Development and Implementation of U.S. NRC's Safety Culture Policy Statement for Radioactive Materials

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Presentation Overview

- Development of NRC's Safety Culture Policy Statement

- Content of the Safety Culture Policy Statement

- Next Steps for the Safety Culture Policy Statement

  ➢ Completed Activities

  ➢ Planned Activities

Development of the Safety Culture Policy Statement

- Three-year effort
  - ➤ Significant stakeholder outreach
  - ➤ Two large workshops with external stakeholders
  - ➤ Two publications requesting public comments
  - ➤ Large one-day public meeting
- The Safety Culture Policy Statement was published and became effective on June 14, 2011.

Content of the Safety Culture Policy Statement

NRC's safety culture policy statement sets forth the Commission's **expectation** that individuals and organizations performing regulated activities establish and maintain a positive safety culture commensurate with the safety and security significance of their actions and the nature and complexity of their organizations and functions.

Content of the Safety Culture Policy Statement

Nuclear Safety Culture is defined 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.

Content of the Safety Culture Policy Statement

Experience has shown that certain personal and organizational traits are present in a positive safety culture. A **trait**, in this case, is a pattern of thinking, feeling, and behaving that emphasizes safety, particularly in goal conflict situations, e.g., production vs. safety, schedule vs. safety, and cost of the effort vs. safety.

Safety Culture Traits

Leadership Safety Values and Actions	Problem Identification and Resolution	Personal Accountability
Leaders demonstrate a commitment to safety in their decisions and behaviors	Issues potentially impacting safety are promptly identified, fully evaluated, and promptly addressed and corrected commensurate with their significance	All individuals take personal responsibility for safety
Work Processes	**Continuous Learning**	**Environment for Raising Concerns**
The process of planning and controlling work activities is implemented so that safety is maintained	Opportunities to learn about ways to ensure safety are sought out and implemented	A safety conscious work environment is maintained where personnel feel free to raise safety concerns without fear of retaliation, intimidation, harassment or discrimination
Effective Safety Communications	**Respectful Work Environment**	**Questioning Attitude**
Communications maintain a focus on safety	Trust and respect permeate the organization	Individuals avoid complacency and continually challenge existing conditions and activities in order to identify discrepancies that might result in error or inappropriate action

Next Steps for the Safety Culture Policy Statement

- Completed Activities:
  - Educational tools (e.g. English and Spanish brochure, case studies, posters)
  - Presentations at licensee and industry meetings, conferences, etc.
  - Education and awareness during licensing and inspection meetings
  - Newsletter articles and a generic communication with licensees
  - Information sharing with co-regulators

Next Steps for the Safety Culture Policy Statement

The staff is continuing to engage in activities to increase an awareness and understanding of the benefits of a positive safety culture for those entities covered by the safety culture policy statement.

- Planned activities:
  - ➢ Expansion of educational tools, such as additional case studies
  - ➢ Continuation of efforts to provide presentations to licensees and industry groups
  - ➢ Revisions to various licensing guidance documents
  - ➢ Revisions of the training and qualification requirements for radioactive materials inspectors and license reviewers

Summary

- Continue outreach and education to effectively employ the safety culture policy statement

- Evaluate the effectiveness of outreach and education efforts

- NRC safety culture website: http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/safety-culture.html