



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

January 5, 1993

Mr. John R. Kelly, Director
Division of Health Protection
Iowa Department of Public Health
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letters dated November 25 and December 8, 1992 in response to our comments following the August 31 through September 4, 1992, review of your Radiation Control Program for agreement materials.

Since receipt of your response letters, you have informed us of several notable Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) accomplishments: (1) the restructuring of the Division to enable the program director increased management time over areas associated with ionizing radiation; (2) the promotion of one of your health physicists to the Radioactive Materials supervisory position; and (3) the hiring of a health physicist for the Radioactive Materials program. These improvements should help you achieve an adequate and compatible program.

With regards to several other items addressed in your responses, we have further questions and comments for your consideration. The comments and questions below are presented in the same order as in our October 22, 1992 review letter:

Item 4: Staffing Level

The response letter states that you intend to staff the Radioactive Materials program at a 3.4 FTE technical staff level and that you intend to return to a 2.25 to 2.5 FTE level when the program is adequate and compatible. In view of the recent difficulties you have experienced in your program, you may want to consider keeping the 3.4 FTE technical staffing level for an extended period beyond achieving adequacy and compatibility.

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Item 6: Office Equipment and Support Services

The response letter states that secretarial support for the Radioactive Materials program will be at a 0.6 to 0.75 FTE level, less than the full-time support which was recommended. Please explain why you feel that this lesser amount of secretarial coverage will adequately support your program, especially since you committed the Radioactive Materials secretary to a monthly license file audit (See Item 7 of your November 25, 1992, letter).

Item 10: Confirmatory Measurements

Your response states that a procedure is being established to assure that quarterly instrument calibrations are performed. You should submit a copy of the draft procedure to the Regional State Agreements Officer for his review and comments. Please indicate when the procedure will be implemented.

Item 11: Management

The response letter states that the program director is "signing off" on license and inspection reports. Does this "sign off" signify that the reports are reviewed for quality, technical accuracy and consistency? The response letter also states that it is assumed that, in time, the program director will spot check inspection reports and will sign off on licensing actions as done previously. Please clarify the current and future report auditing functions and the timetable for these efforts.

Item 12: Training

The response letter states that the Department will make every effort to send radiation control staff to NRC training courses but that such travel can only be done within the policy and procedures of State government.

For a radiation control program to function effectively, certain training is essential for those individuals tasked with the evaluation of licensee programs which may effect public health and safety. Please confirm that there are no impediments to the staff attending NRC and other appropriate training courses as needed.

John R. Kelly

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We would appreciate a response to the comments and questions raised above, prior to our next review which is scheduled for February 22, 1993. Please contact the Regional State Agreements Officer, Mr. James Lynch if you have any questions or need clarification of the above.

Sincerely,

original signed by Carlton Kammerer

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of State Programs

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