

ORGANIZATION OF AGREEMENT STATES AND CONFERENCE OF RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS BACKGROUND

ORGANIZATION OF AGREEMENT STATES (OAS)

- The OAS is a nonprofit, voluntary, scientific and professional society incorporated in the District of Columbia. The membership of OAS consists of state radiation control directors and staff from the 38 Agreement States who are responsible for implementation of their respective Agreement State programs. The purpose of the OAS is to provide a mechanism for these Agreement States to work with each other and with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on regulatory issues associated with their respective agreements.
- Agreement States are those States that have entered into an Agreement with the NRC under subsection 274b. of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) where the NRC discontinues its regulatory authority over specified AEA radioactive materials and activities within the State, provided that the State's program is adequate to protect public health and safety and is compatible with the NRC's regulatory program. The role of the Agreement States is to regulate most types of radioactive material in accordance with the compatibility requirements of the AEA. These types of radioactive materials include source material (uranium and thorium), reactor fission byproducts, and quantities of special nuclear materials (SNM) not sufficient to form a critical mass. Under its own internal practices, the NRC periodically reviews the performance of each Agreement State to assure compatibility with NRC's regulatory standards.
- Agreement States issue radioactive material licenses, promulgate regulations, and enforce those regulations under the authority of each individual state's laws. The Agreement States exercise their licensing and enforcement actions under direction of the governors in a manner that is compatible with licensing and enforcement programs of the NRC.
- The mission of the Organization is to promote cooperation and communication among Agreement States, NRC, and those States that are seeking to become Agreement States; supporting its members by preparing, disseminating, and promoting the exchange of information on matters affecting Agreement States programs; and pursuing other activities appropriate to its purpose.

CONFERENCE OF RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS (CRCPD)

- The CRCPD, established in 1968, is a 501(c)(3) non-governmental, nonprofit professional organization dedicated to radiation protection. CRCPD is incorporated in the State of Kentucky, with its office located in Frankfort, Kentucky. CRCPD's mission is "to promote consistency in addressing and resolving radiation protection issues, to encourage high standards of quality in radiation protection programs, and to provide leadership in radiation safety and education." CRCPD's primary goal is to assure that radiation exposure to individuals is kept to the lowest practical level, while not restricting its beneficial uses.

- The four major objectives of the CRCPD are to promote consistent radiation protection practices, provide leadership on radiation issues, improve efficiency in providing radiation protection, and enhance relationships among its members.
- CRCPD provides a common forum for the exchange of information among State and local radiation control programs and provides a mechanism for States to communicate with the Federal government on radiation protection issues. CRCPD, through cooperative agreements, purchase orders, and various partnership programs, works closely with the following Federal agencies: NRC, Food & Drug Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- The governing body of the CRCPD is a Board of Directors with eight members, composed of State and local members from across the United States. The Board: establishes policy; establishes working groups, appoints members, and provides charges to these groups; provides direction and guidance to the Executive Director; and provides general oversight of all CRCPD activities.
- CRCPD's Office of the Executive Director conducts the day-to-day administrative functions and operations of the CRCPD.
- Membership is made up of radiation professionals in State and local government that regulate the use of radiation sources; however, anyone with an interest in radiation protection is eligible to join. The major professional work of the CRCPD is accomplished through committees and task forces (i.e., working groups). These working groups address the specific components of radiation protection issues facing State and local radiation protection programs. The working groups typically produce guidance documents that can be used by State and local programs in carrying out their responsibilities. One significant example is the *Suggested State Regulations for Control of Radiation*, a document that is currently being reviewed and revised. Most States have adopted the language of these suggested regulations, thus providing for better uniformity in the regulatory community.
- Federal grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts provide most of CRCPD's budget (approximately 70 percent). The remaining 18 percent is a combination of membership dues, registration fees, sale of publications, annual meeting exhibits, professional societies, and brokerage of the Texas industrial radiography examination.