



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 11, 2015

Donald E. Williamson, MD
State Health Officer
Department of Public Health
P.O. Box 303017
Montgomery, AL 36130-3017

Dear Dr. Williamson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) uses the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) in the evaluation of Agreement State programs. Enclosed for your review is the draft IMPEP report, which documents the results of the Agreement State review, held in Alabama on May 4–8, 2015. The review team's preliminary findings were discussed with you and your staff on the last day of the review. The review team's proposed recommendations are that the Alabama Agreement State Program be found adequate to protect public health and safety, and compatible with the NRC's program.

The NRC conducts periodic reviews of Agreement State programs to ensure that public health and safety are adequately protected from the potential hazards associated with the use of radioactive materials and that Agreement State programs are compatible with the NRC's program. The process, titled IMPEP, employs a team of NRC and Agreement State staff to assess Agreement States' and NRC Regional Offices' radioactive materials programs. All reviews use common criteria in the assessment and place primary emphasis on performance. The final determination of adequacy and compatibility of each Agreement State program, based on the review team's report, is made by a Management Review Board (MRB) composed of NRC managers and an Agreement State program manager who serves as a liaison to the MRB.

In accordance with procedures for implementation of IMPEP, we are providing you with a copy of the draft report for your review and comment prior to submitting the report to the MRB. Comments are requested within 4 weeks from your receipt of this letter. This schedule will permit the issuance of the final report in a timely manner that will be responsive to your needs.

The team will review the response, make any necessary changes to the report, and issue it to the MRB as a proposed final report. The Management Review Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. EST. The NRC will provide invitational travel for you or your designee to attend the MRB meeting at the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The NRC has video conferencing capability if it is more convenient for the State to participate through this medium. Please contact me if you desire to establish a video conference for the meeting.

Dr. Williamson

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If you have any questions regarding the enclosed report, please contact me at 301-415-5422.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christian E. Einberg, Chief
Agreement State Programs Branch
Division of Material Safety, State, Tribal,
And Rulemaking Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
AL 2015 Draft IMPEP Report

cc: David Walter, Director
Office of Radiation Control

Dr. Williamson

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AL 2015 Draft IMPEP Report

cc: David Walter, Director
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INTEGRATED MATERIALS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROGRAM

REVIEW OF THE ALABAMA AGREEMENT STATE PROGRAM

MAY 4 – 8, 2015

DRAFT REPORT

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review of the Alabama Agreement State Program. The review was conducted during the period of May 4 – 8, 2015, by a review team composed of technical staff members from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State of Arizona.

Based on the results of this review, Alabama's performance was found satisfactory for five out of six indicators: Status of Materials Inspection Program, Technical Quality of Inspections, Technical Quality of Licensing, Technical Quality of Incident and Allegation Activities, and Compatibility Requirements. The indicator Technical Staffing and Training was found satisfactory, but needs improvement. The review team identified some performance issues under the indicators Technical Quality of Inspections and Technical Quality of Licensing Actions and attributed those issues to the lack of an updated and formalized training policy.

The review team made one recommendation (see Section 5.0). There were no recommendations from previous IMPEP reviews to evaluate.

Accordingly, the review team recommends that the Alabama Agreement State Program is adequate to protect public health and safety and is compatible with the NRC's program. The review team recommends that the next IMPEP review take place in approximately 4 years and that a periodic meeting be held in 1 year in order to review progress in the State's training program.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the review of the Alabama Agreement State Program radioactive materials safety program. The review was conducted during the period of May 4–8, 2015, by a review team composed of technical staff members from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State of Arizona. The Review team members are identified in Appendix A. The review was conducted in accordance with the “Implementation of the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program and Rescission of Final General Statement of Policy,” published in the *Federal Register* on October 16, 1997, and NRC Management Directive 5.6 (MD 5.6), “Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP),” dated February 26, 2004. Preliminary results of the review, which covered the period of May 15, 2010 to May 8, 2015, were discussed with State managers on the last day of the review.

The Alabama Agreement State Program is administered by the Office of Radiation Control (the Office) which is located within the Department of Public Health (the Department). The Office Director reports to the State Health Officer, who serves as the Director of the Department. Organization charts for the State can be found in the NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) using the Accession Number ML15138A266.

At the time of the review, the Alabama Agreement State Program regulated 414 specific licenses authorizing possession and use of radioactive materials. The review focused on the radioactive materials program as it is carried out under the Section 274b. (of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended) Agreement between the NRC and the State of Alabama.

In preparation for the review, a questionnaire addressing the common and applicable non-common performance indicators was sent to the State on February 3, 2015. The State provided its response to the questionnaire on April 28, 2015. A copy of the questionnaire response can be found using the ADAMS Accession Number ML15119A144.

The review team evaluated the information gathered against the established criteria for each common and the applicable non-common performance indicator and made a preliminary assessment of the Alabama Agreement State Program’s performance.

2.0 PREVIOUS IMPEP REVIEW AND STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The previous IMPEP review concluded on May 14, 2010. The final report is available in ADAMS (Accession Number ML102090068). The results of the previous review and the status of recommendations are as follows:

Technical Staffing and Training: Satisfactory
Recommendations: None

Status of Materials Inspection Program: Satisfactory
Recommendations: None

Technical Quality of Inspections: Satisfactory
Recommendations: None

Technical Quality of Licensing Actions: Satisfactory
Recommendations: None

Technical Quality of Incident and Allegation Activities: Satisfactory
Recommendations: None

Compatibility Requirements: Satisfactory
Recommendations: None

Overall finding: Adequate and Compatible.

3.0 COMMON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Five common performance indicators are used to review the NRC regional and Agreement State radioactive materials programs. These indicators are (1) Technical Staffing and Training, (2) Status of Materials Inspection Program, (3) Technical Quality of Inspections, (4) Technical Quality of Licensing Actions, and (5) Technical Quality of Incident and Allegation Activities.

3.1 Technical Staffing and Training

The ability to conduct effective licensing and inspection programs is largely dependent on having a sufficient number of experienced, knowledgeable, well-trained technical personnel. Under certain conditions, staff turnover could have an adverse effect on the implementation of these programs, and thus could affect public health and safety. Apparent trends in staffing must be explored. Review of staffing also requires a consideration and evaluation of the levels of training and qualification. The evaluation standard measures the overall quality of training available to, and taken by, materials program personnel.

a. Scope

The review team used the guidance in State Agreements procedure SA-103, "Reviewing the Common Performance Indicator: Technical Staffing and Training," and evaluated the State's performance with respect to the following performance indicator objectives:

- A well-conceived and balanced staffing strategy has been implemented throughout the review period.
- Agreement State training and qualification program is equivalent to NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 1248, "Formal Qualifications Program for Federal and State Material and Environmental Management Programs."
- Qualification criteria for new technical staff are established and are being followed or that qualification criteria will be established if new staff members are hired.
- Any vacancies, especially senior-level positions, are filled in a timely manner.
- There is a balance in staffing of the licensing and inspection programs.

- Management is committed to training and staff qualification.
- Individuals performing materials licensing and inspection activities are adequately qualified and trained to perform their duties.
- License reviewers and inspectors are trained and qualified in a reasonable period of time.

b. Discussion

The Alabama Agreement State Program is composed of four technical staff members, two program supervisors, an assistant program director, and a program director which equals 4.5 FTE for the radioactive materials program including any vacancies in the program. Currently, there are no vacancies. During the review period the program director left the program and two technical staff members were hired. The program director position was vacant for approximately two months, during which time there was an acting program director. Alabama does not have a training and qualification manual equivalent to the NRC's IMC 1248.

c. Evaluation

The review team determined that during the review period the State did not fully meet performance indicator objective listed 3.1.a concerning the State's qualification program. Alabama hired two technical staff as inspectors during the review period and transitioned an existing technical staff member into a license reviewer role. The State had not hired or trained technical staff for approximately seven years so there was no previous focus on updating Alabama Policy No. 417 "Summary of Basic and Specialized Training Requirements for Staff Working in the Agreement States Program in the Division of Radiation Control" which was put into place on October 20, 1997. This policy is less formalized with undocumented training qualification for both the license reviewer and inspectors and lacks the 24 hour refresher training criteria for existing qualified staff. The review team attributed several performance issues discussed under the indicators Technical Quality of Inspections and Technical Quality of Licensing Actions to the lack of a formalized training policy. The review team recommends that the State: (1) create a formal training qualification program equivalent to IMC 1248 and apply it to staff going through the qualification process; (2) require 24 hours of refresher training for currently qualified staff; and (3) reevaluate the qualifications of the two newest inspection staff to determine if additional training is needed.

d. Results

The review team considered the impact of the issues identified under the indicators Technical Quality of Inspections and Technical Quality of Licensing Actions when recommending a finding for this indicator. The review team determined that the root cause of the performance issues is the lack of an updated and formalized training policy. These performance issues observed under inspection and licensing led the review team to recommend a downgraded finding for this indicator.

Based on the IMPEP evaluation criteria in MD 5.6, the review team recommends that Alabama's performance with respect to the indicator, Technical Staffing and Training, be found satisfactory, but needs improvement.

3.2 Status of the Materials Inspection Program

Periodic inspections of licensed operations are essential to ensure that activities are being conducted in compliance with regulatory requirements and consistent with good safety practices. The frequency of inspections is specified in the NRC's IMC 2800, "Materials Inspection Program." The frequency is dependent on the amount and kind of material, the type of operation licensed, and the results of previous inspections. There must be a capability for maintaining and retrieving statistical data on the status of the inspection program.

a. Scope

The review team used the guidance in State Agreements procedure SA-101, "Reviewing the Common Performance Indicator: Status of the Materials Inspection Program," and evaluated the State's performance with respect to the following performance indicator objectives:

- Initial inspections and inspections of Priority 1, 2, and 3, licensees are performed at the frequency prescribed in NRC IMC 2800.
- Candidate licensees working under reciprocity are inspected in accordance with the criteria prescribed in IMC 1220, "Processing of NRC Form 241, Report of Proposed Activities in Non-Agreement States, Areas of Exclusive Federal Jurisdiction, and Offshore Waters, and Inspection of Agreement State Licensees Operating Under 10 CFR 150.20."
- Deviations from inspection schedules are normally coordinated between technical staff and management.
- There is a plan to perform any overdue inspections and reschedule any missed or deferred inspections; or a basis has been established for not performing any overdue inspections or rescheduling any missed or deferred inspections.
- Inspection findings are communicated to licensees in a timely manner (30 calendar days, or 45 days for a review team inspection, as specified in IMC 0610, "Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards Inspection Reports").

b. Discussion

Alabama's inspection frequency is as or more frequent than similar license types found in IMC 2800, except for SIR-Spheres, TheraSpheres, and the Gliasite Radiation Therapy System. In IMC 2800, these modalities are assigned a program code of 2240 (Medical Therapy - Other Emerging Technology) which requires a two-year inspection frequency. However, the State chose to assign a program code of 2120 (Medical Institution - Written Directive Required) for these modalities and apply the three-year inspection frequency. The State provided written justification for the less frequent assignments based on its determination that these modalities are

brachytherapy in nature and do not warrant a two-year frequency. The State determined there was no effect on health and safety with these assignments.

The State performed a total of 512 Priority 1, 2, 3 and initial inspections over the review period. The State conducted 1.5 percent of those inspections overdue. A sampling of 25 inspection reports indicated that none of the inspection findings were communicated to the licensees beyond Alabama's goal of 30 days following the inspection exit.

Alabama met the NRC's criteria of inspecting 20 percent of candidate licensees operating under reciprocity in one of the five years covered by the review period (2010–7 percent, 2011–9 percent, 2012–4 percent, 2013–23 percent, 2014–19 percent). The review team observed that Alabama regulations allow for 30 days of use of radioactive materials in the State under reciprocity compared to the NRC's allowance of 180 days under reciprocity in NRC jurisdiction. The State expressed that the shortened period of reciprocity (i.e., 30 days) limits the State's opportunities to inspect licensees under reciprocity. After 30 days, licensees entering Alabama are issued an out-of-state Alabama radioactive materials license and are inspected based on inspection frequencies prescribed in IMC 2800. The State expressed that the out-of-state licensees, whether working under reciprocity or under a specific license, are more difficult to inspect because they do not have in-state storage locations and because they work in remote areas of the State.

c. Evaluation

Despite some challenges with reciprocity, the review team determined that during the review period Alabama met the performance indicator objectives listed in Section 3.2.a.

d. Results

Based on the IMPEP evaluation criteria in MD 5.6, the review team recommends that Alabama's performance with respect to the indicator, Status of Materials Inspection Program, be found satisfactory.

3.3 Technical Quality of Inspections

Inspections, both routine and reactive, provide assurance that licensee activities are carried out in a safe and secure manner. Accompaniments of inspectors performing inspections, and the critical evaluation of inspection records are used to assess the technical quality of a program's inspection capability.

a. Scope

The review team used the guidance in State Agreements procedure SA-102, "Reviewing the Common Performance Indicator: Technical Quality of Inspections," and evaluated State's performance with respect to the following performance indicator objectives:

- Inspections of licensed activities focus on health, safety, and security.
- Inspection findings are well-founded and properly documented in reports.

- Management promptly reviews inspection results.
- Procedures are in place and used to help identify root causes and poor licensee performance.
- Inspections address previously identified open items and violations.
- Inspection findings lead to appropriate and prompt regulatory action.
- Supervisors conduct annual accompaniments of each inspector to assess performance and assure consistent application of inspection policies.
- For programs with separate licensing and inspection staffs, to verify that procedures are established and followed to provide feedback information to license reviewers.
- For Agreement States, to determine if inspection guides are consistent with NRC guidance.
- An adequate supply of calibrated survey instruments is available to support the inspection program.

b. Discussion

The review team evaluated the inspection reports, enforcement documentation, and interviewed inspectors for 25 materials inspections conducted during the review period. The casework reviewed included inspections conducted by four of Alabama's inspectors and covered medical, industrial, commercial, academic, research, and service licenses.

A review team member accompanied three program inspectors on April 7–9, 2105. The inspector accompaniments are identified in Appendix B.

The review team noted that the State has a policy of performing annual supervisory accompaniments for each of the materials inspectors. The review team found that over the review period, a total of 14 inspector accompaniments had been performed. The Radioactive Materials Inspection Branch Director, who did most of the accompaniments during the review period, was the only inspector who was not accompanied during the review period. The Radioactive Materials Inspection Branch Director performed 156 inspections during the review period in order to prevent a backlog of inspections. The State indicated that he would be accompanied at appropriate intervals by one of his supervisor's in the future.

c. Evaluation

During one of the accompaniments, the inspector did not present with the appropriate knowledge of the Increased Controls (IC), specifically on how a licensee approves unescorted access to quantities of concern and how the process should be inspected. In addition, during on-site interviews with the two newest inspectors, it became apparent the inspectors lack a full understanding of several key areas for materials they are already inspecting independently. One example included a lack of understanding of what constituted a medical event with regards to an I-131 therapy. A second example included a misunderstanding with regards to leak testing requirements. The new inspectors were under the impression that medical sealed sources did not need to be leak tested. In addition, when asked about instrument calibrations, therapy spot checks, and certain quality assurance tests, the inspectors indicated that they inspect for

completion and not for validity or accuracy of the data and/or what would be considered outside of accepted values.

The review team noted some performance issues with quality of the inspections and casework for the newer inspectors. The review team determined the issues are attributed to the State's qualification process. The review team found that the new inspectors brief management after they have performed an inspection. This briefing includes a discussion that covers the inspections, start to finish. Based on interviews with management and staff, and reviews of case work, the review team resolved its performance concerns observed during the accompaniments and determined that during the review period Alabama met the performance indicator objectives listed in Section 3.3.a.

d. Results

The review team considered if the finding for the indicator was satisfactory but needs improvement. The review team determined the performance concerns noted during the accompaniments were attributed to inexperience. Further, the State implemented a process to review inspection findings with the new staff to ensure public health and safety are protected.

Based on the IMPEP evaluation criteria in MD 5.6, the review team recommends that Alabama's performance with respect to the indicator, Technical Quality of Inspections, be found satisfactory.

3.4 Technical Quality of Licensing Actions

The quality, thoroughness, and timeliness of licensing actions can have a direct bearing on public health and safety, and security. An assessment of licensing procedures, actual implementation of these procedures, and documentation of communications and associated actions between the State licensing staff and the regulated community will be a significant indicator of the overall quality of the program.

a. Scope

The review team used the guidance in State Agreements procedure SA-104, "Reviewing the Common Performance Indicator: Technical Quality of Licensing Actions," and evaluated Florida's performance with respect to the following performance indicator objectives:

- Licensing action reviews are thorough, complete, consistent, and of acceptable technical quality with health, safety, and security issues properly addressed.
- Essential elements of license applications have been submitted and elements meet current regulatory guidance (e.g. financial assurance, ICs, pre-licensing guidance).
- License reviewers, if applicable, have the proper signature authority for the cases they review independently.
- License conditions are stated clearly and are inspectable.
- Deficiency letters clearly state regulatory positions and are used at the proper time.

- Reviews of renewal applications demonstrate a thorough analysis of a licensee's inspection and enforcement history.
- Applicable guidance documents are available to reviewers and are followed (e.g., NUREG-1556 series, pre-licensing guidance, regulatory guides, etc.).
- Licensing practices for risk significant radioactive materials are appropriately implemented including ICs and fingerprinting orders (Part 37 equivalent).
- Documents containing sensitive security information are properly marked, handled, controlled and secured.

b. Discussion

During the review period, Alabama performed 1,750 licensing actions. The review team evaluated 26 of these licensing actions which included casework for 2 current and former license reviewers. The casework reviewed included new applications, amendments, renewals and terminations. The review team evaluated casework for the following license types and actions: broad scope, medical diagnostic and therapy, veterinary, research and development, academic, gauges, self-shielded irradiators, service providers, waste brokers, decommissioning actions, and financial assurance.

The review team identified that four medical limited scope licenses, issued by the state did not include authorized users for a few authorized line items. Specifically, one of the licenses was authorized for a high dose-rate remote afterloader (HDR) without an authorized user; another license was authorized to use palladium-103 and yttrium-90 without an authorized user.

Additionally, the review team identified that financial assurance was not requested from pharmaceutical licensees in accordance with Alabama regulation 420-3-26-.02(26) "Financial Assurance and Recordkeeping for Decommissioning."

The review team identified that email was accepted as initial requests for license amendment, which is contrary to Alabama regulation under 420-3-26-.02(8) "Filing of Application for Specific Licenses."

The review team identified that two authorized nuclear pharmacists did not have complete training documentation, in accordance with 420-3-26-.07(28) "Training for an Authorized Nuclear Pharmacist."

The review team identified that the licenses that contained "Increased Control" materials were not marked with "Security-Related Information." However, the cover letter accompanying the license was marked to indicate the document containing security related information. The review team also identified several license folders that contained IC materials that were found in the regular file cabinets and did not contain any security related markings. This was corrected during the review.

Evaluation

The review team interviewed the licensing staff and although the primary reviewer was an experienced inspector, the training of the individual as a license reviewer was not a formalized qualification process as discussed. The review team attributed the licensing errors noted above to the lack of training and experience. Alabama is in the process of correcting the licensing errors. Despite some licensing issues, the review team determined that during the review period Alabama met the performance indicator objectives listed in Section 3.4.a.

c. Results

The review team considered if the finding for the indicator was satisfactory but needs improvement but concluded that the licensing issues observed did not represent a health and safety concern and were attributed to Alabama staff not being systematically trained in each area of licensing.

Based on the IMPEP evaluation criteria in MD 5.6, the review team recommends that Alabama's performance with respect to the indicator, Technical Quality of Licensing Actions, be found satisfactory.

3.5 Technical Quality of Incident and Allegation Activities

The quality, thoroughness, and timeliness of response to incidents and allegations of safety concerns can have a direct bearing on public health and safety. An assessment of incident response and allegation investigation procedures, actual implementation of these procedures, internal and external coordination, and investigative and follow-up procedures and actions will be a significant indicator of the overall quality of the program.

a. Scope

The review team used the guidance in State Agreements procedure SA-105, "Reviewing the Common Performance Indicator: Technical Quality of Incident and Allegation Activities," and evaluated State's performance with respect to the following performance indicator objectives:

- Incident response, investigation, and allegation procedures are in place and followed.
- Response actions are appropriate, well-coordinated, and timely.
- On-site responses are performed when incidents have potential health, safety or security significance.
- Appropriate follow-up actions are taken to ensure prompt compliance by licensees.
- Follow-up inspections are scheduled and completed, as necessary.
- Notifications are made to the NRC Headquarters Operations Center for incidents requiring a 24-hour or immediate notification to the Agreement State or NRC.
- Incidents are reported to the Nuclear Material Events Database (NMED).

- Allegations are investigated in a prompt, appropriate manner.
- Concerned individuals are notified of investigation conclusions.
- Concerned individuals' identities are protected, as allowed by law.

b. Discussion

During the review period, 134 incidents were reported to Alabama. The review team evaluated 12 of the 54 radioactive materials incidents that were reportable to the NRC, including 2 lost/stolen radioactive materials, 3 potential overexposures, 3 damaged equipment, and 1 nuclear laundry leak. Alabama dispatched inspectors for onsite follow-up for the cases reviewed as appropriate.

During the review period, nine allegations were received by State. The review team evaluated four allegations, including one allegation that the NRC referred to the State, during the review period.

c. Evaluation

The review team determined that during the review period State met the performance indicator objectives listed in Section 3.5.a.

d. Results

Based on the IMPEP evaluation criteria in MD 5.6, the review team recommends that Alabama's performance with respect to the indicator, Technical Quality of Incident and Allegation Activities, be found satisfactory.

4.0 NON-COMMON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Four non-common performance indicators are used to review Agreement State programs: (1) Compatibility Requirements, (2) Sealed Source and Device (SS&D) Evaluation Program, (3) Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) Disposal Program, and (4) Uranium Recovery Program. The NRC's Agreement with Alabama does not relinquish regulatory authority for a uranium recovery program. In addition, with regard to the non-common performance indicators for SS&D and LLRW, although Alabama has authority to conduct SS&D evaluations and regulate LLRW disposal, the State did not perform any activities related to these indicators during the review period. Therefore, only the first non-common performance indicator, Compatibility Requirements, applied to this review.

4.1 Compatibility Requirements

State statutes should authorize the State to establish a program for the regulation of agreement material and provide authority for the assumption of regulatory responsibility under the agreement. The statutes must authorize the State to promulgate regulatory requirements necessary to provide reasonable assurance of protection of public health, safety, and security. The State must be authorized through its legal authority to license, inspect, and enforce legally binding requirements, such as regulations and licenses.

NRC regulations that should be adopted by an Agreement State for purposes of compatibility or health and safety should be adopted in a time frame so that the effective date of the State requirement is not later than 3 years after the effective date of NRC's final rule. Other program elements, as defined in Appendix A of State Agreements procedure SA-200, "Compatibility Categories and Health and Safety Identification for NRC Regulations and Other Program Elements," that have been designated as necessary for maintenance of an adequate and compatible program should be adopted and implemented by an Agreement State within 6 months following NRC designation.

a. Scope

The review team used the guidance in State Agreements procedure SA-107, "Reviewing the Non-Common Performance Indicator: Compatibility Requirements," and evaluated [State's] performance with respect to the following performance indicator objectives. A complete list of regulation amendments can be found on the NRC website at the following address: http://nrc-stp.ornl.gov/rss_regamendents.html.

- The Agreement State program does not create conflicts, duplications, gaps, or other conditions that jeopardize an orderly pattern in the regulation of radioactive materials under the Atomic Energy Act, as amended.
- Regulations adopted by the Agreement State for purposes of compatibility or health and safety were adopted no later than 3 years after the effective date of the NRC regulation.
- Other program elements, as defined in SA-200 that have been designated as necessary for maintenance of an adequate and compatible program have been adopted and implemented within 6 months of NRC designation.
- The State statutes authorize the State to establish a program for the regulation of agreement material and provide authority for the assumption of regulatory responsibility under the agreement.
- The State is authorized through its legal authority to license, inspect, and enforce legally binding requirements such as regulations and licenses.
- Impact of sunset requirements, if any, on the State's regulations.

b. Discussion

Alabama became an Agreement State on October 1, 1966. The Alabama Agreement State Program's current effective statutory authority is contained in the Acts of 1963, No. 582 of the Alabama Statutes. The Department is designated as the State's radiation control agency. A legislative amendment affecting the radiation control program was passed during the review period. Previously Alabama Radiation Control regulations were subject to sunset requirements. In 2013, the legislature determined that the Radiation Control Agency is no longer an enumerated agency subject to review by the Alabama Sunset Committee, therefore regulations adopted by the State are no longer subject to sunset requirements.

The State's administrative rulemaking process takes approximately six months to one year from drafting to finalizing a rule. The public, NRC, other agencies, and potentially

impacted licensees and registrants are offered an opportunity to comment during the process. Comments are considered and incorporated, as appropriate, before the regulations are finalized and approved by the State Committee of Public Health. The review team noted that the State's rules and regulations are not subject to "sunset" laws.

During the review period, Alabama submitted 15 final regulation amendments, to the NRC for a compatibility review. At the time of this review, no amendments were overdue for adoption.

c. Evaluation

The review team determined that during the review period Alabama met the performance indicator objectives listed in Section 3.4.1.a.

d. Results

Based on the IMPEP evaluation criteria in MD 5.6, the review team recommends that Alabama's performance with respect to the indicator, Compatibility Requirements, be found satisfactory.

5.0 SUMMARY

As noted in Sections 3.0 and 4.0 above, Alabama's performance was found satisfactory for five out of six performance indicators reviewed, and satisfactory, but needs improvement, for the indicator Technical Staffing and Training. The review team made one recommendation regarding program performance by the State.

Accordingly, the review team recommends that the Alabama Agreement State Program be found adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with the NRC's program. Based on the results of the current IMPEP review, the review team recommends that the next full IMPEP review take place in approximately four years, and that a periodic meeting be held in one year in order to review progress in the State's training program.

Below is the review team's recommendation, as mentioned in the report, for evaluation and implementation by State:

The review team recommends that the State:

- 1) Create a formal training qualification program equivalent to Inspection Manual Chapter 1248 and apply it to staff going through the qualification process;
- 2) Require 24 hours of refresher training every two years for currently qualified staff; and
- 3) Re-evaluate the qualifications of the two newest inspection staff to determine if additional training is needed.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A IMPEP Review Team Members

Appendix B Inspection Accompaniments

APPENDIX A

IMPEP REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS

Name	Area of Responsibility
Bryan A. Parker, Region III	Review Team Leader Technical Quality of Incident and Allegation Activities
Monica Ford, Region I	Technical Staffing and Training Compatibility Requirements
Shirley Xu, NMSS	Technical Quality of Licensing
Brian Goretzski, Arizona	Status of Materials Inspection Technical Quality of Inspections Inspector Accompaniments

APPENDIX B

INSPECTION ACCOMPANIMENTS

The following inspection accompaniments were performed prior to the on-site IMPEP review:

Accompaniment No.: 1	License No.: 1183
License Type: Industrial Radiography	Priority: 1
Inspection Date: 04/07/2015	Inspector: MR

Accompaniment No.: 2	License No.: 0498
License Type: Medical Institution, Written Directive Required	Priority: 3
Inspection Date: 04/08/2015	Inspector: KT

Accompaniment No.: 3	License No.: 1179
License Type: Stereotactic Radiosurgery	Priority: 2
Inspection Date: 04/09/2015	Inspector: RC