

DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR SAFETY

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217-243-2400

George H. Ryan
Governor



Thomas W. Ortziger
Director

January 5, 2001

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

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DSP

Re: Response to Incident and Event Information: Strategic Plan and Nuclear
Material Safety Performance Plan Data Goals (SP-00-081)

Dear Mr. Lohaus:

The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (Department) hereby submits its response to the above-identified Agreement States letter. The letter requests information concerning event data for fiscal years 1996-2000.

As requested, I have entered all event data through Fiscal Year 2000 and submitted the information electronically to Mr. Dante Huntsman, NMED Project Manager. Mr. Huntsman confirmed on January 3, 2001, that he has received all Illinois event data for fiscal years 1996-2000. Using the current version of NMED for event information management is no simple task. I must first enter the event data into an old laptop computer then save the data on a disk, transfer the file to our standard computer network, upload the file and transmit it attached to an email to Mr. Huntsman. All because your current version of the NMED program is not compatible with our system and, as I understand from most other states, their systems also. We were promised in mid-1999 that the new version of NMED would be available by the end of calendar year 1999. Now it is January 2001, and the new version is still not expected to be available until March 2001 at the earliest.



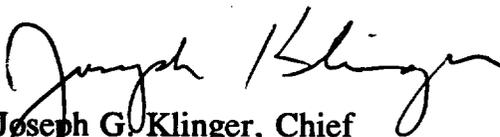
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I firmly believe in the importance of the NMED program and, as Chair of the CRCPD E-34 Committee, have vigorously supported its use in national forums for the benefit of the National Orphan Source Program that the E-34 Committee is trying to develop. At the same time that I recommend its use, I also find using it very frustrating, primarily because of the incompatibility with up-to-date systems. Ideally, the NMED program should be in a format that information is entered immediately upon notification of an incident and updated as the investigation proceeds. Each month we would then simply forward electronically from our NMED program that is in use to track events, the new information to your contractor. The NMED system should assist the individual states in managing their incidents and not, as currently, be a source of frustration and an inefficient means of incident information management. If the appropriate program modifications were made, state programs would have no problem submitting high quality and comprehensive information in a timely manner. I discussed these concerns with Mr. Huntsman on January 3, 2001, and he stated that the new version will correct the above concerns.

I look forward to the revised version of NMED that will facilitate timely incident information management for the benefit of NRC and all state programs. If you have any questions regarding these comments, do not hesitate to call me at (217) 785-9930.

Sincerely,


Joseph G. Klinger, Chief
Division of Radioactive Materials

JGK:kjg

cc: Jim Lynch, State Agreements Officer