



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064**

Jun

June 14, 2001

Mr. Chris Roberie, Administrator
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Compliance
Surveillance Division
P.O. Box 82215
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135

Dear Mr. Roberie:

A periodic meeting with Louisiana was held on May 15, 2001. The purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss the status of Louisiana's Agreement State Program. The NRC was represented by Kathleen Schneider from NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs and myself from NRC's Region IV office.

I have completed and enclosed a general meeting summary, including any specific actions that will be taken as a result of the meeting.

If you feel that our conclusions do not accurately summarize the meeting discussion, or have any additional remarks about the meeting in general, please contact me at (817) 860-8116 or e-mail mlm1@nrc.gov to discuss your concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA/

M. Linda McLean
State Agreements Officer
Region IV

cc:
Paul Lohaus, Director,
Office of State and Tribal Programs

Mr. Ronnie Wascom, Administrator

Environmental Assistance Division
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 82215
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135

Mr. Michael Henry
Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Compliance
Surveillance Division
P.O. Box 82215
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135

bcc:
 SPO1
 e-mail DCD
 D. Chamberlain
 L.McLean
 V.Campbell
 K. Schneider, OSTP
 L. Rakovan, OSTP
 C. Hackney

DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DNMS\SAO\Periodic Meetings\Louisiana final

To receive copy of document, indicate in box: "C" = Copy without enclosures "E" = Copy with enclosures "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RIV:SAO		D:DNMS			
NAME	MLMcLean		DDChamberlain			
	<i>/RA/</i>		<i>/RA/ DBSpitzberg for</i>			
DATE	06/14/01		06/14/01			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Chris Roberie, Administrator
Periodic Meeting 2001

AGREEMENT STATE PERIODIC MEETING SUMMARY FOR LOUISIANA
DATE OF MEETING: May 15, 2001

ATTENDEES:

NRC

M. Linda McLean, Regional State Agreements Officer, Region IV
Kathleen Schneider, Agreement State Project Officer, OSTP

State of Louisiana

Hall Bollinger, Deputy Secretary
Michael Henry, Senior Environmental Scientist
Michael Vince, Administrator
Diane Ausbrooks
Lourdes Iturrvalde
Verretta Johnson
Jodi Milli
Sharon Parker
Joe Noble

DISCUSSION:

The following is a summary of the meeting held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on May 15, 2001, between representatives of the NRC and the State of Louisiana. During the meeting, the topics suggested in a letter dated March 21, 2000, from Mrs. McLean to Mr. Roberie were discussed. The discussion pertaining to each topic is summarized below.

Action on Previous IMPEP Review Findings

The previous Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review was conducted during the period February 28 - March 3, 2000, with the findings discussed in a meeting between the State and the IMPEP Management Review Board (MRB) on May 1, 2000. The results were issued in a final report dated June 8, 2000. At that time the MRB found that the Louisiana radiation control program was adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with NRC's program.

The recommendations made in the final report are listed below followed by a summary of the State's actions in response to each recommendation.

Chris Roberie, Administrator
Periodic Meeting 2001

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

Current Status: The State has changed the inspection frequency for HDRs to a one year frequency. **It is recommended that this item be closed at the next IMPEP review.**

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

Current Status: Although the Department has limited training funds, several individuals have taken the NRC training courses on the space available status since the last IMPEP Review. Two staff attended the SS&D course, and one new license reviewer has attended the licensing course. Most of the RAM inspectors have completed the required core courses. **It is recommended that this item be closed at the next IMPEP review.**

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.

Current Status: The Department identified two licensees requiring financial assurance mechanisms. The Department requested and has received information from both licensees regarding their financial assurance mechanism. **It is recommended that this item be closed at the next IMPEP review.**

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

Current Status: The Department recharacterized the site and found that the site does not meet the criteria for license termination. The Department has contacted the EPA for their assistance in decontaminating the site under EPA's Super Fund program. The EPA has done extensive sampling at the site, but has not yet decided to include this site to their Super Fund program. **It is recommended that this item remain open and reviewed at the next IMPEP review.**

Chris Roberie, Administrator
Periodic Meeting 2001

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Program

Strengths

The dedication and conscientiousness of the Department's staff was recognized as a major program strength.

A potential program strength is the new database system (TEMPO) once it is completed and operating.

Weaknesses

Until the new database is fully operational, all licensee information must be retrieved manually. (The old database is no longer available.)

State Feedback on NRC's Program

The State would like to see NRC funding for training restored.

Recent or Pending State Program Changes

The Department is currently advertising for a new position that will act as a liaison between the four media groups (divisions).

The Department is trying to increase fees during this legislative session.

In 2003 the Department is planning on moving to a new building in downtown Baton Rouge.

NRC Program or Policy Changes That Could Impact Agreement States

A copy of the Region IV organization was provided to the Department. State assignments between the Regional State Agreements Officers (RSAO) were reviewed.

A request was made to the Department regarding the return of the original docket files for two terminated license sites. The files had been sent to the Department for closure.

The recent NRC public meeting that was held in Louisiana regarding off shore inspections and pipeliner exemptions was discussed.

Internal Program Audits or Self Assessments

With the start of the new database system, all program records have been reviewed. The Department is also currently involved in an environmental management systems audit (ISO 14001).

The Department went through the IMPEP questionnaire in preparation for this periodic meeting. The results were that all RAM inspections are up-to-date, reciprocity

Chris Roberie, Administrator
Periodic Meeting 2001

inspections are getting done as specified, new licensees are being inspected within the 6 months time frame, 53 field inspections have been completed, inspector accompaniments are being conducted as specified, and license actions are caught up with 88% of the actions being completed within 30 days. (The state has a legislative performance objective of 90% completion within 30 days.)

Status of Allegations Referred by NRC to the State

No allegations were referred by NRC to the State during this review period.

Compatibility of Louisiana Rules and Regulations

The State is current with their proposed regulations and submission to the NRC for review. Several final rules need to be submitted for NRC review.

Nuclear Material Events Database (NMED)

No problems were noted with NMED reporting. The Department submits all reportable events by facsimile.

Schedule for next IMPEP Review

The next IMPEP is scheduled for fiscal year 2004. The Department stated that the month of February was best for them. Legislative sessions are April through June.