

Dear Mr. Lohaus:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

PHL PHR MRS

P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

May 5, 2005

Secretary

Mr. Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Agreement State Status Timeline

Per your request, this letter is to confirm our intent to become an Agreement State. Please be advised we have recently cleared a major hurdle and have approval for the staff positions needed to perform the new radioactive material licensing and inspections, while continuing our high quality radiation protection work in the areas of electronic products (i.e., x-ray equipment and accelerators), radon, nuclear safety, decommissioning, and environmental surveillance. Obtaining Agreement State status is a high priority for the Department, and development of the application for submission to the NRC is currently the highest priority for the Radiation Protection Program.

Specifically, we plan to have a draft application to our Policy Office by July 1, 2005, and begin senior management (including the Governor's Office) briefings at that time. We expect to have the Governor transmit the application to the NRC by September 1, 2005. It is my understanding the NRC will take approximately one year to review and publish the proposed Agreement in the *Federal Register*. Thus, we expect the Governor and the NRC Chairman should be able to sign an Agreement in late September 2006 for an effective date of October 1, 2006.

Thank you for your continued support of our effort. Should you have any questions regarding the timeline, please contact Mr. David J. Allard, Director of our Bureau of Radiation Protection, by e-mail at djallard@state.pa.us or by telephone at 717-787-2480.

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Sincerely

Kathleen A. McGinty

Secretary Williams

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James J. Berger

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