

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE CALL ON FEBRUARY 5, 2004

Participants:

Dennis O'Dowd, NH
Veronica Malmberg, NH
Duncan White, RI
Josephine Piccone, STP
Kathleen Schneider, 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 fourth teleconference since the February 2003 Follow up IMPEP review and was held on February 5, 2004.

Veronica Malmberg provided a letter dated January 23, 2004, 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 and 2004, Inspection Schedules for the fourth calendar quarter in 2003 and first calendar quarter in 2004, and schedule of initial inspections of newly issued licenses.

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

Since the last call, Mr. Dupee has taken a new position and Ms. Malmberg has assumed the responsibility for managing the Program. Mr. O'Dowd indicated that he continues to meet with Ms. Malmberg on a weekly basis to review and discuss the status of the Program.

There has been no change in the status with the Program's request for the reclassification of the Administrator position since the last conference call. The Commissioner has not approved the reclassification of the Administrator to go forward. Ms. Malmberg suggested that with a new Commissioner (John Stephen), it may be to the Program's advantage for the NRC to send a letter to the Governor or the Commissioner regarding the need to fill the long vacant Administrator position. Ms. Piccone noted that New Hampshire has been successful in improving their performance and has "worked around" the vacant Administrator position. After additional discussion, a consensus was reached that the participation of the Commissioner at the exit meeting for the IMPEP review in June would be an appropriate forum to discuss the Administrator position. Ms. Malmberg would pursue getting the exit meeting on the Commissioner's schedule. If the Commissioner would be unable to attend, then Assistant Commissioner John Wallace who attended the last two IMPEP exits and is familiar with the Agreement State, should be able to attend.

Mr. O'Dowd reviewed the licensing and inspection status and indicated that there were no overdue inspections and that the Program continued to be on schedule to perform inspections coming due. Mr. O'Dowd also indicated that the State's inspection frequencies have change to match those published last fall in the latest revision to Inspection Manual Chapter 2800.

Mr. O'Dowd indicated that the work continues on the all overdue and due regulations with the exception of those related to medical amendments. The program is trying to meet its schedule to prepare a draft rulemaking package by April 30, 2004. The NRC would receive a copy of the draft regulations for review prior to the public hearing step in the State's regulatory adoption process.

The individuals performing contract work for the materials program continues to provide licensing and inspection support to Agreement State Program. Their contracts expire at the end of June 2004. No decision has been made to date to renew the contracts.

Mr. O'Dowd inquired if the NRC had any formal information regarding the five-week Texas A&M health physics course scheduled for May 2004. Subsequent to the conference call, an electronic announcement of the upcoming course received by STP was forwarded to Mr. O'Dowd.

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 during the spring prior to the on-site review.

Next Conference Call:

The next conference call is scheduled for April 8, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Attachment:

Letter from Veronica Malmberg to Paul Lohaus dated January 23, 2004 with attachments (ML040290133)