

June 10, 2011

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES
STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
SAFETY CULTURE POLICY STATEMENT AND FORTHCOMING SAFETY CULTURE
BROCHURE (FSME-11-053)

Purpose: To inform all State contacts about: (1) the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) issuance of the final safety culture policy statement (SCPS) in the *Federal Register* (76 FR 34773) and (2) NRC's plans to develop a safety culture brochure. Upon finalization of the safety culture brochure, all States will be provided hard copy versions of the safety culture brochure, as well as a link to the electronic version, for distribution to individuals and organizations performing or overseeing regulated activities.

Background: In SRM-COMGBJ-08-0001, "A Commission Policy Statement on Safety Culture" (February 25, 2008, Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML080560476), the Commission approved the need to expand its SCPS to include all licensees and certificate holders and to incorporate the unique aspects of security. In preparing the draft policy statement, the NRC staff reviewed issues relating to safety culture, including:

1. How to increase attention to safety culture in the materials area;
2. How stakeholder involvement can most effectively be used to address safety culture for all NRC and Agreement State licensees and certificate holders, including any unique aspects of security; and
3. Whether publishing NRC's expectations for safety culture and for security culture is best accomplished in one safety/security culture statement or in two separate statements, one each for safety and security, while still considering the safety and security interfaces.

In SECY-09-0075, "Safety Culture Policy Statement" (May 18, 2009, ADAMS Accession Number ML091190629), the NRC staff addressed the issues above and provided the Commission with a draft policy statement. On November 6, 2009, the draft SCPS was published in the *Federal Register* (74 FR 57525), with a notice of an opportunity to comment. Based on NRC staff review and stakeholder feedback, the staff published the revised draft SCPS (ADAMS Accession Number ML102500563) on September 17, 2010 (75 FR 57081) for comment. On March 7, 2011, the Commission approved the publication of a policy statement on safety culture. This policy statement describes the Commission's expectations on safety culture and emphasizes the importance the NRC places on the development and maintenance of a positive safety culture for all NRC-regulated activities. In addition to approving the policy statement, the Commission directed the NRC staff to ensure that the individuals and organizations performing regulated activities have the necessary support to effectively employ the policy statement as they deem appropriate.

Discussion: The policy statement describes the Commission's expectation that individuals and organizations establish and maintain a positive safety culture commensurate with the safety and security significance of their activities and the nature and complexity of their organizations and functions. This includes all licensees, certificate holders, permit holders, authorization holders, holders of quality assurance program approvals, vendors and suppliers of safety-related components, and applicants for a license, certificate, permit, authorization, or quality assurance program approval, subject to NRC authority. The policy statement defines **nuclear safety culture** *as the core values and behaviors resulting from a collective commitment by leaders and individuals to emphasize safety over competing goals to ensure protection of people and the environment.* This includes the consideration of both safety and security issues. The policy statement also includes a set of traits that describe areas that are important to a positive safety culture, while acknowledging that other traits may also be important in a positive safety culture. The policy statement notes that the traits were not developed for inspection purposes. The traits included in the policy statement are: (1) Leadership Safety Values and Actions, (2) Problem Identification and Resolution, (3) Personal Accountability, (4) Work Processes, (5) Continuous Learning, (6) Environment for Raising Concerns, (7) Effective Safety Communication, (8) Respectful Work Environment, and (9) Questioning Attitude. The policy statement indicates that it is the Commission's expectation that all individuals and organizations performing or overseeing regulated activities involving nuclear materials should take the necessary steps to promote a positive safety culture by fostering these traits as they apply to their organizations.

The aforementioned *Federal Register* notice and additional information on NRC activities relating to safety culture can be found at the NRC's safety culture web site:
<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/safety-culture.html>.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at (301) 415-7278 or the individual named below.

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Enclosure: 76 FR 34773

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ML111600361

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