



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

(FSME-10-079, August, Program, NRC Safety Culture Policy Statement)

August 19, 2010

ALL AGREEMENT STATES AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

MEETING NOTICE ON DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
SAFETY CULTURE POLICY STATEMENT (FSME-10-079)

Purpose: To inform all State contacts about: (1) an opportunity for States and their licensees to comment on a revised Commission safety culture policy statement (SCPS) and (2) a September 28, 2010, public meeting to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, and remotely, at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The meeting will focus on the revised SCPS and revised safety culture terminology, including the revised definition of safety culture and revised traits which describe a positive safety culture.

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 safety culture policy statement was published in the *Federal Register* (74 FR 57525), with a notice of an opportunity to comment. The comment period closed on March 1, 2010.

* This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 08/31/2010. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet e-mail to_infocollects@nrc.gov and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0163), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

Discussion: The draft policy statement indicates that it is the Commission's policy that a strong safety culture is an essential element for individuals, both internal to the NRC and external to the NRC, that perform or oversee regulated activities. Safety culture includes nuclear safety and security issues. Licensees and certificate holders bear the primary responsibility for safely handling radioactive material and should foster a positive safety culture in their organizations and among individuals overseeing or performing regulated activities. The Commission directed the NRC staff to consider incorporating suppliers and vendors of safety-related components into the policy statement. The policy statement also emphasizes the NRC's independent oversight role, which includes addressing licensees' and certificate holders' performance related to areas important to safety culture.

The NRC is increasing the attention that it gives to safety culture, because it is an important contributor to ensuring the protection of the public in the use of radioactive material. The draft policy statement includes a definition of safety culture that makes the definition more widely applicable to the full range of NRC licensees and certificate holders and incorporates nuclear security within the definition. In addition, the *Federal Register* notice included a set of safety culture characteristics, which the NRC considers to be indicative of a positive safety culture. As the NRC proceeds with developing a final policy statement, the NRC is seeking to:

(1) develop a definition of safety culture that can be adopted throughout the nuclear industry, and (2) develop common terminology relating to safety culture — including a list of traits/description areas important to safety culture — to facilitate communication and shared understanding by regulators and other stakeholders. As part of this effort, the NRC held a three-day Safety Culture Workshop in February 2010 at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, where panelists successfully aligned on a common definition of safety culture and developed a list of traits that they believe exist in a positive safety culture. Following the February workshop, NRC staff participated in various industry forums in order to obtain additional input from stakeholders to confirm that the draft definition and traits developed at the February workshop reflect the consensus view of a broad range of stakeholders.

The NRC is hosting a public meeting September 28, 2010, in Las Vegas, Nevada, and at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, to provide stakeholders an opportunity to: 1) gain an understanding and status of the revised safety culture policy statement (SCPS), and 2) offer thoughts on the proposed revision to the SCPS, including the proposed definition and traits, and next steps, i.e., the activities the NRC will engage in after the Commission approves the policy statement and provides directions to the staff. In addition, the NRC will receive comments on the revised SCPS, which will be published for public comment in the *Federal Register* on approximately September 10, 2010, with a 30-day comment period. A separate *Federal Register* notice that describes this effort and requests participation at the public meeting, at either designated locations or through teleconference or web streaming, will be published shortly. The NRC encourages Agreement State licensees to participate in this meeting and/or to provide comments on the revised draft policy statement.

Additional information regarding the September 28th meeting is detailed in the attached Meeting Notice and Draft Agenda, and at the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index.cfm>. Background information about SCPS can be found at NRC's safety culture website at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/safety-culture.html>. The forthcoming *Federal Register* Notices will also be published on the NRC's safety culture website.

All meeting attendees – those attending in Las Vegas, Nevada, as well as those participating through teleconferencing, web streaming, or in person at the remote location at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland – should pre-register with one of the contacts listed below as soon as possible, but no later than September 21, 2001, preferably by email:

POINTS OF CONTACT:	Jose Ibarra	Catherine Thompson
INTERNET:	Jose.Ibarra@nrc.gov	Catherine.Thompson@nrc.gov
PHONE:	301-415-2581	301-415-3409

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact me or the following individual:

POINT OF CONTACT:	James R. Firth	INTERNET:	James.Firth@nrc.gov
PHONE:	301-415-6628	FAX:	301-415-5955

/RA/

Josephine M. Piccone, Director
Division of Intergovernmental Liaison
and Rulemaking
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Enclosure:
Meeting Notice and Draft Agenda

August 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM TO: Roy Zimmerman, Director
Office of Enforcement

FROM: David Solorio, Chief /RA/
Concerns Resolution Branch
Office of Enforcement

SUBJECT: FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION AND STAKEHOLDERS
REGARDING THE DRAFT SAFETY CULTURE POLICY
STATEMENT

DATE & TIME: Tuesday, September 28, 2010
8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

LOCATION: Las Vegas Hearing Facility
3250 Pepper Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89120

Commission Hearing Room (simultaneous broadcast)
NRC Headquarters, One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

PURPOSE: To provide an opportunity for stakeholders to: a) gain
understanding and a status of the draft safety culture policy
statement (SCPS) and, b) offer their thoughts on the proposed
revision the SCPS, definition and traits, and issues related to next
steps associated with the SCPS. In addition, the NRC will receive
comments on the draft safety culture policy statement that will be
out for public comments approximately September 10, 2010, with
a 30-day comment period.

CATEGORY: This is a Category 2 meeting. The public will be provided the
opportunity to participate in this meeting either at designated
locations identified within the agenda, or by teleconference, and/or
webstreaming and webinar.

The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting (e.g. sign language), or need this meeting notice or other information from the meeting in another format (e.g., Braille, large print, or translation services), please notify one of the NRC's meeting contacts listed below by September 21, 2010, so that arrangements can be made.

TELECONFERENCE/
WEBSTREAMING

Interested members of the public unable to travel to the meeting locations at Las Vegas or at Headquarters may participate remotely by telephone via a toll-free teleconference and observe the meeting via NRC's website using a computer and an internet connection (webstreaming). For details, please call one of the NRC meeting contacts listed below or use the toll-free number, 1-800-368-5642, and ask the operator for a connection to one of the meeting contacts. Those interested in participating in this meeting by webstreaming or teleconferencing should call or e-mail one of the contacts as soon as possible, but no later than September 21, 2010 (for remote participation, pre-registration is required).

NOTE:

Additional meeting materials, such as background information, agenda and presentation materials, will also be posted at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/safety-culture.html>. Meeting participants are encouraged to check this page periodically before the meeting to access all the meeting materials and for any revisions to the attached agenda.

REGISTRATION:

All meeting attendees – including attendees participating through the teleconference, webstreaming, or at the remote location at Headquarters – should pre-register with one of the contacts listed below as soon as possible, but no later than September 21, 2010, preferably by e-mail.

Jose Ibarra (OE)
301-415-2581

Jose.Ibarra@nrc.gov

Catherine Thompson (OE)
301-415-3409

Catherine.Thompson@nrc.gov

PARTICIPANTS:

Participants from the NRC (either at the Las Vegas Hearing Facility or NRC Headquarters Commissions Hearing Room) are expected to include staff from the Offices of Enforcement (OE), Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), New Reactors (NRO), Nuclear Materials Safety and

Safeguards (NMSS), Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME), and Region IV. NRC anticipates various external stakeholders representing the industry from reactors, materials-industrial, materials-medical, material-fuel cycle, new reactor construction, vendors and suppliers and interested members of the public.

NRC

Roy Zimmerman, OE
David Solorio, OE
Maria Schwartz, OE
Jose Ibarra, OE
Catherine Thompson, OE
Diane Sieracki, OE
Pete Hernandez, OE
Dr. Val Barnes, RES

Invited Stakeholders

et.al.

Draft Agenda for Safety Culture Public Meeting
Las Vegas, NV
September 28, 2010
8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Opening Remarks (NRC)

Public Meeting Details (NRC)

Purpose of the Public Meeting:

Provide a western location for public meeting with stakeholders

Provide stakeholders a summary of efforts on the SCPS initiative

Provide last major outreach effort and the opportunity for public comments on the draft SCPS.

Provide opportunity for discussion on next steps of draft SCPS

Review agenda

Introductions – Name/Organization/Affiliation of participants

What is Safety Culture? (NRC)

The NRC's Safety Culture Initiative (NRC)

The Safety Culture Policy Statement (NRC)

The Safety Culture Definition and Traits (NRC)

Break

The INPO Validation Study (NRC)

Stakeholder's Perspectives (to be arranged)

Facilitated Discussion on the Draft SCPS, Definition and Traits (NRC)

Lunch

Upcoming Activities Regarding Draft SCPS – (NRC)

Discussion and Question Regarding Next Steps (Stakeholders/NRC)

Break

Facilitated Discussion on Draft SCPS & Next Steps (NRC)

Closing Remarks/Summary (NRC)

End of Day