What Value Do Milestones Serve?

• A list of deliverables from the WG (to the community and other interested parties)
• A tool for the chairs to use to manage the WG
• A mechanism for communication between the chairs and the AD
What Value Do the Dates Serve?

• External entities may use them for planning
  – Although they probably learn quickly that this isn’t terribly wise

• I have had a real, live sitting AD tell me that they have successfully used them to drive WG progress
  – Although this does not appear to be typical
Do Inaccurate Dates Cause Harm?

• Can cause issues for those external entities that rely on them
• Arguably, there is some degree of reputational damage for the IETF
Can We Improve Accuracy?

• One option is to reduce resolution (e.g., quarter, year, IETF meeting #, etc)
• Focusing on active management might help
  – Although we would need to weigh the return on investment for doing this kind of work
Would It Hurt To Remove Dates?

• If the value of having accurate dates were high enough, presumably chairs and/or ADs would find time to manage them

• Would we lose any degree of urgency inside WGs?

• Would an undated, list of deliverables ordered by priority serve our purposes better?

• If we change, would we want to spend the extra effort (tools, processes) to allow some WGs to have dates and others not to?