

Summary of National Materials Program Working Group Meeting held in Arlington, Texas on April 10-12, 2000

The second national materials program working group (WG) meeting was held on April 10-12, 2000 in the NRC Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. All members, except Mr. Cameron, were in attendance. There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

At the start of the meeting, the WG reviewed the comments offered by the steering committee (SC). One comment recommended the WG consider NRC's strategic plan and incorporate it into the WG charter. The WG considered this comment and believes it has addressed this issue by incorporating the goals and philosophy of NRC's strategic plan into the evaluation process. Another suggestion was to use other agency "models" as options for a national program. Since states have extensive interactions with many other agencies, the WG believes that this concept is also factored into the WG's evaluation process.

To assist in focusing on the work at hand, the group reviewed the process established for evaluating program elements and the progress made at the last meeting. Additionally, it was decided to continue screening the remaining program elements rather than moving on to second step screening for the completed elements. This decision was based on the objective of maintaining uniformity in the screening evaluation process.

The WG processed the following program elements through the first screening process: performing license reviews; performing inspections; reciprocity; technical guidance documents; training and experience standards for regulatory personnel, and regulatory program (IMPEP) reviews. The WG also discussed mines, mills, tailings, and general licensing issues at great lengths.

Since the matter of mines, mills and tailings involves relatively few sites, the WG decided that a summary of the issues would be written up and submitted to the SC for comment and guidance. These licensees could either be handled the same way as other licensees, or they could be pulled out and looked at separately. These options will be included in the document submitted to the SC.

The WG tried to put various general licensing issues through the first screening process, and encountered several problems. Due to the on going GL work and proposed NRC GL regulations, the WG will seek guidance and comment from the SC on how best to approach this issue.

The WG also discussed participation in the upcoming Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD) meeting in May. A presentation on the WG's progress will be made at the CRCPD business meeting by Cindy Cardwell, TX who is also the Chair of CRCPD's S-5 Committee on State's Role in National Radioactive Materials Regulatory Development. Also, Kathy Allen, IDNS, and OAS representative, is coordinating the development of a poster describing the WG's effort for presentation at the CRCPD poster session.

The next WG meeting will be on June 5-7, 2000 in Denver, Colorado.