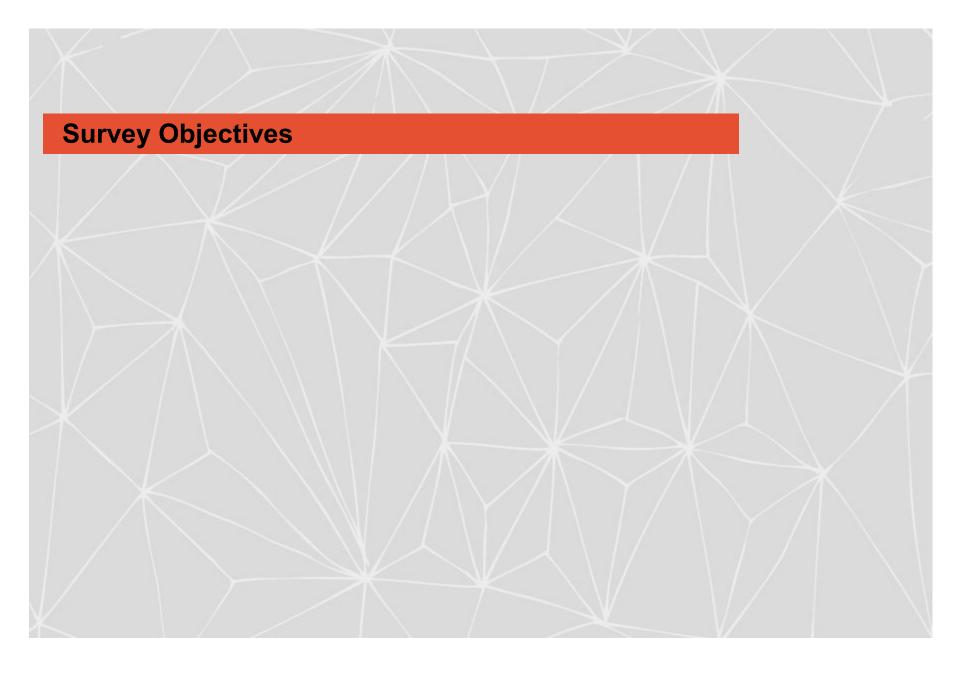


Nuclear Regulatory Commission 2012 Safety Culture and Climate Survey Briefing for NRC Staff November 8, 2012



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- Conclusions
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## Introduction

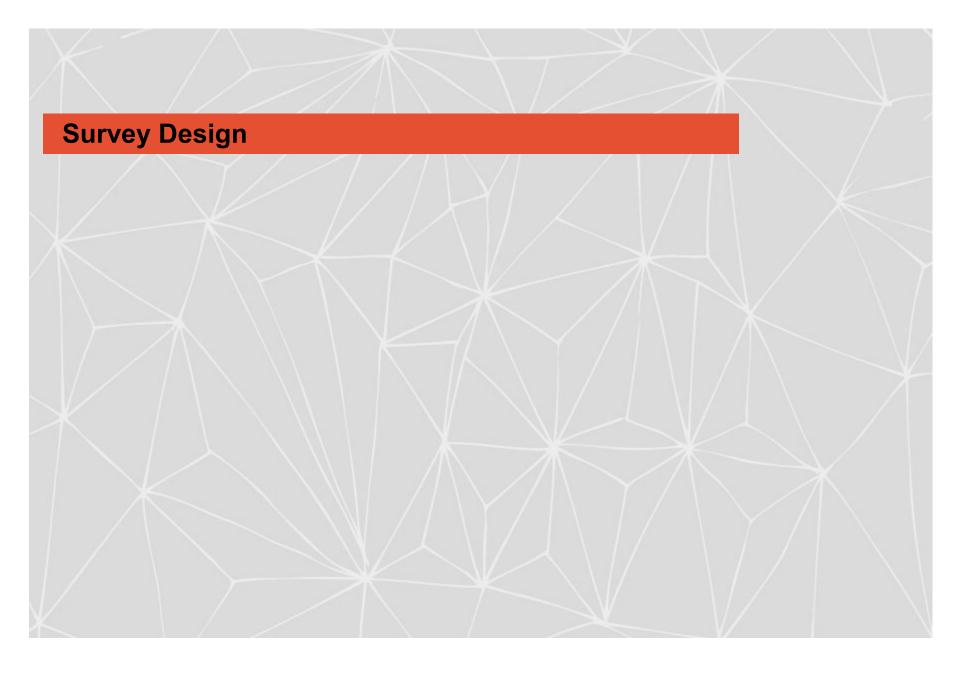
The NRC's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted a safety culture and climate survey for all 3,755 employees in the fall of 2012. Through this research initiative, the NRC's OIG would like to:

- Measure NRC's safety culture and climate to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.
- Understand the Key Drivers of Engagement (leverage points for improving engagement)
- Compare the results of this survey against the survey results that OIG reported previously.
- Provide, where practical, benchmarks for the findings against other similar organizations and high performing companies.

The survey contained 132 items from 20 categories:

- Clarity of Responsibilities
- Communication
- Continuous Improvement Commitment
- Development
- DPO/Non-concurrence
- Elevating Concerns
- Empowerment
- Engagement
- Management
- NRC Image
- · NRC Mission & Strategic Plan
- Office/Region Management
- Open, Collaborative Working Environment

- Performance Management
- Quality Focus
- Senior Management
- Supervision
- Training
- Working Relationships
- Workload and Support



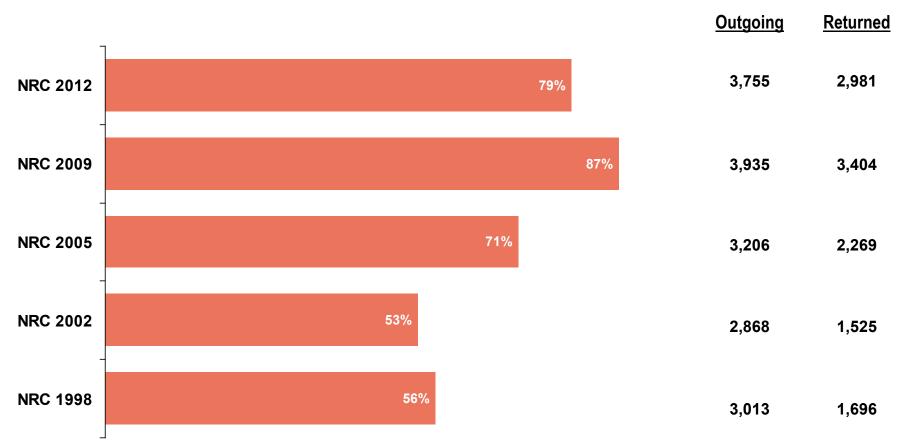
## **Survey Design**

- Conducted 29 individual interviews and 19 focus groups; spoke to 116 NRC employees in total
- Modified survey content from 2009:
  - Reduced number of items from 145 to 132
  - Increased number of categories from 19 to 20
    - Deleted Items that were not seen as an issue in focus group meetings
  - Re-categorized some items
  - Added items on elevating concerns
  - Changed Engagement to Sustainable Engagement
  - Similar to previous surveys, maintained focus on quantitative research no openended comment question
- Provides for a more focused assessment, based on past learnings, of the NRC's Safety Climate and Culture



# **Participation Rates**

Administration: September 4 – September 28, 2012



**Towers Watson's Global Return Rate is 75%** 



## **Executive Summary**

- While the 2012 NRC data continues to be more favorable than industry and national norms, the overall trend is for less favorable results relative to the 2009 survey
- Overall Strengths: Despite concerns raised by some in the focus groups, the survey highlights strength in having appropriate staff. Consistent with the focus groups, improvements have been made in specific communication vehicles.
  - Workload and Support Sufficient staff to handle the workload (especially interesting given what we heard from some in the focus groups) and information needed to do my job
  - Training Many feel training prepared them for their work and they have sufficient knowledge of safety concepts.
    - While still strong relative to benchmarks, NRC is losing ground on the broader career development issues (see Development on next page)
  - Communication Most understand how goals/objectives of their work fit into NRC's future, and understand objectives of NRC overall. The survey highlights improvements in ADAMS and EDO updates
    - Despite the strength in communication overall, the survey reinforces a key point raised in the focus groups: the need to improve communication of why decisions were made

## **Executive Summary (cont'd)**

- Overall Opportunities: The biggest opportunities reinforce many of the concerns raised in focus groups, especially relative to image, development and non-concurrence
  - DPO/Non-Concurrence Losing significant ground on negative reactions when raising views different from senior management, supervisor and peers
  - Management While the absolute percent favorable scores are not low, NRC is well below benchmarks on recognizing and respecting value of human differences,
  - Development Significant declines in recruiting/retaining the right people and developing people to their full potential (see training question on opportunity for development and growth)
  - Performance Management Low and losing ground for effectiveness of performance reviews
  - Image One of the largest drops in percent favorable relate to holding of all to the same ethical standard. NRC been aligned to the benchmarks in the past but are now well below benchmarks
  - Senior Management Less than half feel action has been taken since the last survey – as many are neutral and not negative; this is an good opportunity to improve
  - Quality focus Reinforcing a key point raised in the focus groups, there is a clear opportunity to impact the perception that people sacrifice quality in order to meet metrics

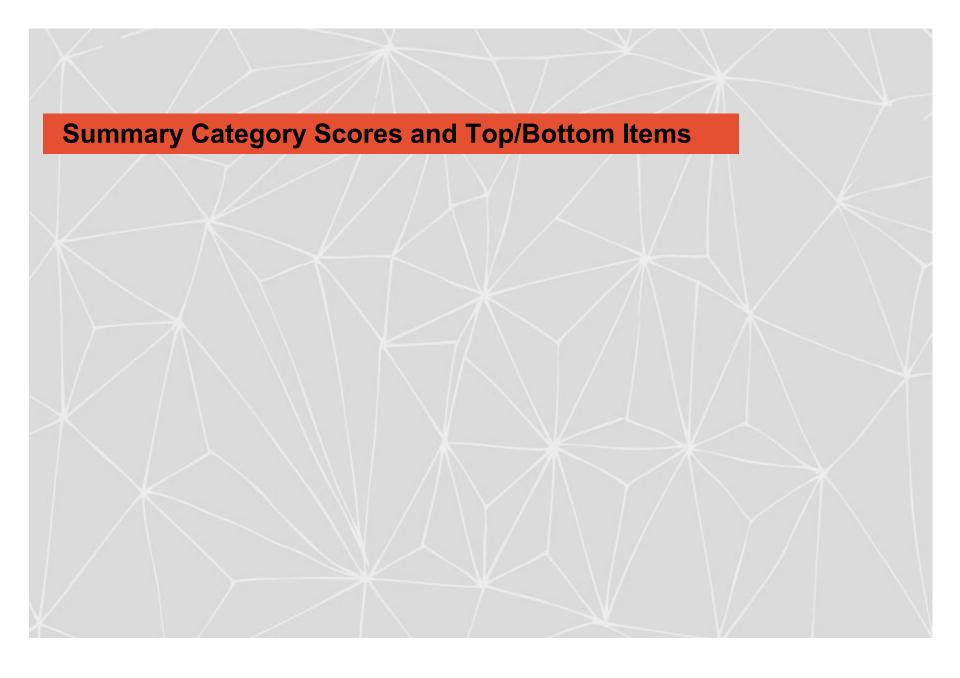
## **Executive Summary (cont'd)**

## Benchmark Comparisons

- 2009 NRC survey: Results have statistically decreased in 8 categories and remained the same in 11 categories.
  - The greatest declines are in Development, Performance Management,
     Management, NRC Image and Engagement (all -5\* points below 2009).
- U.S. National Norm: The NRC is statistically more favorable in 12 categories, equal to norm in 3 and lower than norm in the Management Category.
- U.S. Research & Development Norm: Similar to the U.S. National Norm, many categories (12) categories are more favorable that the norm. Workload and Support is 15\* points above the norm with Training at 9\* points and Communication at 7\* points.
- U.S. High Performing Companies Norm: This high standard highlights some of the opportunities for the NRC. Nine categories are statistically below norm, with Management at -12\* points.

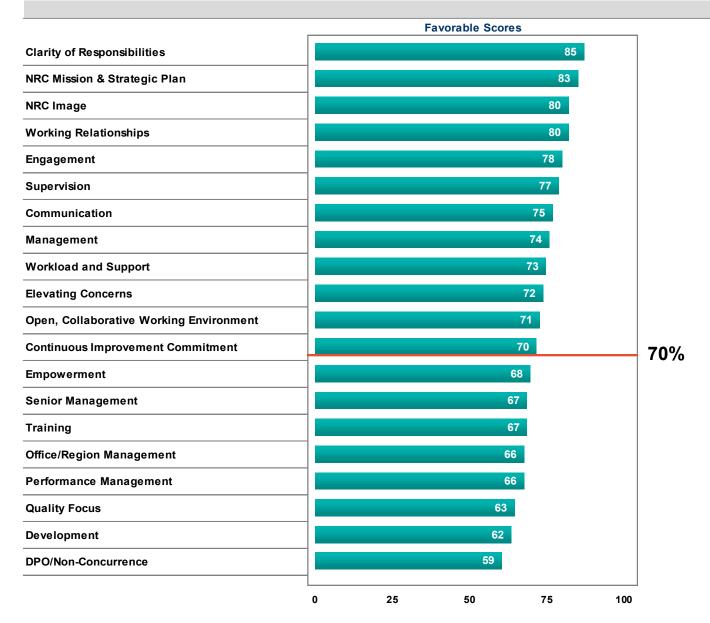
## Key Drivers of Sustainable Engagement:

Driver focus on Empowerment, NRC Mission and Strategic Plan and Training.
 These three categories explain 74% of the reasons for sustained engagement in the NRC.



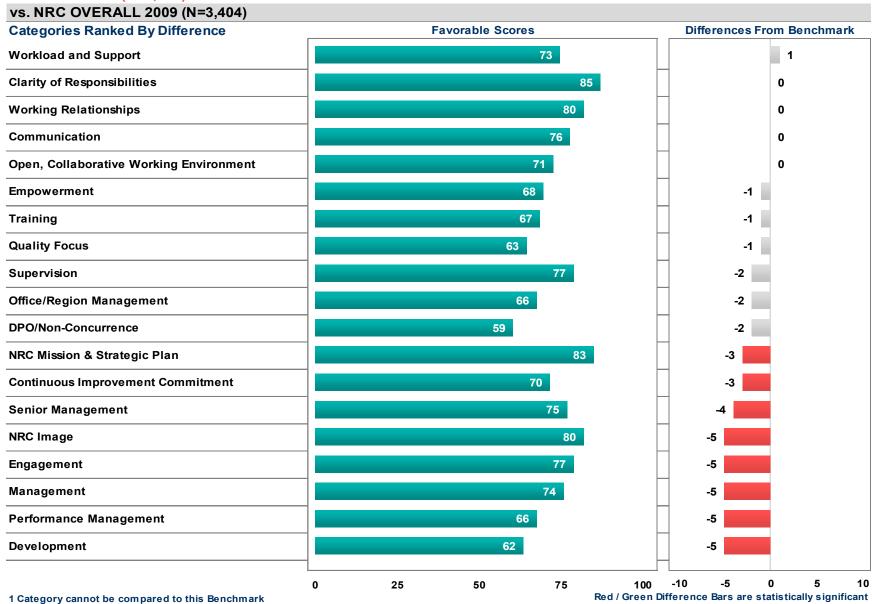
## **Summary Category Scores**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)



## **Summary Category Scores vs. Benchmark**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)



# **Top 10 Items**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

## vs. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)

Top 10 Differences From Benchmark	Total Favorable	Diff	Neutral Midpoint	Total Unfavor- able	Don't Know (Other)
COMMUNICATION: How effective are the following at enhancing internal communications: EDO Updates	79	+13*	14	4	3
DPO/NON-CONCURRENCE: I am aware of the following methods to raise a concern: The Non-Concurrence Process	88	+10*	8	4	
COMMUNICATION: How effective are the following at enhancing internal communications: ADAMS	51	+8*	20	21	8
OPEN, COLLABORATIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT: I am aware of the following methods to raise a concern: The Open Door Policy	94	+7*	3	2	
SUPERVISION: My supervisor adequately explains the resolution of differing views that were raised.	57	+7*	28	15	
WORKLOAD AND SUPPORT: There is usually sufficient staff in my work unit to handle the workload.	68	+6*	7	26	
DPO/NON-CONCURRENCE: I am aware of the following methods to raise a concern: The Differing Professional Opinions [DPO] Process	91	+6*	6	3	
WORKING RELATIONSHIPS: In my experience, there is good cooperation between: Headquarters and my [the] region[s]	70	+5*	19	11	
DPO/NON-CONCURRENCE: From what I know or have heard, I think the: The Non-Concurrence Process is effective	49	+5*	37	14	
TRAINING: The training I have received from the NRC has adequately prepared me for the work I do.	86	+4*	5	9	
	0 25 50 75 100	* indica	ites a statis	tically signi	ficant difference

## **Bottom 10 Items**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

#### vs. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)

D = 44 =	40	D:66	<b></b>	D	المالية والمساوية
Bottom	10	Differences	<b>From</b>	Benc	nmark

**ENGAGEMENT:** Are you seriously considering leaving the NRC because of your retirement?

DPO/NON-CONCURRENCE: During the past year, I have heard of someone who has experienced a negative reaction for having raised a mission-related differing view from: Their supervisor

DPO/NON-CONCURRENCE: During the past year, I have heard of someone who has experienced a negative reaction for having raised a mission-related differing view from: Senior management

DPO/NON-CONCURRENCE: During the past year, I have heard of someone who has experienced a negative reaction for having raised a mission-related differing view from: Their peers

NRC IMAGE: In my experience, all NRC employees are held to the same standards of ethical behavior.

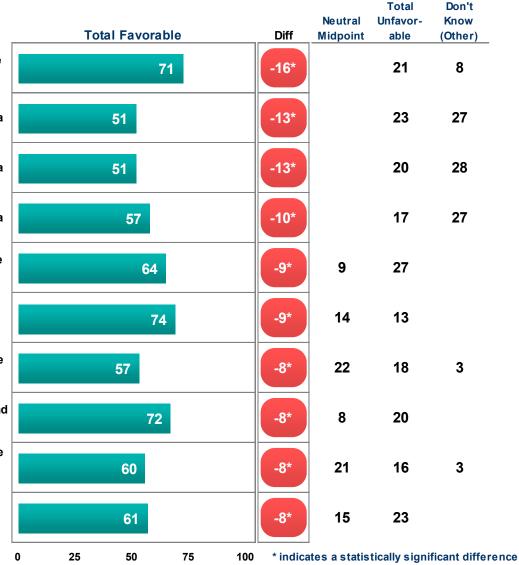
MANAGEMENT: Management recognizes and respects the value of human differences.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: How do you rate your last performance review in terms of helping you to: Improve your job performance

TRAINING: I believe I have the opportunity for personal development and growth in this organization.

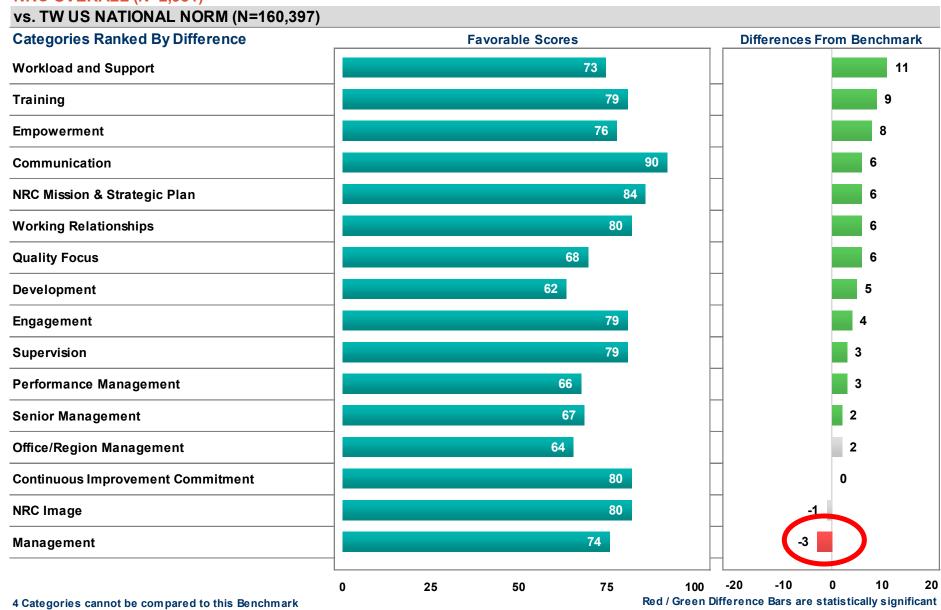
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: How do you rate your last performance review in terms of helping you to: Identify your strengths and weaknesses

**DEVELOPMENT: I** think the NRC is doing a good job of: Developing its people to their full potential



# **Summary Category Scores vs. Benchmark**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)



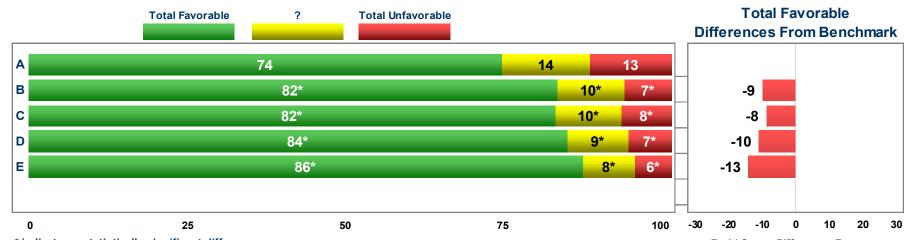
# **Management Items**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

#### vs. 4 Benchmarks

#### **Category 9: Management**

35. Management recognizes and respects the value of human differences.



<sup>\*</sup> indicates a statistically significant difference

Red / Green Difference Bars are statistically significant

A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

B. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)

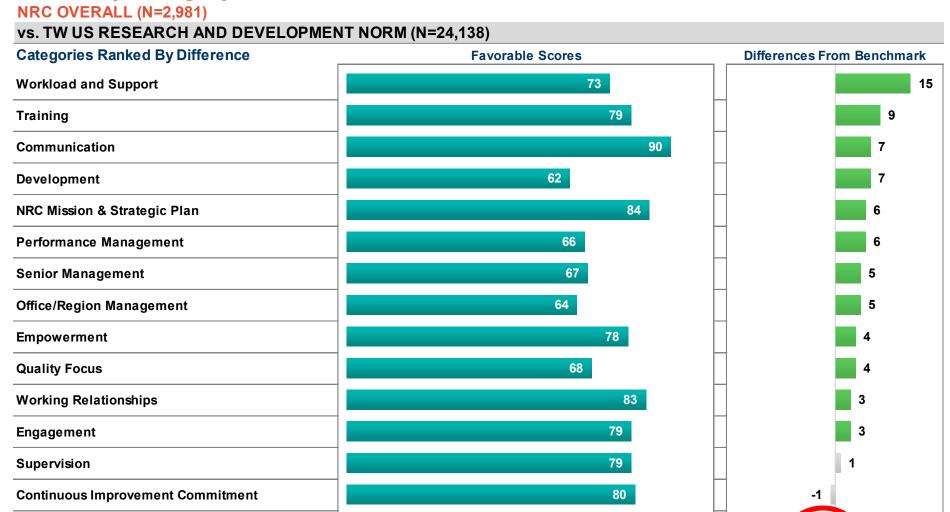
C. TW US NATIONAL NORM (N=160,397)

D. TW US RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NORM (N=24,138)

## **Summary Category Scores vs. Benchmark**

Management

**NRC Image** 





74

80

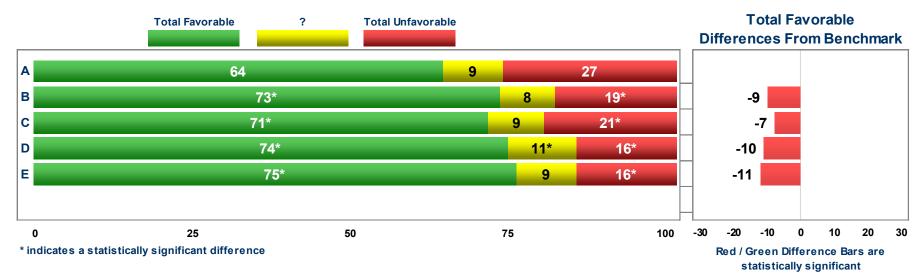
# **NRC Image Items**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

#### vs. 4 Benchmarks

#### Category 10: NRC Image

12. In my experience, all NRC employees are held to the same standards of ethical behavior.



D. TW US RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NORM (N=24,138)

A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

B. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)

C. TW US NATIONAL NORM (N=160,397)

# **Summary Category Scores vs. Benchmark**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)



# **Items By Category**

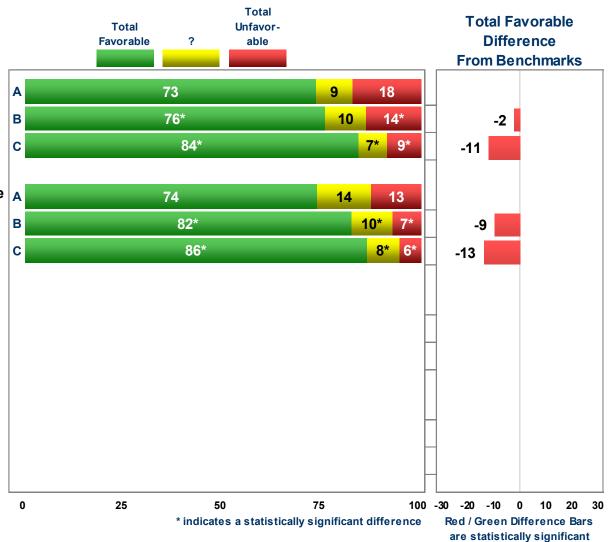
NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

#### vs. 2 Benchmarks

#### **Category 9: Management**

20. The management style at the NRC encourages employees to give their best.

35. Management recognizes and respects the value of human differences.



Legend

A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

B. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)

## **Items By Category**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

#### vs. 2 Benchmarks

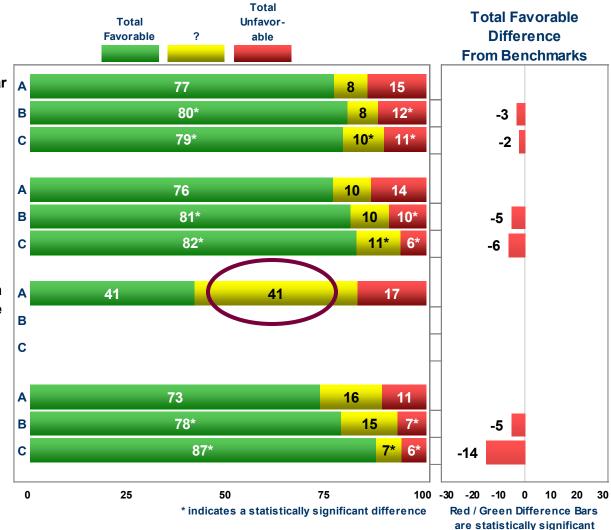
#### **Category 16: Senior Management**

2. NRC senior management provides a clear sense of direction.

18b. I have confidence in the decisions made by: The senior management team of the NRC

26. I feel significant actions have been taken as a result of the previous Safety Culture and Climate survey.

48d. In my judgment, the following are well managed: The NRC as a whole



#### Legend

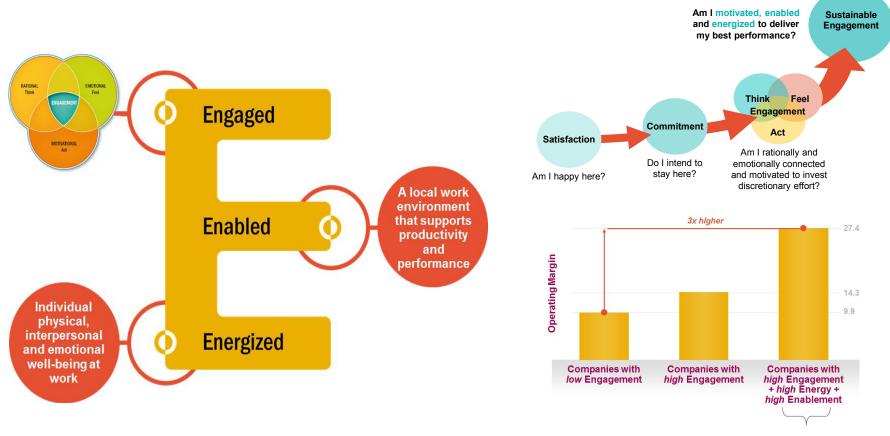
A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

B. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)



# Sustainable engagement: Advancing the concept

Our model of engagement has evolved following Towers Watson research into high-performing companies. We see the best financial performance in companies with sustainable engagement.



Source: Towers Watson's Global Normative Database

# **NRC 2012 Sustainable Engagement Items**

## Engagement

- I would recommend the NRC as a good place to work.
- I am proud to be associated with the NRC.
- I believe strongly in the goals and objectives of this organization.
- The NRC energizes me to go the extra mile.

#### Enablement

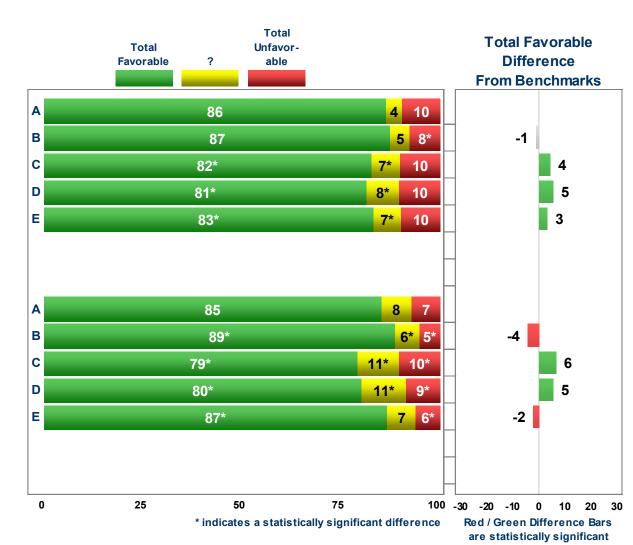
I have the work tools and resources I need to achieve exceptional performance.

## Energy

- My work gives me a sense of personal accomplishment.
- The amount of stress I experience in my job seriously reduces my effectiveness.
- I am able to sustain the level of energy I need throughout the work day.

28. My work gives me a sense of personal accomplishment.

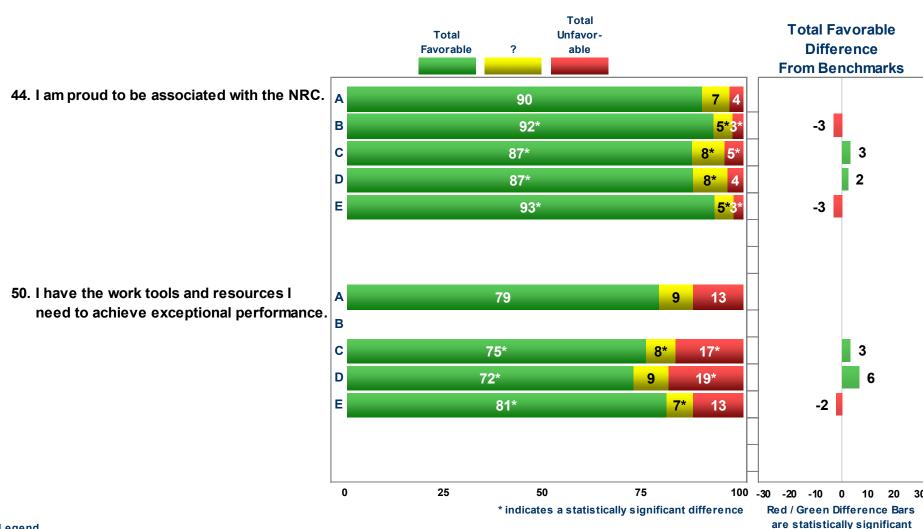
29. I would recommend the NRC as a good place to work.



#### Legend

- A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)
- B. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)
- C. TW US NATIONAL NORM (N=160,397)

D. TW US RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NORM (N=24,138) E. TW US HIGH PERFORMING COMPANIES NORM (N=140,000)



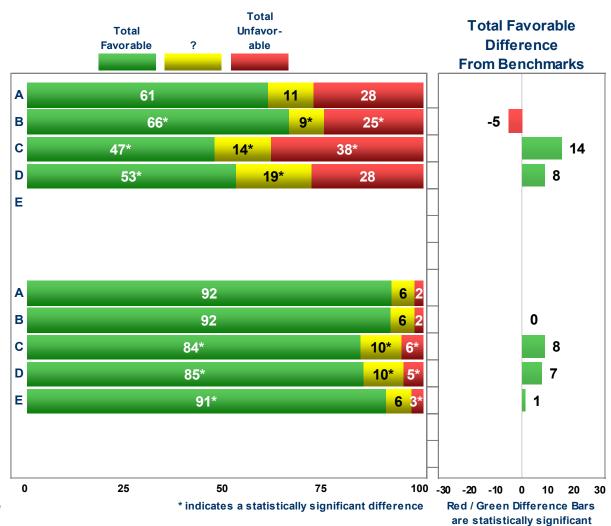
#### Legend

- A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)
- B. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)
- C. TW US NATIONAL NORM (N=160,397)

D. TW US RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NORM (N=24,138)

53. The amount of stress I experience in my job seriously reduces my effectiveness.(N)

55. I believe strongly in the goals and objectives of this organization.



(N) indicates 'Disagreeing' is the Favorable Response  $% \left( \mathbf{N}\right) =\left( \mathbf{N}\right) \cdot \mathbf{N}$ 

Legend
A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

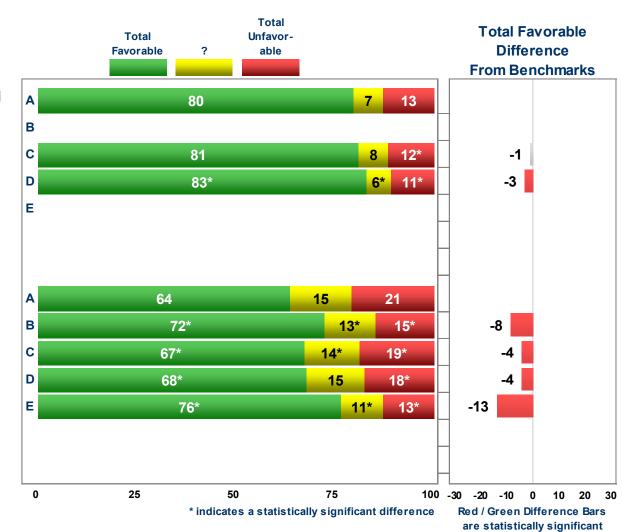
B. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)

C. TW US NATIONAL NORM (N=160,397)

D. TW US RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NORM (N=24,138)

66. I am able to sustain the level of energy I need throughout the work day.

70. The NRC energizes me to go the extra mile.



Legend

A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

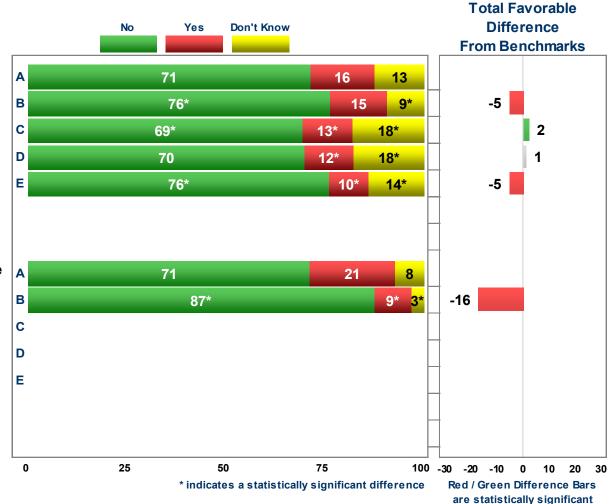
B. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)

C. TW US NATIONAL NORM (N=160,397)

D. TW US RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NORM (N=24,138)

83. At the present time, are you seriously considering leaving the NRC?

84. Are you seriously considering leaving the NRC because of your retirement?



Legend

A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

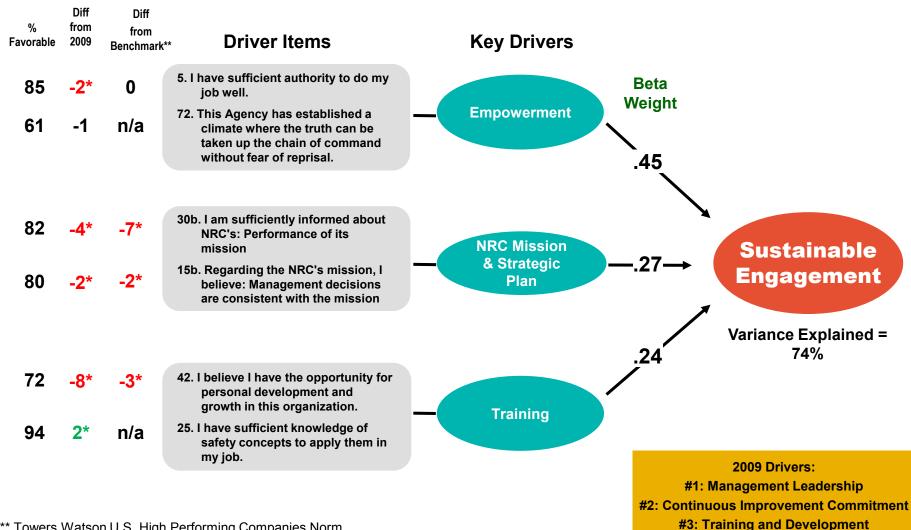
B. NRC OVERALL 2009 (N=3,404)

C. TW US NATIONAL NORM (N=160,397)

D. TW US RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT NORM (N=24,138)

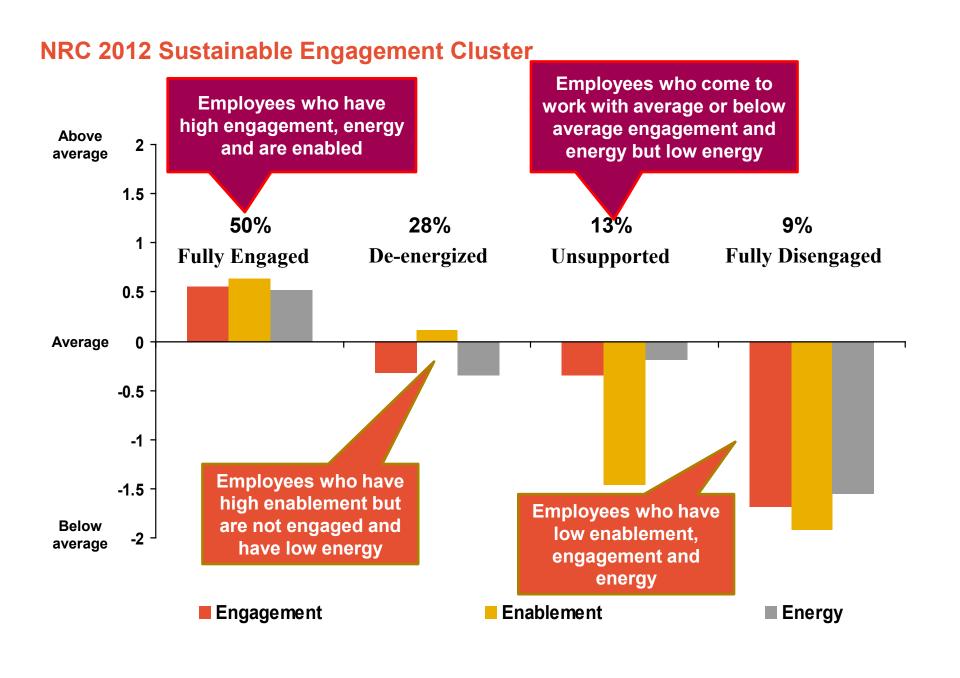


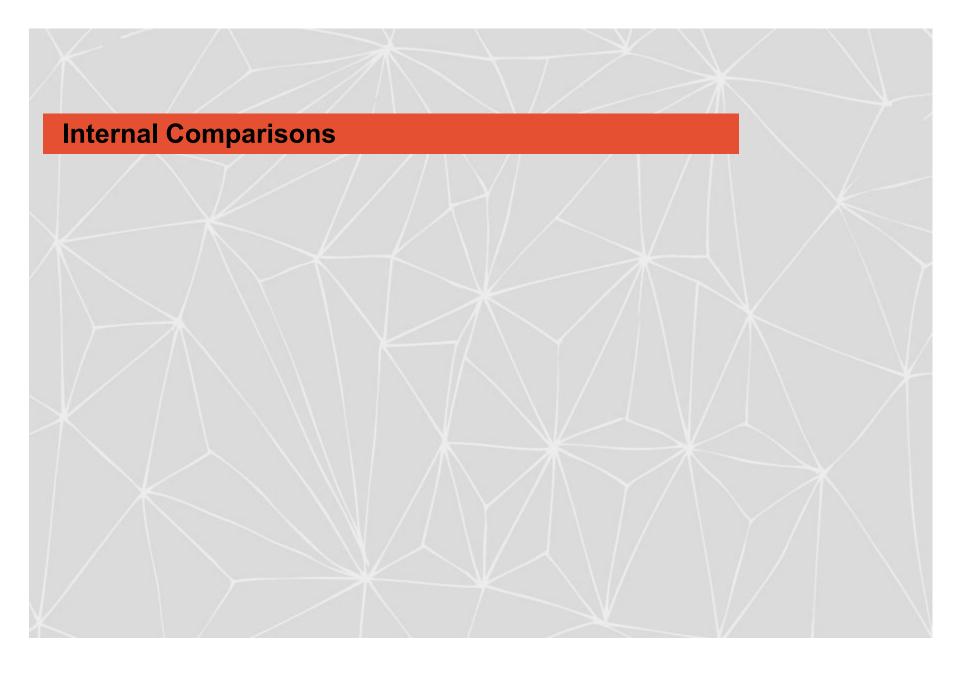
# **Overall 2012 Key Drivers of Sustainable Engagement**



<sup>\*\*</sup> Towers Watson U.S. High Performing Companies Norm.

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates a statistically significant difference.





# **Category Breakdown Matrix**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

## **By Job Function**

A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

B. ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT (N=854)

C. ENGINEERING (N=1,428)

D. LEGAL (N=108)

E. SECURITY (N=197)

F. SCIENTIFIC (N=361)

	Values displayed are based on Total Favorable		Colored Cells indicate a statistically significant difference					
#	Category	Α	В	С	D	E	F	
1	Clarity of Responsibilities	85	0	2	1	-9	-2	
2	Communication	75	2	0	-3	-4	-1	
3	Continuous Improvement Commitment	70	1	0	-2	-3	1	
4	Development	62	1	1	-1	-7	-1	
5	DPO/Non-Concurrence	59	-7	5	1	-6	1	
6	Elevating Concerns	72	-2	2	-1	-5	1	
7	Empowerment	68	-3	3	1	-5	0	
8	Engagement	78	-2	2	-1	-4	0	
9	Management	74	0	2	-4	-7	1	
10	NRC Image	80	-3	3	-1	-6	2	
11	NRC Mission & Strategic Plan	83	-1	2	-4	-3	0	
12	Office/Region Management	66	-1	2	-1	-10	2	
13	Open, Collaborative Working Environment	71	-3	3	1	-5	1	
14	Performance Management	66	2	0	-4	0	-2	
15	Quality Focus	63	-4	4	-1	-6	0	
16	Senior Management	67	1	0	-4	-5	0	
17	Supervision	77	-1	2	3	-5	-3	
18	Training	67	0	2	1	-5	-1	
19	Working Relationships	80	-2	3	-4	-5	-2	
20	Workload and Support	73	-2	3	6	-10	-1	

# **Category Breakdown Matrix**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

#### By Grade Level

- A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)
- B. GG-1 TO GG-10 (N=245)
- C. GG-11 TO GG-12 (N=185)
- D. GG-13 (N=686)

- E GG-14 (N=864)
- F. GG-15 (N=764)
- G. SENIOR LEVEL/ADMIN LAW JUDGE (N=25)
- H. SES/SLS/EXECUTIVE LEVEL (N=185)

	Values displayed are based on Total Favorable			Colored Cells indicate a statistically significant difference						
#	Category	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	
1	Clarity of Responsibilities	85	5	-3	0	-4	2	13	9	
2	Communication	75	7	2	-2	-4	1	-2	10	
3	Continuous Improvement Commitment	70	5	4	-2	-4	1	-3	13	
4	Development	62	8	2	-3	-6	3	-2	19	
5	DPO/Non-Concurrence	59	-6	-6	-4	-3	6	-9	23	
6	Elevating Concerns	72	3	-2	-2	-5	3	-3	18	
7	Empowerment	68	0	0	-3	-5	4	2	20	
8	Engagement	78	3	2	0	-3	0	3	7	
9	Management	74	8	2	-3	-6	4	-2	17	
10	NRC Image	80	2	-1	0	-3	1	6	11	
11	NRC Mission & Strategic Plan	83	3	2	-1	-3	1	-5	10	
12	Office/Region Management	66	10	1	-4	-6	2	5	22	
13	Open, Collaborative Working Environment	71	-1	-2	-3	-4	5	-3	19	
14	Performance Management	66	8	2	-5	-4	3	-15	14	
15	Quality Focus	63	1	-3	-3	-3	1	5	20	
16	Senior Management	67	8	-2	-4	-5	3	-9	19	
17	Supervision	77	4	3	-3	-4	2	8	15	
18	Training	67	2	4	-1	-3	0	3	8	
19	Working Relationships	80	2	0	-1	-3	2	-11	11	
20	Workload and Support	73	4	1	0	-3	-1	14	13	

## **Category Breakdown Matrix**

NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

#### By Total Length of NRC/AEC Service

A. NRC OVERALL (N=2,981)

B. LESS THAN 1 YEAR OF SVC (N=48)

C. 1 YEAR BUT < 5 YEARS OF SVC (N=737)

D. 5 YEARS BUT < 10 YEARS OF SVC (N=914)

E. 10 YEARS BUT < 15 YEARS OF SVC (N=379)

F. 15 YEARS BUT < 20 YEARS OF SVC (N=153)

G. 20 YEARS BUT < 25 YEARS OF SVC (N=320)

H. 25 YEARS OR MORE OF SVC (N=414)

	Values displayed are based on Total Favorable	Colored Cells indicate a statistically significant difference							
#	Category	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
1	Clarity of Responsibilities	85	1	0	-3	1	0	3	4
2	Communication	75	9	1	-2	-1	0	2	1
3	Continuous Improvement Commitment	70	5	0	-1	-1	0	2	2
4	Development	62	22	0	-4	0	-2	4	4
5	DPO/Non-Concurrence	59	-2	-2	-1	0	3	5	4
6	Elevating Concerns	72	11	2	-2	0	-2	0	2
7	Empowerment	68	12	0	-2	0	0	0	3
8	Engagement	78	6	3	-1	1	-1	-1	-3
9	Management	74	19	2	-3	0	-5	-1	4
10	NRC Image	80	12	2	-1	0	1	-1	-1
11	NRC Mission & Strategic Plan	83	9	1	-3	0	0	1	2
12	Office/Region Management	66	23	1	-3	-3	1	3	5
13	Open, Collaborative Working Environment	71	10	0	-2	1	0	0	2
14	Performance Management	66	-9	1	-2	1	3	0	4
15	Quality Focus	63	4	2	-3	0	0	3	0
16	Senior Management	67	4	-1	-3	0	1	3	6
17	Supervision	77	12	1	-2	0	-3	2	3
18	Training	67	7	1	-3	0	-1	1	4
19	Working Relationships	80	8	-1	-2	2	1	1	4
20	Workload and Support	73	11	0	-2	-1	-2	3	3



## **2012 NRC Strengths**

#### Workload and Support

- Employees feel strongly that there is usually enough staff to handle the workload (+23\* vs. R&D, +12\* vs. U.S. Nat'l, +6\* vs. NRC 2009)
- Employees agree that priorities do not change so frequently that it affects their work (+13\* R&D and +15\* vs. U.S. Nat'l)

## Training (A Key Driver)

- The NRC received high marks on training preparing employees for the work they do (+10\* vs. R&D, High Performance, and U.S. Nat'l)
- There is also high agreement that employees have sufficient opportunities to receive training to improve skills for the current job (+6\* vs. U.S. High Performance, +12\* vs. R&D, and +14\* U.S. Nat'l)

#### Communication

- There is a clear understanding of:
  - The NRC as a whole (+4\* vs. High Performance, +9\* vs. R&D, +8\* vs. U.S. Nat'l., and +2\* vs. 2009)
  - How the goals and objectives of employees' work fit into the NRC's future direction (+6\* vs. R&D and +7\* vs. U.S. National)

## Engagement

• Employees believe strongly in the in the goals and objectives of the NRC (+1\* vs. High Performance, +7\* vs. R&D, and +8\* vs. U.S. Nat'l) and have a strong sense of personal accomplishment (+3\* vs. High Performance, +5\* vs. R&D, +4\* vs. U.S. Nat'l)

## **2012 NRC Opportunities**

#### Management

• Employees are less likely to think that management recognizes and respects the value of human differences (-13\* vs. High Performance, -10\* vs. R&D, -8\* vs. U.S. Nat'l, and -9\* vs. 2009)

#### DPO/ Non-Concurrence

• Opinions have decreased since 2009 on views of experiencing negative reactions from raising a mission-related differing view from: senior management (-13\*), Supervisors (-13\*), Peers (-10\*)

## NRC Image

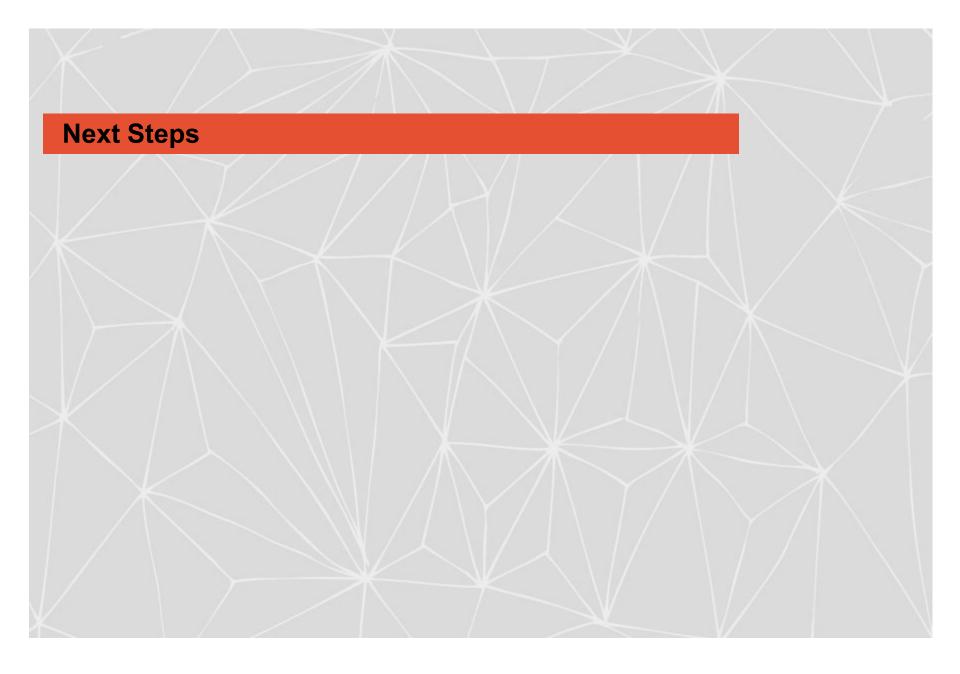
Employees do not feel that everyone is held to the same ethical standard (-11\* vs. High Performance, -10\* vs. R&D, -7\* vs. U.S. Nat'l, and -9\* vs. 2009)

## Development

- Views have decreased since 2009 regarding the NRC:
  - Recruiting the right people for future needs (-12\* vs. High Performance and -8\* vs. 2009)
  - Retaining its most talented people (-6\* vs. High Performance and 2009)

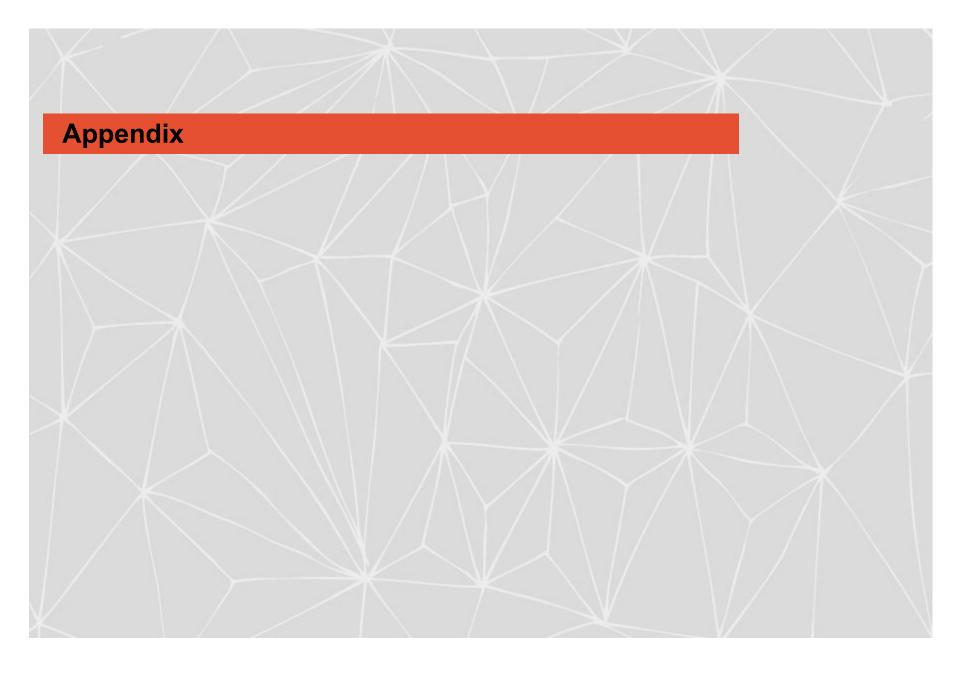
## Performance Management

- Regarding performance evaluation, views have dropped since 2009 on:
  - Identifying strengths and weaknesses (-12\* vs. High Performance and -8\* vs. 2009)
  - Improving job performance (-7\* vs. High Performance and -8\* vs. 2009)



# **Next Steps**

- Briefing for Commission
- Briefing for Staff
- Conduct Results to Action Workshop
- November 8
- November 8
- January 8-11, 2013



## **Key Definitions**

- SENIOR MANAGEMENT refers to NRC supervisors and managers at the Deputy Office Director/ Deputy Regional Administrator level and above, including the Chairman, and Commissioners. Also includes senior management such as the IG, the CFO, the EDO, Deputy Executive Director for Reactor and Preparedness Programs, Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste, Research, State, Tribal and Compliance Programs, Deputy Executive Director for Corporate Management
- MANAGEMENT refers to all supervisors and managers as a whole and would include the person to whom you report on a day-to-day basis
- OFFICE/REGION MANAGEMENT refers to all supervisors and managers as a whole in your Office such as the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Enforcement, and Office of Information Services. In the Regions, this term refers to all managers and supervisors in your Region
- **SUPERVISOR** refers to the person to whom you report on a day-to-day basis, regardless of his or her title. This definition is applicable only for this questionnaire. It differs from the definition for a supervisor under 5 U.S.C. 7103 (1)(10)
- STAKEHOLDERS refers to such elements [internal and external] with which the NRC interacts [employees, licensees, interveners, the general public, Congress, the nuclear industry]

# **Norm Descriptions**

Towers Watson's U.S. High Performance Companies Norm							
Impact	A stretch comparison to some of the most effective companies in the U.S.						
Description	The Towers Watson U.S. High Performance Companies Norm is comprised of a weighted average of 140,000 employee survey results from a cross-section of industry sectors for operations located in the U.S. The data is derived from recent client studies conducted by Towers Watson. Companies qualify for the norm by meeting two criteria: (a) superior financial performance, defined by a net profit margin and/or return on invested capital that exceeds industry averages; and (b) superior human resource practices, defined by employee opinion scores near the top among the most financially successful companies surveyed by Towers Watson.						

Towers Watson's U.S. National Norm							
Impact	A look across a broad range of U.S. industries						
Description	The Towers Watson U.S. National Norm is comprised of a weighted average of 160,397 employee survey results from a cross-section of industry sectors for operations located in the United States. The data is derived from recent client studies conducted by Towers Watson and is updated annually. Data are weighted by size and by industry using current Census data so as to represent the distribution of employees in major industry sectors across the nation.						

Towers Watson's U.S. Research & Development Norm							
Impact	Provides the NRC with a distinct comparison to the U.S. R&D industry						
Description	The Towers Watson U.S. Research and Development Norm is comprised of a weighted average of 24,138 survey results from U.S. employees working in Research and Development functions/departments in organizations across sectors. The data is derived from recent client studies conducted by Towers Watson. The norm is updated annually.						