

September 19, 2006

Linda Bruemmer, Assistant Director,
Environmental Health Division
Minnesota Department of Health
Post Office Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Dear Ms. Bruemmer:

In accordance with the Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP) Procedure SA-118, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff schedules a meeting with you and members of your staff approximately nine months after the effective date of the Agreement. The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and discuss difficulties experienced during the initial implementation of your program. During the meeting, we will also discuss planning for your first full Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review.

The meeting should not require more than one day. This letter confirms that, based on our previous discussions, the meeting will be held in your offices on November 14, 2006. In addition to myself, Aaron McCraw, Office of State and Tribal Programs, the Project Officer for Minnesota, and Steven Reynolds, Director, Region III Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, will be in attendance.

Based on our discussions, the topics for discussion at the meeting include:

1. Strengths and/or weaknesses of the Minnesota program, as identified by the State or the NRC, including identification of actions that could diminish weaknesses.
2. Management support of the Agreement program.
3. Feedback on the NRC's program as identified by the State including identification of any action that should be considered by the NRC.
4. Status of the Minnesota program, including:
 - a. Staffing and training:
 - 1) Staffing level;
 - 2) Training and qualifications;
 - 3) Program vacancies;
 - 4) Staff turnover.

- b. Materials Inspection Program: The status of the inspection program including whether an inspection backlog exists and the steps being taken to reduce the backlog;
 - c. Regulations and legislative changes: The status of Minnesota's regulations and actions to keep regulations up to date, including the use of legally binding requirements;
 - d. Program reorganizations: Any changes in program organization including program/staff relocations and new appointments;
 - e. Changes in program budget/funding.
 - f. Status of complex decommissioning sites in the State.
 - g. Status of Minnesota's creation of financial assurance instruments for licensees that required financial assurance for decommissioning while under the NRC's regulatory authority.
5. Response to incidents and allegations:
- a. Status of allegations and concerns referred by the NRC for action;
 - b. Event reporting, including follow-up and closure information in the Nuclear Materials Events Database (NMED);
 - c. Significant events and generic implications.
6. Status of a potential Minnesota Sealed Source & Device Evaluation Program.
7. Information exchange and discussion:
- a. Current State initiatives;
 - b. Emerging technologies;
 - c. Large, complicated or unusual authorizations for use of radioactive materials, including:
 - 1) Panoramic/pool/underwater irradiators;
 - 2) Major decommissioning and license termination actions;
 - 3) Waste processing, storage and disposal licenses;
 - 4) Licensees subject to security orders.
 - d. General licensing program;

- e. State's mechanisms to evaluate performance:
 - 1) Self audits;
 - 2) Computer tracking;
 - 3) Inspector accompaniments;
 - 4) Other management tools.
 - f. Security initiatives for materials licensees, including Increased Controls inspections.
 - g. NRC current initiatives.
8. Schedule for the first IMPEP review.

If you have any questions, please call me at (630) 829-9661, or e-mail to JLL2@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James L. Lynch
State Agreements Officer

cc: J. Schlueter, STP
D. Rathbun, STP
A. McCraw, STP
S. Reynolds, RIII
R. Lickus, RIII
S. Minnick, RIII

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