

RIC 2004

Safety Conscious Work Environment Session T5

Guidance for Maintaining a SCWE

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SCWE Regulatory Background

- SCWE Policy Statement, 1996
 - Provides Agency's expectations that:
 - Licensees create/maintain an environment where work force is encouraged to raise safety concerns without fear of retaliation
 - Elements of a SCWE include:
 - Effective processes for problem identification and resolution
 - Training
 - Contractor awareness of their responsibilities
 - Involvement of senior management in alleged cases of discrimination



SCWE Regulatory Background

(cont.)

- SRM dated March 26, 2003
 - Directed staff to develop further guidance
 - “Best Practices” to Encourage a SCWE
 - Emphasize training of management
 - Consult with stakeholders



“Best Practices” Guidance

- NRC Staff developed a draft outline of a best practices guidance document
 - Posted on Allegations web site (www.nrc.gov , What We Do, Allegations, Best Practices)
 - Solicited comments in the Federal Register (69 FR 7025)
- Public meeting February 19, 2004
 - Roundtable discussion
 - Representatives from industry, whistleblowers, and trainers
- Comment period expires March 19, 2004



Public Meeting Summary

■ Issues discussed

What format would guidance take?

- Regulatory Guide?
- Web page?
- NUREG?

“Best” Practices

- “Best” practices for one licensee may not be appropriate for another

General agreement on elements in draft outline



SCWE Guidance Document Status

- Comment period still open
- Expect to publish draft document for further comment

