Manifesting Design-Based Parameters into Post-Construction Inspection Planning

Douglas E. Sharp, PE
General Physics Corporation
5095 S. Washington Ave., Suite 201
Titusville, Florida 32780

ABSTRACT

Maintainability and testability, as elements in the design process, are becoming more important for lifelong safe operation of ever more complex/advanced processes. Designed maintainability often results in an inherently safer design through elimination of maintenance-critical issues and through improved detectability. As important, however, are: 1) the establishment of design-based inspections and tests, including type, extent, and frequency; and 2) the minimum limits of acceptability and the technical basis thereof. These parameters provide the foundation for inspection and test plan to which operational experience can be added.

Post-construction inspections and tests provide information on the integrity of operating process equipment and systems. This information is used to determine if the equipment is operable, inoperable, or in a degraded (e.g., unsafe) condition. As such, critical input to an effective inservice inspection and test plan includes known/expected failure modes and minimum design limits; parameters typically identified during the design phase. This paper emphasizes the importance of making these design-based parameters apparent to those responsible for maintaining the systems and equipment in a safe and reliable condition.