



**RIC 2010**

**Safety Culture: Status of the NRC's  
Initiative Regarding the Draft Final  
Safety Culture Policy Statement**

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## Introductory Remarks

- Licensee management has primary responsibility for establishing and maintaining a positive safety culture
- NRC has independent oversight role
- Outreach efforts to engage broad range of stakeholders



## Presentation Overview

- Background
- February 2008, Commission direction
- May 2009, Draft safety culture policy statement
- October 2009, Commission direction
- February 2-4, 2010, Workshop



## Background

Past Commission policy documents related to safety culture:

- Conduct of Operations (1989)
- Safety Conscious Work Environment (1996)



## **Safety Culture and the Reactor Oversight Process**

- 2002 Davis-Besse pressure vessel head degradation event
- Commission direction to enhance the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) to better address safety culture
- Implementation of ROP safety culture changes
  - Development of safety culture components



## 2008 Commission Direction

- Expand the Commission's policy of safety culture to address the unique aspects of security
- Ensure the resulting policy is applicable to all licensees and certificate holders



## 2008 Commission Direction (cont'd)

- Other issues to address:
  - Whether safety culture as applied to reactors needs to be strengthened
  - How to increase attention to safety culture in the materials area
  - Effective use of stakeholder involvement
  - One or two policy statements for safety and security



## **Policy Statement Development Activities**

- Information collection, review, and analysis
- Stakeholder engagement





## Draft Safety Culture Policy Statement

Submitted to Commission in May 2009 with following key messages:

- NRC's draft definition of safety culture:
  - “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.”



## **Draft Safety Culture Policy Statement (con't)**

- Safety and security are equally important in a positive safety culture
- Licensees and certificate holders are responsible for developing and maintaining a positive safety culture
- The NRC has independent role



## Response to Commission Questions

- Current ROP process is effective; process continues to be refined in accordance with self-assessment process
- Further stakeholder interactions needed:
  - Public meeting
  - Outreach to Agreement States
  - Develop strategies for engaging materials stakeholders
- One policy statement emphasizing safety and security treated equally



## October 2009 Commission Direction

- Approved publication of draft Safety Culture Policy Statement in *Federal Register*
  - No less than a 90-day public comment period
  - Consider incorporating suppliers and vendors
  - Continue to engage broad range of stakeholders
  - Seek opportunities to comport terminology with existing standards and references



## Stakeholder Outreach

- Published draft policy statement in *Federal Register* for public comment
  - Comment Period Extended to March 1, 2010
- Held Safety Culture Workshop (February 2-4, 2010)
  - Format and agenda developed with assistance of stakeholder steering committee
  - Attended by representatives from the Agreement States and a broad range of NRC licensees/certificate holders and other stakeholders



## Workshop Results – Next Steps

- Workshop participants:
  - Developed a draft definition that can be applied to all NRC-regulated nuclear industry
  - Developed a set of description/traits of what constitutes a strong safety culture
- The NRC will factor the draft definition and draft description/traits into the development of the final policy statement



## Implementation

- Submit final policy statement for Commission approval in March 2011
- After final approval and issuance, focus on implementation
  - External – oversight programs
  - Internal – NRC's own safety culture



**Questions?**