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STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

SALLY J. PEDERSON
LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MARY MINCKER HANSEN, RN, PhD
DIRECTOR

October 22, 2003

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office State & Tribal Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike-Third Floor
Rockville, MD 20852

03 OCT 28 AM 11:05

STP

RE: Iowa's vacant position in the Radioactive Materials Program

Dear ~~Mr.~~ ^{Paul} Lohaus:

Per our conversation on October 15, 2003 and information provided during our IMPEP review in late July early August 2003, I would like to take this opportunity to officially notify you that the decision has been made to eliminate the vacant position we had in our Radioactive Materials/Transportation Program. We have been trying to fill the position since July of 2003 with no success. The reason for the decision is because of a statewide decrease in income and the fact that the Governor on October 13, 2003 ordered a 2.5 percent across the board decrease in state expenditures. The Department's philosophy is not to lay off personnel if possible. Therefore, the funds to support our vacant Health Physicist 2 position were taken to meet the 2.5 expenditure reduction. In the future funds are available, my management has indicated that we will try to re-establish the position.

I am sure that your major concern in considering the above is assurance that we can meet our Agreement State obligation. Currently Iowa has 183 specific licensees and on the average we do 20-30 inspections per year. Also, on the average, we renew 37 licenses per year and process 64 Amendments per year.

Without considering the FTE for the vacant position and the time I spend in our Radioactive Materials Program, we have 3 1/2 to 4 full time FTE's in the program. Based on the old NRC criteria and the criteria from the CRCPD for a Radioactive Materials Program we will have no problem meeting our Agreement State obligations with our current FTE level. We will continue to monitor the status of our Radioactive Materials Program to assure that we meet our obligation as we see it.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact me.

Sincerely,

DAF
Donald A. Flater, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
515-281-3478
515-725-0318 - FAX
dflater@idph.state.ia.us

DAF/rk

Cc: Tom Newton, Division Director/EHHP/Public Health
Jim Lynch, Region III

*STP-ODL Template
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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
515-281-5605
FAX/515-281-4958

DIV. OF ADMINISTRATION
515-281-5604
FAX/515-281-4958

DIV. OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
515-281-6535
FAX/515-242-6384

DIV. OF HEALTH PROTECTION & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
515-281-7726
FAX/515-281-4529

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515-281-3641
FAX/515-281-4535

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FAX/515-281-6475

