



DAVID AXELROD, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
ALBANY

August 11, 1980

Dear Mr. Kerr:

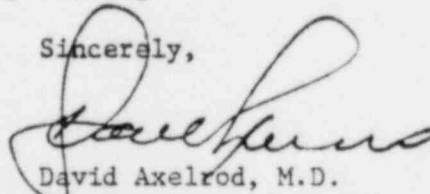
Thank you for forwarding to me the constructive suggestions resulting from the review of this Department's program for regulation of agreement materials. You may be assured that we will endeavor to address the deficiencies in as expeditious a manner as current resources permit.

The difficulties experienced by this Department in fulfilling the requirements of the state/federal agreement are not unique to this state. As I am sure you will recall, Representative Udall conducted hearings in Washington in June of 1979 to consider the effectiveness of the regulatory programs in existence in the 25 agreement states. The difficulty is not with the desire to provide the highest level of protection for public health, but rather with the allocation of scarce resources to meet the myriad of obligations for which the states are responsible. While we indeed are committed to correcting the deficiencies outlined in your recent letter of August 6, we, at the same time, require additional resources to support the activities associated with the compliance program.

To assist the agreement states, I would urge that a grants or contract program be developed to provide funding for the mandates to permit the states to exercise the responsibilities originally bestowed upon the Atomic Energy Commission. I would also urge that the initiatives of Representative Udall not be permitted to lie fallow. A meeting of the agreement states with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would be an appropriate vehicle to discuss how a closer collaborative program for shared responsibility between the state and federal governments might be developed.

We look forward to an early meeting.

Sincerely,



David Axelrod, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

G. Wayne Kerr, Acting Director
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Washington, D.C. 20555

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