

POLICY ISSUE NOTATION VOTE

January 19, 2012

SECY-12-0008

FOR: The Commissioners

FROM: R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE SAFETY CULTURE POLICY
STATEMENT

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this paper is to transmit for Commission review the staff's implementation plan for the Safety Culture Policy Statement (SCPS).

BACKGROUND:

In SECY-11-0005, "Proposed Final Safety Culture Policy Statement," dated January 5, 2011, the staff provided a draft policy statement for the Commission's consideration. The paper provided a comprehensive summary of the development of the policy statement beginning in 2008 and the extensive stakeholder outreach and support for the policy statement. On March 7, 2011, the Commission approved the proposed final SCPS. The SCPS became effective when the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published it in the *Federal Register* (76 FR 34773) on June 14, 2011 [Enclosure 1].

In Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM)-SECY-11-0005, "Proposed Final Safety Culture Policy Statement, dated March 7, 2011, the Commission directed the staff to "continue to engage with all stakeholders to communicate the contents of the SCPS, to educate stakeholders, and to ensure they have the necessary support to effectively employ the SCPS as they deem appropriate." In response to this direction, the staff is (1) engaging in outreach activities with stakeholders and the regulated communities and providing educational tools to enhance understanding of the definition and traits of a positive safety culture given in the SCPS,

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(2) determining whether enhanced safety culture outreach is beneficial for some licensees and considering appropriate followup actions, (3) providing presentations on the SCPS at meetings, conferences, workshops, and other forums, and (4) engaging in international efforts on safety culture to educate those in other countries on the SCPS.

Additionally, SRM-SECY-11-0005 directed the staff to “obtain Commission approval for any staff activities beyond communication and education.” At present, the staff has not engaged in any new actions that go beyond outreach and education or are not under previous Commission direction. On July 22, 2011, the Chairman issued a tasking memorandum directing the staff to submit an implementation plan, including short-term and long-term goals, before implementing any new initiatives related to the SCPS.

DISCUSSION:

In response to the Commission direction in the SRM and the Chairman’s tasking memorandum, the staff is submitting for Commission approval, this implementation plan, including a summary of activities and goals for outreach and education, as well as a detailed discussion of SCPS-related activities consistent with Commission direction. The staff has developed an implementation plan (Enclosure 2) that focuses on the engagement of stakeholders and outreach activities that are appropriate for implementing the SCPS at this time. The staff will continue to assess the effectiveness of these activities and consider whether any new activities are necessary and appropriate. If new activities are identified in the future, staff would seek Commission approval before implementing them. Several program offices are engaged in actions as appropriate, such as incorporating the SCPS when revising existing program office procedures, documents, and inspection activities. A summary of outreach activities with stakeholders is provided in Enclosure 3.

SRM-SECY-11-0005 also directed the staff to seek Commission policy review of staff plans, including short-term and long-term goals, for implementation and the vision for each program office’s oversight before implementing any new initiatives based on the policy statement. The Chairman’s tasking memorandum, dated July 22, 2011, directed the staff to submit an implementation plan, including short-term and long-term goals, before beginning any new initiatives related to the SCPS. The staff is not proposing any new initiatives. The engagement of stakeholders and educational activities are succeeding to enhance understanding of the definition and traits of a positive safety culture.

COMMITMENTS:

The NRC staff will continue to seek ways to engage with stakeholders, licensees, members of the public, and the international community in order to provide outreach and education on the SCPS. In addition, program offices will incorporate the SCPS, as appropriate, in revisions to those procedures, documents, and inspection activities that fall under previous Commission direction, and seek Commission approval before initiating any new activities relating to the SCPS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The staff recommends that the Commission approve the planned activities and initiatives associated with the SCPS implementation plan.

RESOURCES:

The budget for FY2012 and the current draft budget for FY2013 include sufficient resources to carry out the activities in the plan.

COORDINATION:

The Office of the General Counsel has reviewed this paper and has no legal objection. The Office of the Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this paper for resource implications and has no objections.

/RA Michael Weber for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

1. *Federal Register Notice* for the Safety Culture Policy Statement
2. Draft Safety Culture Policy Statement Implementation Plan
3. Safety Culture Outreach/Conference Dates for Industry/Groups

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ADAMS Package: ML11334A073 *concurred by email **WITS 201100202/EDATS: SECY-2011-0471**

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