

CLOSEOUT OF INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW PANEL/ MATERIALS PROGRAM WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation:

M-VI, Task 4:

Consider the value of decreasing the interval of time between IMPEP assessments (i.e., increasing the frequency of assessments), which are currently conducted once every 4 years.

Action(s):

On September 13 and October 5, 2010, the Management Review Board (MRB) met to discuss the findings of a self-assessment performed of the IMPEP process. The MRB agreed with the review team's recommendations as stated in the IMPEP Self-Assessment Report (ML102030228) and directed FSME staff to determine actions necessary to implement the team's recommendations.

Recommendation No. 3 of the IMPEP Self-Assessment Report stated that:

*"While the team does not recommend any additional gradations of performance within the existing indicators, it does recommend that a mechanism be put into place to recognize consistently high-performing organizations. Building on the language already contained in SA-106, two consecutive IMPEP findings of satisfactory on all indicators would lead to a letter of recognition and **an extension in IMPEP interval from 4 years to 5 years, (emphasis added)** along with a press release acknowledging the organization's high level of performance."*

FSME/ASPB initiated actions to extend IMPEP review frequencies, as recommended, to those NRC Regions and Agreement States meeting the following criteria: two consecutive IMPEP reviews in which all performance indicators were found to be satisfactory; and the Agreement State program is compatible with NRC's program. In 2011, the scheduled IMPEP reviews for the State of Iowa and NRC Region III have been extended according to these criteria. In addition, all applicable SA procedures and Management Directives will be revised to include this requirement.

Closure Justification:

By MRB direction, the recommendations made by the IMPEP Self-Assessment team (including Recommendation No. 3 as stated above), will be incorporated into FSME SA procedures and associated Management Directives to require an **extension** in the interval of IMPEP reviews from 4 to 5 years for any "high performing" Agreement State or NRC Region who meets the criteria described above. Therefore this Task, as written, cannot be completed and is considered closed.

Additional Remarks:

The IMPEP self-assessment recommended increasing the interval between assessments for good performers. However, as provided in Management Directive 5.6, the intervals between reviews "can be adjusted downward on the basis of the findings from the last review, or in light of significant program changes in a particular State or region". Therefore, the frequency of

reviews can always be increased as recommended, subject to Management Review Board approval and direction.

Approved:

Terrence Reis, Acting Director
Division of Materials Safety and State Agreements
Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental
Management Programs

ML111390333

OFFICE	MSSA/ASPB	MSSA/ASPB/BC	MSSA/ASPB	MSSA/D
NAME	MBeardsley (via email)	DWhite	JKatanic/KMeyer (via email)	TReis
DATE	06/02/11	06/02/11	06/02/11	06/06/11

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