

# NRC Safety Culture Workshop

Kevin Buckley

Children's Hospital Boston

Harvard Medical School

On Behalf of AAPM

September, 28th 2010

# AAPM

- Is the premier organization in medical physics; a broadly-based scientific and professional discipline encompassing physics principles and applications in biology and medicine whose mission is to advance the science, education and professional practice of medical physics.
- Represents over 7,300 medical physicists.

# February Workshop

- Wide cross section of users from power plants to small source users and medical personnel.
- In order to reach a consensus statement everyone had to compromise a little.

# Apparent Agreement on the Basic Definition of 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.”

# Safety Culture Policy

- It is the responsibility of the licensees and certificate holders for developing and maintaining a strong safety program.
- It is critical that a common language of safety culture traits and behaviors exist between NRC and **each category of licensee.**

# General Comments

- The NRC is to be commended for gathering together a wide cross section of licensees to discuss this topic.
- NRC solicited input from and responded to concerns of this group.

# Revised Definition of Safety Culture

- The consensus of the panelists during the February workshop was that the revised definition would be beneficial in increasing the understanding and importance of what is “safety culture.”

# General Comments

- AAPM concurs with the revised definition however:
  - It is extremely important to emphasize that the term “protection of people” in the above definition includes “patients”.
- AAPM concurs with excluding the term “security” from the definition.
  - Including security in the definition denigrates other equally important processes that protect the patient, the public, and the environment.

# AAPM Activities Related to Safety Culture Outreach

- Worked with NRC to have NRC staff presentations at the:
  - ACMP\* annual meeting in May 2010
  - AAPM annual meeting in July 2010
- AAPM is co-sponsoring a 1 day workshop on Safety Culture in February 2011 in conjunction with the International Radiation Protection Association and the Health Physics Society.

# General Comments

- NRC needs to acknowledge for medical institutions that **patient safety is first and foremost and that the use of radioactive materials in the practice of medicine is to enhance diagnosis or treatment of disease while ensuring that the patient receives the best medical care.**

Questions?