

March 27, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Macfarlane
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff

FROM: Roy P. Zimmerman, Director */RA/*
Office of Enforcement

SUBJECT: PERIODIC UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF MATERIALS
LICENSEES IN ADDRESSING SAFETY CULTURE
(WITS 200900132)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this paper is to: (1) provide a periodic update to the Commission on the progress of materials licensees in addressing safety culture, and (2) inform the Commission regarding the staff's transition to a new mechanism for providing this update, beginning in March 2015, per Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) M090527A.

SUMMARY:

In SRM M090527A, "Briefing on External Safety Culture (SECY-09-0075)," dated June 8, 2009, the Commission directed the staff to propose a mechanism for periodically informing the Commission on the progress of materials licensees in addressing safety culture, as part of staff efforts to develop a strategy to increase the attention to safety culture in the materials area (Work Item Tracking System (WITS) Item 200900132).

To date, this mechanism has been in the form of a memorandum with an enclosed table of safety culture activities in the materials areas. The last memorandum was dated March 27, 2013, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML13081A707).

The Office of Enforcement (OE) has developed the "Safety Culture Outreach Matrix," which is a comprehensive table presenting the safety culture outreach activities performed by staff from all U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) program offices, including staff interactions with materials licensees and the Agreement States. This Outreach Matrix is updated quarterly and is publicly available at ADAMS ML14028A401 and on the redesigned safety culture Web page of the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/safety-culture/sc-outreach-edu-materials.html#scoa>.

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As noted in the current Outreach Matrix, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards continues to focus on communicating about safety culture with materials licensees. Numerous public meetings sponsored by Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation Division in 2013 typically included a brief discussion of safety culture, and copies of the Safety Culture Policy Statement (SCPS) were provided. The Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards Division sponsored the annual Fuel Cycle Information Exchange in June 2013 to discuss regulatory activities related to fuel cycle facilities, including discussions of safety culture.

The Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME) continues to discuss safety culture at industry conferences such as the Annual Conference of the Nondestructive Testing Management Association in February 2013, and the Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society in July 2013. FSME staff continues to support Agreement States with SCPS outreach activities, such as presenting at the Organization of Agreement States' annual meeting in August 2013, and hosting a safety culture training webinar in September 2013 with the purpose of discussing how the Agreement State regulators can support the implementation of the policy statement with their licensees. In addition, FSME continues to incorporate safety culture into draft revisions to the NUREG-1556 series, "Consolidated Guidance about Materials Licenses."

The Office of Enforcement (OE) continues to focus on safety culture at industry conferences such as the Waste Management Conference in February 2013, and the DevonWay Continuous Improvement Conference in September 2013. OE staff also coordinated a safety culture technical session at the 2013 Regulatory Information Conference (RIC), which included a representative from the materials licensees. In addition, OE staff is working with FSME and NMSS staff to develop a survey to be conducted with materials licensees through the Agreement States. The purpose of the survey will be to assess the effectiveness of the NRC's outreach and education efforts with respect to the SCPS. This effectiveness review will be conducted later in fiscal year 2014 or early in fiscal year 2015.

CONCLUSION:

The Safety Culture Outreach Matrix is a regularly updated table of safety culture activities in all program offices, including the materials area, and available on the safety culture Web page of the NRC's public Web site. Beginning in March 2015, as supported by the SRM, OE will issue an annual note to the Commissioners' assistants (CA note) referencing the outreach matrix on the safety culture Web page. The outreach matrix will serve as the mechanism to inform the Commission on the progress of materials licensees in addressing safety culture. The annual CA note will serve as a reminder of the availability and location of the outreach matrix on the NRC's public Web site and will include any specific updates of activities in NMSS and FSME.

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