

September 29, 2003

Patricia A. Nolan, M.D.  
Director  
Department Of Health  
3 Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5097

Dear Dr. Nolan:

As you are aware, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is using the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) for the evaluation of Agreement State Programs. Per our discussion of August 27, 2003, I will be the team leader for the follow-up IMPEP review of the Rhode Island Agreement State Program scheduled for the week of November 18-19, 2003. The team will include myself, Patricia M. Larkins, Office of State and Tribal Programs, and Duncan White, Region I.

On February 3, 2003, the Management Review Board (MRB) met to consider the proposed Final IMPEP Report on the Rhode Island Agreement State Program. During the meeting, the MRB directed that a follow-up review be conducted November 2003 that focused on the State's actions on the recommendations from the November 2002 review.

In accordance with the MRB's recommendation, the scope of this follow-up review will be limited to an assessment and evaluation of the Status of Materials Inspection Program which was found unsatisfactory during the November 2002 review. In addition to a review of selected casework completed since the November 2002 review, the team will review your actions in response to the three recommendations made for these indicators: (1) Technical Staffing and Training, (2) Status of Material Inspection Program, and (3) Sealed Source and Device (SS&D) Evaluation Program, specifically, Technical Quality of the Product Evaluation Program and Technical Staffing and Training.

The team will also discuss the actions that the Rhode Island program has taken for the remaining recommendations from the November 18-22, 2002 IMPEP review as part of the periodic meeting with Agreement States. The team will use the guidance in Office of State and Travel Programs (STP) Procedure SA-116, "Periodic Meetings with Agreement States between IMPEP Reviews," for conducting these discussions. This procedure was distributed to you and can also be found on the STP web site.

Patricia A. Nolan

2

I request that you set up an appointment with the appropriate State Senior Management Official to discuss the results of the follow-up IMPEP review of the Rhode Island program on November 19, 2003.

If you have any questions, please call me at 301-415-2309.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Patricia M. Larkins, Team Leader  
Office of State and Tribal Programs

cc: Walter S. Combs, Jr., Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Environmental Health

Marie Stoeckel, Chief  
Occupational and Radiological Health

Patricia A. Nolan

Distribution:

DIR RF  
DWhite, RSAO/RI

DCD (SP01) PDR (YES)

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\pml\ML032730653.wpd

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	STP	E	STP		OSTP:DD				
NAME	PMLarkins:kk		LJRakovan		JMPiccone				
DATE	9/29/2003		/-/2003		/-/2003				

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**