

November 21, 2005

Mr. Karl Von Ahn, RRPT
Health Physicist
Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Radiation Protection
35 E. Chestnut Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, OH 43216-0118

Dear Mr. Von Ahn:

This refers to the draft report for the 2005 Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters (HQ) Sealed Source and Device (SS&D) Evaluation Program that you sent to us with your letter addressed to Mr. Jack Strosnider, Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, dated October 21, 2005. We have reviewed the draft report and are providing comments as mark-ups in the draft report in the enclosure.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in an independent review of HQ's implementation of the SS&D Evaluation Program. The review provided an opportunity for new insights on how we might improve our performance, as well as an opportunity to discuss with Agreement State representatives those initiatives which could result in improved effectiveness and efficiency in the materials program overall. We have already initiated actions to improve the quality of our records in the NRC's electronic filing system. We also noted the comments regarding uniform formatting issues, but we feel that the formatting variations at NRC were similar to those found in SS&D documents issued by Agreement States and the NRC over the last 10-15 years. Considering that NUREG-1556, Volume 3 is a guidance document, similar issues have not been raised in IMPEP audits of Agreement States provided that the formatting deviations did not adversely impact the technical quality or content of the SS&D review.

I want to convey my staff's appreciation for the team's willingness to seek feedback from HQ staff and for the professional manner in which the review was conducted. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Thomas H. Essig, Chief, Materials Safety and Inspection Branch, at 301 415-7231.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles L. Miller, Director
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:

cc: J. Daehler/Commonwealth of Massachusetts
D. White, NRC/RI

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