



Sponsor Meeting QA/QC Discussion Follow-up

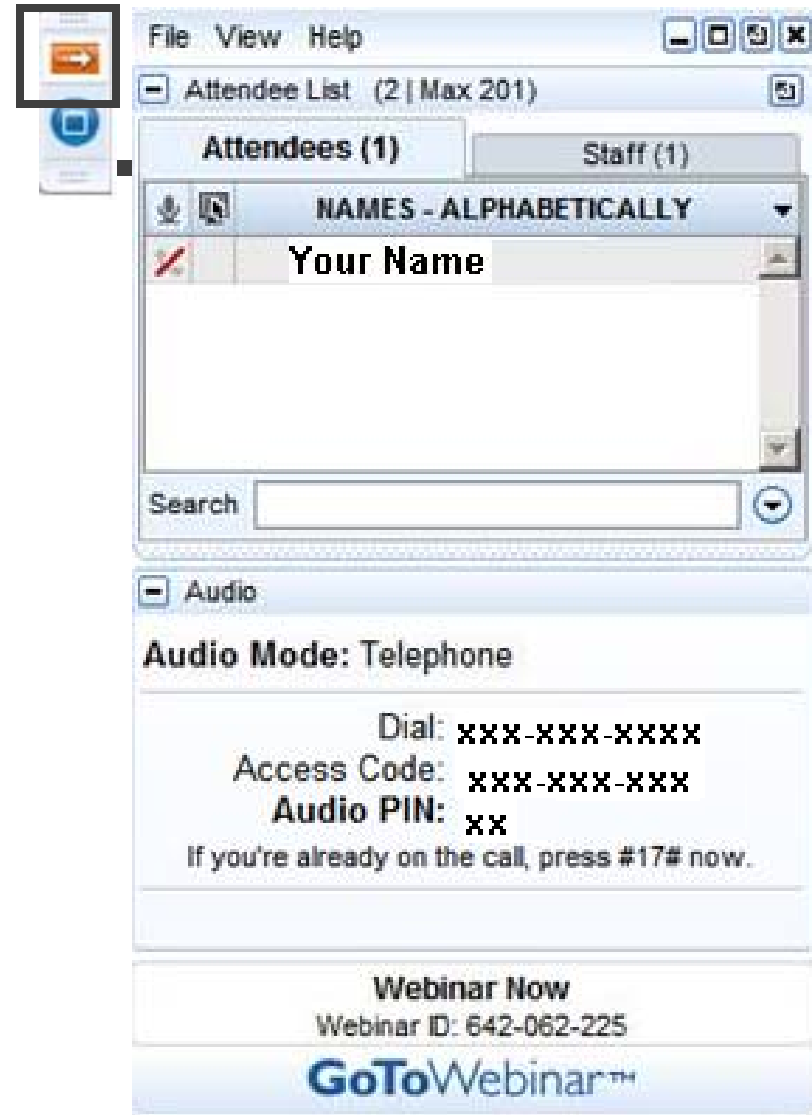
April 15, 2010

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Agenda



- QA/QC objectives
- RESNET, EPA, utility QA/QC relationship and responsibilities
- Utility program QA/QC best practices
- What sponsor utilities are currently doing with QA/QC
- Why utilities are already engaging in QA/QC activities
- What EPA can do to support and further these efforts
- Wrap up and next steps

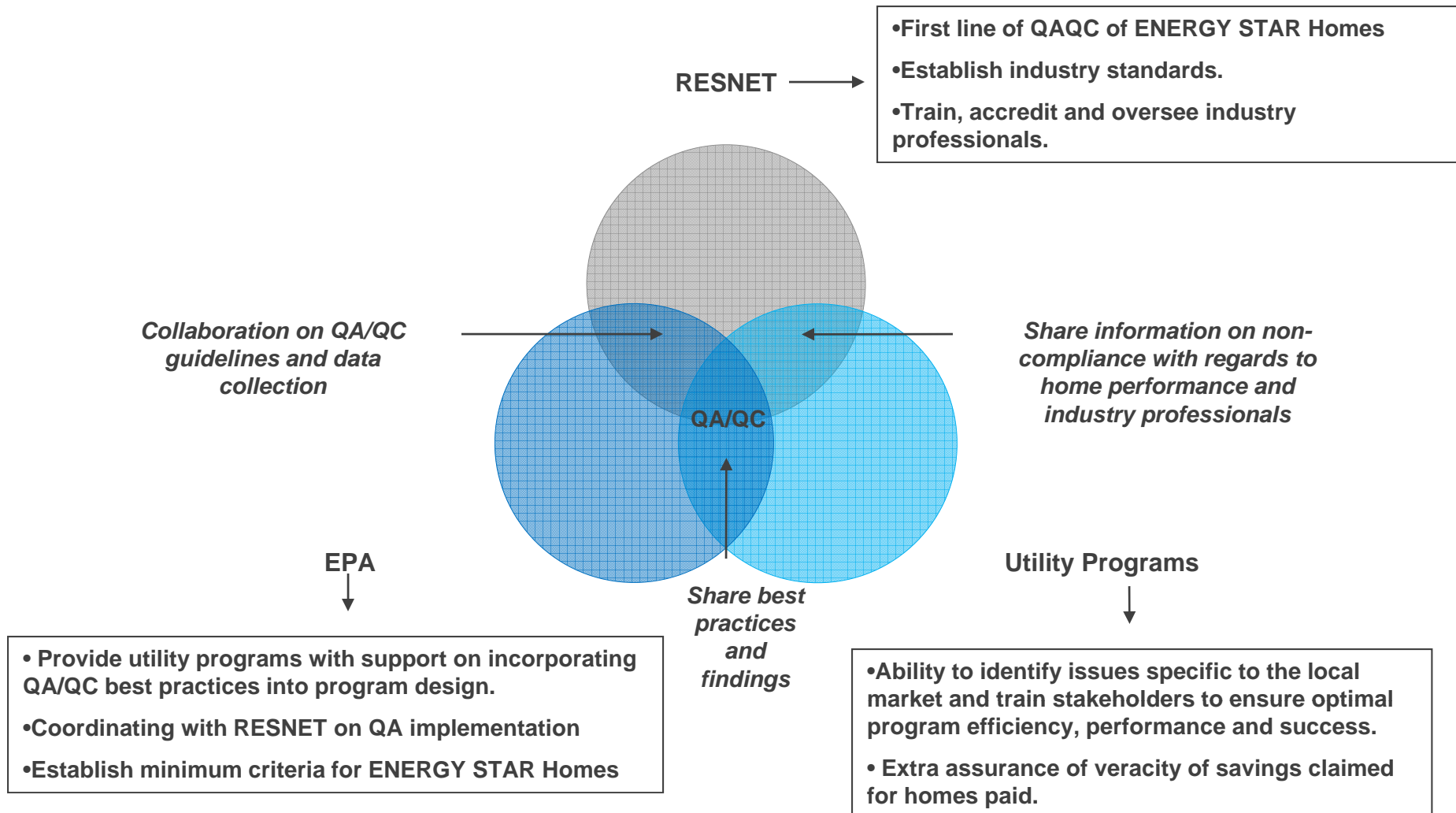


QA/QC Objectives



- Ensure integrity of ENERGY STAR label and HERS ratings
- Promote mature, self-sustaining high-performance building industry
- Ensure that participants are meeting program guidelines and incentives are being properly awarded

Stakeholder relationships and roles



RESNET & EPA QA/QC Agreement



- EPA and RESNET are working together to improve coordination on home energy ratings and labeling of ENERGY STAR Qualified homes
 - Improved information sharing (homeowner complaints)
 - Data sharing (qualified raters, providers, sampling providers)
 - RESNET QA process checking TBC – start Jan 1, 2011
 - Integration with Rater registry (planned)
 - Integration with Homes registry (planned)
- EPA will honor RESNET suspension of raters
- EPA to recognize non compliant ratings and take action

Utility Program QA/QC Roles



1. Engagement with RESNET: Share QA/QC information at your discretion
2. Engagement with EPA: Share information about Program QA/QC plans and provide annual update on key findings
3. Program Design: Incorporate QA/QC best practices appropriate for your market and program (See Utility Sponsor Guide)

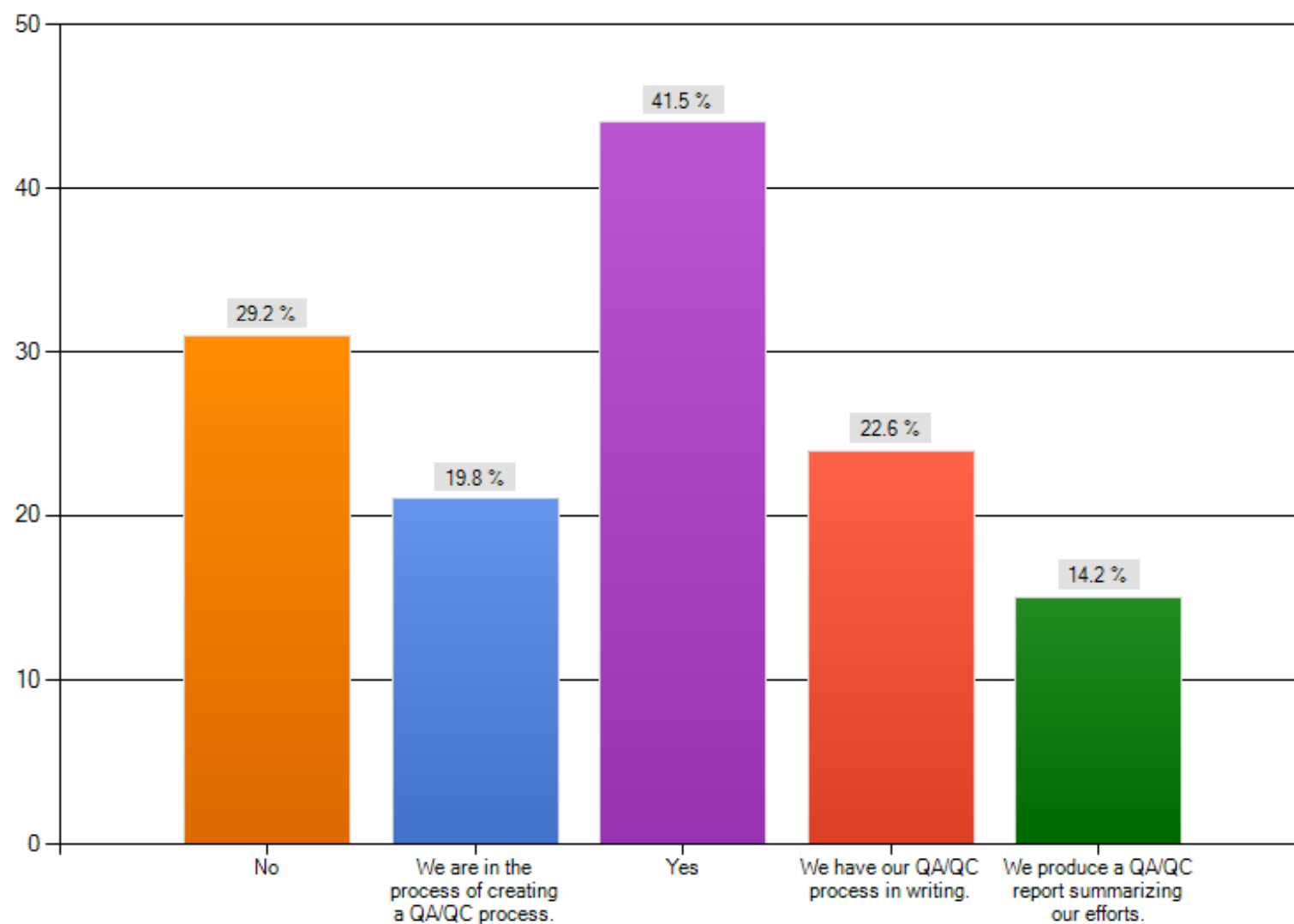
What are utilities already doing?



- The 2nd Annual ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program utility sponsor survey was sent in late January to the 130 utilities identified as active at the end of 2009.
- Four of the ten questions were focused on the utility's quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) activities.
- 106 utilities responded to the QA/QC questions.

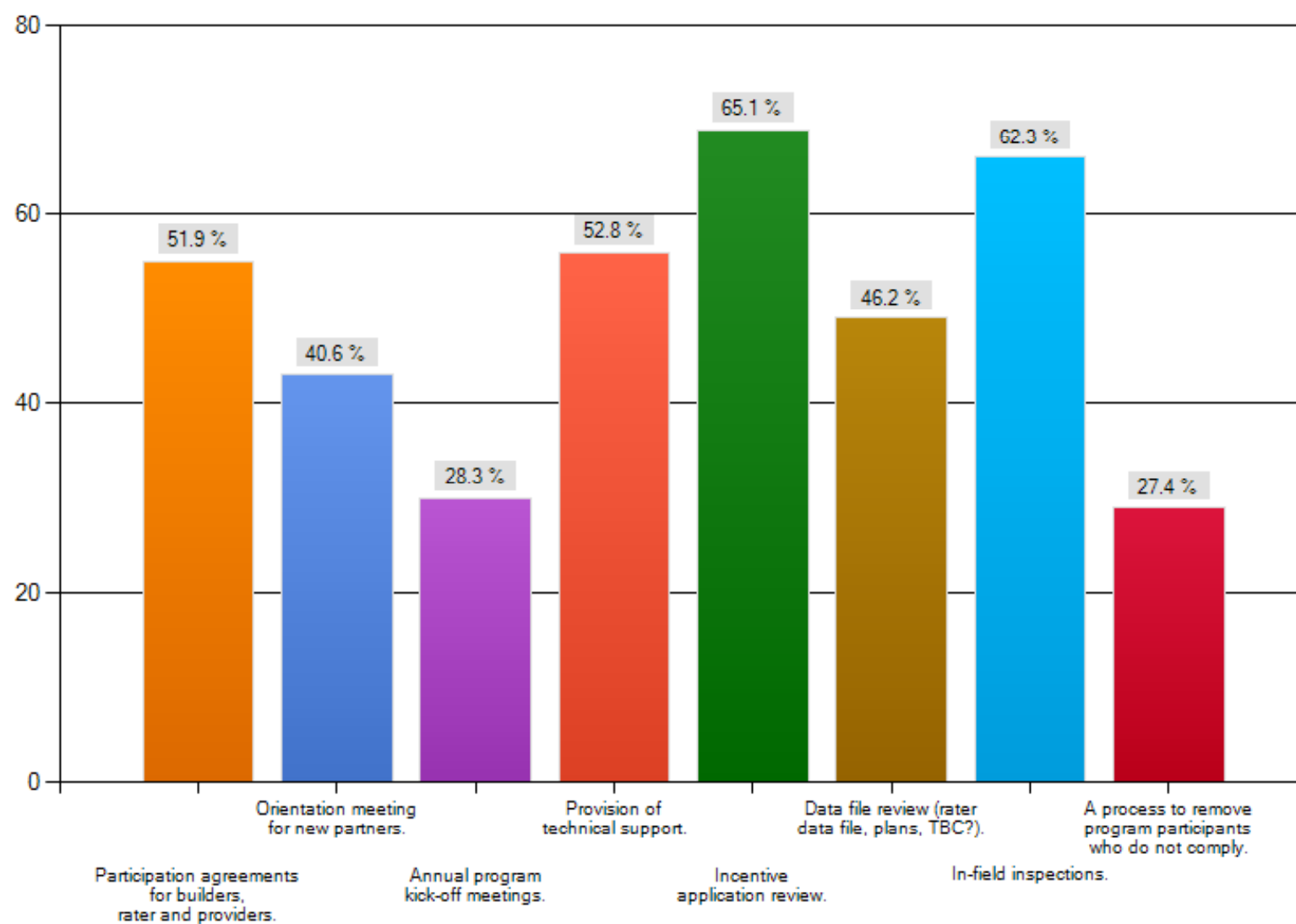


Do you have a formal QA/QC process in place for your ENERGY STAR for New Homes Program?



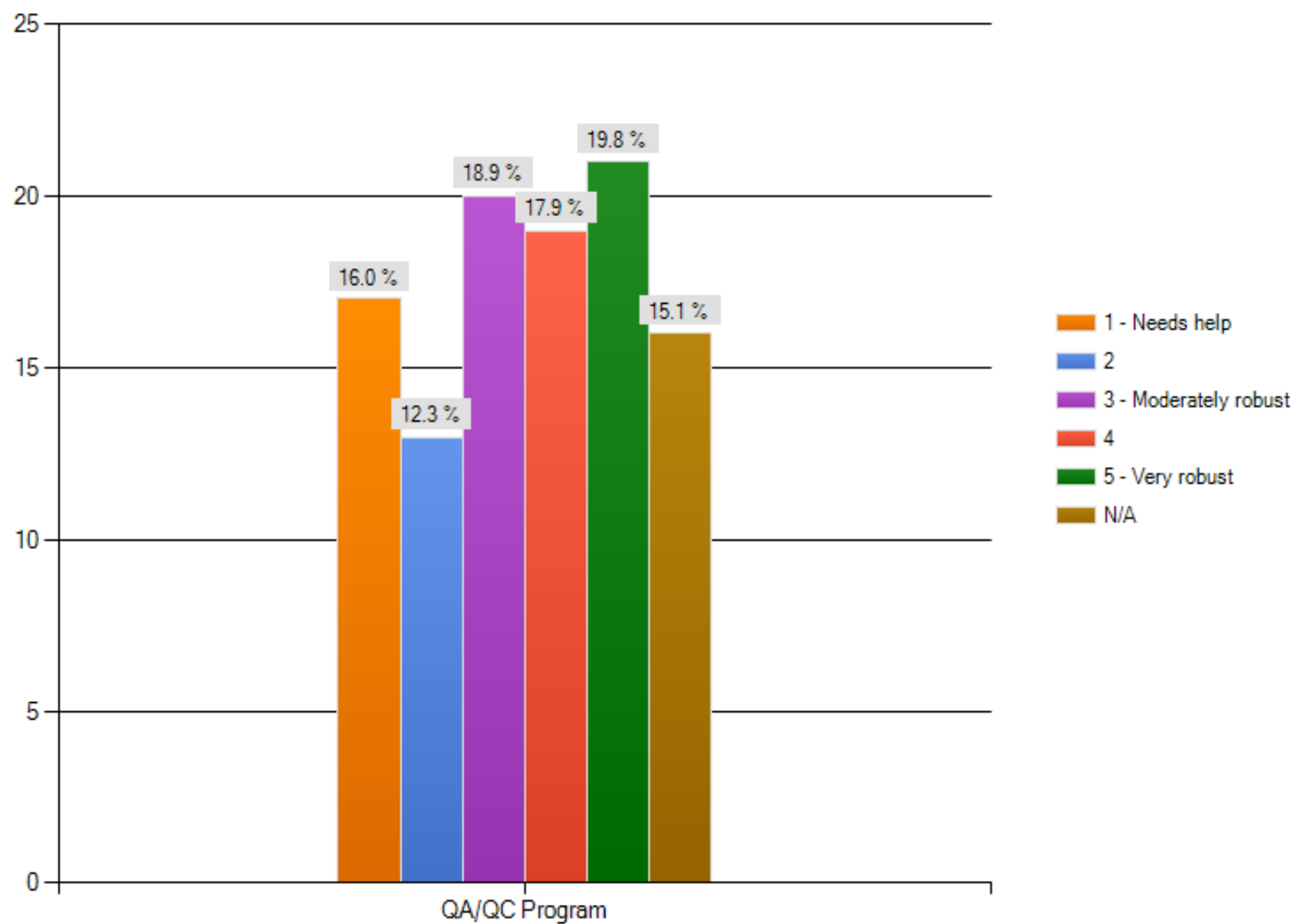


Which of the following elements are a part of your program's Q/A process?





On a scale of 1 to 5, how robust do you feel your QA/QC program is currently?



Why are utilities undertaking QA/QC?



- Critical to have directly QA/QCed homes for which incentives are being paid. Need to have confidence in the veracity of savings when testifying to Public Service Commissions.
- View QA/QC as a tool rather than a burden.
 - Generate actionable information that allows for implementation of corrective action
 - Delivery of added value to program participation. Builders see QA as extra insurance of rating quality and raters see it as a tool to help them perform above and beyond RESNET and program requirements.
 - Use issues discovered as a training opportunity. Pull together participants to go over issues and best practices which will allow for consistency of ratings in market and improved construction practices.
- Additional Discussions?

Information Needed:



- Definition of QA/QC. Determine who defines it? EPA? RESNET?
- Determine what's considered non-compliance. RESNET uses <2 point discrepancy to flag an issue and >3 point discrepancy to indicate a significant issue.
- Who's ultimately responsible for QA/QC? RESNET? Utilities? EPA enforcement? When and why? Incentive money provided?
- Will EPA now be decertifying homes? Some utilities have policies of not decertifying homes. How will this play out? Additionally, can decertification be done retroactively? Could a house that closed a year ago be decertified for example?

What Can EPA Do to Help?



- Provide concise sponsor program QA/QC best practices guidance document.
- Provide sponsors with RESNET non-compliant items and make sure sponsors are notified about RESNET's QA/QC plans.
- Provide easy to complete template for annual provision of QA/QC information to EPA.
- Anything else?