

**MONITORING CALL SUMMARY FOR THE
NORTH DAKOTA RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM
OCTOBER 22, 2013**

NRC Attendees	North Dakota Attendees
Randy Erickson, RSAO	Terry O'Clair, Director
Binesh Tharakan, RSAO	Dale Patrick, Program Manager
Lisa Dimmick, FSME	Dave Stradinger, Health Physicist
Michelle Beardsley, FSME	Lewis Vegan, Health Physicist
	Karen Deibert, Health Physicist

Background:

On October 22, 2013, NRC held the first Monitoring call with the North Dakota Program (the Program) following the April 2013 IMPEP review. The purpose of the call was to review the Program's progress in completing the one recommendation remaining open from the 2011 IMPEP review and one new recommendation identified during the 2013 IMPEP review.

The open recommendation involved in part, that the State update their existing procedures and develop new procedures as necessary to document the policies and procedures of the North Dakota Program; and, to examine options to retain staff and develop staffing depth within the Program. The second recommendation involved in part, that the State develop and implement a plan to ensure staff are trained and fully qualified to be able to perform each type of inspection performed within the State.

October 22, 2012 status:

The Program reported they have developed the necessary procedures to memorialize their program and to serve as a knowledge management tool in the event of staff losses. They added that updating procedures is an ongoing process and they continue to tweak their procedures as they determine necessary to keep up with changes in requirements and processes.

They also reported that during the 2013 IMPEP review, the North Dakota legislature was discussing the formation of an oil field emergency response team. This team of individuals would be specifically trained in part, to respond to emergencies encountered in oil and gas production. When not responding to these events, the individuals would be working on routine department work. If approved one of the new positions would be assigned to the radiation control program. In the interim between the IMPEP review and the Monitoring call, the legislature approved this legislation and the Program hired one staff member. The individual assigned to the radiation control program is now on board and will serve to augment the depth in staffing they are working to achieve. Beyond this individual, they have no immediate plans to add additional staff.

The Program previously had planned to provide medical training to two of their X-ray inspectors so they could assist the Program by performing limited medical inspections, and by doing so, they could increase depth in their staffing. However, since they hired the new full-time staff member, the Program felt it was more important to get her trained to perform all types of inspections.

To do that, they have requested, and were approved, to have her take the place of the X-ray inspectors in NRC training class slots previously secured. As time allows, the Program plans to send the X-Ray inspectors to training so they can still perform limited inspections in the future.

To help improve stability, the Program is also working to provide incentive bonuses as well as attempting to upgrade salaries to further stabilize staffing.

The second recommendation involved in part, that the State develop and implement a plan to ensure staff are trained and fully qualified to able to perform each type of inspection performed within the State. Following the 2013 IMPEP review, the Division Director approved the qualifications of the former Program Manager who in turn was able to qualify their senior inspector for all but broad scope license inspections. This senior inspector is now qualifying a newer inspector. At the time of the IMPEP review, this individual had been qualified to independently perform inspections of only gauge licensees. Since that time, this individual is now qualified to perform five inspection types and will be qualifying in the near future to perform an additional five inspection types. The senior staff member is also working with the new Program Manager to begin his qualification process, and will soon be working with the newly hired inspector to begin her qualification process.

The next Monitoring call is scheduled for January 22, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. CST.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Erickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.


Randy Erickson
Regional State Agreements Officer
Region IV

North Dakota Monitoring
Conference Call Summary

Internal distribution via e-mail:

- Anton Vegel, DNMS
- Vivian Campbell, DNMS
- Pam Henderson, FSME
- Duncan White, FSME
- Randy Erickson, SAO
- Binesh Tharakan, SAO
- Lisa Dimmick, FSME
- Michelle Beardsley, FSME
- Karen Meyer, FSME

Draft: S:\DNMS\SAO\Monitoring Program\North Dakota\10.22.13 North Dakota Monitoring Call Summary
Final: S:\

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RIV: RSAO				
RRErickson				
				
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