



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.  
GOVERNOR

May 1, 2000

J. DALE GIVENS  
SECRETARY

Paul H. Lohaus, Director  
Office of State and Tribal Programs  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Lohaus:

The Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) conducted by the NRC review team in the State of Louisiana on February 28 through March 3, 2000, resulted in a recommendation that the Louisiana Agreement State program be found adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with the NRC program. The review team found Louisiana's performance to be satisfactory for all seven indicators. There were four recommendations brought to our attention as a result of the IMPEP review, and these are addressed below.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The review team recommends that the Department modify the inspection frequency for HDRs to one year.

Response: The inspection frequency for HDR units has been modified to one year.

2. The review team recommends that the Department implement measures to ensure that staff receives appropriate and adequate training in health physics and operational topics.

Response: In the past, the Department has ensured that all staff receive appropriate and adequate training in health physics and operational topics and will continue to do so in the future. With the recent shift in NRC policy of no longer providing training at no cost to the states, we are confronted with budgetary constraints that make it difficult to participate in a timely fashion in all the courses needed. Currently, we are researching the possibility of participating in training classes and programs outside of those sponsored by NRC. Our core inspector training courses remain the same as discussed during the IMPEP review. Our goal is to provide this training in state to lower the training costs and to do this without degradation of course content. Our intentions are to return to the NRC-sponsored training program should we be unable to fulfill both aspects of this goal.

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3. The review team recommends that the Department review all licenses to ascertain if financial assurance for decommissioning is required, and appropriately request licensees to provide a financial assurance mechanism.

Response: All licenses will be reviewed, and for those which financial assurance for decommissioning is required, appropriate action will be undertaken to obtain that financial assurance mechanism.

4. The review team recommends that the Department either use the existing site characterization to terminate the cesium-137 contamination license; re-characterize the site using current decommissioning criteria; or require the licensee to begin decommissioning activities in accordance with the Decommissioning Timeliness Rule.

Response: The licensed site contaminated with cesium-137 has been re-inspected and will be terminated using the existing site characterization.

We look forward to discussing these or other issues during the NRC Management Review Board video conference scheduled for May 31, 2000, from 12:00n to 2:00pm CDT.

If you have any questions or desire additional information concerning these four items, please contact L. Hall Bohlinger at (225) 765-0642.

Sincerely,



J. Dale Givens  
Secretary

JDG/lhb