

The Importance of a Healthy Nuclear Safety Culture

Ian Rowley

Vice President of Outage and Maintenance Services

Bruce Power

Abstract

In the nuclear industry, operating safely is paramount to the long term viability of our business. Each of us must understand the health of our team's nuclear safety culture. A rigorous process should be used to status the health and also understand positive and negative trends. A strong and healthy safety culture promotes many positive behaviours including, a personal commitment to safety, continuous improvement, a respected work environment, leaders communicating safety values and a strong questioning attitude.

Nuclear Safety is a core value for Bruce Power. Nuclear Safety at Bruce Power is based on the following four pillars: reactor safety, industrial safety, radiological safety and environmental safety. Processes and practices are in place to achieve a healthy Nuclear Safety Culture within Bruce Power such that nuclear safety is the overriding priority. This governance is based on industry leading practices which monitors, assesses and takes actions to drive continual improvements in the Nuclear Safety Culture within Bruce Power.

An important aspect of determining the status of the Nuclear Safety Culture within Bruce Power is effective leadership oversight which sets standards and behaviour expectations for all staff and uses a variety of day to day controls to monitor the operations of the facilities as well as to reinforce the behaviours associated with the expectations of a healthy Nuclear Safety Culture. Evaluation processes identify Nuclear Safety Culture weaknesses and monitor the effectiveness of actions taken. A variety of communications and leadership awareness activities have been implemented to enhance leaders' and employees' knowledge of the framework.

This integrated framework, which was developed using the experience of external expertise and international industry standards provides a valid characterization of the Nuclear Safety Culture and drives continual improvement such that Bruce Power maintains a healthy Nuclear Safety Culture. The value of these new methodologies has been validated through various measures, metrics and surveys.