

June 22, 2012

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES  
STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

NOTIFICATION OF SAFETY CULTURE POLICY STATEMENT INFORMATION IN  
MATERIALS LICENSING CORRESPONDENCE (FSME-12-060)

**Purpose:** To inform all State contacts about the initiation of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) use of information on the safety culture policy statement (SCPS) in materials licensing correspondence (e.g., covers letters for new licenses, license amendments, and license renewals)

**Background:** On July 22, 2011, the Chairman issued a tasking memorandum directing the staff to submit an Implementation Plan related to the SCPS. In response to the Commission direction in the Chairman's Tasking memorandum, the staff developed and provided to the Commission an Implementation Plan, SECY-12-0008, that summarizes the various activities NRC staff has completed and planned that focuses on the engagement of stakeholders and outreach activities. These activities include: development of educational tools (e.g., brochure, case studies, pop-ups) to enhance understanding of the SCPS; presentations at licensee and industry meetings and workshops, and other forums with stakeholders in the regulated communities; sharing the key messages from the SCPS during licensing and inspection meetings with licensees; information sharing through newsletter articles and a generic communication to all NRC licensees and the Agreement State Radiation Control Program Directors; revisions to guidance documents (e.g., NUREG-1556) to incorporate discussion of the SCPS and traits; and updates to the training and qualification requirements for our inspectors and license reviewers to include a requirement for knowledge of the SCPS. The Commission approved the staff's planned activities and initiatives associated with the SCPS proposed by staff in March, 2012.

**Discussion:** The NRC continues to seek ways to engage with stakeholders, licensees, members of the public, and the international community to provide outreach and education on the policy statement. The NRC is using the following paragraph in materials licensing correspondence (e.g., covers letters for new licenses, license amendments, and license renewals) to educate and communicate the Commission's expectations that individuals at organizations performing or overseeing regulated activities establish and maintain a positive safety culture commensurate with the safety and security significance of their activities and the nature and complexity of their organizations and functions.

The NRC's Safety Culture Policy Statement became effective in June 2011. While a policy statement and not a regulation, it sets forth the agency's *expectations* for individuals and organizations to establish and maintain a positive safety culture. You can access the policy statement and supporting material that may benefit your organization on NRC's safety culture Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/safety-culture.html>. We strongly encourage you to review this material and adapt it to your particular needs in order to develop and maintain a positive safety culture as you engage in NRC-regulated activities.

As an additional tool to raise awareness of the SCPS, State contacts are encouraged to use this paragraph, or a similar communication tailored to incorporate safety culture information from the State's web site, in State licensing correspondence.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact me at 301-415-7278 or the individual named below.

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and Environmental Management Programs

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