March 22, 2010

Charles McGrew, Deputy Director
and Chief Operating Officer
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72205-3867

Dear Mr. McGrew:

Thank you for your March 11, 2010 letter responding to the final Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) report and letter dated February 12, 2010. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed Arkansas's revised Program Improvement Plan and believe that it is an appropriate path forward to address the review team's recommendations from the final IMPEP report.

NRC staff has also reviewed your request to conduct quarterly conference calls. Your request has been approved, so the calls will coincide with the quarterly reports that are submitted to Arkansas Department of Health administration.

A followup IMPEP will be conducted with your program in the April 2011 time frame. The followup review will cover the State's implementation of the program improvement plan and the actions taken in response to the recommendations in the enclosed final report. The followup review will focus on the performance indicators Technical Staffing and Training, Status of Materials Inspection Program, and Technical Quality of Licensing Actions. During the review, NRC staff will also conduct a periodic meeting to ensure that the overall implementation of the Arkansas Agreement State Program continues to be adequate to protect public health and safety.

I appreciate the positive actions that you and your staff are taking to address the recommendations. I also wish to acknowledge your continued support for the Agreement State program. I look forward to our agencies continuing to work cooperatively in the future.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert J. Lewis, Director
Division of Materials Safety and
State Agreements
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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OFFICE	FSME/MSSA		FSME/MSSA		FSME/MSSA		FSME/MSSA	
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