

New Mexico Health and Environment Department

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November 26, 1990

Mr. Carlton Kammerer, Director
State Programs
Office of Governmental and Public Affairs
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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GVA/SLIP

Dear Mr. Kammerer:

Thank you for your letter dated September 27, 1990, addressing your staff's review of New Mexico's Radiation Control Program. This letter is a reply and comment on problem areas cited by your staff. These areas are listed and addressed in the order presented in your letter.

Item 1: The State's Radiation Protection Regulations are not compatible with NRC regulations due to the fact that the bankruptcy reporting requirement, the well logging requirements and the requirement relating to a quarterly audit of radiographers have not yet been adopted.

Response: Radiation Control Program staff will meet with the State Radiation Technical Advisory Council on November 30, 1990 to discuss the compatibility requirement. Following this meeting, steps will be taken to amend the New Mexico Radiation Protection Regulations to institute compatibility.

Item 2: Several licenses did not identify the manufacturer and model number of sealed sources on the licenses.

Response: Staff have amended these licenses to include the manufacturers and model numbers of sealed sources. Radiation Licensing and Registration Section staff have been reminded of the importance of identifying sealed sources by both manufacturer and model number. Sealed source and device catalogs will be kept current at all times.

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Item 3: Four priority 1, 2 and 3 licenses were overdue for inspection by more than 50 percent of the inspection frequency.

Response: The four licenses in question have been inspected since the NRC review. Monthly computer printouts are being generated identifying inspections due and inspections are being performed as required.

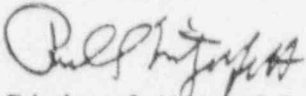
Item 4: The Radiation Control Program's escalated enforcement procedures are due for updating.

Response: The escalated enforcement procedures provided by the NRC reviewer have been incorporated into the Radiation Control Program's procedural manual.

Please be assured that this Division is actively attempting to upgrade the Radiation Control Program and that NRC evaluations are utilized as a tool in defining areas which may need improvement.

Please feel free to contact me on any policy issues which may be of importance in the Radiation Control Program.

Sincerely,



Richard Mitzelfelt, Director
Environmental Improvement Division

RM/ma

cc: Robert Doda, Program Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Jon F. Thompson, Deputy Director
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