

RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
USNRC



2015 MAY 18 PM 3: 53

Michael Welling, Chair, Virginia
Sherrie Flaherty, Chair-Elect, Minnesota
Alan Jacobson, Past-Chair, Maryland
Debra Shults, Treasurer, Tennessee
Megan Shober, Secretary, Wisconsin
Michael Ortiz, Director, New Mexico
Jennifer Opila, Director, Colorado

RECEIVED

5/12/2015

OPR 27191

(2)

May 11, 2015

Richard Dudley
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

RE: Request for Comments on the Draft NRC Staff White Paper on Summary of Options and Alternatives for Responding to Risk Management Regulatory Framework Recommendations (RCPD-15-004)

Dear Mr. Dudley,

The Organization of Agreement States (OAS) Executive Board (Board) has reviewed the above document and respectfully submits the following comments for consideration by the NRC.

1. In its comments on Docket ID NRC-2013-0254, dated February 28, 2014, the OAS Board agreed that a policy statement would be a useful way to provide the Commission's expectations for a Risk Management Regulatory Framework.

The Board reiterates this comment and continues to support such a policy statement.

2. In its comments on Docket ID NRC-2011-0269, dated January 6, 2012, the OAS Board stated:
"The Agreement States endorse the concept of performance-based inspections and routinely utilize these concepts when conducting routine inspections. Therefore, we can state that the term performance-based is well understood within the regulatory community for materials licensees. We cannot state or endorse the concept that there is a general understanding of the terms risk-informed and defense-in-depth...As to defense-in-depth, this term seems to be used in multiple agencies, and we are not sure if the definition is consistent across all those agencies. If the intent is to use the same definition as that for nuclear power plants, we are not sure it transfers well to the materials licensee realm."

In its comments on Docket ID NRC-2013-0254, dated February 28, 2014, the OAS Board reiterated this comment and recommended that these terms be defined in the document.

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin

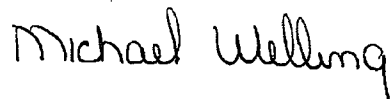
SUNSI Review Complete
Template = ADM - 013
E-RIDS = ADM -03
Add= R. Dudley (RFD)

However, with the exception of the term risk-informed, these terms were not included in the list of defined terms in the Example Policy Statement. The Board again reiterates these comments and recommends that the terms performance-based and defense-in-depth be defined in the document.

3. On page 2 of Attachment 2, the Example Policy Statement states that “A risk management approach would be used to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety ...”. Such a risk management approach is already being performed with our current regulatory system and IMPEP process. The Policy Statement should read “A risk management approach would review the current risks associated with the use of radioactive material and provide recommendations for any new methods to enhance the current methods used to protect the public health and safety.”
4. On page 3 of Attachment 2, the number 2 bullet for risk management approach says “Ensure appropriate regulatory controls and oversight are in place recognizing the variety of risks associated with different uses of radioactive materials”. This is also currently being performed with our current regulatory system and the IMPEP process. This statement should be amended to say “Review the current practices ensuring that regulatory controls and oversight are in place, and provide recommendations for enhancement”.

We appreciate the chance to comment on this subject, and stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Michael Welling
OAS Chair
Director Radioactive Materials Program
Virginia Dept of Health
109 Governor St, Room 730
Richmond, VA 23219