

October 4, 2007

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, MICHIGAN, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA
ALL STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

CHANGE IN NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) POLICY ON FUNDING FOR
TRAINING AND ASSOCIATED TRAVEL FOR AGREEMENT STATE STAFF (FSME-07-091)

Purpose: To inform the Agreement States of the change in NRC policy on funding for Agreement State staff training and associated travel. This policy also extends to non-Agreement States whose Governor has submitted a letter to NRC regarding their intent to become an Agreement State.

Discussion: The NRC in the mid 1990s discontinued funding for Agreement State staff to attend NRC sponsored training courses. The Commission has approved a change in this policy and will begin funding, about January 1, 2008, Agreement State staff training and associated travel to attend the current courses offered through the NRC training program for materials licensing and inspection staff. The restoration of this funding will enhance the national consistency in the implementation of the materials licensing and inspection programs by NRC and the Agreement States, and allow the States to better utilize their resources. The States may still need to provide certain training to their staff not covered by NRC's current training program (5-week health physics, radiological emergency response, x-ray courses, mammography, etc.).

The NRC staff will be working with the Organization of Agreement States (OAS) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) to develop an equitable method for the selection and prioritization of State applicants for training courses, as well as implementing procedures and information needs for NRC to process the travel authorizations for State staff. We will continue to work on other cost effective ways of providing the necessary training for both NRC and State staff.

In FY 2008, the NRC will also pay for one person from each Agreement State to attend the OAS annual meeting. We look forward to seeing all Agreement States represented in Columbus, Ohio in August 2008.

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