



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HEALTH
GOV. W. AVERELL HARRISMAN
STATE OFFICE BUILDING CAMPUS
ALBANY, N.Y. 12240

10857

January 25, 1994

Ms. Gail DePlanque
Commissioner
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC

Dear Commissioner DePlanque:

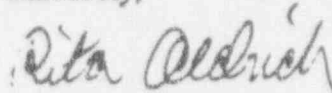
Enclosed is a copy of our letter to Richard Bangart at the Office of State Programs regarding sealed source and device evaluations and the assistance which Lloyd Bolling of his office recently provided to our program. The letter also requests that a course on performing these evaluations be included in NRC's training agenda for 1994.

During the January 10, 1994 telephonically transmitted presentation to the Commission on the Agreement States Program, you inquired about the training made available to the State of Louisiana on performing such evaluations, since their program was found to vary from NRC's to the degree that it was judged not to be "adequate." In response you were told that a training session on this subject had been held two years ago and that Louisiana had been unable to send any staff. It appears that this referred to a workshop held about two years ago in Texas on sealed source and device evaluations. It seems to have been a very successful joint working session between NRC and Agreement State staff, rather than a training session. It also appears to have produced a "quality assurance" guideline and inspection checklist for sealed source/device manufacturers and distributors. The guideline and checklist do not seem to have been circulated as a product of the workshop, but we did come across a copy in an NRC inspection report on a New York State licensee which also has an exempt distribution license from the NRC. It was also included in the package of NRC materials used by their staff, which Lloyd supplied to us at our request. Lloyd also told us of the existence of an NRC newsletter on sealed sources and devices and sent us a copy. We found it informative and worthwhile and have requested copies of back issues. Lloyd did not know if the Agreement States had received copies of the quality assurance documents or if all were receiving the newsletter - we had not.

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I believe that NRC and the Agreement States appreciate the importance of sealed source and device evaluations and that we are all very concerned that high standards be maintained. Your interest in what NRC staff would do to assist a state such as Louisiana prompts me to send you this letter. I would respectfully suggest that improved communication on the standards to be applied for sealed source and device evaluations, and a formalized course on the performance of such evaluations would be extremely helpful at this point.

Sincerely,



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RA:ced

Enc.

cc: M. Colavito