

October 4, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO:

Martin J. Virgilio  
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,  
Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Charles L. Miller, Director  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Karen D. Cyr, General Counsel

Marc L. Dapas, Deputy Regional Administrator  
Region I

FROM:

Kim K. Lukes, General Scientist /RA/  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

SUBJECT:

OCTOBER 25, 2007 SPECIAL MRB MEETING

A Special Management Review Board (MRB) meeting to discuss the results of periodic meetings with three Agreement States has been scheduled for **Thursday, October 25, 2007, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT, in One White Flint North, Room O-3-B2.** The periodic meeting summary reports of New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Arkansas will be discussed. The meeting summary for each of these States is enclosed (Enclosures 1, 2, and 3).

In accordance with Management Directive 5.6, the meeting is open to the public. The agenda for this meeting is enclosed (Enclosure 4).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-6701.

Enclosures:

As stated

cc: Barbara Hamrick, CA  
Organization of Agreement States  
Liaison to the MRB

Management Review Board Members

October 4, 2007

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NAME	KLukes:kl	AMcCraw									
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UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION I  
475 ALLENDALE ROAD  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

October 4, 2007

Dennis P. O'Dowd, Administrator  
Radiological Health Section  
Department of Health and Human Services  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301-6504

Dear Mr. O'Dowd:

A periodic meeting with New Hampshire was held on July 23, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the status of New Hampshire's Agreement State program. Specific topics discussed at the meeting included all performance indicators, staffing and training, and the adoption of regulations and legally binding requirements required for compatibility.

I have completed and enclosed a general meeting summary, including any specific actions that will be taken as a result of the meeting.

If you feel that our conclusions do not accurately summarize the meeting discussions, or have any additional remarks about the meeting in general, please contact me at (610) 337-5371 or by email at [dmj@nrc.gov](mailto:dmj@nrc.gov) to discuss your concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Donna M. Janda  
Regional State Agreements Officer  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure: Periodic Meeting Summary for New Hampshire

cc: Twila Kenna, Manager

**ENCLOSURE 1**

## AGREEMENT STATE PERIODIC MEETING SUMMARY FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE

DATE OF MEETING: July 23, 2007

### NRC ATTENDEES:

Donna Janda, RSAO, Region I  
Monica Orendi, FSME

### STATE ATTENDEES:

Dennis O'Dowd, Administrator, Radiological Health Section  
Twila Kenna, Manager, Radioactive Materials Program

### DISCUSSION:

#### A. IMPEP Recommendations

There were no recommendations from the last Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) followup review of the New Hampshire program that occurred on July 12, 2007.

#### B. Program Status

Since the followup review in July 2006, several vacancies in the Radiological Health Section (RHS) have been filled. The Emergency Response Program Planner position was filled in March 2007. The Radiation Laboratory Manager position in the Public Health Laboratory was filled in November 2006. One Radiation Health Physicist II position was filled in March 2007 by a staff member from the Public Health Laboratory. The vacated Laboratory Scientist position is currently open. This position is funded by RHS and supports radioactive material inspection and incident response activities.

The Radioactive Materials Manager discussed the training status of individual staff members. Four staff health physicists perform both machine and materials inspections and licensing. The health physicist who transferred from the Public Health Laboratory also maintains the RHS radiation detection equipment. The two newest health physicists, both Health Physicist II positions, attend formal materials training classes, accompany experienced inspectors on materials inspections and perform some licensing actions. These individuals have not yet attended any NRC materials training courses; however, RHS intends to send these individuals to NRC-sponsored courses as scheduling and availability of the courses allows.

The State currently has three individuals (the Administrator, Radioactive Materials Manager, and a health physicist) who have attended the NRC security training course for Increased Controls. The State has four licensees subject to Increased Controls and two increased controls inspections have been completed to date.

RHS is current with all inspections and no overdue inspections have been performed over the last year. The Radioactive Materials Manager reported that required inspector accompaniments are performed annually and documented in the Radioactive Materials Personnel Summary - Inspection database for each inspector. RHS is continuing to monitor a significant decontamination and decommissioning action at the former Kollsman facility.

RHS inspectors hand deliver radioactive materials licenses to new licensees. During these onsite visits, the inspector reviews the license conditions and regulatory requirements with the new licensee and conducts a facility walk-through to ensure that the facility diagrams and descriptions that were submitted with their application reflect the actual conditions at the site. If an RHS inspector determines there are any discrepancies or issues during the onsite visit, the new license is not issued unless the items are resolved.

The Radioactive Materials Manager reported that the number of pending licensing actions continues to remain at the same level over the past two years. The State uses pre-licensing screening criteria and is reviewing the implementation of pre-licensing site visits. The State has one active sealed source and device registry sheet. There have been no amendments to the sheet over the last year. RHS has not had any significant or unusual licensing requests over the last year.

The Region I office has not provided any allegations to the State for follow up. With regard to events, the State reported one event to the Nuclear Materials Event Database (NMED) during the last year. Although the State has completed its investigation and closed the event internally, the event was not closed in NMED. RHS staff has sent a message to the NMED Coordinator about closing the event.

RHS indicated that all records are still maintained on spreadsheets or in electronic format. The Radioactive Materials Manager discussed and shared with NRC staff the most recent spreadsheets for open licensing actions, inspection history and due lists, RHS staff training tracking sheets, reciprocity inspections, and the radiological incident response list.

The RHS staff continue to attend biweekly meetings among the four health physicists, the two program managers, and other parties to discuss current issues, new items of interest, incidents, and lessons learned. In addition, the RHS staff attend one hour of radioactive materials training once each week.

There have been no legislative changes to RHS programs over the last year. In accordance with State law, Department regulations are subject to a sunset provision. Radiological health regulations require re-adoption every eight years unless amended earlier.

NRC staff reviewed the most recent State Regulation Status (SRS) Sheet with RHS staff. In the table below, the current status and the State's next action for each RATS ID are presented.

RATS ID	Status on SRS Sheet	Current Status	State's Next Actions
1997-3	No Activity	Will be superceded by 2002-2	State needs to adopt 2002-2 and submit it to the NRC for review in order for this RATS ID to be superceded.
1998-4	No Activity - Overdue <b>(7/09/01)</b>	New Hampshire states that they have adopt 10 CFR Parts 36 and 39 by reference	New Hampshire needs to submit regulations pertaining to 1998-4 to the NRC for review
2002-2	No Activity - Overdue <b>(10/24/05)</b>	New Hampshire is currently working on these regulations	Submit draft and final regulations to the NRC for review
2003-1	No Activity - Overdue <b>(12/3/06)</b>	New Hampshire is currently working on these regulations	Submit draft and final regulations to the NRC for review
2004-1	No Activity - Overdue <b>(10/01/07)</b> (** note this was not overdue at the time of the periodic but is now currently over due)	New Hampshire is currently working on these regulations	Submit draft and final regulations to the NRC for review
2005-1	No Activity - Due 7/11/08	New Hampshire is currently working on these regulations	Provide draft version to NRC for review
2005-2	No Activity - Due 4/29/08	New Hampshire is currently working on these regulations	Provide draft version to NRC for review

#### C. Other Discussion Topics

The State indicated that challenges in the coming year include maintaining adequate resources (i.e., "spread thin at times") to meet the demands of staffing three programs (radioactive materials, X-Ray and emergency response) and funding for out-of-state travel. The Administrator and Radioactive Materials Manager indicated that the Program's strengths include an experienced staff, weekly training sessions, proficiency exams, and peer review of work products.

NRC staff discussed the current status of NRC's fingerprinting initiatives involving certain materials licensees, organizational changes in the Region and at Headquarters, and the current status of the National Source Tracking System.

D. Conclusions

At the conclusion of the meeting, NRC staff and RHS management met with Michael Dumond, Chief of the Bureau of Prevention Services to summarize the discussions. NRC staff noted that RHS has a well-trained and experienced staff and continues to enhance their Program performance through staff training and electronic tracking of action items.

NRC staff concluded that the next IMPEP review should be conducted as scheduled in FY 2008. RHS management has been invited to participate when NRC staff presents the results of this periodic meeting to the Management Review Board. No specific actions were identified as a result of this meeting.

September 4, 2007

Paul S. Schmidt, Manager  
Radiation Protection Section  
Division of Public Health  
Department of Health and Family Services  
P. O. Box 2659  
Madison, WI 53701-2659

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

A periodic meeting with Wisconsin was held on August 8, 2007. The purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss the implementation of Wisconsin's Agreement State program. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was represented by Aaron McCraw from the NRC's Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, Steve Reynolds of the NRC Region III office, and me.

I have completed and enclosed a general meeting summary, including any specific actions resulting from the discussions.

If you believe that the comments or conclusions do not accurately summarize the meeting discussion, or you have any additional remarks about the meeting in general, please contact me at (630) 829-9661, or via e-mail at JLL2@NRC.GOV to discuss your comments.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James L. Lynch  
State Agreements Officer

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: T. Sieger, WI  
C. Warzecha, WI

**ENCLOSURE 2**

## PERIODIC MEETING SUMMARY FOR WISCONSIN

DATE OF MEETING: AUGUST 8, 2007

ATTENDEES:	<u>NRC</u>	<u>STATE</u>
	Steve Reynolds	Tom Sieger
	Aaron McCraw	Chuck Warzecha
	Jim Lynch	Paul Schmidt
		Cheryl Rogers

### DISCUSSION:

#### Agreement and Reviews

Wisconsin became the 33<sup>rd</sup> Agreement State on August 11, 2003. The Agreement discontinued NRC regulatory authority in the State for: a) Byproduct materials as defined in Section 11e.(1) of the Atomic Energy Act; b) Source materials; and c) Special nuclear materials in quantities not sufficient to form a critical mass. The Agreement does not cover land disposal of radioactive material, uranium recovery processes, or sealed source and device evaluation.

An Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review of the radioactive materials program was conducted in August 2005. All performance indicators were found to be satisfactory and no recommendations were made. The Wisconsin program was found to be adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with NRC's program.

#### Organization

The Radiation Control Program is administered by the Radiation Protection Section, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services. Paul Schmidt is the Manager of the Radiation Protection Section. Cheryl Rogers is the Supervisor of the Radioactive Materials Licensing and Inspection Unit, which is part of the Section. Wisconsin regulates approximately 335 specific licenses, including naturally occurring or accelerator-produced radioactive material (NARM). Management support for the program appears good and the program is well funded.

Paul Schmidt is the current Chair of the Organization of Agreement States (OAS) and is the former Chair of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

#### Radiation Control Program Staffing

The program is fully staffed, with two vacancies recently filled by recent college graduates, Sean Matyas and Kurt Pedersen. Mike Welling left the program to join the Virginia radiation control program. Mike Mack retired from the program. A total of 6.5 FTE is dedicated to the inspection and licensing programs. One of these staff members, Megan Shober, is located in the Green Bay field office. All are cross-trained in both inspection and licensing to provide maximum flexibility and backup. In addition, a half-time training coordinator, Dan Stefenel, assists the program with training needs.

### Training

A training matrix was developed for all employees to track their training history. Formalized training requirements were developed for inspectors and license reviewers. The training coordinator conducts in-house courses. The Unit Supervisor trains and accompanies each inspector before certifying them to conduct independent inspections.

During this meeting, the two new staff members were attending the NRC Security Systems and Principles training course. Three staff members, and one manager, have had the security training previously.

### Inspections

The Unit Supervisor said that a few inspections have gone overdue since the Agreement signing. She was well aware of the due dates but made informed decisions based on program priorities. Wisconsin inspection frequencies are at least as frequent as NRC's.

The first round of Increased Controls inspections have been completed (25 total) and five of those inspections have additional follow-up actions required by the licensees. Wisconsin is awaiting guidance from the NRC regarding the next round of IC inspections. Steve Reynolds indicated that the security working group would be issuing such guidance in the near future.

The State recently issued an information notice regarding inspection findings of a Department of Transportation inspector. Program managers hope the information notice will help licensees self-identify common weaknesses in their transportation programs.

The State has more stringent reciprocity inspection goals than those identified in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 1220. All service providers working under reciprocity are inspected annually. Priority 1 and Priority 2 licensees have inspection goals of 50% and 30%, respectively.

### Licensing

No significant licensing backlogs exist. Amendments are completed in approximately 30 days.

The Unit Supervisor indicated that they had modified the licensing process to require pre-licensing site visits for all new licenses. A pre-licensing checklist is used for all licensing actions.

A total of 17 Wisconsin licenses had active financial surety instruments at the time of the Agreement. Since then, 16 instruments were converted to change the beneficiary from NRC to Wisconsin. The remaining licensee has yet to provide the State with an adequate financial surety instrument. The licensee obtained a letter of credit, which is an acceptable means of financial assurance; however, the letter references a standby trust agreement that has not been established. The State is continuing a dialogue with the licensee to resolve the issue. The Region III representatives offered to contact the licensee to assist in getting the issue resolved so that the surety instrument held by NRC could be canceled. On August 23, 2007, Region III contacted the licensee by telephone and received assurance that the issue would be swiftly settled.

### Self Assessments

Wisconsin performed a self assessment of the radioactive materials program covering the period of January 2006 to June 2007. The self assessment used the IMPEP questionnaire as an outline for the audit. Results of the self assessment were shared with the NRC representatives.

### Regulations

To date, the State's regulations are up-to-date and compatible. A regulation review letter was sent to the State in March 2007 identifying nine corrections to the regulations which need to be implemented. The Unit Supervisor stated that those items would be addressed in the next rulemaking.

### Security

Increased Controls inspections are being performed on schedule, as discussed above.

In updating the National Source Tracking System interim inventory, the State encountered communication glitches with the NRC's contractor when providing information for the inventory. The issues were resolved and input is approximately 85% complete. The full update will be completed soon.

### Incidents

Wisconsin staff members responded to approximately 17 reportable incidents since the last IMPEP review. On-site inspections were performed, when appropriate, and staff communicated reportable incidents promptly to the NRC Operations Center and to Region III.

Inspectors input incident information directly into the Nuclear Material Events Database (NMED) as incidents occur. A review of NMED identified timely and quality input of incidents.

### Allegations

One allegation was transferred to Wisconsin from NRC since the last IMPEP review. The allegation involved training and dosimetry availability at a medical facility. Wisconsin staff investigated the allegation and took prompt, appropriate action. Investigation results were provided to the Regional State Agreements Officer.

### General Licenses

Wisconsin has an active program for registering and inspecting generally licensed devices. Program staff each do a number of generally licensed inspections each year. The National Source Tracking System interim inventory was updated in late 2006 and included Wisconsin general licenses down to Category 3.5.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Wisconsin Radiation Control Program appears to be a capable, stable Agreement State program. Staffing has remained consistent since the Agreement and the training level for staff members is good.

Management support for the program is very good. The managers were impressed by the IMPEP process and saw great benefit in Wisconsin's participation in the program and the potential for development of similar peer review audits for other programs in the Division. The NRC representatives urged the managers to consider allowing senior staff members to participate on future IMPEP teams.

State managers stated that a number of the Agreement States were concerned with the dissemination of the Commission's decision on the fingerprinting rule. They could not understand why some information was initially withheld and then later released. Extensive dialogue has occurred on this issue between OAS and the NRC.

The next IMPEP review of the Wisconsin Radiation Control Program is tentatively scheduled for Summer 2009.



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005

September 20, 2007

Paul Halverson, DrPH, MHSA,  
Director of Health and State Public Health Officer  
Arkansas Department of Health  
4815 West Markham, Slot 39  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Dear Dr. Halverson:

A periodic meeting with your State was held on August 28, 2007. The purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss the status of the Arkansas Agreement State Program. The NRC was represented by Mr. Leonard Wert and Ms. Linda McLean from NRC's Region IV office, Mr. William Rautzen from NRC's Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, and myself. Topics and issues of importance discussed at the meeting included a detailed discussion of recommendations from the 2006 IMPEP review, staffing issues facing the Program, and discussion of a long standing licensing renewal backlog.

I have completed and enclosed a general meeting summary, including any specific actions resulting from the discussions.

If you feel that our conclusions do not accurately summarize the meeting discussion, or have any additional remarks about the meeting in general, please contact me at (817) 860-8143 or e-mail [RRE@nrc.gov](mailto:RRE@nrc.gov) to discuss your concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Randy Erickson

Enclosure:  
Periodic Meeting Summary for Arkansas

cc w/enclosure:

Janet Schlueter, Director  
Office of Federal and State Materials and  
Environmental Management Programs

Mr. Bernard Bevill, Section Chief  
Arkansas Department of Health  
Radiation Control Section  
4815 West Markham, Slot 30  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Mr. Jared Thompson, Program Leader  
Arkansas Department of Health  
Radioactive Materials Program  
4815 West Markham, Slot 30  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

## AGREEMENT STATE PERIODIC MEETING SUMMARY FOR ARKANSAS

DATE OF MEETING: AUGUST 28, 2007

### ATTENDEES:

NRC	STATE
Randy Erickson Regional State Agreements Officer	Paul Halverson, DrPH, MHSa Director of Health and State Public Health Officer
Linda McLean Regional State Agreements Officer	Charles McGrew, MPH, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer
Leonard Wert, Director Division of Nuclear Materials Safety	Renee Mallory, RN, Branch Chief Health System Licensing and Regulation Branch
William Rautzen Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs	Bernard Bevill, Section Chief Radiation Control Section
	Jared Thompson, Program Manager Radiation Control Program
	Steve Mack, Program Coordinator Radiation Control Program
	Katia Gray, Health Physicist
	Layne Pemberton, Health Physicist
	Nicole Sanders, Health Physicist
	David Snellings, Consultant

### DISCUSSION:

At the time of the 2006 Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review, the Arkansas Agreement State Program (the Program), a part of the Arkansas Division of Health, was a part of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services (ADHHS). On July 1, 2007, at the direction of the Governor, ADHHS was reorganized and the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) was created. The Program is now a part of ADH which is headed by Paul Halverson, DrPH. The Program remains part of the Health System Licensing and Regulation Branch, which is part of the Center for Health Protection (the Center). The Center Director answers directly to the Director of Health.

The previous IMPEP review was conducted the week of August 28 - September 1, 2006. At the conclusion of the review, the team recommended that Arkansas' performance be found satisfactory, but needs improvement, for the indicators, Technical Staffing and Training and Technical Quality of Licensing Actions, and satisfactory for all remaining performance indicators reviewed. The review team made four recommendations regarding the performance of the Program and left one recommendation from the 2002 IMPEP review open. The review team also recommended, and on November 15, 2006, the Management Review Board (MRB) agreed, that the Arkansas Agreement State Program was adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with NRC's program.

Because of the long standing license renewal backlog, and the negative affect of a high staff turnover on the Program's performance, the MRB agreed that the periodic meeting should be

moved to one year so the NRC could reevaluate the Program's progress. The MRB also agreed that the next full IMPEP review take place in approximately four years.

The proposed status for each of the recommendations in Section 5.0 of the 2006 Arkansas final IMPEP report are summarized below.

- The review team recommends that Department management develop and implement an action plan to reduce the licensing renewal backlog.

Current Status: The licensing renewal backlog has been an ongoing problem for the Program that had been identified during reviews conducted in 1995, 1998, 2002, and again during the 2006 review. At that time the reviewer noted that 92 of 245 active licenses or 38 percent were under timely renewal, and that 84 of the 92 licenses under timely renewal or 91 percent had been under timely renewal for greater than one year. The reviewer also noted that 55 of the 92 licenses under timely renewal or 60 percent were also under timely renewal during the 2002 review. Following the 2002 review, the Program found some success in reducing the backlog until January 2005 when the Program lost three staff members, causing their progress to be lost. The Program has not improved in this area since the 2006 review. Other than attempting to hire and train new staff, and allowing time to work out the licensing backlog, the Program acknowledged they do not have an action plan to reduce the licensing backlog.

While the licensing backlog was identified as a continuing problem for the Program, it appears to be a symptom of the Program's inability to retain qualified staff. The Program has been successful in hiring new staff, but has also experienced several staff departures. In 2005, the Program lost three qualified staff members, and again between 2006 and 2007, the Program lost two additional staff members. Concerned about this trend, management interviewed staff and identified what they believe to be root causes for staff departures. These include low salaries coupled with the inability for upward mobility within the Program. Program management stated that both issues had been previously conveyed to Department managers. This information was also provided directly to the Director of Health during the exit meeting, where he committed to initiating actions to address these areas. This recommendation remains open and should be evaluated at the next IMPEP review.

- The review team recommends that the State evaluate current and future staffing needs and business processes to develop and implement a strategy that improves the effectiveness and efficiency of the Program to ensure its continued adequacy and compatibility.

Current Status: The Program evaluated staffing levels and determined that when fully staffed and fully trained, the Program has the appropriate level of staff to fulfill their mission. The Program currently has filled all but one of their vacancies. Due to the high number of recent staff departures, the Program interviewed exiting employees and found that these employees left because of low salaries and a lack of upward mobility within the Program, a message the Program conveyed to Department managers. In a letter to NRC dated February 14, 2007, the Director of Health acknowledged the problem and stated that the Department will be re-evaluating position classifications and salary structure in Summer 2007. While the Department has evaluated future staffing

needs, at the time of the review they had not yet developed a specific strategy to address the reasons why employees are leaving the Program. As mentioned above, the Director of Health committed to initiating actions to address these problems. This recommendation remains open and should be evaluated at the next IMPEP review.

- The review team recommends that the State develop and implement a documented training plan consistent with the guidance in the NRC/Organization of Agreement States Training Working Group Report and the NRC=s Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 1246.

Current Status: During the 2006 review, it was noted that the Program did not have a documented training plan consistent with NRC's training plan. Following the 2006 review, the Program developed and documented RAM 07.0, a training program similar to IMC 1246. The training plan was reviewed and approved by Department management on March 16, 2007. This recommendation should be verified and closed at the next IMPEP review.

- The review team recommends that the State develop and implement an inspection prioritization and inspection frequency protocol that can be consistently applied and at least meets the minimum requirements of IMC 2800.

Current Status: During the 2006 review it was noted that the Program had adopted an inspection schedule more aggressive than the frequencies identified in IMC 2800. After the 2006 review and in an effort to better allocate their available resources, the Program revised RAM 04.0, "Guidelines for Compliance Inspection Frequency of Arkansas Radioactive Materials Licenses" to align with the frequencies identified in IMC 2800. This recommendation should be verified and closed at the next IMPEP review.

- The review team recommends that the State develop and implement a license termination procedure to ensure consistent and acceptable quality of information requests and documentation.

Current Status: During the 2006 review, it was noted that the Program had developed and documented a license termination procedure, but staff had not fully followed the procedure, resulting in some terminated files containing appropriate documentation while other files were missing key information. In response, the Program revised RAM 01.6, "Radioactive Material or Particle Accelerator License Termination & Decommissioning," and provided copies to all staff members who were required to read and sign the document. The Program stated that this procedure will be closely followed in the future. This recommendation should be verified and closed at the next IMPEP review.

Other topics covered at the meeting included.

- Program Strengths: Program management has placed the proper emphasis on higher risk activities and is focusing on them in an effort to maintain health and safety. Program management has managed available staff well, ensuring that incident response and emergency response activities are not neglected. While the Program has lost several staff members, they have seen some success in hiring new staff. The remaining staff has a broad knowledge base. Staff members work well together and

provide a high level of customer service to their licensees. They work together to make team decisions concerning technical matters and have weekly team meetings. Despite limitations in staffing, the Program has been able to retain a consultant on a half-time basis to assist with the work load.

Program Weaknesses: The Program described what they believe to be weaknesses in their Program and many involve their problems with retaining qualified staff. Because of this problem, the average experience level of the staff has been reduced. The Program has two fully qualified staff members, but also has four staff members with less than two years of experience. Staff training continues to be a problem for the Program. Limited funding, competition for existing funds, and a difficult administrative process have all contributed to Program staff not being able to attend training. With the separation of ADH from ADHHS, Department management believes the process will improve.

The ability to perform on-the-job training is problematic because the Program only has one staff member responsible for staff training. Staff losses have caused an imbalance between licensing and inspection activities with only the most important and urgent licensing needs being addressed. In addition, all licensing actions have been delayed due to the lack of qualified staff to perform secondary reviews. In addition to licensing and inspection activities, the staff is also responsible for emergency response and decommissioning activities.

Program staff believed that their previous relationship with ADHHS was distant and detached from senior management, and that management was not familiar with their program or the work they performed. The staff is hopeful that their relationship with ADH management will not be the same. Additionally, the staff believes that there is a pronounced lack of communication between Department management and Program staff. Program staff believes that Department management is not supportive of their work or the significant challenges faced by the Program.

Licensing fees have not increased in 12 years. The Program staff believes this is directly related to low salaries and the inability to retain qualified staff. The Program further believes that the salary structure is not in line with job classification requirements and the required job functions. This results in difficulty in hiring experience staff above entry level salaries. Additionally, the lack of promotion potential due to the lack of a career ladder has caused qualified staff to leave the Program for better opportunities.

Staffing and training:

- The Program has a total of 8.5 staff positions when fully staffed, which includes the Program Manager, an Agency Program Coordinator, five Health Physicists, one Executive Secretary, and one half-time employee (consultant). Just prior to this periodic meeting, the Program had two vacancies, but one of the vacancies was recently filled. They are currently interviewing for the last position.

Of the five Health Physicists, one is away on military duty, and one is out on maternity leave. When the Program fills the last remaining open position, they will be fully staffed; however, they only have one staff member that is available to train the new hires, and he has other responsibilities within the Program. Most of the newer staff have received

on-the-job training and have been able to attend a few NRC training courses. Retention of staff will continue to be a challenge for the Program.

Program reorganizations:

- The governing agency for the Program underwent a reorganization that became effective on July 1, 2007. The reorganization of the Department was described in the "Discussion" section of this summary.

Changes in Program budget/funding.

- There have been no budget or funding changes since the 2006 review.

Materials Inspection Program:

- During the 2006 review, it was noted that while the licensing program continued to experience a long-term license renewal backlog, the inspection program was able to remain current and up to date. It was noted during the Periodic Meeting that the licensing program made little progress in reducing the licensing renewal backlog. Despite revising RAM 04.0, "Guidelines for Compliance Inspection Frequency of Arkansas Radioactive Materials Licenses," to align with the frequencies identified in IMC 2800, it was noted that the Program has now developed a backlog of overdue inspections. The Program reported that over the previous 12-month period, they have a total of 42 overdue inspections, with 19 of them being Priority 1-3 inspections. Reciprocity inspections continue to be completed in a timely manner, and all Increased Controls inspections are up to date. The Program's review of incidents and allegations are timely and the proper emphasis is placed on them. The Program also has two ongoing, large decommissioning projects. While they expect that these projects may be completed by the end of the year, another large decommissioning project is scheduled to begin. These decommissioning projects also decrease the Program's effectiveness in reducing the backlog of inspections and licensing actions. The Program is also working on a General Licensing program that is currently inactive because of staffing issues.

Regulations and Legislative changes:

- Currently the Program is up to date on all regulation changes. In reviewing the State Regulation Status (SRS) sheet, it appeared that six final regulation packages had previously been reviewed by NRC and returned to the State with comments for resolution. The comments had not been resolved by the Program prior to making the regulations effective. The Program needs to forward comment resolution of these final regulation packages to NRC for review and approval.
  1. "Timeliness in Decommissioning Material Facilities" 10 CFR Parts 30, 40 and 70 amendments (59 FR 36026) that the State made effective on January 1, 1997.
  2. "Preparation, Transfer for Commercial Distribution, and Use of Byproduct Material for Medical Use-Parts 30, 32, and 35" (59 FR 61767, 59 FR 65243, 60 FR 322) that the State made effective on January 1, 1997.

3. "Radiation Protection Requirements: Amended Definitions and Criteria-Parts 19 and 20" (60 FR 36038) that the State made effective on July 1, 2002.
4. "10 CFR Part 71: Compatibility with the International Atomic Energy Agency-Part 71" (60 FR 50248, 61 FR 28724) that the State made effective on July 1, 2002.
5. "Minor Corrections, Clarifying Changes, and a Minor Policy Change-Parts 20, 35 and 36" (63 FR 39477, 63 FR 45393) that the State made effective on July 1, 2002.
6. "Transfer for Disposal and Manifests: Minor Technical Conforming Amendment-Part 20" (63 FR 50127) that the State made effective on July 1, 2002.

Event reporting, including follow-up and closure information in NMED.

- All NMED information is up to date.

Response to incidents and allegations.

- The Program continues to be sensitive to notifications of incidents and allegations. Incidents are quickly reviewed for their affect on public health and safety. Staff is dispatched to perform onsite investigations when necessary. The Program Manager has placed a high emphasis on maintaining an effective response to incidents and allegations.

Status of allegations and concerns referred by the NRC for action.

- No allegations were referred by NRC to the Program since the 2006 review.

Significant events and generic implications.

- Nothing to report.

Current State Initiatives.

- Nothing to report.

Emerging Technologies.

- Nothing to report.

Large, complicated, or unusual authorizations for use of radioactive materials.

- The Program has two large, ongoing decommissioning projects that they hope to have closed by the end of 2007. One additional decommissioning project is scheduled to begin at an unspecified date.

State's mechanisms to evaluate performance.

- The Program Manager conducts monthly self audits of their program to gauge their performance, and then compiles a report that is provided to the Section Chief for the Radiation Control Program. This report is shared with Department management as appropriate.
- The Program also has a master database that they use to track inspections and licensing activities.
- The Program Manager performs annual accompaniments of all the inspection staff to ensure they are performing at the expected level. Accompaniments are even more frequent for newer staff.

Current NRC initiatives:

- NRC staff discussed ongoing initiatives with the Program. These included the NARM Rule and its progress, the fingerprint orders and their progress, and the General Accounting Office's attempt to obtain an NRC license.

Additional NRC initiatives:

- Due to the difficulty of obtaining training and in an effort to determine the Program's effectiveness, in June 2007, NRC staff traveled to Arkansas and accompanied two junior inspectors on radioactive materials inspections. The accompaniments were to help them gain proficiency, as well as a different perspective on the inspection process. NRC staff accompanied Arkansas staff for 3 days in both office and field environments, and for both health and safety and increased controls inspections.
- Recently the Program hired a new staff member, who is currently dedicated to the licensing program. The Program is unable to send this individual to NRC's licensing course until 2008. To help the Program obtain the needed training, Region IV licensing staff hosted the new Arkansas license reviewer for a week of training in October 2007, designed to provide her with a broad spectrum of licensing activities.

Other topics discussed:

- Program staff requested a separate meeting with NRC staff to discuss issues they felt important. Staff openly discussed their frustrations with staffing, salaries, the inability for upward mobility within the Program and with the difficulties in obtaining training. Staff also discussed frustration with Department management. These concerns were conveyed to Department management by NRC during the exit meeting.

Summary:

The Arkansas Program is a program struggling to overcome significant staff losses. The Program has had a difficult time hiring and retaining qualified staff, and has worked hard to maintain a strong and viable program. The Program has placed emphasis on issues directly affecting health and safety and has focused on them. The recent loss of

several staff members has exacerbated the chronic problem of a long standing license renewal backlog. In addition, they are now beginning to experience a growing backlog in their inspection program. They have been able to hire new staff, but continue to struggle because there are few qualified staff members available to provide training. This has caused staff morale to suffer. The staff has requested direct and meaningful Department management involvement with the Program in an effort to rectify the issues facing them.

Schedule for the next IMPEP review.

- The date for the next periodic meeting, any increased oversight of the program, and/or the next IMPEP review will be determined by the MRB.

**Agenda for Management Review Board Meeting**  
**October 25, 2007, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT, O-3-B2**

1. Announcement of Public Meeting to all attendees and request for identification of any members of the public participating in this meeting.
2. MRB Chair convenes meeting. Introduction of MRB members, Agreement State representatives, and other participants. (OAS Liaison is Barbara Hamrick of California.)
3. Discussion of Orientation and Periodic Meetings:
  - a. New Hampshire (July 23, 2007) - ML072770592 - Janda/Orendi
  - b. Wisconsin (August 8, 2007) - ML072470668 - Lynch/McCraw
  - c. Arkansas (August 28, 2007) - ML072630612 - Erickson/Rautzen
4. Establishment of Precedents/Lessons Learned
5. Adjournment

Invitees:	Martin Virgilio, EDO Charles Miller, FSME Karen Cyr, OGC Marc Dapas, RI Barbara Hamrick, CA Duncan White, FSME Janet Schlueter, FSME Robert Lewis, FSME Diana Diaz-Toro, OEDO Dennis Sollenberger, FSME James Lynch, RGN III Bernard Bevill, AR	Kim Lukes, FSME Aaron McCraw, FSME Donna Janda, RGN I Monica Orendi, FSME Randy Erickson, RGN IV Kathleen Schneider, FSME William Rautzen, FSME Dennis O'Dowd, NH Twila Kenna, NH Paul Schmidt, WI Cheryl Rogers, WI Jared Thompson, AR
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