

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 02/05/03

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FINAL REPLY:

Dominic Cooper
Indiana University, Bloomington

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 03-0005

Collins, NRR

DESC:

Quantifying Safety Culture

ROUTING:

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Virgilio, NMSS
Thadani, RES

DATE: 01/08/03

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

From: "Cooper, Mark Dominic" <domcoope@indiana.edu>
To: <opa@nrc.gov>
Date: 12/5/02 1:45PM
Subject: Quantifying safety culture

For the attention of
Dr. Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Dear Sir

My name is Prof. Dominic Cooper. I am a recently appointed Professor of Safety Education at Indiana University, Bloomington. I have been researching the topic of safety culture for some 12 years, primarily in the UK. I note your comments at the 2002 INPO CEO Conference, held in Atlanta on Nov 8th, '.....that safety culture does not lend itself to objective measurement'. I have, however, collected 'reasonably' objective data from many diverse industries to establish that it is in fact possible to quantify safety culture. My team and I have developed a research proposal to 'Quantify the safety culture of decommissioning nuclear facilities'. We propose to make use of a model of safety culture derived from organizational psychology (available at http://behavioral-safety.com/articles/Towards_A_Model_Of_Safety_Culture/). In essence this examines the relationships between safety management systems, people's perceptions and attitudes about safety and their safety behavior at the strategic, tactical, operational, behavioral and defensive levels of a facility. Provided there is point-to-point correspondence between the three measurement methods, it becomes possible to quantify safety culture in a meaningful way across time and locations. Currently, Finland is the only country to attempt to measure safety culture at its nuclear facilities, but as you suggested in your speech they look at 'indirect' measures, rather than at the organizational culture itself.

I would be grateful if you could indicate whether this research is something you would consider worthwhile and if you would know of any available funding from your organization to facilitate the research described.

Yours faithfully

Prof. Dominic Cooper
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Indiana University, Bloomington
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