

## **What is meant by *material implications* for security or the environment?**

In this instance, the term “material implications” refers to outcomes affecting security or the environment that may occur, to which a reasonable person would attach significance as a result of implementing or applying this standard. If these outcomes can be predicted or are experienced in the applicable industry, the information should be provided to the IEEE. Material implications can result in immediate security breach or harm to the environment, or can be harmful as a result of an extended breach or extended exposure.

Security breach of information or hazards to the environment can vary significantly, depending on the technology and application. A security breach is any situation that may result in the unintended access to information, especially if use of that information results in inconvenience, threats by unauthorized entities, or economic harm to the owners of the information. Any situation that may result in hazardous changes to the environment or hazardous materials released into the environment in the short term or long term, can be categorized as harmful to the environment.

If the standard’s purpose does not directly address related issues with regard to security or the environment, it may be appropriate to

- a) Reflect this information in the scope of the standard by clearly stating the intended application of the standard, as well as the applications that are not intended
- b) Direct implementers of the standard to authoritative sources addressing the relevant issues
- c) Note regulatory guidelines that address the relevant issues
- d) Inform implementers of the need to incorporate appropriate preventative systems or redundancies

It is important that IEEE Editorial staff is made aware of material implications for security or the environment, directed to areas in the standard where this information is addressed or could be addressed, and informed of any steps taken in the draft to address any related issues not covered in the standard.