

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY WITH NEW HAMPSHIRE

DATE OF CALL: March 30, 2005

ATTENDEES:

Sam Collins, Region I
Duncan White, Region I
Paul Lohaus, STP
Mark Shaffer, STP
Kevin Hsueh, STP
John Zabko, STP
Aaron McCraw, STP
Alice Bruning, NH
Dennis O'Dowd, NH

BACKGROUND:

Subsequent to the June 2004 New Hampshire IMPEP, the Management Review Board requested bimonthly conference calls be conducted between the appropriate New Hampshire and NRC staffs to discuss the State's Program Improvement Plan (PIP) regarding their performance with regard to technical staffing and training and promulgation of regulations. This is the third conference call since the 2004 IMPEP review.

Ms. Bruning provided a letter dated March 22, 2005 to Mr. Lohaus that summarized the program progress achieved since the IMPEP review and included an updated Program Improvement Plan, and a March 2005 Status Report on Milestones for Adopting NRC Regulations Required for Compatibility.

SUMMARY LETTER, PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND STATUS REPORT DISCUSSIONS:

Mr. O'Dowd stated that the Program is on schedule as indicated in the PIP for adopting NRC regulations. The Program met the March 25 deadline for the submitting the fiscal impact statement, scheduled the public hearing for April 29 and is on schedule for the next milestone of April 8 for submitting the rulemaking to the Office of Legislative Services. The Program also submitted their proposed changes to their regulations for NRC review on March 30. Mr. Lohaus indicated that NRC will expedite their review in order to get comments back to the State prior to the April 29 public hearing. Mr. Lohaus also indicated that the State's legally binding requirements (i.e., license conditions) for the constraint rule was reviewed by the NRC and a letter was issued to the State dated March 21, 2005 regarding the matter.

Ms. Bruning discussed the status of the vacant Administrator position. The State has interviewed three individuals and made one offer which was subsequently declined. The State has submitted a formal request to the Division of Personnel (DOP) to the revise the minimum qualifications to widen the applicant pool. Once approved, Ms. Bruning will be able to re-post the position and to re-evaluate previous applicants who did not meet the original qualifications. Although Ms. Bruning did not have a time table for the DOP to respond, she did expect DOP to approve the request and committed to proceed quickly with the re-posting of the position once DOP approves the request.

The process for renewing the contracts for the Ms. Vicki Jeffs and Mr. Mario Iannaccone is moving forward. The contract for Ms. Jeffs is resigned and with final approval expected in May 2005. Mr. Iannaccone's contract is expected to be completed in June 2005.

The Program has hired a new administrative support clerk who started on April 1 to assist with program operations, including rulemaking efforts. The Division has also received approval to recruit a new individual for the radioanalytical laboratory. This position also serves as health physics support during inspections and other field activities. The Program has used this position in the past as an entry level health physics position that could be moved into the Radiation Health Physicist series in the radioactive materials program.

Mr. O'Dowd indicated that staff training continues with practical experience gained through the assistance of the State of Maine and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The program now has a second qualified sealed source and device reviewer (Asish Banerjee).

Ms. Bruning indicated that Commissioner Merrifield contacted the Governor's Office regarding the Agreement State program. The Governor's Office contacted the Division who provided feedback to the Governor's Office on the program's efforts. The Governor's office provided the positive feedback to the Division on their efforts.

FOLLOWUP IMPEP REVIEW

NRC and the State tentatively agreed that the followup IMPEP review would take place during the week of July 25. The NRC indicated that they are in the process of identifying a team leader for the review.

NEXT CALL:

The next call is scheduled for May 25, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.