

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Oversight of Safety Culture

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Agenda

- The role of the NRC as an independent regulator
- History of safety culture at the NRC
- The NRC approach to oversight of safety culture
- Outreach and education of safety culture

Nuclear Regulatory Commission



- Established as independent agency in 1974
- Mission to ensure safe use of radioactive materials for civilian purposes, including nuclear power
 - Protect public health and safety
 - Promote the common defense and security
 - Protect the environment
- Accomplished through licensing, inspection and enforcement



NRC's Safety Culture History

1989

- Commission Policy Statement: Nuclear Power Plant Operations

1996

- Commission Policy Statement: Freedom to Raise Safety Concerns Without Fear of Retaliation

2002

- Davis-Besse Reactor Head Degradation Event
- NRC Reviewed Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) to more fully address safety culture

2006

- Regulatory Issues Summary - ROP

2008

- Commission Direction to consider a Safety Culture Policy Statement (SCPS)

2011

- Commission Approves Draft SCPS and Final Safety Culture Policy Statement published in June, 2011.

Spotlight on Safety Culture

Nuclear Safety Culture is 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

INPO[®]

Special Report

INPO 11-005 Addendum
August 2012

Lessons Learned from the Nuclear Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

Revision 0



The National Diet of Japan

The official report of
**The Fukushima
Nuclear Accident Independent
Investigation Commission**

IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety¹

In June 2011 a Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety was convened to direct, under the leading role of the IAEA, the process of learning and acting upon lessons following the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in order to strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection of people and the environment worldwide. At the conference a Ministerial Declaration was adopted which inter alia:

- "Requested the IAEA Director General to prepare a Report on the June 2011 IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety and a draft Action Plan, building on the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference and the conclusions and recommendations of the three Working Sessions, and the expertise and knowledge available therein, and to promote coordination and cooperation, as appropriate, with other relevant international organizations to follow up on the outcomes of the Conference, as well as facilitate consultations among Member States on the draft Action Plan";
- "Requested the IAEA Director General to present the Report and the draft Action Plan covering all the relevant aspects relating to nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and response, and radiation protection of people and the environment, as well as the relevant international legal framework, to the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference at their forthcoming meetings in 2011";
- "Called upon the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference to reflect the outcome of the Ministerial Conference in their decisions and to support the effective, prompt and adequately resourced implementation of the Action Plan".

In considering this Action Plan, it is important to note that:

- The responsibility for ensuring the application of the highest standards of nuclear safety and for providing a timely, transparent and adequate response to nuclear emergencies, including addressing vulnerabilities revealed by accidents, lies with each Member State and operating organization.
- The IAEA Safety Standards provide the basis for what constitutes a high level of safety for protecting people and the environment from harmful effects of ionizing radiation, and will continue to be objective, transparent and technologically neutral.
- Transparency in all aspects of nuclear safety through timely and continuous sharing and dissemination of objective information, including information on nuclear emergencies and their radiological consequences, is of particular importance to improve safety and to meet the high level of public expectation. Nuclear accidents may have transboundary effects; therefore it is important to provide adequate responses based on scientific knowledge and full transparency.

¹ The Action Plan was approved by the IAEA Board of Governors on 13 September 2011, as endorsed by the IAEA General Conference during its 59th regular session on 22 September 2011.

NRC's Role in Safety Culture



- Licensees bear primary responsibility for safety
- NRC's Safety Culture Policy Statement states **expectation** that licensees maintain a positive safety culture, but is not a regulatory requirement

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*

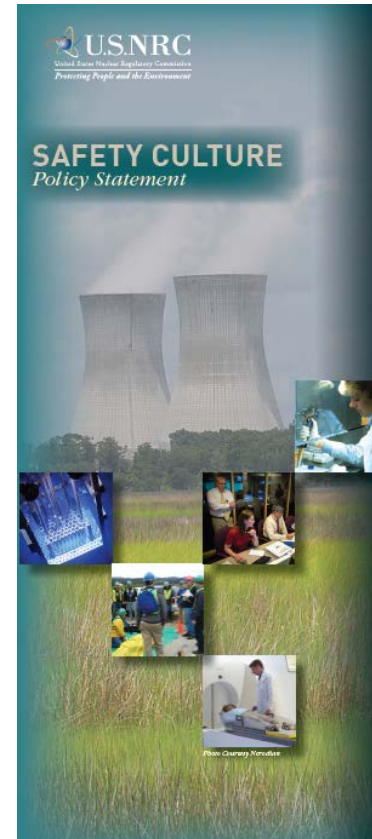
Timeline



Outreach and Education Efforts

- Interactions with Licensees and External Stakeholders
- International Involvement
- Conferences and Training
- Educational Tools
 - Case Studies
 - Brochures
 - Posters and Support Materials
- NRC Safety Culture Website

<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/safety-culture.html>



Summary

- NRC provides an oversight role in the area of safety culture
- NRC communicates safety culture expectations through the Safety Culture Policy Statement
- Outreach and education fosters understanding of safety culture and helps disseminate good practices