

# NUPIC DOCUMENT NO. 10

## NUCLEAR PROCUREMENT ISSUES CORPORATION (NUPIC) JOINT COMMERCIAL GRADE SURVEY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

REVISION 4

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Mark Coren – NUPIC Chairman

**NUCLEAR PROCUREMENT ISSUES CORPORATION (NUPIC)  
JOINT COMMERCIAL GRADE SURVEY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This description is intended to provide you with an understanding of the Nuclear Procurement Issues Corporation (NUPIC) and the NUPIC Joint Commercial Grade (CG) Survey Program.

NUPIC was formed in 1989 as a result of the merger between the utility members of the Coordinating Agency for Supplier Evaluation (CASE) Nuclear Section and the Nuclear Supplier Quality Assurance Committee (NSQAC). The membership represents all the operating nuclear plants in the United States and several foreign nuclear utilities. As a unified industry organization, NUPIC has extracted the most effective elements of the previous organizations to provide for a cost-effective and quality-effective program for the performance of supplier oversight activities.

Supplementing this effort, in 1991, NUPIC established the Joint Commercial Grade Survey Program that is based on the utilization of a standardized approach in the performance of supplier surveys. This approach involves the use of a standard CG survey checklist to assess the supplier's commercial quality controls. The adequacy of the commercial quality controls is evaluated with respect to selected critical characteristics identified in member generated technical evaluations.

The standard CG survey checklist conforms to the criteria delineated in EPRI NP-5652, "Guidelines for the Utilization of Commercial Grade Items in Nuclear Safety Related Applications (NCIG-07)". The checklist also provides for a description of the supplier's order entry process, organization and applicable commercial quality controls. For companies providing calibration services, a separate Calibration Services checklist is employed for assessment of conformance with applicable calibration standards.

Significant benefits to be realized as a result of the NUPIC Joint CG Survey Program are as follows:

- Consistent basis for the evaluation of supplier commercial quality controls.
- Standard methodology for the performance of CG surveys.
- Cost-effective program to enable utilities to share available resources.
- Cost-effective program to alleviate suppliers from redundant CG surveys

The NUPIC CG Survey Program is administered in accordance with the following general provisions. Surveys are performed by joint utility teams in accordance with the Quality Assurance Program of the lead utility. The survey report, survey checklist, and all follow-up information are made available to all NUPIC members. Each member then evaluates the results of the survey to determine those attributes of the supplier's commercial quality controls that can be used in accordance with their own Quality Assurance Program.

Please note that a NUPIC Joint CG Survey does not constitute nor imply any industry-wide endorsement, certification, approval or disapproval of any supplier's Quality Assurance Program and its results shall not be used in any supplier advertising materials. In addition, the survey report, and any attachments issued by the lead utility are considered confidential and proprietary and shall not be disclosed in whole or in part, by any means, to any third party without the written consent of the lead utility.

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Suppliers of products and services to the NUPIC member utilities are invited to participate in the process of improving the performance and effectiveness of Joint Commercial Grade Surveys. The following mechanisms solicit pertinent input by surveyed companies and welcome supplier involvement for NUPIC improvements:

- a) Completion and return of the NUPIC Audit/Survey Feedback Questionnaire (provided by the Survey Team Leader at the conclusion of the survey). This questionnaire attempts to identify specific weaknesses in the NUPIC CG Survey process.
- b) Attendance at the annual NUPIC Vendor Interface Committee meeting, normally held in June, which features presentations and discussions on various issues of importance to the nuclear power industry. Efforts are made for suppliers of nuclear equipment and services to interact with nuclear customers, participate in training programs, and suggest means for enhancing procurement quality activities.
- c) Publication of articles of general interest in the NUPIC Newsletter. The Newsletter is distributed to the NUPIC member utilities and those suppliers subject to NUPIC Joint Audits and Commercial Grade Surveys as a vehicle for exchanging factual, unbiased information.

Additionally, NUPIC maintains an internet Web site which provides general information about the NUPIC organization.

NUPIC welcomes active supplier involvement in our self-improvement process. The NUPIC Vendor Interface Committee (VIC) Chairman can be contacted to report concerns, request notification of the next NUPIC Vendor meeting, offer suggestions, and submit Newsletter articles, etc. You are encouraged to contact the VIC Chairman at the address listed on the NUPIC Web site:

<http://www.NUPIC.com>