Light Water Reactor Sustainability Program

Advanced Instrumentation, Information, and Control Systems Technologies

Digital Technology Business Case Methodology Guide



September 2014

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Nuclear Energy

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Advanced Instrumentation, Information, and Control Systems Technologies

Digital Technology Business Case Methodology Guide

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BCM Business Case Methodology

BCMW Business Case Methodology Workbook

DOE Department of Energy

II&C Instrumentation, Information, and Control

INPO Institute for Nuclear Power Operations

KPI Key Performance Indicator

LWR Light Water Reactor

LWRS Light Water Reactor Sustainability

NPP Nuclear Power Plant

NPV Net Present Value

O&M Operating and Maintenance

R&D Research and Development

Program Purpose

The Department of Energy's (DOE's) Light Water Reactor Sustainability Program aims to develop and deploy technologies that will make the existing U.S. nuclear fleet more efficient and competitive. The program has developed a standard methodology for determining the impact of new technologies in order to assist nuclear power plant (NPP) operators in building sound business cases.

Introduction to the Methodology

The Advanced Instrumentation, Information, and Control (II&C) Systems Technologies Pathway is part of the DOE's Light Water Reactor Sustainability (LWRS) Program. It conducts targeted research and development (R&D) to address aging and reliability concerns with the legacy instrumentation and control and related information systems of the U.S. operating light water reactor (LWR) fleet. This work involves two major goals: (1) to ensure that legacy analog II&C systems are not life-limiting issues for the LWR fleet and (2) to implement digital II&C technology in a manner that enables broad innovation and business improvement in the NPP operating model. Resolving long-term operational concerns with the II&C systems contributes to the long-term sustainability of the LWR fleet, which is vital to the nation's energy and environmental security.

The II&C Pathway is conducting a series of pilot projects that enable the development and deployment of new II&C technologies in existing nuclear plants. Through the LWRS program, individual utilities and plants are able to participate in these projects or otherwise leverage the results of projects conducted at demonstration plants.

The pilot projects conducted through this program serve as stepping stones to achieve longer-term outcomes of sustainable II&C technologies. They are designed to emphasize success in some crucial aspect of plant technology refurbishment and sustainable modernization. They provide the opportunity to develop and demonstrate methods to technology development and deployment that can be broadly standardized and leveraged by the commercial nuclear power fleet.

Performance advantages of the new pilot project technologies are widely acknowledged, but it has proven difficult for utilities to derive business cases for justifying investment in these new capabilities. Lack of a business case is often cited by utilities as a barrier to pursuing wide-scale application of digital technologies to nuclear plant work activities. The decision to move forward with funding usually hinges on demonstrating actual cost reductions that can be credited to budgets and thereby truly reduce O&M or capital costs. Technology enhancements, while enhancing work methods and making work more efficient, often fail to eliminate workload such that it changes overall staffing and material cost requirements. It is critical to demonstrate cost reductions or impacts on non-cost performance objectives in order for the business case to justify investment by nuclear operators.

The Business Case Methodology (BCM) addresses the "benefit" side of the analysis—as opposed to the cost side—and how the organization evaluates discretionary projects (net present value (NPV), accounting effects of taxes, discount rates, etc.). The cost and analysis side is not particularly difficult for the organization and can usually be determined with a fair amount of precision (not withstanding

implementation project cost overruns). It is in determining the "benefits" side of the analysis that utilities have more difficulty in technology projects and that is the focus of this methodology. The methodology is presented in the context of the entire process, but the tool provided is limited to determining the organizational benefits only.

This BCM approaches building a business case for a particular technology or suite of technologies by detailing how they impact an operator in one or more of the three following areas: Labor Costs, Non-Labor Costs, and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Key to those impacts will be identifying where the savings are "harvestable," meaning they result in an actual reduction in headcount and/or cost.



Figure 1: Key Areas of Impact

Impacts to NPPs in these three areas should be quantified and built into a comprehensive business case for the adoption of a technology.

Methodology Purpose

The purpose of the BCM is to provide a structure for building the business case for adopting pilot project technologies in a manner that captures the total organizational benefits that can be derived from the improved work methods. This includes the direct benefit to the targeted work process, efficiencies gained in related work processes, and avoided costs through the improvement of work quality and reduction of human error.

Specifically, the BCM highlights key questions to ask and guides the utility through, as well as identifies where in the process to employ, the Business Case Methodology Workbook (BCMW) for benefits/cost savings identification. The approach enables collaboration between the II&C Pathway and utility partners in applying new technologies across multiple NPP organizations and their respective work activities, wherever there is opportunity to derive benefit. In this manner, the BCM drives an "economy of scale" that maximizes the value of the technologies relative to the implementation cost.

The BCM leverages the fact that, in spite of what seems to be a wide and disparate array of work activities among an NPP's operational and support organizations, the work activities themselves are largely composed of common tasks. For example, whether the work activities are in Operations, Chemistry, Radiation Protection, or even Security, they have in common such tasks as pre-job briefs, use of procedures, correct component identification, emergent conditions requiring work package alteration,

etc. It is at this task level that the technologies are applied, and therefore the benefits of the technologies can be realized across as many plant activities as can be identified to employ these tasks. In this manner, a much more comprehensive business case can be derived that greatly increases the benefit/cost ratio. This has the added benefit of driving consistency across the NPP organizations, which is a fundamental principle of successful NPP operational and safety management.

Nuclear Power Plant Cost Construct

To understand where a technology might benefit an NPP/utility, the user must understand the overall NPP's cost construct to identify what "line item" in the budget the technology affects. A typical NPP's cost model is broken down into three components:

- 1. O&M Online
- 2. O&M Outage
- 3. Capital

Figure 2 illustrates the O&M – Online Cost Construct of an NPP.

Note: Projects consists of "red" and "green" Sub Account Roll-up items

Nuclear Power Plant Online Cost Construct Detailed Account **Summary Cost** Department **Sub Account** Categories Roll-up Regular Time Base Salary Site VP Labor and Wages Overtime Baseline Operations Non-Labor Contractor Bonuses Contracting Maintenance Services Projects 1 Material and Engineering Tools Chemistry IT Reg Fees and Rad Pro Insturance Other Security Operating Exp Other Depts. Travel Chemicals

Figure 2: O&M-Online Cost Construct

Intercompany

Figure 3 illustrates the O&M – Outage Cost Construct of an NPP.

Figure 3: O&M-Outage Cost Construct

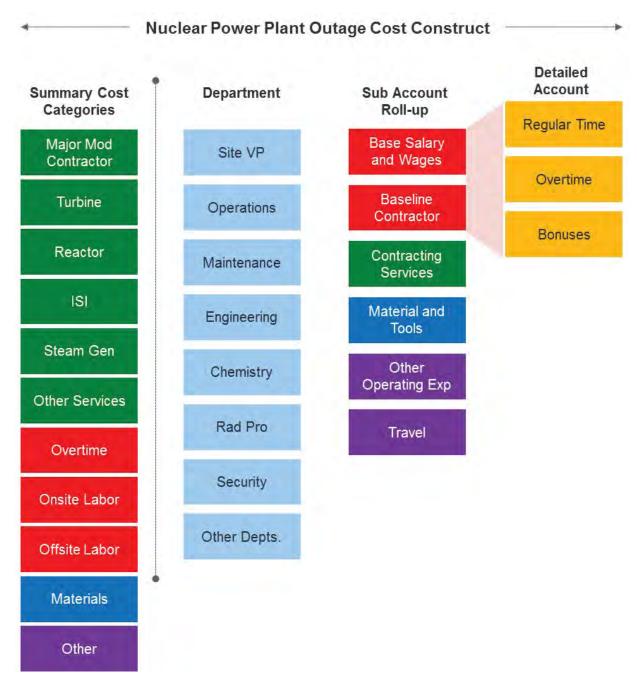


Figure 4 illustrates the Capital Cost Construct of an NPP. Please note this is broken down by project.

Nuclear Power Plant Capital Cost Construct Detailed Account Project **Summary Cost** Department **Sub Account** Categories Roll-up Regular Time Base Salary **Projects** Labor Site VP and Wages Overtime Baseline Operations Contractor Non-Labor Bonuses Contracting Maintenance Services Material and Engineering Tools Chemistry IT Reg Fees and Rad Pro Insturance Other Security Operating Exp Other Depts. Travel Chemicals Intercompany

Figure 4: Capital Cost Construct

Methodology Overview

The BCM consists of six steps, as follows:

- 1. Identify Utility Common Practices
- 2. Define Model Inputs/Variables
- 3. Determine Key Business Output Measures
- 4. Build Business Case Model
- 5. Perform Input/Variable Sensitivity Analysis
- 6. Present Business Case Ranges

The outcome of the methodology is a robust financial analysis of the costs and benefits associated with the adoption of a new technology on a nuclear site.

Building the Business Case

Step 1: Identify Utility Common Practices

In order to evaluate projects across the organization effectively, utilities may already have a set of business case process requirements that are to be adhered to and leveraged. The BCMW supplements the utility's project evaluation process to determine the value provided by the technology to the utility. The following questions should be explored as part of the first steps of engaging a utility.

Financial Output Measures

- What financial measures are typically used to assess and compare business cases for projects?
 - o Net Present Value (NPV)
 - o Payback Period
 - o Internal Rate of Return (IRR)
 - o Others?

Typical Financial Variables

- Does the NPP/utility use certain financial variables for all projects?
 - Corporate-wide discount rate used for all projects?
 - Standard inflation assumption used for all projects?
 - Common payroll/merit increase assumption used for all laborrelated projects?

Time Horizon for Investment

- Are projects evaluated on a common time horizon?
 - o 5-year time horizon?
 - o 10-year time horizon?
- Note: Important to understand upfront as this will impact financial output measures

Business Case Templates/Format

- Are there business case templates/formats that should be used?
- Is there a common business case review process that will need to be followed?

Incremental vs Non-Incremental

- How does the NPP/utility intend to view costs associated with the project?
 - o Incremental costs ONLY new cost directly associated with the implementation of the project
 - Example: Technology implementation would consider costs of the new technology, and any new staff dedicated to the implementation, but current IT personnel allocated to the implementation would not be considered
 - o Non-incremental (or total) costs all costs associated with supporting the implementation of the project
 - Example: Time-value of any personnel helping the project would need to be factored into the overall cost.
 If a VP is going to spend 5% of their time on the project, their associated cost would be included

One-Time vs. Recurring Costs

- One-time costs (also known as "project implementation" costs) these can be treated differently related to cost allocation and accounting in the general ledger
- Recurring costs (also known as "running" costs) these are often compared to current state base cases and can often be incorporated into current general ledger accounts

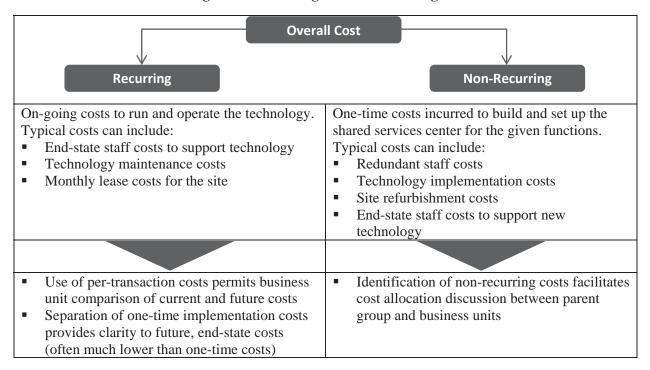
Chargeback Approach/Method

- Does the NPP/utility intend to allocate costs of the project back to various business units/departments or incur all costs centrally?
 - Allocation to business units/departments identify how costs will be allocated and which costs will have this condition; your business case model will have to be built with this in mind

Differentiating between Recurring and Non-Recurring Costs

Differentiating between recurring and non-recurring costs can facilitate comparison of current and future costs, support any cost-allocation discussions, and help the internal project team sell the nuclear technology concept.

Figure 5: Recurring vs. Non-Recurring Costs



Step 2: Define Model Inputs/Variables

A clear identification of all the business case inputs and variables will facilitate future adjustments and "what if" scenario analyses as well as help utilities review all the assumptions of the model. The cost side of the benefit will be derived by the utility or NPP. The benefits side of the table below can be derived from the BCMW.

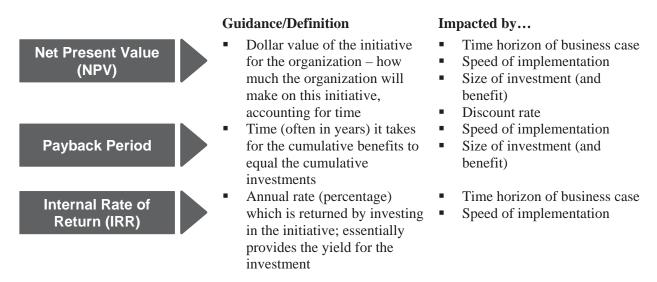
Figure 6: Typical Costs/Benefits to Consider

Typical Costs/Benefits to Consider					
COSTS	BENEFITS				
Technology					
One-time implementation/setup costs	Sunset of older technologies (saving of ongoing costs)				
Ongoing maintenance/service costs	Reduction in licenses or hosted feed for older technologies				
License fees or hosted fees					
Equipment					
Labor					
Cost of severance and outplacement	Headcount reduction*				
Other					
Consulting and project team	Non-labor cost reduction (materials, etc.)*				
Training	Improvements in KPIs*				
	Reduction in vendors/optimization of contracts				

^{*}Indicates key areas of impact for technology projects. Quantifying these benefits is discussed in Step 4.

Step 3: Determine Key Business Output Measures

Many business cases will typically have several financial metrics which are used as reference points for comparison to other cases and as key "take-away" metrics for the business.



Step 4: Build Business Case Model

In addition to the information gathered with the NPP/utility in the first three steps, building the actual business case also involves leveraging the BCMW in order to help the NPP/utility identity the areas of impact and quantify the benefits of the impact. The workbook identifies specific task-level benefits, non-labor cost centers, and KPI improvements that can be quantified and factored into the analysis or presented qualitatively to buttress the quantitative case. The BCMW determines the aggregate cost savings across the organization and across different cost drivers. The BCMW does not account for recurring and non-recurring technology costs and does not apply a financial measure or payback period

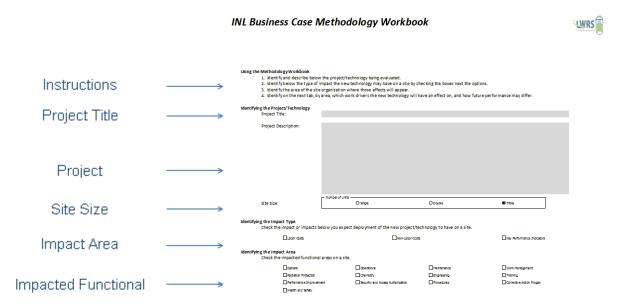
such as an NPV. Any financial measure or payback period would be done by the NPP or utilities project evaluation process.

The BCMW was developed to walk employees and NPP/utility teams through the three key impact areas of labor costs, non-labor costs, and KPIs.

Workbook Overview

The "Overview" tab requires a project title and description and prompts the user to think about the size of the site and which of the three impact areas and functional areas are affected.

Figure 7: Methodology Workbook "Overview" Tab

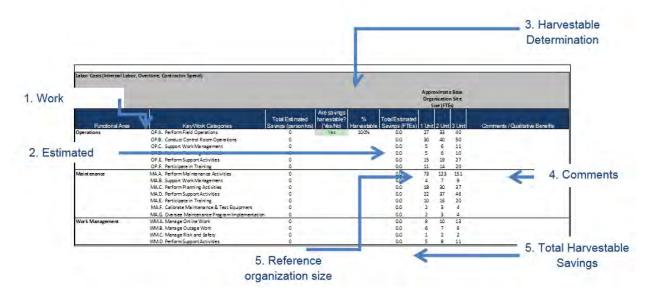


Labor Costs Categories

The Labor Cost Categories tab includes:

- 1. Key Work Categories by functional area. At a high level, these are the areas of work in each functional area that efficiencies at the task level below will show up in
- 2. Estimated savings from all of the tasks that make up a work category roll up here
- 3. Whether or not identified savings are "harvestable"
- 4. Comments and qualitative benefits can also be noted, and the Total Harvestable Savings in person hours are summed at the bottom
- 5. Total harvestable savings for the site

Figure 8: Methodology Workbook "Labor Costs Categories" Tab



Note: Costs savings in the labor category from avoided problems, for example performing fewer Root Cause Analyses due to a process improvement enabled by technology, should be accounted for in the Corrective Action Program functional area.

Labor Costs Tasks

The Labor Costs Tasks tab is used to identify the specific tasks affected by the adoption of new technology. These tasks are grouped by functional area, as well as linked to the master Task Library (Tab 4). To populate the Labor Costs Tasks tab, work in the following order:

- 1. Work with the NPP/utility internal team to identify which of the specific tasks will be affected by the adoption of the new technology. Indicate this by selecting "Yes" in the "Impacted?" column (column E). Filter out the "Nos" in order to focus on tasks that need review and data input
- 2. Again with the NPP/utility internal team, gather data on how many units of the tasks are completed on an annual basis and the rate (i.e., hours per task, 5 minutes per pre-job brief) at which they are completed
- 3. Using research compiled by DOE as well as insights gleaned from the NPP/utility team, identify the percentage of tasks impacted, percentages of units saved, and the percentage of time saved (definitions and examples shown below). These savings are "task specific," meaning the savings numbers entered here do not affect like tasks in other functional areas

Percentage of tasks impacted – Technology impacts 100% of Operations pre-job briefs Percentage of units saved – Technology reduces the number of Operations pre-job briefs from 100 per year to 50 per year; 50% reduction

Percentage of time saved – Technology saves Operations Shift Manager 15 minutes from a typical 60-minute pre-job brief; 25% reduction

- 4. Submit any Comments/Qualitative Benefits for review after the data has been compiled
- 5. Note any universal impacts on a task from the Task Library

1. Identify impacted tasks

Of the following particular and particular partic

Figure 9: Methodology Workbook "Labor Costs Tasks" Tab

Task Library

The Task Library consists of the entire list of tasks that appear on the Labor Costs Tasks tab.

- 1. Labor Tasks may impact one or more functional areas
- 2. If upon examination of a technology it is determined that it will have a universal impact on a common task (i.e. in every instance for every functional area the impact will be the same), the percentage of units reduced or percentage of time saved can be entered on this tab
- 3. Appendix 1 demonstrates to steps to add new tasks to the Task Library in the workbook

Figure 10: Methodology Workbook "Task Library" Tab

INL Business Case Methodology Workbook Common Tasks Functional Area 1. Functional Areas un tags for testing* OP 3 Hang tags OP 4 Remove tags OP 2. Universal Impact arability determinations 8 Create labels OP 9 Log entries 10 Monitor and operate control room OP 11 Activating/deactivating LCOs OP 12 Support surveillance tests 13 Review/sign off on work packages 14 Create/manage staffing schedules OP 15 Create tags OP 16 Review/approve tags 17 Plan Work Order Tasks (e.g. PMT) 18 Test/maintain fire systems 19 Support plant initiatives requiring SROs OP 20 Conduct observations and performance appraisals OP 21 Provide in put on training packages MA 22 Complete Implemented Review 23 Conduct Correct Component verification MA 24 Label components MA 25 Document materials entering work zone MA MA 26 Sign in/out of clearances Obtain sign off from maintenance program owner (e.g., sign off on lifing plan from L&R 27 program owner) MA 28 Conduct field walkdown MA 29 Stage work area (clean, install FME dams, etc.) MA 30 Prep for shielding MA MA 32 Obtain equipment from tool room

Note: Additional tasks must be first added to the Task Library before being added to the Labor Costs Tasks tab. The Labor Costs Tasks tab uses data validation to ensure the user chooses from a drop down with set options (from the Task Library list).

Appendix 2 illustrates the functional area two-letter acronyms (e.g., OP = Operations)

Non-Labor Costs and Key Performance Indicator Impacts

The first part of the Non-Labor KPI tab walks the user through common non-labor online and outage costs that may be impacted by technology adoption. Identify the cost category and type, and work with the NPP/utility internal team to identify cost deltas.

INL Business Case Methodology Workbook LWRS Detailed Cost Category Uniform Services MGT Uniforms Fire Protection too's/supplies New Oil Products/Greases Material & Took Material & Took Material & Took Other consumables Diesel Fuel 1. Functional Areas Dieser Fuel
Labeling Material
Meetings STavel
Relims STavel
Relims Durses and Employee Recognition Expenses
Lan inchies Pacility Repairs Contract
Recility Repairs Contract
Total Material & Took 2. Sub Account Tresh Pest Control Lawn care Contract Services Contract Services Snow removal Maintenance Mod Contractor Walk downs & Estimates Contract Services Contract Services Contract Services Wall downs & Estimates
Equility and Rental
Inhibit
Seed of Owned)
Division
Ovable Tean Reg/Vendor
CKD Resultids
Say Vetavulids
Ruma D vernaul
Versa Resultids
Squipment & Tool Repairs
Beraier Overnauls
Outside Tean Reg/Vendor Support 3. Description of Cost Category Contract Services Contract Services 4. Cost before, after Contract Services Contract Services Contract Services Contract Services Contract Services Contract Services Material & Took Material & Took Waterial & Took and estimated Bevator Inspection & Repair Oil Analysis Oil/Diesel Ruel Analysis savings 5. Comments Material & Tools Material & Tools Vehicle Fuel Facility maintenance Materiel & Tools Materiel & Tools Non-Capital Tools

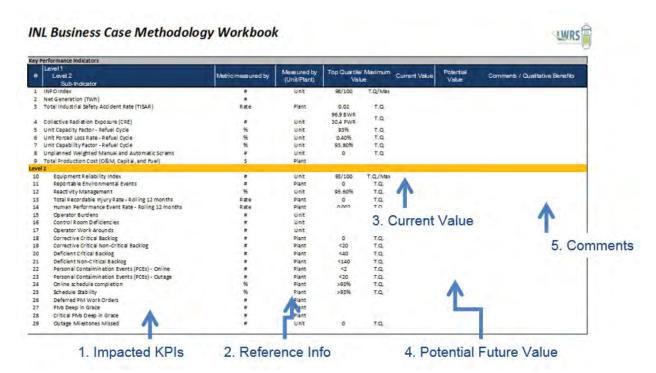
Figure 11: Methodology Workbook "Non-Labor Costs" Tab

The Non-Labor Cost worksheet is similar for online and outage costs.

Part two of the Non-Labor KPI tab lists KPI metrics that are most likely to be affected by technology adoption. Users should do the following:

- 1. Identify all impacted KPIs
- 2. Assess the current value of impacted metrics
- 3. Identify likely future value after technology adoption
- 4. Note Comments/Qualitative Benefits

Figure 12: Methodology Workbook "Key Performance Indicator" Tab



Reference

The Reference tab in the BCMW contains reference material about the approximate sizes of functional area staffing in differently sized nuclear plants. This reference material is intended to assist staff with determining size of impact since O&M costs are largely driven by labor/headcount.

Figure 13: Reference Organization Size

Unit Size Selected:	Nu	Number of Units		
2	Single	Double	Triple	
Operations	120	200	250	
Maintenance	140	250	320	
Work Management	20	30	35	
Radiation Protection	40	65	75	
Chemistry	22	30	40	
Engineering	120	160	200	
Training	35	45	55	
Performance Improvement	10	12	12	
Security & Access Authorization	220	250	260	
Procedures	12	12	12	
Corrective Action Program	10	10	10	

Step 5: Perform Input/Variable Sensitivity Analysis

Work with the NPP/utility to identify those variables or assumptions they are most concerned about in order to identify "what if" scenarios to perform. Likely candidates for sensitivity analysis could include:

- Least degree of current confidence (we just don't know if cost assumptions are accurate)
- Greatest amount of NPP/utility leadership focus (certain variables, like improving outage scheduling)
- Variables with high volatility (e.g., technology implementation costs)
- Biggest potential to affect business case outcome (some variables have significantly higher impact on business case outcome and should be highlighted and understood)

Beyond providing the range of reasonable results, sensitivities also provide leadership with insight into what levers to pull to pursue certain financial goals.

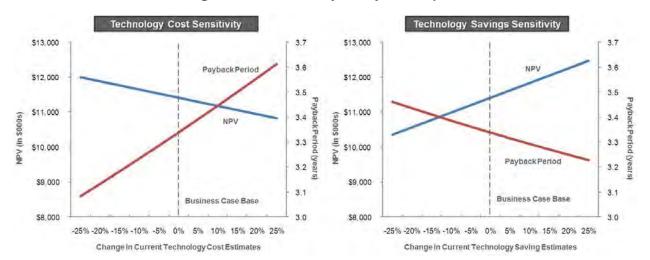


Figure 14: Sensitivity Analysis Graph 1

- Example suggests that technology costs and savings can be adjusted to achieve different financial goals
 - o If business is under pressure to break even on cash quickly, focusing on cost will provide greater impact on payback period
 - o If business is under pressure to prove long-term value of initiative, focusing on savings will provide greater impact on overall NPV

By depicting the impact of key NPP/utility sensitivities, the project team can instill comfort in the outcome even if the precise details of implementation are not yet finalized.

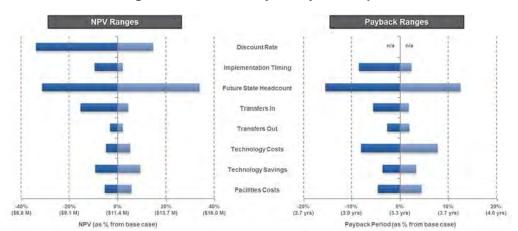


Figure 15: Sensitivity Analysis Graph 2

- Sensitivities provide "guardrails" on outcome
- Figure above identifies those variables that will have largest impact, and therefore will require most of the attention and focus during implementation

Sensitivities can highlight to leadership variables that may be out of their direct control but can still have a major impact on business case results.

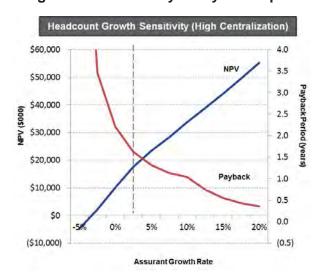


Figure 16: Sensitivity Analysis Graph 3

- The model is sensitive to growth rate estimates with NPV ranging from (\$5) million to \$55 million based on the range of possible growth rates shown here
- Payback ranges from never to 0.4 years depending on the assumed growth rate

Step 6: Present Business Case Ranges

By sharing a business case with ranges, we are able to convey the theoretical exercise inherent in the process and ensure NPP/utility leadership can make an informed, thoughtful decision based on possible outcomes.

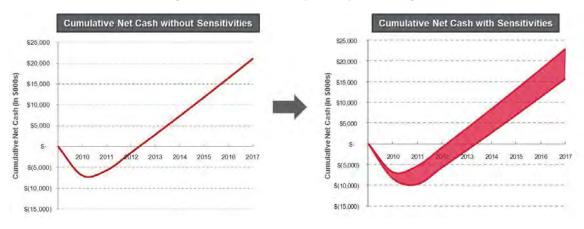


Figure 17: Sensitivity Analysis Ranges

- It is easier to disagree and dispute a single dollar-value result and much harder to dispute a range
 - o Enough assumptions are made that won't all result as predicted in the business case
- Sensitivities ensure ranges can be calculated and reviewed to understand the largest areas of risk and gauge what it would take for the business case to no longer be appealing
- Intent is not to give the appearance that all the variables have been figured out
 - o Sensitivities help convey that there can still be areas of change

Framing the Case for the Nuclear Utility Executive

Managing costs are crucial for nuclear plant profitability, and in many markets that may now even mean economic survival for a nuclear plant. While technology adoption comes with costs and a learning curve for any organization, the technology improvements proposed by the II&C Pathway for NPP operations represent the best option available for controlling rising costs, reducing cumulative burdens, minimizing human errors, and improving plant systems.

Building the business case for a new technology or suite of technologies as proposed above will result in a clear and concise financial analysis of the impact of adoption. Key elements to the trustworthiness of the analysis will be that it provides:

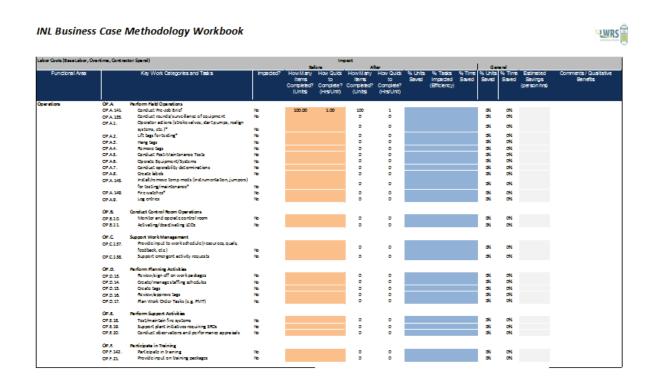
- Direct line of sight to the functional areas and specific task-level improvements resulting from adoption (e.g. verifying worker qualifications electronically)
- Common language and practices from the utility business case methodology
- Sensitivity analyses

NPP/utility executives will be looking to the business case to answer critical questions about the costs and benefits of adopting a new technology. Examples of questions to prepare for include:

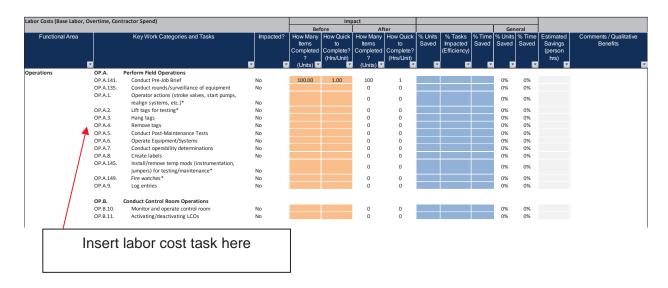
- What functional areas are affected?
- What processes are improved?
- In what labor cost categories do I see savings? (e.g., overtime)
- In what non-labor cost categories do I see savings?
- Are the savings truly harvestable?
- When will these savings be realized?
- In what performance indicators do I improve?

Appendix 1: How to Add Labor Tasks

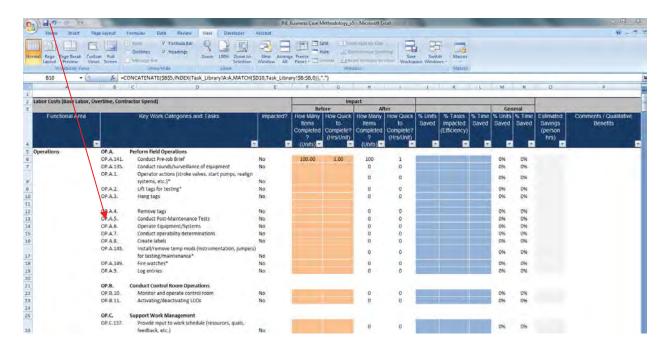
Open Labor Costs Tasks worksheet in the workbook



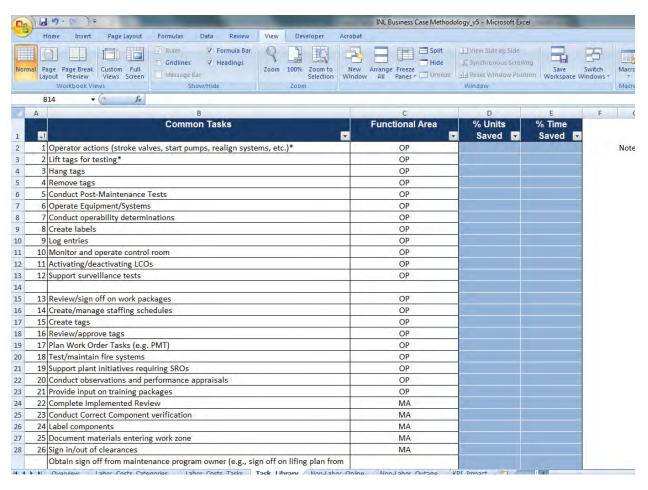
Identify which key work category (bold header) that you want to insert the new labor cost task under



Insert a new row (click Alt key, then "I" key, then "r" key)

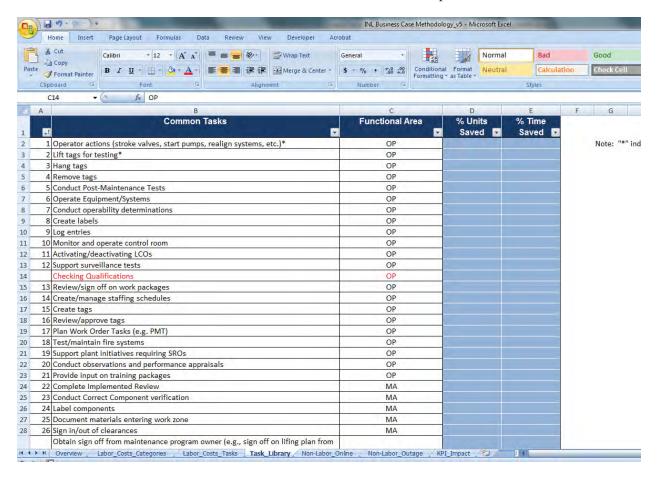


Go to Task Library worksheet; insert a new row for the task you want to add

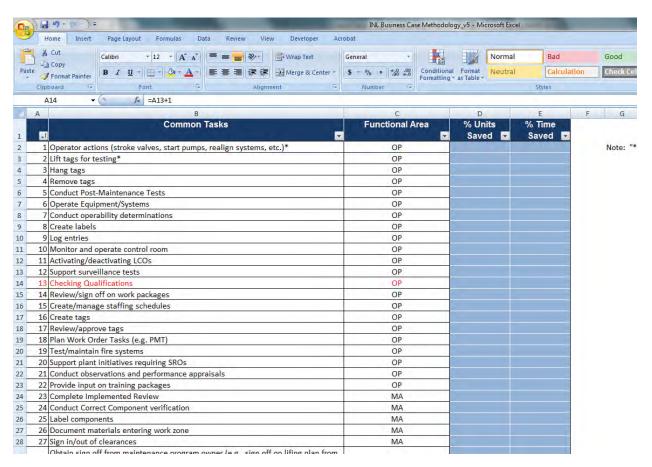


In column B, enter the new tasks

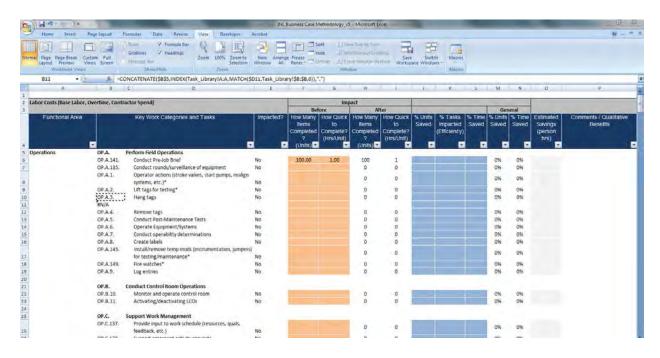
In column C, enter the two letter code for the functional area the task impacts. Shown in red font below



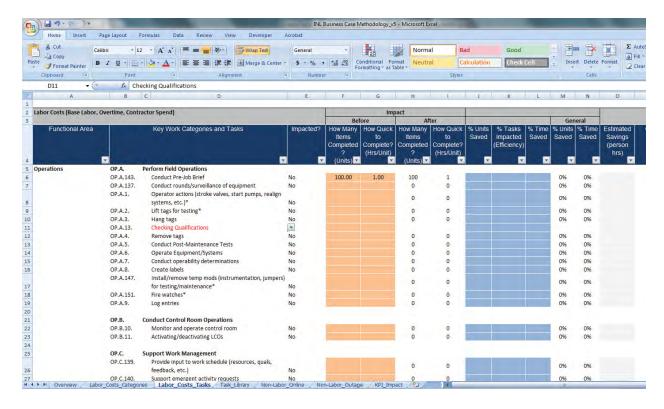
Renumber the numbers in column A



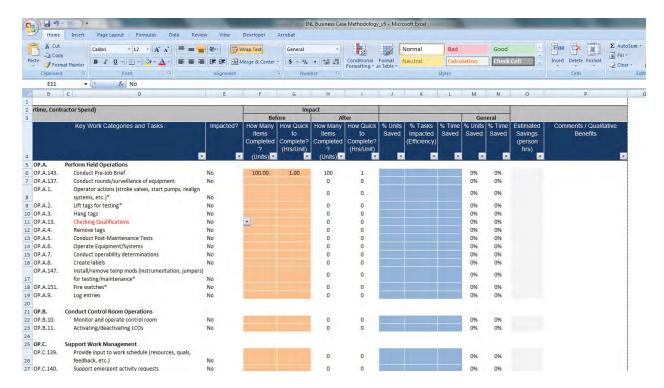
Go to the column B in the "Labor_Cost_Tasks" worksheet and the row above the newly inserted row. Copy the cell down by hitting "Ctrl" + "c"; then go to the blank row; hit "Ctrl" + "v"



Go to the column D in the "Labor_Cost_Tasks" worksheet pick the new labor task from the drop down menu



Go to the row above the newly inserted row and copy the cells from columns E to P into the newly inserted row



You have now successfully inserted a new labor task and the worksheet will maintain the formulas and remain dynamic. Never enter a new labor task at the start or the end of a key work category otherwise the formulas on the roll up worksheet "Labor_Cost_Categories" will not calculate properly.

Appendix 2: Functional Area Acronyms for Labor Cost Tab

CA Corrective Action Program

CY Chemistry

EN Engineering

EP Emergency Preparedness/Planning

MA Maintenance

OP Operations

OU Outage

PI Performance Improvement

PR Projects/Project Management

RP Radiation Protection/Health Physics

SY Security/Access Authorization

TR Training

WM Work Management