

Jared W. Thompson

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 2, 2005

Mr. Jared W. Thompson, Chair
Organization of Agreement States, Inc.
Radioactive Materials Program
Arkansas Department of Health
Radiation Control
4815 West Markham Street, Mail Slot 30
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Dear Mr. Thompson:

We are requesting an Agreement State working group member to co-chair the NRC/Agreement State working group (WG) being formed to develop guidance to modify the process of issuing specific licenses. The guidance is related to Recommendation 3 from the GAO Report, entitled, "Nuclear Security-Federal and State Action Needed to Improve Security of Sealed Radioactive Sources," (August 2003; GAO-03-804). The guidance will address screening for pre-licensing reviews and safety-related site visits. The guidance should be consistent with the overall effort to control material that includes additional opportunities to evaluate licensee control of material immediately after a license is issued. The guidance will be developed by December 2005 and implemented in early 2006.

We request that you identify a co-chair working group member within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please notify Mr. Thomas Young of our Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards of your selection (TFY@nrc.gov, 301-415-5795).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul H. Lohaus".

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: S. W. Moore, NMSS/IMNS/RGB
T. F. Young, NMSS/IMNS/RGB

Request for Working Group Participation

Joint NRC/Agreement State Working Group To Develop Guidance to Modify the Process of Issuing Specific Licenses

PURPOSE

The NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards / Rulemaking and Guidance Branch is soliciting members for an NRC/Agreement State working group (WG) to develop guidance to modify the process of issuing specific licenses.

BACKGROUND

The guidance is related to Recommendation 3 from the GAO Report, entitled, "Nuclear Security-Federal and State Action Needed to Improve Security of Sealed Radioactive Sources," (August 2003; GAO-03-804). The guidance will address screening for pre-licensing reviews and safety-related site visits. The guidance should be consistent with the overall effort to control material that includes additional opportunities to evaluate licensee control of material immediately after a license is issued. The guidance will be developed by December 2005 and implemented in early 2006. We request that you identify members for the WG and notify Thomas Young of this branch (TFY@nrc.gov, 301-415-5795).

SUGGESTED MEMBERSHIP

The working group should consist of approximately 5 members, as follows:

- OAS Co-chair
- NRC Co-chair
- Representative from the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD)
- Representative from the NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
- Representative from the NRC's Regional Office

Working group members should have experience in materials licensing and security matters.

LEVEL OF EFFORT EXPECTED OF PARTICIPANTS

The level of effort is expected to be 0.05 FTE in FY05 and 0.05 FTE in FY06 (~ 120 hours total) per person with most of the effort expended in 2005. WG business will be conducted primarily by teleconference and email.

ENCLOSURE

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED PRODUCTS

All work products will be transmitted by memorandum for final disposition to the Chief, Rulemaking and Guidance Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The current Materials Security Steering Committee will be asked to fulfill the role of Steering Committee for this working group.