



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DONALD E. WILLIAMSON, M.D. • STATE HEALTH OFFICER

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January 31, 1994

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Richard L. Bangart, Director  
Office of State Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Bangart:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the requests made in your letter of December 9, 1993, regarding NRC's evaluation of Alabama's Agreement State Program.

First, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Richard L. Woodruff for his review of our program and for discussing the results of his findings with me on July 23, 1993.

The attachment to this letter addresses each of the items included in your letter for which you requested a response. Please advise if you do not feel that the response to any item is sufficient, or if you need clarification.

The rule adoption process is time consuming and expensive. However, we realize the importance of maintaining rules as current as possible and will make all efforts to do so. Changes to 10CFR20 impact all of our radiation protection rules. A decision was initially made to first adopt changes required in 10CFR20, and then revise other sections of the rules as appropriate.

Since the adoption of equivalent changes to 10CFR20 on December 15, 1993, and the receipt of your letter dated December 9, 1993, Staff has been actively revising Alabama's Radiation Protection Rules to be compatible with NRC's rules. It is anticipated that these rules will be in place by May 1994.

With the adoption of the changes, Alabama's Radiation Protection Rules should be compatible with NRC rules.

The attachment to this letter also describes two internal policy documents that have been written and put in place to address Mr. Woodruff's concerns. We were not aware of this deficiency until pointed out in your letter.

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Richard L. Bangart  
Page 2  
January 31, 1994

We have and will continue to make every effort to maintain our radiation control program at the highest level of proficiency as possible. I am dedicated to that task as well as the Staff.

We continue to appreciate the support your staff is always willing to provide and for NRC's support in providing training and funding for training activities.

Please contact me or the staff of the Division of Radiation Control if you have any questions regarding this response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Williamson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald E. Williamson, M.D.  
State Health Officer

DEW/jwc

Attachment

1. Status and Compatibility of Regulations

On December 15, 1993, the State Board of Health adopted revisions to Rule 420-3-26-.03, Standards for Protection Against Radiation to make this rule compatible with 10CFR20. A copy of the draft was reviewed by Region II. Recommendations for change, as suggested by Region II, were incorporated into the final document. Your office was notified on December 15, 1993, of this action.

Draft revisions to Rule 420-3-26-.02, Licensing, have been completed. The following changes are incorporated into the draft:

- 10 CFR Parts 30, 40, and 70 (54 FR 14061) related to "Emergency Planning."
- 10 CFR Part 30, Appendix A (53 FR 24018) related to "Financial Assurance and Recordkeeping for Decommissioning."
- 10 CFR Part 30 (56 FR 40757) related to "Reporting Requirements."

Draft revisions to Rule 420-3-26-.04, Radiography, have been completed. The following changes are incorporated into the draft:

- 10 CFR 34.20 (55 FR 843), "Performance Requirements for Radiographic Operations."
- 10 CFR 34.30 (56 FR 40757), "Reporting Requirements."
- Revisions to 10 CFR 34.33 (55 FR 843), "Personnel Monitoring" regarding alarm ratemeters.
- Revisions to Rule 420-3-26-.07, "Medical Uses of Radioactive Material," will be made later in 1994 to include required changes of 10 CFR 35 (56 FR 34104).

2. Administration Procedures

The Division of Radiation Control maintains a written internal procedures manual to guide staff in the performance of duties.

Procedures have been written and added to the internal procedures manual as follows:

- Policy Number 256, dated January 5, 1994, entitled, "Handling Allegations From Members of the Public and Licensees."
- Policy Number 255, dated January 5, 1994, entitled, "Handling of Misadministration Reports and Investigations of Misadministrations."