



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

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October 19, 2006

James L. Lynch
State Agreements Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352



Re: NRC IMPEP Review of Oregon Radioactive Materials Program

Dear Mr. Lynch:

In response to your letter dated September 21, 2006, I have attached a revised copy of the Draft IMPEP Report for the Oregon Agreement State Program. Overall, the report appears to accurately describe the current program capabilities and deficiencies related to the U.S. NRC and Oregon State Agreement.

We appreciate the depth of the assessment conducted by each member of the IMPEP team for the review of the Oregon program. The areas of improvement needed will be carefully discussed and addressed by our staff in the next few months to ensure that we continue to protect the health and safety of Oregonians.

We are fortunate to currently have well qualified technical staff with many years of both licensing and inspection experience. I am also confident that our technical staff can safely respond to incidents or emergencies in a comprehensive and professional manner.

The IMPEP team has accurately pointed out several areas of improvement that will challenge our staff to respond to in a positive and effective manner. We are fully committed to resolving all issues raised and have taken action on several items to ensure that Oregon's Agreement Program remain compatible with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements in the future.

We have provided initial comments throughout the draft report to demonstrate our commitment to improvements and begin to formulate a more comprehensive action plan to address all items of concern. We intend to prioritize tasks according to identified areas of deficiency and attempt to provide lasting solutions to improve each program area.

Letter to James L. Lynch, NRC Region III
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Of course, we would like to have received all “Satisfactory” ratings for each review area. However, we must also face the reality of staff assigned to multiple competing tasks for emergency preparedness, incident response, licensing, inspections, training and administrative tasks to improve program functionality (i.e. updating of licensing guidance, inspection protocols, updating of forms, publication reviews, etc.).

From your candid discussions with our staff, I am confident that each of the IMPEP team members agree that we have maintained the ability to protect the health and safety of the people of Oregon throughout the review period. The areas of concern that you have identified are all amenable to good long term solutions that will continue to improve our program in the future.

Thank you for your leadership in development of a very fair assessment of our program status. Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this correspondence directly at (971) 673-0499 or by cell phone at (503) 407-4256.

Sincerely,

Terry D. Lindsey, Manager
Radiation Protection Services Section
Office of Environmental Public Health

Copy to: Susan M. Allan, M.D., J.D., Director, Public Health Division
Gail R. Shibley, Administrator OEPH

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