



NRC Safety Culture Definition and Characteristics

Draft Definition of Safety Culture

- That assembly of characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors in organizations and individuals which establishes that as an overriding priority, nuclear safety and security issues receive the attention warranted by their significance.

Draft Safety Culture Characteristics

- Individuals demonstrate ownership and personal responsibility for maintaining safety and security in their day-to-day work activities;
- Processes for planning and controlling work activities are implemented such that safety and security are maintained;

Draft Safety Culture Characteristics

- A work environment exists in which personnel feel free to raise safety and security concerns without fear of retaliation;
- Nuclear safety and security issues are promptly and thoroughly identified, evaluated, and resolved, commensurate with their significance;

Draft Safety Culture Characteristics

- Resources are available to ensure that safety and security are maintained;
- Decision-making processes protect safety and security;
- Roles and responsibilities for maintaining safety and security are clearly defined;
- Opportunities to improve safety and security are sought out and implemented.

What works so far:

- Draft definition and characteristics do not require a large, stable organization to be applicable
- May apply across the range of contexts in which NRC-regulated activities are performed
- Appropriate for regulatory perspective (adequate assurance vs. excellence)

What may not work:

- May not be as generally applicable as we hope
- May be incomplete (e.g., do not directly refer to either leadership or supervision)
- May not be sufficiently distinct (i.e., are they overlapping?)