

exercise after 2028.

“That’s not to say we are releasing all control to the licensee; we would never do that,” said Jeremy Groom, acting director of the NRC’s Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. “We still have to be a safety and security regulator. What we are going to do is make sure they have the ability to provide input in how the exercises run. The NRC will still pick what the target is within the facility . . . but the licensee will have some input on the actual planning, some of the breaching that happens in the exercise.”

The NRC has conducted FOF security inspections at power plants since 1991. These exercises simulate security threats that are in accordance with any design-basis threat applicable to a facility. This program has undergone multiple revisions over its history to incorporate new inspection guidance, lessons learned, commission direction, and inspection frequency.

The FOF changes will include NRC staff recommendations to remove the labels used to determine an exercise outcome—terms like “effective,” “ineffective,” and “indeterminate.” Removing these terms should eliminate the win-or-lose mentality the FOF exercise outcomes have generated, Groom said.

In addition to FOF, the baseline security changes include retiring eight of the 11 security inspection procedures and introducing two new IPs that consolidate the old IPs’ risk-significant elements. The revisions also include changing the frequency of the material control and accounting IPs from triennial to “as needed” and changing the frequency of cybersecurity IPs from biennial to triennial.

*Continued*

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