

MINUTES: KANSAS TELECONFERENCES OF MAY 9 AND 17, 2005

These minutes are presented in the same general order as the items were discussed in the meeting. The participants were as follows:

Vivian Campbell, RIV
John Zabko, OSTP
Tom Conley, KS
Dave Whitfill, KS

1. Staffing and Training

The two vacancies discussed during the February 14, 2005, monitoring call have been filled. These individuals came from other areas in State government. They both have degrees in the physical sciences; however, they are not experienced in the field of radiation. The State will need to invest significant resources in order to qualify the staff which will take time. In addition, the Bureau has been approved to add five new staff positions next fiscal year that will need training. The Bureau will not have access to the fee fund until July 1, 2005, and will only have access to a portion of it over the next two years. The Bureau must pay back the money expended during FY 2005 to the State general fund. Therefore, training resources will be limited at a time when the Bureau will need to train several staff.

2. Status of Regulations

Kansas has been in the process of promulgating a complete revision of the radiation regulations since before the 2002 IMPEP. At the IMPEP, the State expected the revision to be completed and effective by December 2002. The Bureau has submitted all the proposed rule packages to the Department of Administration. Most of the amendments are still under review by Administration. Many of the packages have been in Administration for several months, some since May 2002. Several rules have gone back and forth between the two offices for editorial changes. Once approved by Administration, the rules must be reviewed by the Attorney General's office for statutory authority. In March 2005 the Director of the Division of Environment informed Administration that the radiation regulations were to be given priority over all other regulations for the Division. Kansas management stated that they have seen some progress. Administration has approved Parts 6 (medical regulations), and 12 (irradiator regulations) of Kansas Administrative Regulation 28-35, and they have been forwarded to the Attorney General's office for review. Administration and the Attorney General have approved Parts 10 (instructions to workers) and 11 (well logging regulations). The State has made marginal progress since the IMPEP.

3. Results of the State's Self-assessment

Bureau staff completed an assessment of the entire radiation program using the IMPEP criteria as guidance. In addition to identifying program strengths and implemented program improvements, staff identified specific weaknesses in the program, and identified processes that were time consuming and offered little benefit. The staff made a number of recommendations and suggestions intended to further improve the program. The recommendations included changing the State's inspection frequencies

to coincide with NRC's inspection frequencies, further define a formal training program for new staff including refresher training for qualified staff, eliminate processes that provide low program benefit without compromising health and safety, and reclassify the staff positions to environmental specialists. These recommendations and suggestions are currently being considered by State management.