

From: Janet P. Kotra and Jose Cuadrado <jpk@nrc.gov>
To: <nrcprep@nrc.gov>
Date: Fri, Sep 7, 2007 9:24 AM
Subject: Response from "Comment on NRC Documents"

8/8/07
72FR 44592
8

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

Janet P. Kotra and Jose Cuadrado (jpk@nrc.gov) on Friday, September 07, 2007 at 09:23:51

Document_Title: FY 2007 – FY 2012 Strategic Plan (NUREG 1614, vol.4)Draft for Comment

Comments: Comments on the FY 2007 – FY 2012 Draft Strategic Plan

Provided by: Janet P. Kotra, Senior Project Manager
Jose Cuadrado, Project Manager
HLW Regulatory Communication Staff
Division of HLW Repository Safety
Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

RECEIVED

2007 SEP -7 PM 12:52

RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
ESTER

General Observations

We offer these comments from the perspective of NRC technical staff members who are responsible for fostering openness and ensuring high quality communication with stakeholders concerned about NRC's regulatory oversight of the potential repository at Yucca Mountain.

We remain concerned with the de-emphasis of "enhancing public confidence", as a strategic goal, or, at the very least, an important regulatory outcome, in this latest proposed revision of the agency's strategic plan. While we understand the rationale given the last time the plan was revised, for replacing "enhancing public confidence" with "openness," we are not persuaded that this change represented an improvement over the original strategic plan language. The wording of the current proposed revision goes still further in diminishing the importance placed on striving for agency actions, processes and decisions that are deserving of public trust and confidence. As best we can tell, the proposed draft plan only mentions public confidence once—on page 13. From our own experience, and that of our international regulatory counterparts, we know that technical excellence, alone, is not enough. As regulators, we must not only do the job right, we must inspire confidence in the public we serve and are charged with protecting, that we are doing the job right.

We know only too well that public confidence in our regulatory programs is difficult to measure, and that many of the variables affecting that confidence are outside our direct, or, at times, even our indirect control. That could be said as well, however, of ensuring safety and security. That does not mean that any of these are not still essential and worthy objectives.

We also note that all of the strategic outcomes listed on pages 5 and 10 are cast in terms of bad stuff NRC is trying to prevent. Expressed as such, the surest way to ensure the realization of those outcomes is to license power reactors to operate at 0% power and to permit no use of nuclear materials. Clearly these are not the outcomes we seek. Suggested examples of how these strategic outcomes might be redrafted are provided as specific comments below.

We also suggest that the plan avoid use of the expression, "human capital." This term is offensive to those who believe that it is no longer appropriate or legal to view human beings as "capital," at least since slavery was abolished in the U.S. Specific recommendations for alternative language is provided below as

SOVSI Review Complete
Template = ADU-013

EREDS = ADU-03
Add = H. Zmalk
(9551)

specific comments.

Specific Comments

Page 3, penultimate line, change "human capital planning" to "workforce planning."

Pages 5 and 10, Redraft "Strategic Outcomes," along the lines of the following:

"Reactors operate safely without any accidents" and
"Radioactive waste is managed and disposed safely, without releases of radioactive materials that result in significant exposures or adverse environmental impacts."

Page 5, 2nd paragraph, 2nd ,3rd and 4th sentences, under Discussion:

"...the agency maintains vigilance..." and
"The NRC continually seeks to identify and resolve potential safety issues..." and
"The NRC also uses enforcement actions..."

Page 6, 4th full paragraph, 1st sentence:

"The NRC faces a major challenge as it prepares for the Department of Energy's application..."

Page 13, 2nd paragraph under Discussion:

The fourth sentence should be broken into two sentences and a fifth sentence added as follows:

"Public involvement is a key element in the application and licensing process. Stakeholders will have many opportunities to participate in the regulatory process before issuance of a license, construction permit, early site permit, design certification, or combined license. For this participation to be meaningful, stakeholders must have access to clear and understandable information about NRC's role, processes, activities and decision making.

Page 14: Top of page: Add a new Openess Strategy, as number 4, and rename the current number 4 as number 5:

4. Communicate about NRC's role, processes, activities and decisions in plain language that is clear and understandable to the public.
5. Conduct early communication with stakeholders.....

Page 14: Add another bullet under Selected Activities to Support Openness Strategies, as follows:

Provide timely feedback to stakeholders, with specific examples, that explains how stakeholder input and involvement has influenced NRC's regulatory activities and decisions.

Page 16: Item 3 at top of page should be reworded as follows:

"Interact with stakeholders, as appropriate, to minimize regulatory or jurisdictional overlap.

Item 5 should be reworded as follows:

"Foster innovation at the NRC to improve the NRC's regulatory and communication programs."

1st sentence of penultimate bullet should be reworded to read:

"Encourage stakeholders to identify actions that may have resulted in unnecessary cost or uncertainty."

Page 17, 3rd bullet under Selected Activities to Support Timeliness Strategies is unclear. What we think is meant could be better expressed as follows:

"Promptly review and communicate cases where NRC review and actions with regard to applications or license amendment requests will not meet the agency's timeliness goals..."

Page 20, top of page:

Replace "Human Capital" with "Retain a competent, qualified and motivated workforce"
Revise first bullet under this heading to read: "...present and future staffing needs"

organization: NMSS/DHLWRS

address1:

address2:

city:

state: ---

zip:

country:

phone:

Mail Envelope Properties (46E150FC.FCF : 10 : 8143)

Subject: Response from "Comment on NRC Documents"
Creation Date Fri, Sep 7, 2007 9:23 AM
From: Janet P. Kotra and Jose Cuadrado <jpk@nrc.gov>

Created By: jpk@nrc.gov

Recipients

nrc.gov
 TWGWPO01.HQGWDO01
 NRCREP

Post Office

TWGWPO01.HQGWDO01

Route

nrc.gov

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	6613	Friday, September 7, 2007 9:23 AM
Mime.822	7015	

Options

Expiration Date: None
Priority: Standard
ReplyRequested: No
Return Notification: None

Concealed Subject: No
Security: Standard

Junk Mail Handling Evaluation Results

Message is eligible for Junk Mail handling
 This message was not classified as Junk Mail

Junk Mail settings when this message was delivered

Junk Mail handling disabled by User
 Junk Mail handling disabled by Administrator
 Junk List is not enabled
 Junk Mail using personal address books is not enabled
 Block List is not enabled