NRC's
Safety Culture Initiative

Kevin Witt

Office Allegation Coordinator

Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

(301) 492-3323

Kevin.witt@nrc.gov

SFST Licensing Conference

June 23, 2010

NRC Safety Culture History

- **Previous SC policy statements (SCPS):**
  - **1989 Conduct of Operations**
  - **1996 Safety Conscious Work Environment**

- **Commission direction (February 2008), "to expand the Commission's policy on safety culture to address the unique aspects of security and to ensure that the resulting policy is applicable to all licenses and certificate holders."**

2

Definition of Safety Culture

- NRC's draft definition of safety culture is "that assembly of characteristics, attitudes and behaviors in organizations and individuals, which establishes that as an overriding priority, nuclear safety and security issues receive the attention warranted by their significance."

- Workshop safety culture traits:
  - Problem resolution and metrics
  - Personal responsibilities and attitudes
  - Processes and Procedures
  - Encouraging report of problems
  - Effective safety communications
  - Continuous learning
  - Leadership safety behaviors
  - Respectful work environment

Protecting People and the Environment

NRC Safety Culture

- **Why is safety culture important to the NRC?**
  - Operating experience has demonstrated there is a nexus between safety culture and events at NRC-regulated facilities.
  - Safety culture contributes to the safe and secure use of radioactive materials.
  - Connection to NRC mission.

Protecting People and the Environment

Importance of Safety Culture

- **Weaknesses in SC Attributed to Events:**
  - **2002: Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station reactor pressure vessel head corrosion.**

  - **2006: Nuclear Fuel Services high-enriched uranium solution leak.**

  - **2002-2008: Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center, prostate cancer radioactive treatment errors.**

Protecting People and the Environment

Key Messages

- **Applies to anyone performing or overseeing NRC regulated activities.**

- **Proposes a definition and characteristics of SC.**

- **Safety and security are equally important in a positive SC.**

- **Licensees and certificate holders are responsible for developing and maintaining a positive SC.**

- **The NRC has an independent oversight role.**

6

Protecting People and the Environment

Schedule and Next Steps

- **Consider the public comments on the draft SC policy statement, results of the February 2-4, 2010, workshop, and any comments received by stakeholders.**

- **Revise draft SC policy statement and submit to Commission (due March 2011)**

- **Increase the attention given to SC:**
  - **Strategy in the materials area.**
  - **Stakeholder involvement.**

- **Evaluate oversight programs for SC considerations:**
  - **Implement appropriately as directed by Commission.**

Protecting People and the Environment

Comments

- **NRC is interested in your views:**
  - **If you would like to submit comments on the SC definition and traits, please submit comments at the following website by November 24, 2010: http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/contact-oe.html or by email to external_safety_culture.resource@nrc.gov.**

  - **Please indicate which SC definition and traits you prefer and/or include potential comments to improve the SC definition and traits.**

Protecting People and the Environment