

DATED: FEB 28, 1995;

SIGNED BY: RICHARD L. BANGART

Lani Graham, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Bureau of Health
State of Maine
Department of Human Services
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Dr. Graham:

Thank you for your letter of January 11, 1995, responding to our follow-up review of the Maine radiation control program (RCP). The information provided in your letter directly responded to program review findings, and addressed our comments and recommendations. Enclosed is the NRC evaluation of RCP responses relative to those items identified in our October 7, 1994 letter which can be closed based upon your letter. Other items, which were addressed in your response, will remain open and will be assessed during our next review of the State's program, which is tentatively scheduled to be performed in April of this year.

Thank you for your continued support of the Maine Agreement State program.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Bangart, Director
Office of State Programs

Enclosure:
NRC Evaluation of Maine's Response

cc w/encl: R. Schell, Acting Manager
Radiological Health Program

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EVALUATION OF MAINE RESPONSES TO 1994 FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM REVIEW

NRC has reviewed the responses contained in the January 11, 1995 letter from Dr. Lani Graham, Director, Bureau of Health, Maine Department of Human Services, to Mr. Richard Bangart, Director, NRC Office of State Programs. Those items which were closed based upon the State's response are discussed below. Other items, which were addressed in the response, will remain open and will be assessed during the next review of the State's program, which is tentatively scheduled to be performed in April of this year.

Training (Item 5 of the October 7, 1994 letter from R. Bangart to L. Graham)

Comment and Recommendation from the 1993 Routine Review

Comment

The technical staff is currently restricted from traveling for more than 14 days annually out-of-State. At present, the State has an out-of-State travel restriction of 14 days per calendar year. Specialized training in regulatory health physics requires that new personnel have at least 11 weeks of basic courses over a two-year period. Beyond this, senior personnel are expected to attend periodic workshops, seminars and national meetings.

Recommendation

We recommend that the out-of-State travel restrictions be lifted for radiation control personnel.

Status from the 1994 Follow-up Review

Although there has been no change in the State's policy for traveling more than 14 days annually out-of-State, there have been no impediments in obtaining out-of-State travel for the newly hired person to attend NRC sponsored training courses. The newly hired person attended the "Medical Uses of Radionuclides Course" in March 1994, the "Industrial Radiography Course" in May 1994, and the "Introduction to Materials Licensing Course" in June 1994. An application has been submitted for the new staff person to attend the "Five-Week Health Physics Course" in September 1994. The manager of the Radiological Health Program has indicated that he routinely submits a letter with out-of-State training requests to management, which has contributed to the approval of all out-of-State travel requests for NRC training.

January 1995 Maine response

Observations on Bureau policy were not entirely accurate. Travel policy was developed in response to a ban on out-of-State travel for all Maine employees. The number of allowable travel days depends on special needs of the individual and program, but staff are also permitted to travel for exceptional circumstances. Flexibility was provided in cases where employees should have training to meet a Federal requirement.

Evaluation of State's Response

The State's position is to provide a policy which balances professional development and programmatic needs. This is an appropriate strategy to satisfy this indicator and no further information is needed. This item is closed.