



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

September 17, 2004

Michael E. Henry
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Permits Division
Office of Environmental Services
7220 Bluebonnet Road
P.O. Box 82135
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135

Dear Mr. Henry:

In order to help both Agreement States and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) remain knowledgeable of each others' programs and to conduct planning for the next Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review, the IMPEP process includes holding one-day periodic meetings with Agreement States between IMPEP reviews. However, due to the communications and oversight issues highlighted in recommendations made in the last IMPEP Review report, the review team recommended and the MRB agreed that a periodic meeting should take place with the State approximately one year from the IMPEP review.

In accordance with the Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP) Procedure SA-116, we request a meeting, no longer than one day, to discuss your Agreement State Program and share programmatic information. This letter confirms that, after previous coordination, the meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2004, and will be held in your offices. In addition to myself, Kathleen Schneider, Office of State and Tribal Programs, assigned as Project Officer for Louisiana will be available by phone.

Based on our previous discussions the likely topics for discussion at the meeting include the following topics.

1. Status of State's actions to address all open previous IMPEP review findings and/or open recommendations.
2. Strengths and/or weaknesses of the State program as identified by the State or NRC including identification of actions that could diminish weaknesses.
3. Feedback on NRC's program as identified by the State and including identification of any action that should be considered by NRC.

4. Status of State Program including:
 - a. Staffing and training:
 - i) Number of staff in the program and status of their training and qualifications;
 - ii) Program vacancies;
 - iii) Staff turnover;
 - iv) Adequacy of FTEs for the materials program.
 - b. Materials Inspection Program:
 - i) Discuss the status of the inspection program including if an inspection backlog exists and the steps being taken to work off backlog.
 - c. Regulations and Legislative changes:
 - i) Discuss status of State's regulations and actions to keep regulations up to date, including the use of legally binding requirements.
 - d. Program reorganizations:
 - i) Discuss any changes in program organization including program/staff relocations and new appointments.
 - e. Changes in Program budget/funding.
5. Event Reporting, including follow-up and closure information in NMED.
6. Response to Incidents and Allegations:
 - a. Status of allegations and concerns referred by the NRC for action;
 - b. Significant events and generic implications.
7. Information exchange and discussion:
 - a. Current State initiatives;
 - b. Emerging technologies;
 - c. Large, complicated or unusual authorizations for use of radioactive materials, including:
 - i) Panoramic/Pool/Underwater Irradiators;
 - ii) Major decommissioning and license termination actions;
 - iii) Waste processing, storage and disposal licenses;
 - iv) Others.

- d. State's mechanisms to evaluate performance (as applicable):
 - i) Self audits;
 - ii) Computer tracking;
 - iii) Inspector accompaniments;
 - iv) Other management tools.
 - e. NRC current initiatives.
8. Schedule for the next IMPEP review.
10. Other.

If there are any additional specific topics you would like to cover, or if you would like to focus on a specific area, please let me know.

If you have any questions, please call me at 817-860-8116, or e-mail to mlm1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Linda McLean
State Agreements Officer
Region IV

cc:
Paul Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

bcc: (via ADAMS e-mail distribution):

MSatorius
CLCain
VHCampbell
LRakovan, STP
AMcCraw, STP
KSchneider, STP
KGardin

ADAMS: Yes No Initials: _mlm_____

Publicly Available Non-Publicly Available Sensitive Non-Sensitive

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MLMcLean				
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