

December 22, 2003

Barbara A. Youngberg, Chief
Radiation Section
Division of Hazardous Waste and Radiation Management
New York Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 8th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7255

Dear Ms. Youngberg:

This letter is to inform you of the status of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) formerly licensed sites grant program. The grant program was established in January 2001 with a total funding of \$3.3M to support Agreement States in closing outstanding NRC formerly licensed sites (former sites). The Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP) Procedure SA-1000, *Implementation of the Grant Program for Funding Assistance for Formerly Licensed Sites in Agreement States*, was provided to the Agreement States by letter (STP-01-005) on January 26, 2001.

Since early 2001, NRC staff has reviewed and awarded grants to six Agreement States (Arizona, California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New York and Texas) for file reviews and initial surveys. Among them, four (Arizona, Colorado, Massachusetts and Texas) have completed their grant projects. Currently, four out of a total of 140 former sites have been identified as contaminated under the grant program.

The grant program was originally expected to be completed by the end of September 2002. However, at that time, most of the former sites were in the early stages of being reviewed by the Agreement State grant recipients. To provide effective use of the existing funds, the grant program was extended to the end of September 2004.

To date, a total of \$0.42M has been awarded to the six grant recipients; the remaining funding available for the grant program is \$2.88M. The remaining funding is expected to be used for site characterization, site remediation or regulatory oversight of existing or newly identified contaminated sites which qualify for funding assistance under the grant program. NRC staff does not intend to extend the grant program beyond the end of September 2004, or request additional funding for the grant program. NRC staff will follow the completion of the grants issued prior to the end of September 2004. After that time, remaining unused funds under the grant program will be released for other uses.

My staff has discussed timing of the grant program with you and your staff in the past. Please note that with the September 2004 grant closeout date, any request for funding assistance for site characterization, site remediation or regulatory oversight of contaminated sites under the grant program would need to be processed and awarded before September 30, 2004.

Barbara A. Youngberg

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If you have any questions regarding the correspondence, please contact me at (301) 415-3340 or Kevin Hsueh at (301) 415-2598.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

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