



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Ref:SA/CG

MEMORANDUM FOR: Office of State Programs Staff  
FROM: Craig Gordon, SP  
SUBJECT: PERSONAL EVALUATION OF URANIUM MILL TRAINING COURSE

As a novice in the industry of uranium milling and its associated health physics impacts, it is not so easy a task to become familiar with the many aspects of such a broad field. Fortunately for myself, I was able to be enrolled in the recent two-week NRC and Agreement State Training Session pertaining to Radiological Safety in the uranium mines and mills. Personally, the course was extremely informative, touching on all of the basic aspects from the uranium circuits and processing, inspection, licensing, bioassay, and in-plant safety, to the environmental impacts such as tailing management and dose assessment.

In most cases, the speakers appeared to be quite knowledgeable as to his or her subject material. Presentations were well done, although I understand one or two speakers were called upon on short notice. Discussions were kept very informal, which somewhat alleviated the initial uncertain atmosphere along with each drawn out day. However, I think the students themselves were also well prepared. On several occasions they tended to run off on tangents due to specific personal matters being raised by all on particular state issues. Perhaps this may have been prevented by briefing the class beforehand, indicating that pertinent questions should be raised on the Federal (NRC, DOT, DOE, etc.) level (that is, basic problems relating to all states) instead of at the state or local levels. Also, on a few topics such as dose assessment, plant inspections, and all licensing phases, we were cut off a bit because of the time allotment involved.

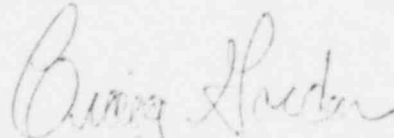
The sponsors of the course should now have a good idea where to make minor adjustments as to the weight of each topic; which subjects to add details to and which to delete, and how to apportion each topic or speaker.

From my standpoint, this course has been a timely stepping stone in familiarizing myself with the terminology and practical applications of uranium mills. I cannot actually speak for anyone in the class as

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to how many individual technical answers they received, but it did appear that they became extraordinarily informed in the areas of Federal Regulations, guidelines, and UMTRCA. I suppose it goes without saying that this was the primary intent of the course. From an NRC viewpoint, I think the course was extremely successful in developing and enhancing the working relationships with each state's representative. Unclear state matters may possibly be resolved a bit easier now that the Office of State Programs personally knows with whom it is dealing.

On a final note, I am greatly appreciative upon being selected for this training. It must be pointed out that quite a lot of credit should go to John Kendig for all his efforts in time and preparation in carrying out this rather difficult task so smoothly.



Craig Gordon  
Office of State Programs