabilities and facilities necessary to conduct a comprehensive nuclear R&D program.  
(Draft, June 12, 2008)
- Second, INL, using input from all DOE and other sources, will determine current facilities and their condition and availability to support next 20 years of nuclear R&D.  
(Draft, June 30, 2008)
- Third, recommendations will be made on priorities and on existing facilities to be maintained/preserved or otherwise supported by NE regardless of location or ownership.  
(Executive Team Meeting, July 1, 2008)

# Top-Down/Bottom-Up Process



# Industry and Academia Outreach

## Employing a Multistep Process to Provide Opportunity for Input



# Industry Participants

- AREVA NP
- Bechtel Corporation
- Dominion
- Electric Power Research Institute
- Entergy
- Exelon Corporation
- FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
- General Electric Hitachi Nuclear Energy
- Global Nuclear Fuel
- Nuclear Energy Institute
- Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc.
- The Babcock and Wilcox Company – Technical Services Group
- UniStar Nuclear Energy, LLC (Constellation Energy and EDF)
- URS Corporation – Washington Division
- Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC

# University Outreach

1. Working group, interview process – Georgia Tech, University of Florida, and University of Michigan

2. Internet collaboration focused on answering the question:

***What role should Universities play in the closure of the capability gap and what benefits will be realized by University participation?***

- Participants:

- MIT
- UC Berkeley
- Boise State
- University of New Mexico
- North Carolina State
- Ohio State
- University of Idaho
- Idaho State
- Oregon State
- UNLV

# Observations

## Industry

- Generally supportive
- Strong emphasis on safety, economics, and cost effectiveness as business drivers
- Concerned about the work force
- Concerned about regulatory and construction delays
- Strong interest in new applications

## Academia

- Multi-year R&D investments essential
- Desire more DOE/Industry collaborative opportunities

# An Industry Perspective Nuclear Energy R&D Capability Requirements A 20+ Year Outlook

(Title change as suggested by NEAC Facilities Subcommittee)

## **Preliminary Results**



# Analysis Steps

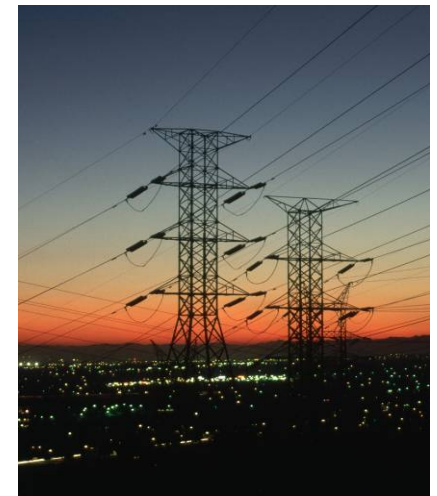
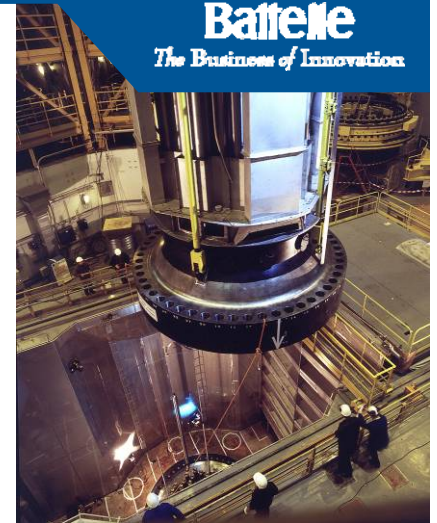
Definition of 2010-2050 Goals

Definition and Prioritization of  
Required Capabilities

Identification of “Nuclear-Unique”  
Required Capabilities

Identification of Required R&D Facilities

Development of Recommendations



# Identified Focus Areas and 2010 - 2050 Goals



Existing LWRs and ALWRs

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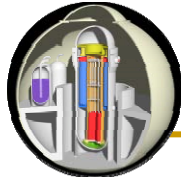
Workforce Development

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Sustainable Fuel Cycle

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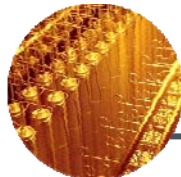
Next-Generation Reactors

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Regulatory Requirements

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Safeguards and Security

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# Identified Capability Priorities

## Existing LWRs and ALWRs

- Manage the reliability of the plant systems, structure, and component (SSC) materials through the plant's extended lifetime
- Improve fuel performance.
- Adopt technology innovations to enhance plant performance and workforce productivity
- Enhance manufacturing and construction methods for plant life extension upgrades and construction of new plants

## Workforce Development

- Optimize training through adoption of proven approaches from other industries, greater use of technical training centers, new methods, and improved skill and aptitude assessment tools
- Adopt knowledge management methods and techniques to enhance cross-generational knowledge retention, workforce development and effective use of lessons learned
- Enhance nuclear education/training and research infrastructure to deliver a more effective multiyear, sustainable science and engineering R&D program to train the next generation of scientists and engineers
- Enhance innovative energy educator programs to effectively reach K-12 students – working with industry to build the pipeline

## Sustainable Fuel Cycle

- Develop a geologic repository for the disposal of used nuclear fuel and HLW
- Develop an interim storage facility for receipt of used nuclear fuel
- Develop recycling technologies that are economically competitive, increasingly proliferation resistant, and minimize impact on waste disposal

# Identified Capability Priorities (con't)

## Next- Generation Reactors

- Develop fuels
- Understand heat transport for new applications
- Enhance modeling and simulation capabilities
- Materials development

Includes grid-appropriate reactors, reactors for the production of process heat, and reactors required for closure of the fuel cycle.

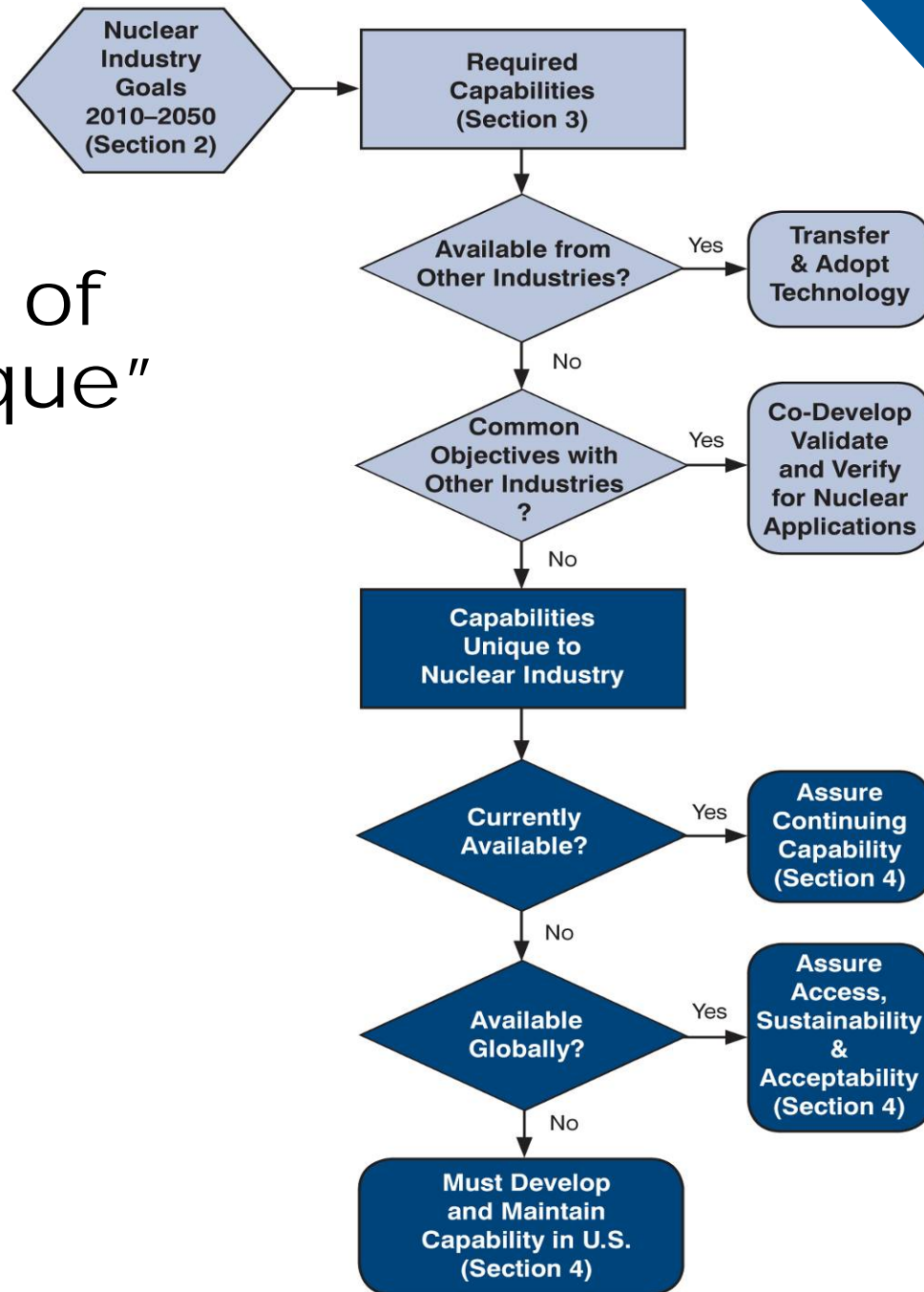
## Regulatory Requirements

- Improve the NRC license application and review process
- Establish risk-informed regulatory basis for next-generation reactors and sustainable fuel cycle activities
- Ensure appropriate regulator staffing and effective staff training to meet job requirements including next-generation reactors and sustainable fuel cycle activities

## Safeguards and Security

- Use of technology to optimize use of guns/guards/gates
- Enhance cyber security capabilities to ensure plant safety and security
- Design advanced safeguards approaches and technology into ALWRs, next generation reactors, and fuel facilities

# Identification of "Nuclear-Unique" Required Capabilities



# Identification of Nuclear-Unique Required Capabilities (con't)

(NEAC Subcommittee: simplify Table)

Required Capability	Transfer from Other Industries	Co-Develop with Other Industries	Nuclear Unique — U.S. Available	Nuclear Unique — Globally Available	Nuclear Unique — Develop in U.S.
<b>Nuclear Unique (see Section 4)</b>					
<b>Existing LWRs and ALWRs</b>					
SSC Reliability	✓		✓	✓	
Fuel Performance			✓	✓	
Technology Innovations	✓	✓	✓		
Manufacturing & Construction	✓	✓		✓	
<b>Workforce Development</b>					
Optimize Training	✓	✓	✓		
Knowledge Management	✓		✓		
Sustainable R&D	✓		✓		✓
Innovative Energy Educator	✓	✓			
<b>Sustainable Fuel Cycle</b>					
Geologic Repository*					✓
Interim Storage**					✓
Recycling Technologies				✓	✓
<b>Next-Generation Reactors</b>					
Fuels Development			✓	✓	✓
Heat Transport	✓	✓			
Modeling & Simulation	✓		✓	✓	✓
Materials Development		✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Regulatory Requirements</b>					
Licensing Efficiency	✓		✓	✓	
Basis for NGR & SFC			✓	✓	✓
Staffing	✓	✓			
<b>Safeguards and Security</b>					
Optimized Technology	✓	✓			
Cyber Security	✓	✓			
"Safeguards-by-Design"			✓	✓	✓

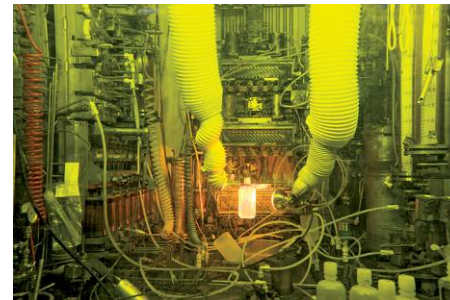
# Identification of Required R&D Facilities

Required Capability	Nuclear Education Facilities	Thermal Irradiation Capability	Fast Irradiation Capability	Radio-Chemistry Laboratories	Hot Cells for Separations	Hot Cells for Post-Irradiation Examination	Thermal Transport	Fuel Development Laboratories	Licensing Demo-HTR	Licensing Demo-Fast Reactor	Specialized Engineering Development Laboratories
<b>Existing LWRs and ALWRs</b>											
SSC Reliability		X				X					
Fuel Performance		X		X		X		X			
Technology Innovations	X										X
Manufacturing & Construction											X
<b>Workforce Development</b>											
Optimize Training	X										
Knowledge Management	X										
Sustainable R&D	X										
<b>Sustainable Fuel Cycle</b>											
Recycling Technologies		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
<b>Next-Generation Reactors</b>											
Fuels Development	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
Heat Transport	X						X		X	X	X
Modeling & Simulation	X	X	X				X		X	X	
Materials Development	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	
<b>Regulatory Requirements</b>											
Licensing Efficiency	X										
Basis for NGR & SFC	X								X	X	X
Staffing	X										
<b>Safeguards and Security</b>											
"Safeguards-by-Design"	X			X	X						



# Required R&D Facilities

- Nuclear Education Facilities
- Thermal Irradiation Facilities
- Fast Irradiation Capabilities
- Radiochemistry Laboratories
- Hot Cells for Separations
- Hot Cells for Post-Irradiation Examination
- Thermal Transport
- Fuel Development Laboratories
- Licensing Demo – HTR
- Licensing Demo – Fast Reactor
- Specialized Engineering Development Laboratories



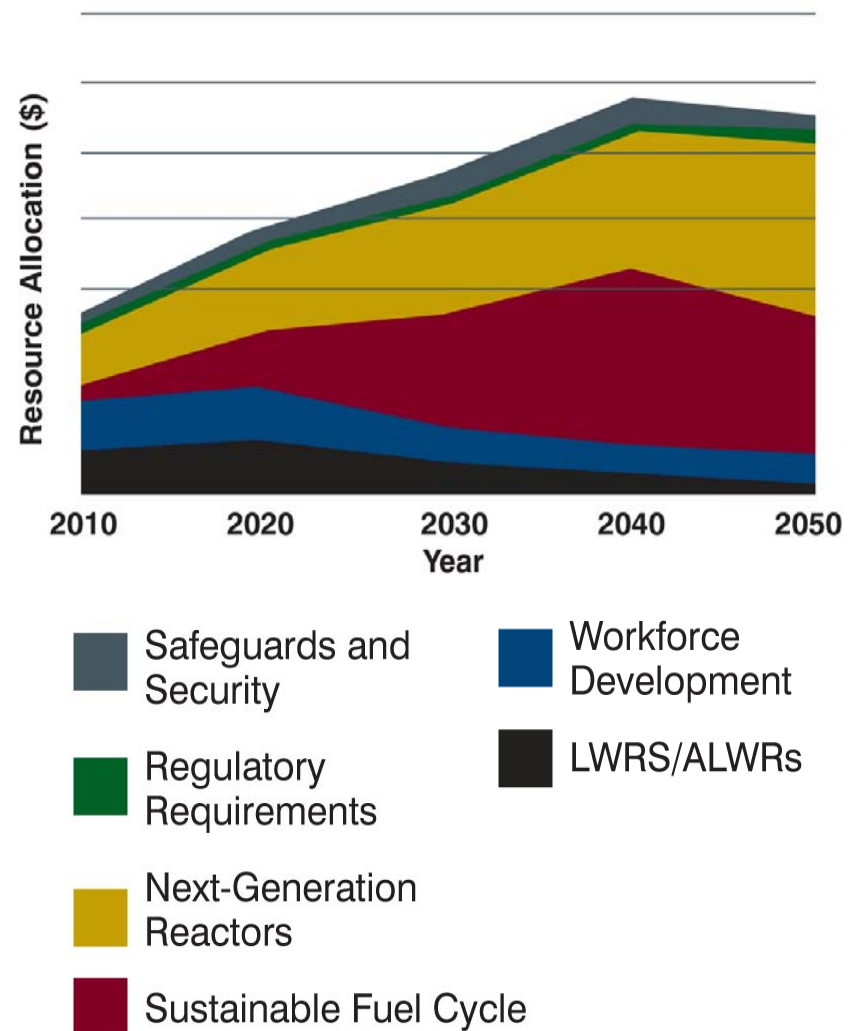


# Recommendations

## Establish *Strategic Nuclear Energy Capability Initiative*

- Integrated, time-phased, and user-driven
- Provides multiyear investments
- Engage industry, universities, and national laboratories to define facility requirements, build support, and monitor progress

(NEAC Subcommittee: replace graph with list of priorities)



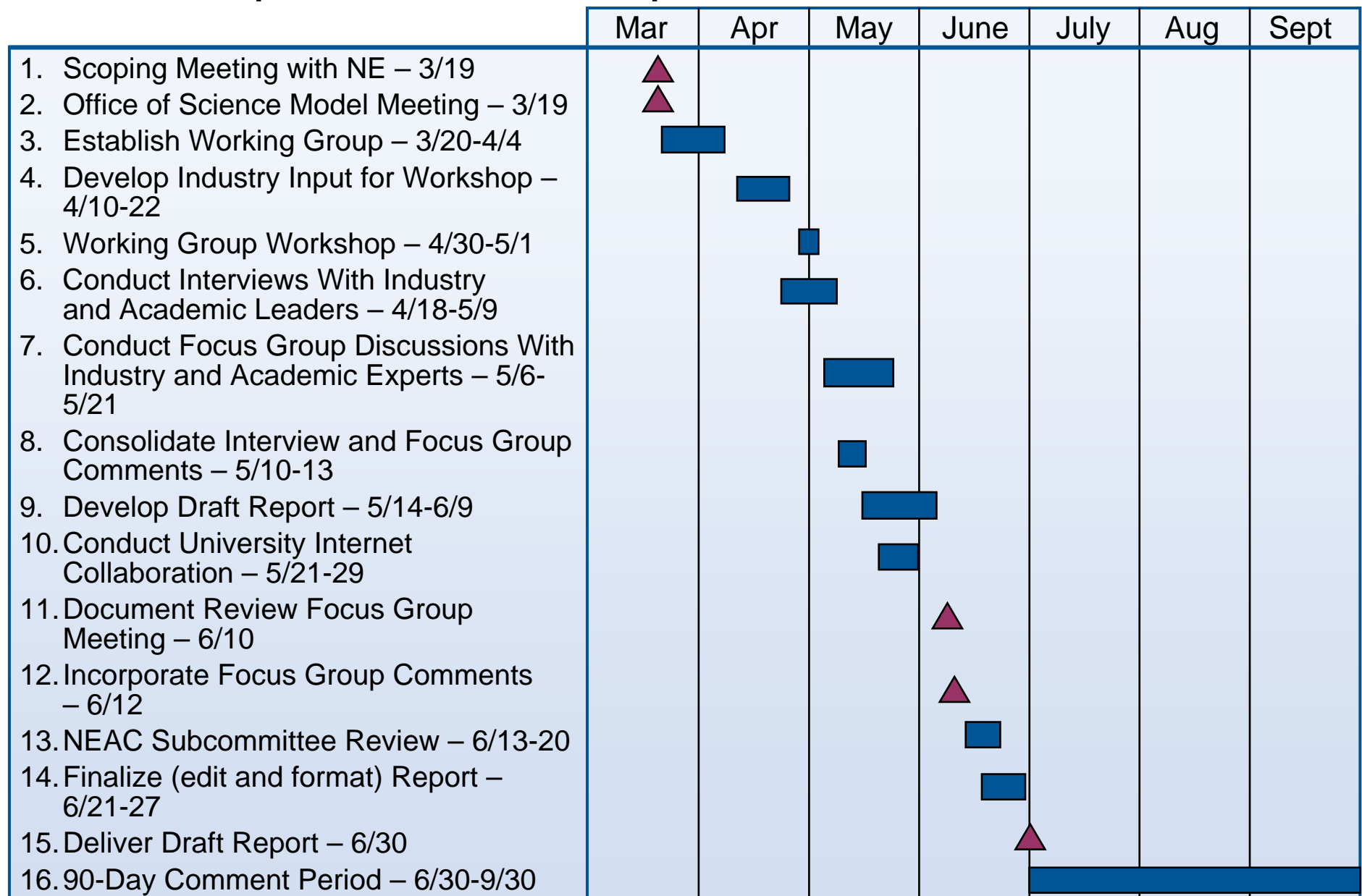
## Additional Recommendations

- Improve use of enterprise models for trade-off studies
- Strengthen international collaboration
- Define living process for facility consolidation, retirement of old facilities, and replacement when appropriate
- Define process to ensure maintenance of “balance of plant”

## Conclusions

- A robust, fully trained workforce is essential
- Nuclear energy industry has established meaningful goals
- Establishment of **Strategic Nuclear Energy Capability Initiative** is needed to provide essential R&D capabilities and facilities
- Foundation provided through **Strategic Nuclear Energy Capability Initiative** should be leveraged to build public-private partnerships and international collaboration

# R&D Capabilities Report Schedule





Idaho National Laboratory

**“Idaho National Lab Facilities Study”**  
***AKA***  
**Assets Required for a Nuclear  
Energy Applied R&D Program**

**Harold McFarlane**

Deputy Associate Laboratory Director  
Nuclear Science & Technology

16 June 2008

# Presentation at April 20th NEAC Meeting

**Battelle**  
The Business of Innovation

**Battelle**  
The Business of Innovation

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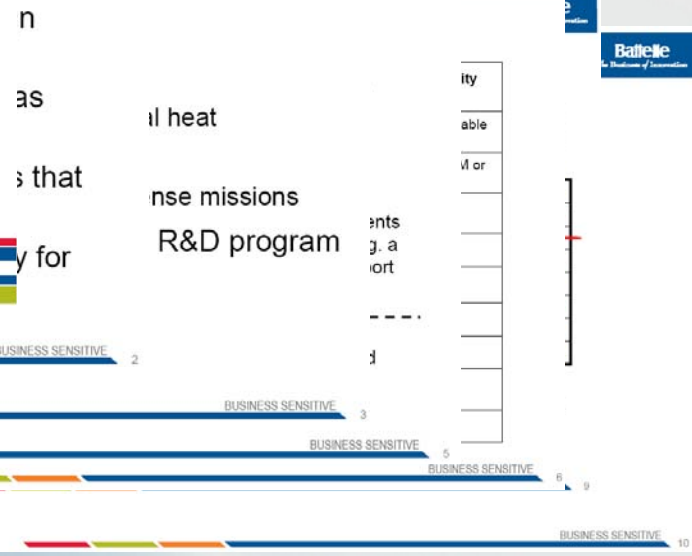
**Battelle**  
The Business of Innovation

**Battelle**  
The Business of Innovation

**Battelle**  
The Business of Innovation

## Required Assets for a Nuclear Energy Applied R&D Program

Idaho National Laboratory task



# INL report structure

- **Integrate Battelle/Industry Focus Areas/Required Priority Capabilities and DOE NE R&D programs requirements**
- **Crosswalk from required capabilities to facility descriptions in each category**
- **Identify needed facility improvements and gaps**



# Screening and binning rules

- *Class 1 and Class 2 facilities will be included in the evaluation. Class 3 facilities will not be included in the evaluation.*
  - **Class 1: Major high-value nuclear facility** with attendant support functions. Examples are: research, prototype and demonstration nuclear reactors (e.g. ATR, HFIR, JOYO); large hot cell facilities (e.g. HFEF) or complex of smaller hot cells (e.g. Actinide Science and Separation Laboratories); Large multipurpose, multiple capability radiochemistry laboratories; large glovebox facilities (e.g. TA-55 Plutonium Facility)
  - **Class 2: Major non-rad facility** with nuclear application (e.g. a components test facility); a multipurpose facility with some **nuclear application** use (e.g. a high temperature materials development laboratory); or radiological support facility
- 
- **Class 3:** Facilities of a type that are either **ubiquitous** or would play a modest supporting role in an R&D program, or which have been removed from consideration by the responsible landlord (e.g. computer clusters, generic non-rad materials laboratories, facilities being decommissioned)



# Stoplight evaluation for 6 criteria

<b>Condition</b>	Physical condition, age, and maintenance status of the facility and its supporting infrastructure
	<b>Good physical condition with 20 years or more of useful life; capable of performing mission</b>
	<b>Capable of performing function with modest investment of ~\$25M or less</b>
	<b>Capable of performing most aspects of function after substantial investment of \$25M-\$250M over several years</b>
	<b>Requires major investment exceeding \$250M</b>
<b>Capability</b>	Capacity, flexibility, location and accessibility
	<b>Proven capability for intended function</b>
	<b>Proven capability limited by one or more attributes</b>
	<b>Significant limitations for proposed function without major modification</b>
	<b>Lacks most needed capabilities for mission</b>

# Evaluation criteria, cont'd.

Availability	<b>Projected availability in needed time frame</b>
Green	Currently available or performing intended function
Yellow	Has some competing missions but some available capacity; may require operational readiness assessment
Orange	Not currently available, fully subscribed by alternate mission; limited lifetime; or requires restart
Red	Not available; e.g., currently scheduled for D&D
Regulatory	<b>Safety basis, EIS, safety management program, environmental management program, community support</b>
Green	Fully compliant
Yellow	Can be brought into compliance within 2 years with an investment of \$5M or less
Orange	Significant compliance issues that requires more than 2 years and sustained investment of several million dollars per year
Red	Serious safety and environmental liability

# Evaluation criteria, cont'd.

<b>Security</b>	DOE security requirements for type of facility and materials handled: PIDAS, guard force, nuclear materials management system, cyber security, etc.
Green	Compliant with current S&S requirements and has implementation plan for emerging requirements
Yellow	Compliant with current requirements; significant effort to meet emerging design basis threat
Orange	Unable to meet security requirements for mission without substantial capital and annual investment
Red	Unable to meet security requirements because of unfixable conditions such as proximity to public areas
<b>Staffing</b>	Requisite skills including R&D, operations, maintenance and support personnel on site or readily available
Green	Fully staffed with no projected cuts in critical skills
Yellow	All required skills available but augmentation needed to perform mission as well as staffing plan to deal with critical retirement issues
Orange	Some but not all critical skills available for mission
Red	Requires essentially complete new workforce

# Partial example for fast reactor R&D

Facility	Class	Condition	Capability	Availability	Regulation	Security	Staffing
Fuel Manufacturing Facility, INL	1	●	●	●	○	●	○
Transient Test Reactor, INL	1	●	●	●	○	●	○
<del>Sodium Process Facility, INL</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>○</del>	<del>○</del>	<del>●</del>	<del>○</del>	<del>●</del>	<del>○</del>
TA-55, PF-4, LANL	1	●	●	●	●	●	○
Materials Test Station, (LANCE), LANL	1	proposed					
REDC-7920, ORNL	2	○	●	○	●	●	●
Zero Power Physics Reactor, INL	1	●	○	●	○	●	●
High Flux Isotope Reactor, ORNL	1	○	○	●	●	●	○



# Industry identified required capabilities

- Nuclear Education facilities
- Thermal irradiation capability
- Fast irradiation capability
- Radiochemistry laboratories
- Hot cells for separations
- Hot cells for post-irradiation examination
- Thermal transport
- Fuel development laboratories
- Licensing demo-HTR
- Licensing demo-fast reactor
- Specialized engineering development laboratories including fuel fabrication techniques

# Facility Description Sheets

Arranged  
by required  
category

## Advanced Test Reactor (ATR)

**Location:** Idaho National Laboratory

**Currently Supporting:** Multiple programs

**Status:** Fully operational

**Remarks:** Life extension upgrades are in progress

Light Water Reactors	Irradiated Fuel Separations	Advanced Fuel Development
High Temp. Reactor	Fast Spectrum Reactor	Grid Appropriate Reactors
Safeguards and Security	Modeling and Simulation	Space Power Systems

ATR was constructed in the early 1960s and began operation in 1967. It was established as a National Scientific User Facility by DOE in 2007.

ATR is a low temperature and pressure water cooled reactor and one of the most versatile test reactors in the world. The reactor is designed to study the effects of intense radiation on reactor materials and fuels. The high intensity of irradiation, the design of the core and the ability to run multiple tests simultaneously under different conditions makes the ATR a unique research reactor. In addition, ATR irradiates targets to produce valuable isotopes for medical, industrial and research applications.



*The Advanced Test Reactor at the Idaho National Laboratory*

Because of a serpentine fuel arrangement, there are nine high-intensity neutron flux traps where irradiation levels, temperatures and pressures for the experiments can be individually regulated. In addition, there are 68 irradiation positions in the reactor core and reflector regions, and 34 low-flux positions outside the reactor core.

ATR has been operating continuously since 1967, but because its internal components are periodically changed out, it remains a valuable research and test machine capable of decades more service. Additional life extension and capability improvements are in progress and planned.

# Redirected focus for mid-June to mid-July

- **Support Wadsworth Executive Recommendation Team July 1 meeting**
- **95% draft on facility evaluations and descriptions**
- **Identify constraints**
  - Support infrastructure
  - Transportation
  - Security requirement changes
  - Threshold scale for public/private partnership
- **Prepare strawman decision constructs**