

MONITORING CALL SUMMARY FOR THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Attendees	Arkansas Radiation Control Program Attendees
Randy Erickson, RSAO, Region IV	Bernard Bevill, Chief Radiation Control Section
Lance Rakovan, NMSS	Jared Thompson, Manager Radiation Control Program
Lizette Roldan, NMSS	Steve Mack, Health Physicist
	Angie Hall, Health Physicist
	David Stephens, Health Physicist

Background:

On June 27, 2018, NRC held the first Monitoring call with the Arkansas Radiation Control Program (the Program) following the 2017 IMPEP review (ML18054A662). The review was held the week of November 27 to December 1, 2017, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The team recommended and the Management Review Board (MRB) agreed that Arkansas's performance was satisfactory for five indicators, Technical Staffing and Training, Status of Materials Inspection Program, Technical Quality of Inspections, Technical Quality of Incident and Allegation Activities, and Compatibility Requirements, and unsatisfactory for the indicator Technical Quality of Licensing Actions. Four recommendations were made for the Program and three recommendations from the 2013 IMPEP review were closed. The team also recommended, and the MRB agreed, that the Arkansas Agreement State Program be considered adequate to protect public health and safety, but needs improvement, and compatible with the NRC's program; and, that a period of Monitoring be initiated.

The purpose of this call was to review the Program's progress in regard to completion of four recommendations identified during the 2017 IMPEP review. The recommendations all involved weaknesses identified in the licensing program.

Recommendation 1:

Arkansas should provide additional training with regard to the implementation of the Pre-Licensing guidance to ensure that staff understand how to properly identify unknown applicants and transfer of control requests, when completing the evaluation of the basis for confidence.

Status: The Program reported that in January 2018, they conducted training for all staff on the pre-licensing guidance to include the checklist, and made certain that all staff had a common understanding about each of the checklist items and what was expected when filling it out. The Program Manager reviews all completed pre-licensing checklists to ensure they are used correctly.

Recommendation 2:

Arkansas should revise its procedures to ensure that the qualifications of preceptors are properly verified to attest to the training for new authorized users, authorized medical physicists, or radiation safety officers that are to be added to the licenses.

Status: The Program reported that in January 2018, Arkansas revised its procedures to ensure that the qualifications of preceptors are properly verified to attest to the training for new authorized users, authorized medical physicists, or radiation safety officers that are to be added to the licenses. A reviewer's form was developed to aid in ensuring that all qualifications are reviewed, including the preceptor, when amending a license. Lastly, the Program Manager reviews and confirms preceptor verifications when signing amended licenses.

Recommendation 3:

Arkansas should verify that all previously approved authorized users, authorized medical physicists, and radiation safety officers, where the preceptor is not listed on an Arkansas license, were properly qualified to act as a preceptor.

Status: The Program reported that it began this review immediately following the 2017 IMPEP. Staff identified and reviewed 86 medical licenses. The review identified 13 licenses where the Program had not previously verified that out-of-state preceptors were qualified to act as a preceptor. The Program then verified that the preceptors of the 13 licenses were qualified at the time they were acting as a preceptor. The Program completed its review on February 2, 2018.

Recommendation 4:

Arkansas should establish a quality control/quality assurance process or similar tool to help improve the thoroughness, completeness, and consistency of the license reviews, as well as to ensure license reviews are of acceptable technical quality with health, safety, and security properly addressed, and that licensing requests are properly signed before taking any action on a proposed request.

Status: The Program reported that it developed a quality improvement program to sample all future licensing actions. It developed its audit program using the NRC Region IV licensing audit program as a template. They will use a checklist to audit a minimum of two actions by each reviewer quarterly. Selections are based on risk significant licensing actions performed. The first quarterly audit began in April 2018 with the next one scheduled for July 2018.

Additional Items Discussed:

As of the date of the call, the Program had not been able to hire a qualified individual to fill the vacant position noted during the 2017 IMPEP review. Subsequent to the call, the Program has been able to hire a new staff member who will start with the Program on July 30, 2018.

The next Monitoring call is scheduled for September 25, 2018, at 2:00 a.m. Central.

[RA] Original Signed By
Lance J. Rakovan for
Randy Erickson
Regional State Agreements Officer
Region IV

SUBJECT: MONITORING CALL SUMMARY FOR THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Date: August 27, 2018

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DOCUMENT NAME: S:\DNMS\ISAO\Monitoring Program\Arkansas\6-27-18 Arkansas
Monitoring Call Summary.docx ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML18239A091

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