

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE CALL ON DECEMBER 4, 2003

Participants:

Dennis O'Dowd, NH
Mary Anne Cooney, NH
Brook Dupee, NH
Duncan White, RI
Josephine Piccone, STP
Kevin Hsueh, STP
Lance Rakovan, STP
Aaron McCraw, STP

Background:

Subsequent to the New Hampshire follow-up IMPEP, the Management Review Board (MRB) requested bimonthly teleconference calls be conducted between the appropriate New Hampshire and NRC staffs to discuss the status of the NH Agreement State Program. This is the third teleconference since the February 2003 Follow up IMPEP review and was held on December 4, 2003.

Brook Dupee provided a letter dated November 17, 2003, that summarized the program progress achieved since the previous teleconference and included a revised Program Improvement Plan, Monthly Inspection and Licensing Status Summary Reports, Radioactive Material License Inspections Completed in 2003, Inspection Schedules for the third and fourth calendar quarters, schedule of initial inspections of newly issued licenses and the Rule Adoption Plan.

Discussions from Summary Letter, Program Improvement Plan and Status Summaries:

Ms. Cooney replaced Katie Dunn effective December 1 as the Director of the Office of Community and Public Health (the Office). Ms. Cooney restated the Department's commitment to program improvements in the Radiological Health Program (the Program). Ms. Piccone noted that significant progress has been made and it was important to maintain the current rate of progress. Mr. Dupee indicated that he will be taking a new position in the next few months and will no longer be managing the Program. Ms. Cooney indicated that Veronica Malmberg will be probably assume this responsibility once Mr. Dupee transfers to his new position.

Mr. Dupee discussed the latest revenue figures of the program's dedicated fee-based fund. The program is currently at 96% of its projected revenue for the fiscal year. Mr. Dupee stated that the Office was pleased with the revenue to date.

The request for the reclassification of the Administrator position is currently being reviewed by the Governor's Executive Council. Ms. Cooney indicated that she will pursue this matter with the Commissioner for the Department of Health and Human Services later in the month. One of the strategies discussed by Ms. Cooney was to have the Radiation Advisory Committee approach the Executive Council to approve the reclassification.

Mr. O'Dowd stated that there were no overdue inspections and that the Program continued to be on schedule to perform inspections coming due. The same status and scheduling tools used by the Materials Section are now being used by the Machine Section. Mr. White indicated that NRC finalized the revisions to Inspection Manual Chapter 2800 on October 21, 2003 which changed some inspection frequencies. Mr. O'Dowd indicated that he would review the new frequencies to determine if any changes to the Program's frequencies were needed.

Mr. O'Dowd reviewed the status of the regulations. All expired regulations have been re adopted. The program is on schedule to prepare a draft rulemaking package to address all overdue NRC amendments by April 30, 2004. Ms. Piccone offered NRC assistance in facilitating the timely review of the draft regulations.

Mr. O'Dowd inquired if the NRC was involved in the scheduling and planning of the 5-week Texas A&M course scheduled for May 2004 since he was informed that the date had not been set due to the NRC. He needed the dates finalized in order to start the in-house administrative process to obtain the necessary approvals for one of the new health physicists to attend. Subsequent to the conference call, Mr. White was informed that the NRC had drafted a Commission paper regarding NRC's sponsorship of a 5-week course, but no decision had been made yet to support the course. Consequently, the NRC was not sponsoring the May 2004 course. This information was provided to Mr. O'Dowd.

Mr. Dupee indicated that there have been high level discussions in the State to realign or combine different groups with a similar mission into a single organization (i.e., emergency preparedness). There have been no decisions made to date. Mr. Dupee was confident that if the Agreement State program was affected and realigned, it would not be broken up.

Mr. White indicated that the NRC was prepared to present to the MRB Mr. Dupee's request at the September 2003 conference call to either discontinue the bimonthly conference calls but continue to submit the Program progress reports or extend the intervals between the conference calls to quarterly. In light of the recent management changes and the upcoming IMPEP, Ms. Cooney stated that she would like to retain the current format.

IMPEP Review:

The on-site review for the next full IMPEP review is scheduled for the week of June 21, 2004. Mr. O'Dowd and Mr. White will coordinate inspector accompaniments prior to the on-site review.

Next Conference Call:

The next conference call is scheduled for February 5, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Attachment:

Letter from Brook Dupee to Paul Lohaus dated November 17, 2003 with attachments (ML033280406)