

Patent Public Advisory Committee



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Assistant Deputy Commissioner

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FY 2011 YTD Highlights

- Filings projected to be 5.0% over FY10
- Backlog Reduction
 - 721,831 cases pending during first quarter of FY 2011
 - 705,028 cases pending at mid-year of FY 2011
- Production

	EOY FY 2010	FY 2011 YTD
Allowance rate	45.6%	46.2%
First Action Pendency	25.7 months	25.3 months
Total Pendency	35.3 months	33.9 months



FY 2011 YTD Highlights - continued

Quality (12-month rolling average)

- **Final Disposition Compliance Rate 95.3%**
- **In-process Compliance Rate 94.7%**
- **Affirmed and Affirmed-in-part represents 66% of the total Board dispositions**



Technical Support Staff Accomplishments FY 2011

- **Amendment Entry:
FY 2011-March 5.1 days**
- **Quality Error Rate of 2.0%**
- **TSS exceeded the goals for
Amendment Entry, Production, and
Quality Error Rate**



Green Tech Program

Petition Summary

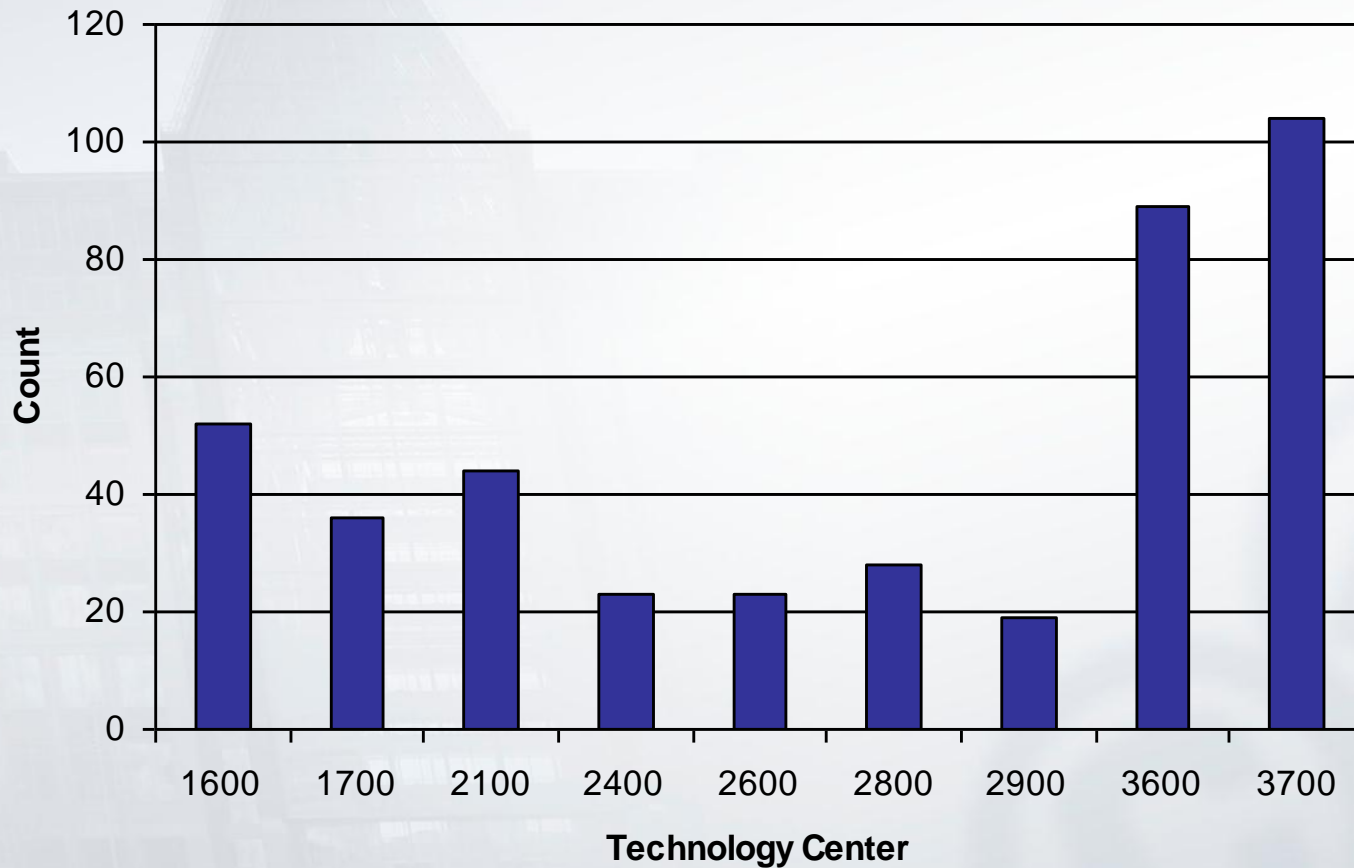
Petitions awaiting decision	310
Petitions granted	1,595
Petitions dismissed	1,001
Petitions denied	195
Total Petitions	3,101



Ombudsman Program

April FY 2010 to Midyear FY 2011

Total Inquiries by TC



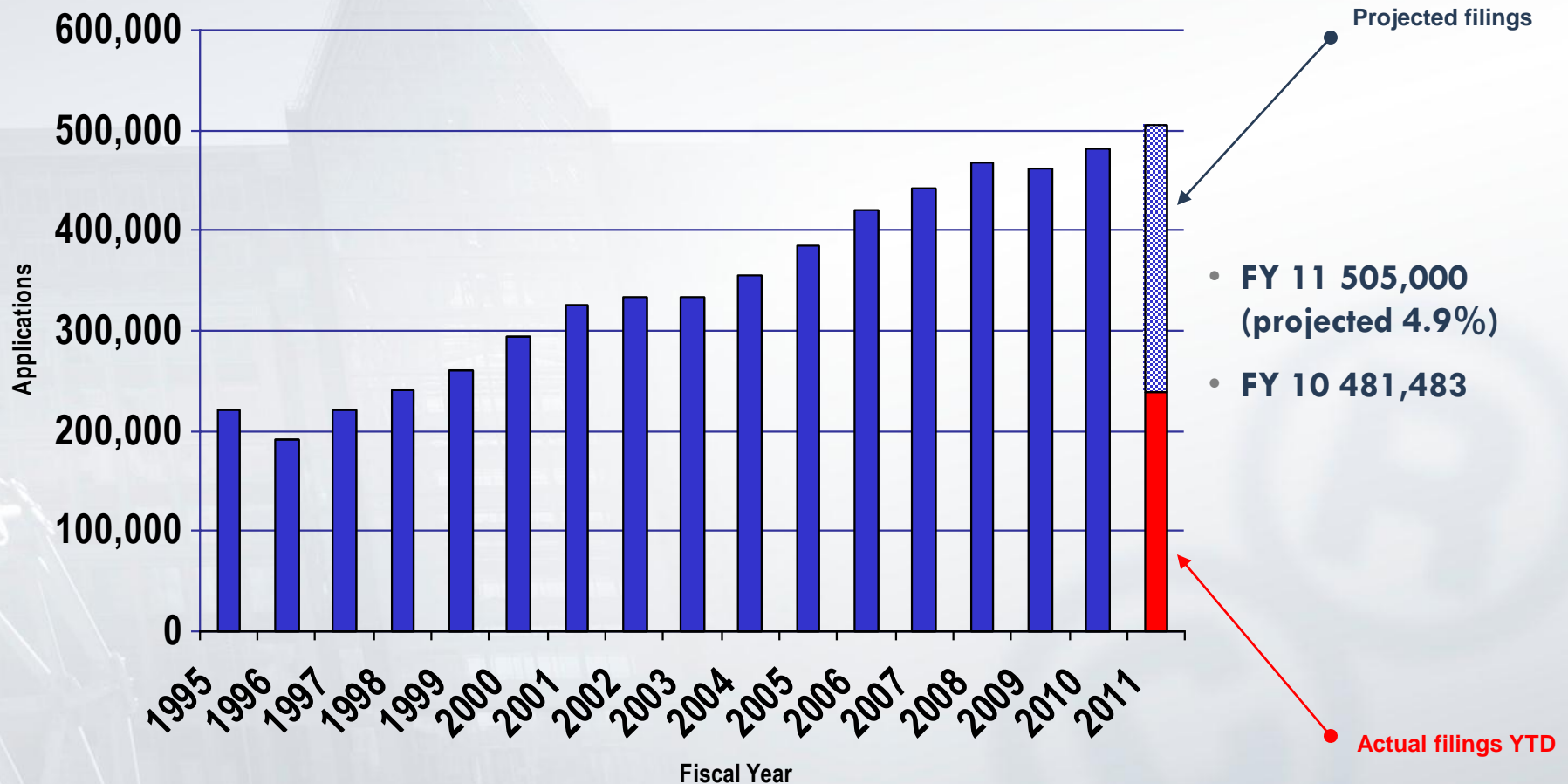


Interviews FY- 2011

- **Interview Training improved communication skills of our examiners**
 - Projected 16% increase in interview time over FY 2010.
 - Examiners logged 65,086 interview hours so far in FY 2011.
- **First Action Interview Pilot Program**
 - First action allowance rate over twice that for all filings.
- **Applicants embrace the open, collaborative culture change**

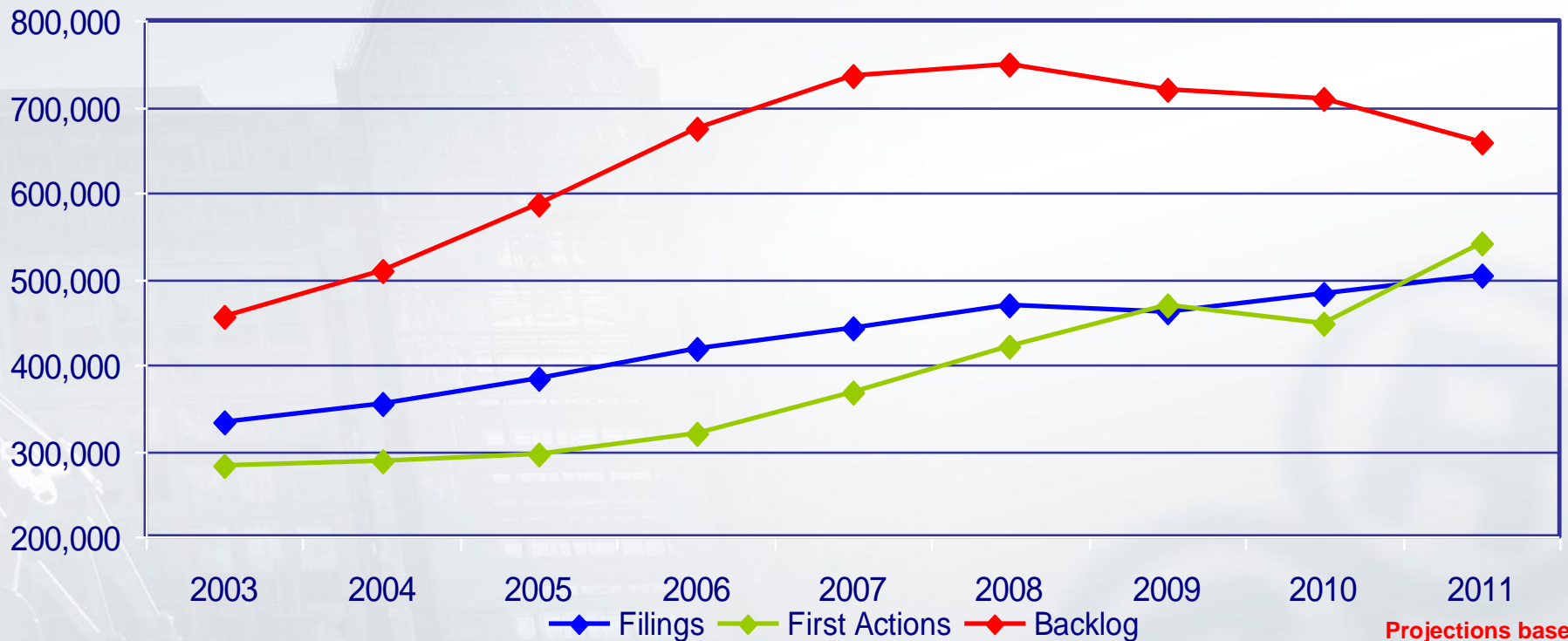


Utility-Plant-Reissue Filings





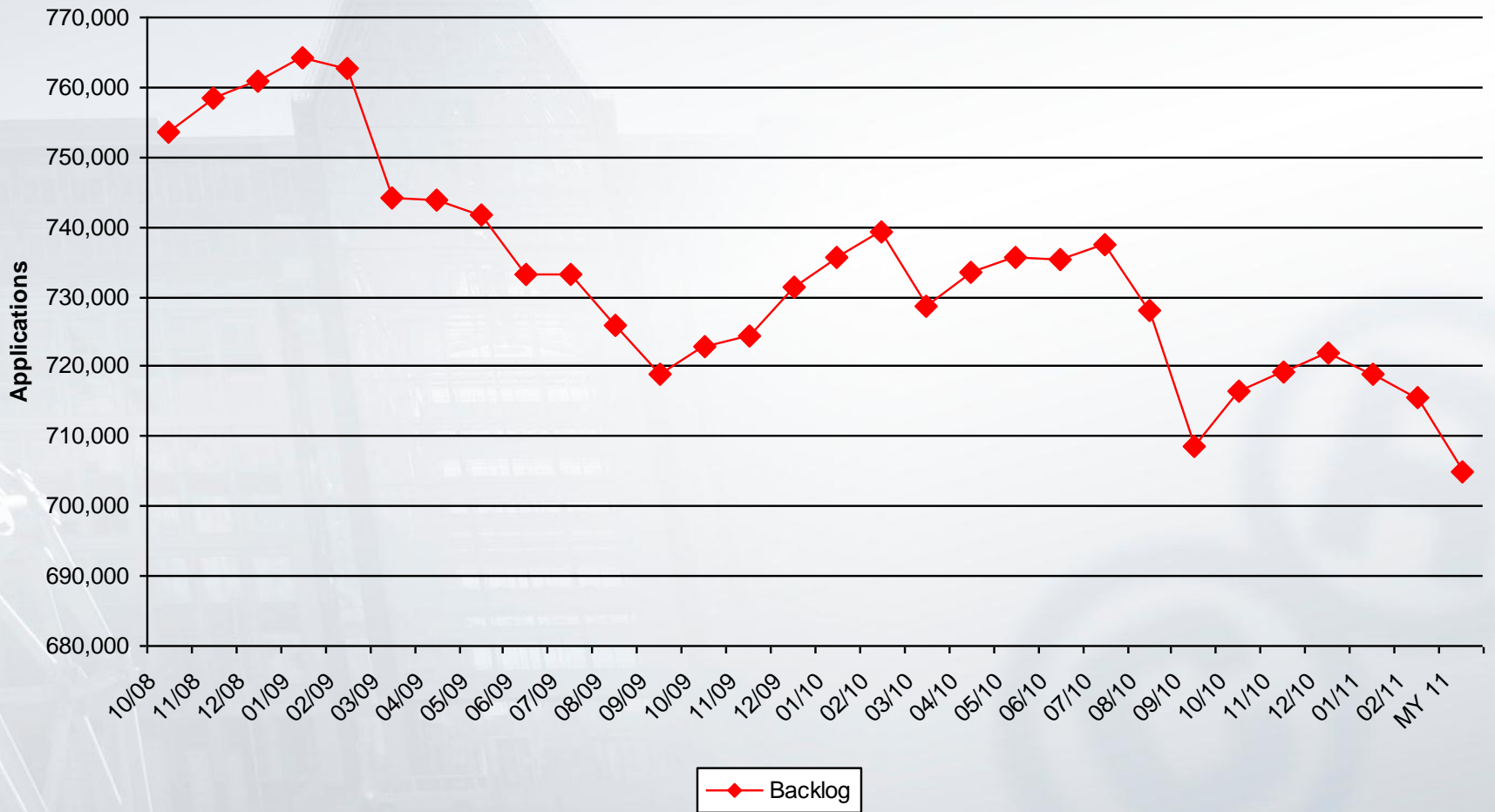
Filings, First Actions, & Backlog



Projections based on
2012 President's Budget



Backlog Cases





Patent Pendency FY 10 & FY 11 YTD

Technology Center	Average 1 st Action Pendency (months) ¹ FY 2010	Average 1 st Action Pendency (months) ¹ 02/28/11	Average Total Pendency (months) ² FY 2010	Average Total Pendency (months) ² 02/28/11
1600 - Biotechnology and Organic Chemistry	22.8	21.5	36.0	35.0
1700 - Chemical and Materials Engineering	25.7	23.7	37.4	36.2
2100 - Computer Architecture Software	29.3	29.4	42.5	39.9
2400 - Networking, Multiplexing, Cable, & Security	27.5	28.9	42.7	41.4
2600 – Communications	32.0	30.9	42.9	42.0
2800 - Semiconductor, Electrical, Optical Systems	20.7	20.1	30.6	29.6
3600 - Transportation, Construction, E-Commerce	25.2	24.7	35.7	35.0
3700 - Mech Engineering, Manufacturing and Products	27.7	27.5	38.4	38.1
UPR Total	25.7	25.3	35.3	33.9

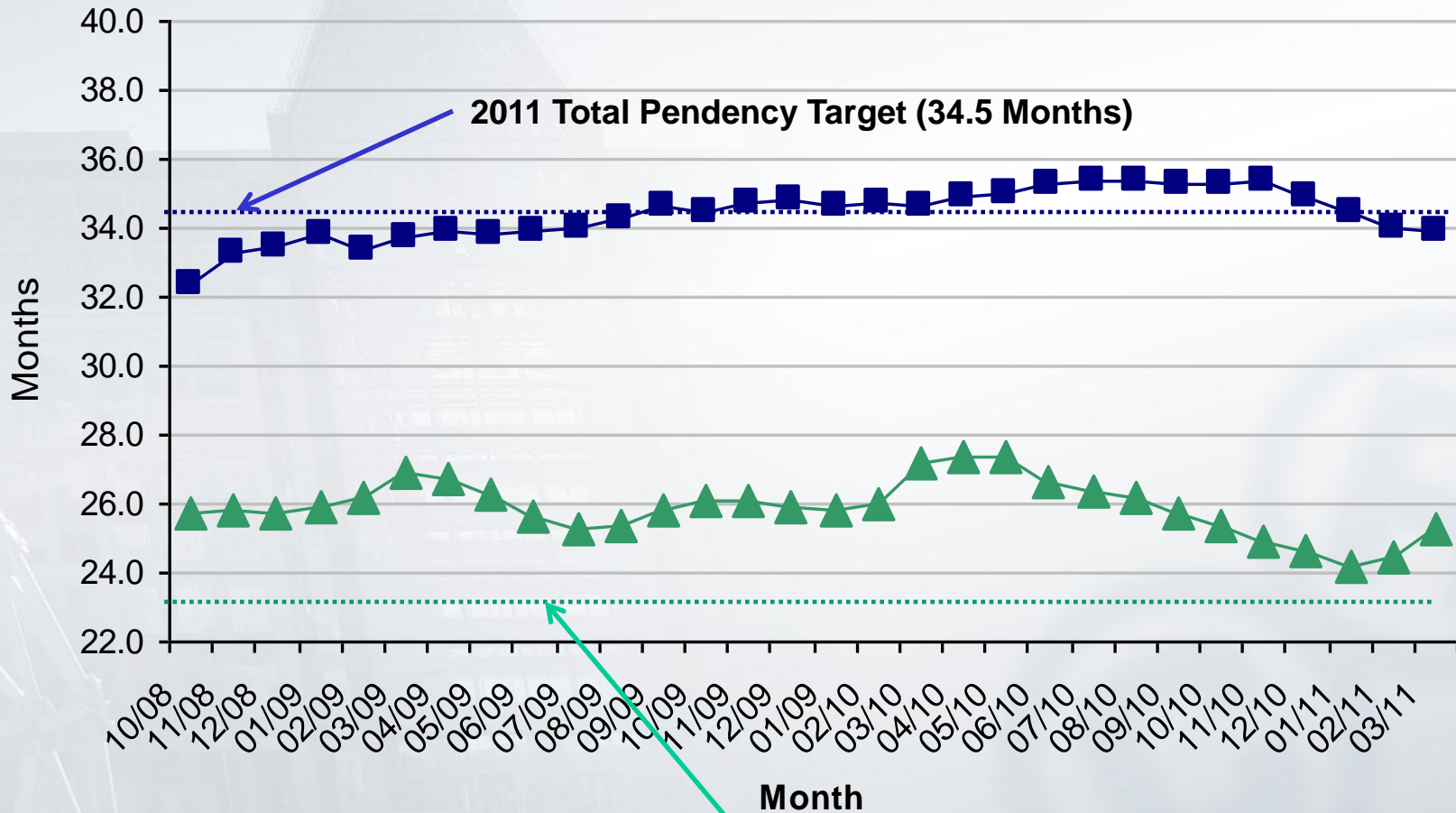
¹ “Average 1st action pendency” is the average age from filing to first action for a newly filed application.

² “Average total pendency” is the average age from filing to issue or abandonment of a newly filed application.



First Action Pendency and Total Pendency

FY 2009 – FY 2011 (year-to-date)

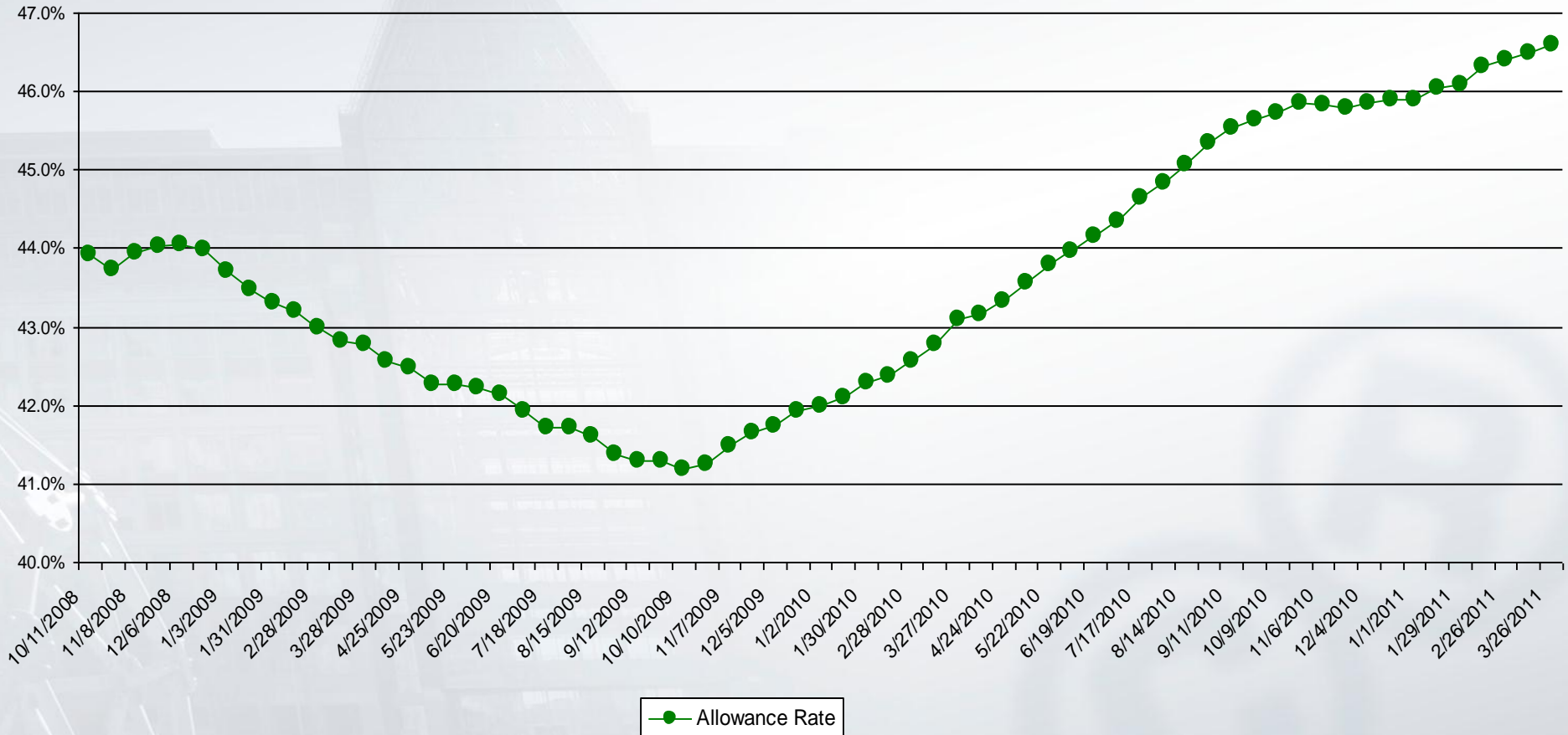


2011 First Action Pendency Target (23 Months)



12-Month Rolling Average Allowance Rate by Bi-week

FY 2009 – FY 2011 (biweekly average)

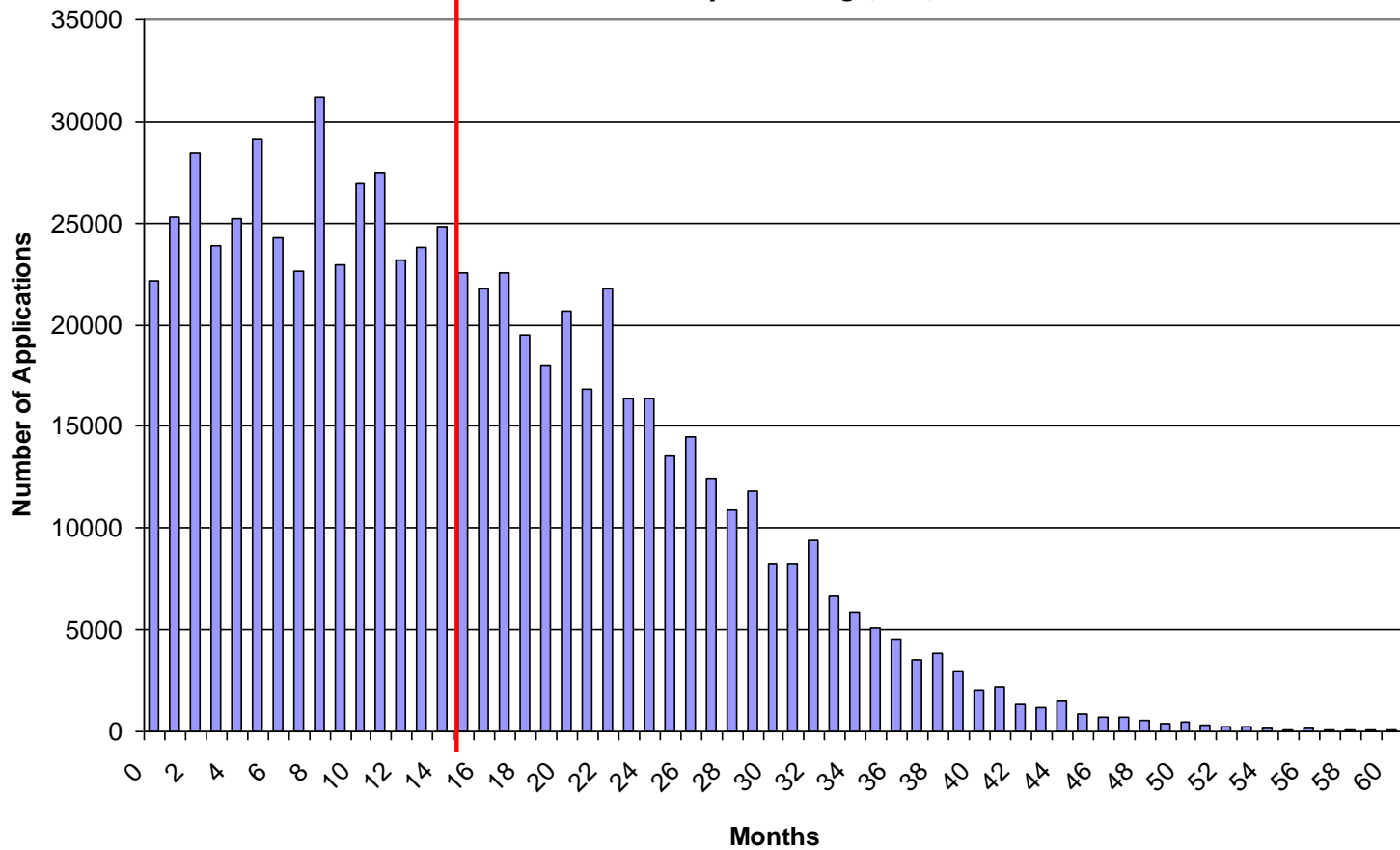




Where we are....

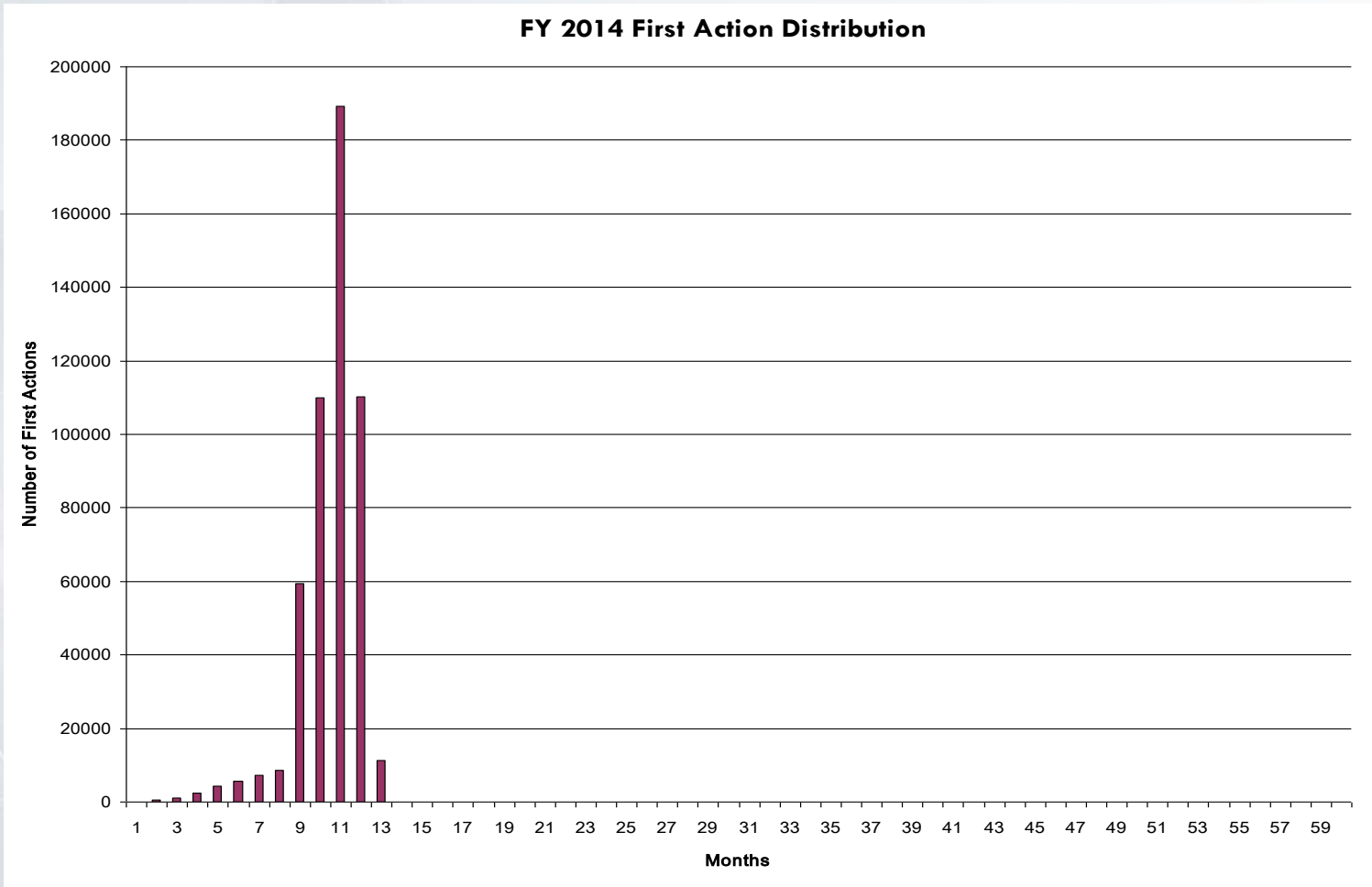
Number of Applications Awaiting First Action vs. Application Age

Distribution of Corps Backlog (Tail)





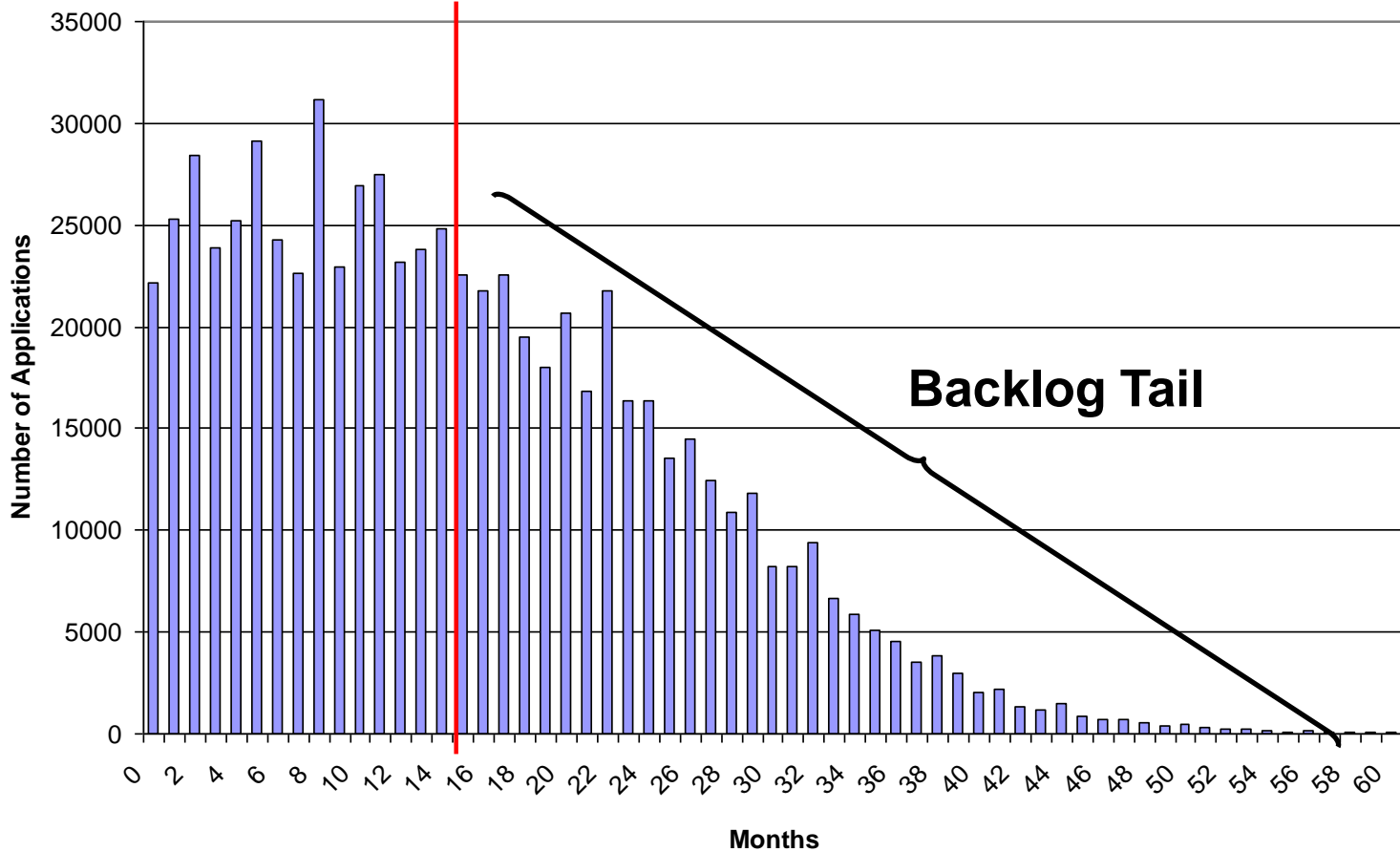
Where we need to be....





How we are going to get there....

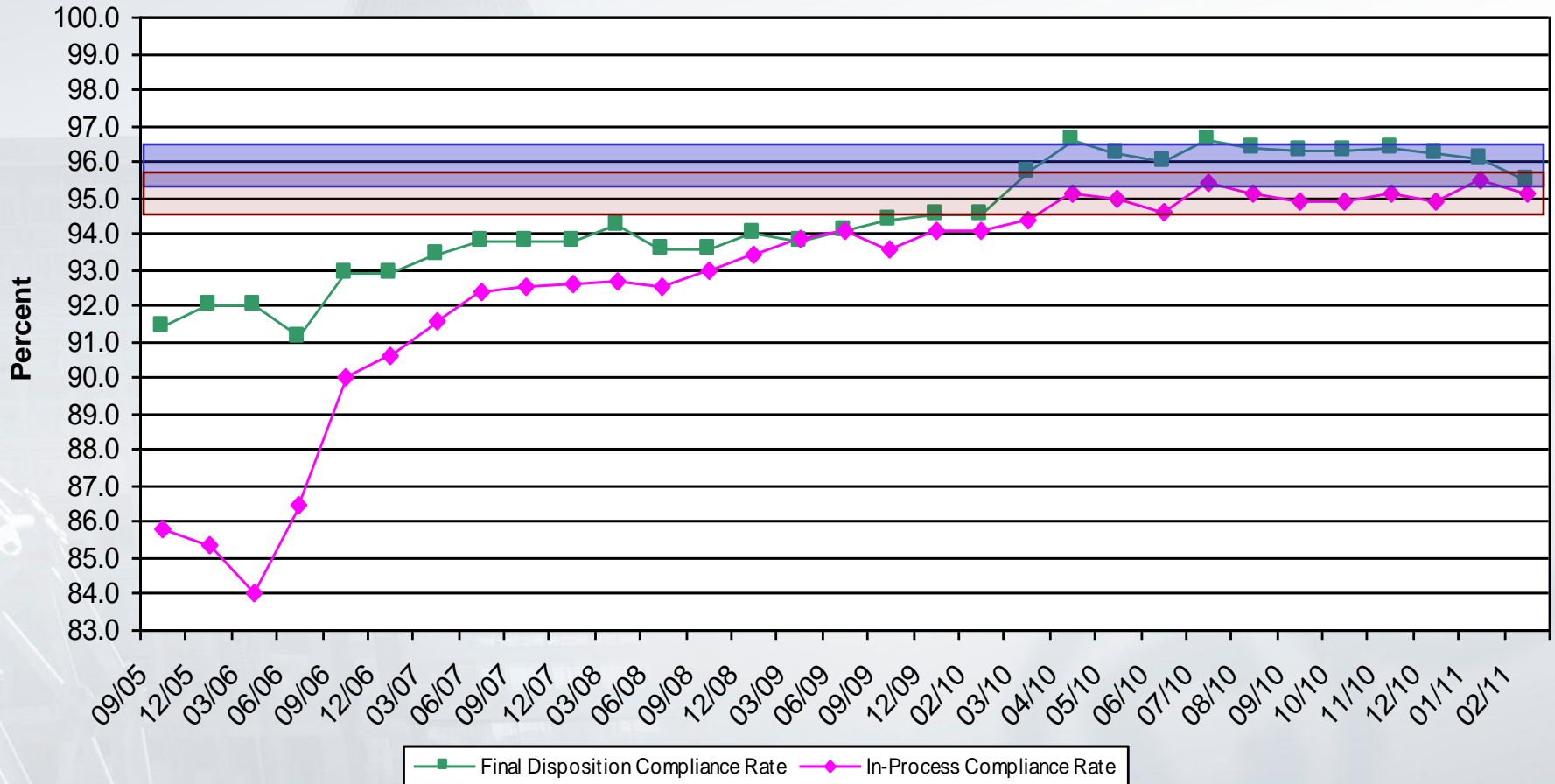
Backlog distribution Corps (Tail)





Quality Measures through FY 2011

FY 2005 – FY 2011 (rolling 12-month average)



2011 Final Disposition Compliance Rate Target Range (95.6% - 96.5%)

2011 In-Process Compliance Rate Target Range (94.6% - 95.6%)



New Quality Measures – FY2011

- **Continue to focus on front-end quality program that assists examiners early in the examining phase**
- **Five new measures of patent quality were developed through the Patent Quality Task Force study, bringing the total quality metrics to seven**



Quality Measures – FY 2011 continued

Existing Measures:

Final Disposition Compliance Rate - propriety of final dispositions of applications

In-Process Compliance Rate - propriety of Office actions on the merits during the prosecution

New Measures:

First Action on the Merits Search Review - degree to which the search conforms with the best practices of the USPTO

Complete First Action on the Merits Review - degree to which the first action on the merits in an application conforms with the best practices of the USPTO

Quality Index Report (QIR) - statistical representation of quality-related events in the prosecution of the patent application

External Quality Survey - experiences of patent applicants and practitioners with USPTO personnel and examination issues

Internal Quality Survey - experiences of examiners with internal and external interactions and issues



Patent Examiner Hiring

	1600	1700	2100	2400	2600	2800	3600	3700	Corps
FY 10 Hiring	16	27	44	5	58	27	45	54	276
FY 10 EOY UPR Examiners	528	744	637	671	859	1,043	764	749	6,128
FY 11 Hires As of March '11	60	88	109	86	108	92	109	184	836



Examiner Hiring and Training FY- 2011

- **Hired 836 Examiners through MY 2011**
 - 18 Reinstatement Candidates
 - 57 IP Experienced Hires
 - 761 Patent Examiners
- **5% attrition rate projected for FY 2011**
- **Four month Patent Training Academy program**
 - Reviewing data collected from the four month training program.



Patents Hoteling Program

- **Telework Implementation Act of 2010.**
- **Established Telework Oversight Committee.**
- **We continue to expand the Hoteling program by 500 examiners per year.**



Improving Patent Resources

- **Patents End-to-End IT development**
 - Improving systems and processes for efficiency and decreased complexity
 - User input is major design element
- **Reengineering patent processes is a major project to streamline workflow. This project compliments the end-to-end IT development project.**
- **Implementation of Direct Docketing**



Thank You

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