

EPRI's NDE Proficiency Demonstration: Providing Global support for Ultrasonic Testing (UT) Qualifications

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The Nuclear industry continues to evolve and grow in importance for producing clean, reliable, and safe energy globally. Countries and companies are focused on reducing their carbon footprint and providing carbon-free energy. Nuclear Energy plays a critical role to achieving these environmental goals. As owner/operators look to extend operation of their current fleet 40, 60, and even 80 years there is a continued need to perform critical inspections and ensure degradations are identified prior to becoming a failure. Non-destructive evaluation (NDE) is essential to the power industry as a whole to provide consistent inspections and key data to identify issues early in critical components and equipment. EPRI Proficiency Demonstration (PD) Labs are the world's largest and most influential system for qualification of ultrasonic procedures, personnel and equipment and has contributed significantly to the overall quality of ultrasonic examinations in the nuclear industry worldwide. The onsite facility in Charlotte, North Carolina boast over 700 mock-ups of various materials and components that allow for a versatile qualification program. This presentation will look at how EPRI's PD program is supporting the needs of the current nuclear fleet, opportunities to leverage the qualification and skills for non-nuclear power assets, and how we are looking to support the future fleet of nuclear power plants. We will also showcase how we are leveraging technology to support new ways of training for needs of the future workforce.