

## Outreach Information

### **1. Why are we calling you?**

The NRC is developing a safety culture policy statement. Policy statements serve to clarify intent, describe how a policy is administered, and define the particulars of a policy. The goal of the NRC's safety culture policy statement is to set forth NRC's expectations for all NRC-regulated organizations to foster a strong safety culture for all levels of their organizations. It will include both a definition of safety culture and safety culture traits.

To accomplish this goal, we are soliciting your assistance in planning several upcoming workshops, the results of which will be used to inform and develop the draft safety culture policy statement, which has been published in the Federal Register (74 FR 57525; November 6, 2009) for public comment. We recognize the challenge of developing an overarching policy statement that is applicable to the broad range of stakeholders involved in NRC-regulated activities. For that reason, we want to take advantage of your expertise in [insert particular area of expertise, e.g., radiography, medical, nuclear power plants, contractors, etc.] as early as possible in this initiative.

### **2. What is safety culture?**

The draft NRC definition that has been published for public comment is: *"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."*

### **3. Why is safety culture important?**

Safety culture is an important element for individuals and organizations performing or overseeing regulated activities and contributes to the safe and secure use of radioactive material. The importance of a positive safety culture for activities involving civilian uses of radioactive materials has been demonstrated by a number of significant, high-visibility events that involved NRC enforcement actions (e.g., large civil penalties, facility shut-downs, work-related prohibitions, etc.). Weaknesses in safety culture were identified as contributing factors to the events. Examples include:

- ▶ Iodine-131 therapy administered to lactating mothers that resulted in infant uptakes;
- ▶ Loss of control of sealed sources resulting in unnecessary exposures;
- ▶ Prostate brachytherapy performed without evaluation of seed placement;
- ▶ Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station inattentiveness by security officers; and
- ▶ Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station reactor pressure vessel head cavity caused by years undetected boric acid corrosion.

### **4. How will your assistance further the planning and success of the workshops?**

- ▶ The NRC will be holding a set of public workshops, (Feb. 2-4, and tentatively planned for April 13-15, and Oct. 27-28, 2010) that will include a panel and active attendee participation to develop the safety culture terminology (i.e., a definition of safety culture and traits/language describing areas important to safety culture that will be used in the development of a final safety culture policy statement). To ensure the success of this initiative, we are asking you to help us identify and/or develop: (1) the agenda; (2) the method(s) to be used to develop and reach consensus on the terminology; (3) potential panel participants representing a broad range of stakeholders; (4) how to reach out to stakeholders to encourage broad range stakeholder attendance and audience participation; and (5) the format of the workshops, e.g., whether we want to use break out sessions for the various organizational groups etc.

- ▶ Planning for the workshops will be accomplished through a series of teleconference calls. The NRC will provide a bridge line and pass code to call in and participate on these calls in the December 2009/January 2010 timeframe. Additional information including questions that might help to focus these discussions, will be provided before the calls take place.

**5. How can stakeholders get more information on the safety culture effort (e.g., draft safety culture policy statement, history, upcoming workshop notices, etc.)?**

Information relating to safety culture can be found at the NRC's safety culture website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/safety-culture.html>

**6. What other ways can stakeholders be involved in the development of the policy statement?**

You can provide comments on the draft policy statement to the NRC by February 4, 2010 at: (<http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#docketDetail?R=NRC-2009-0485>).

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Distribution:

OE r/f          JCai    MSchwartz    ASapountzis

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<b>OFFICE</b>	OE	OE	OE
<b>NAME</b>	ASapountzis	MSchwartz	DSolorio
<b>DATE</b>	12/09/09	12/09/09	12/09/09

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