



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

December 23, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor, Executive Director
for Operations

FROM: Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of State Programs

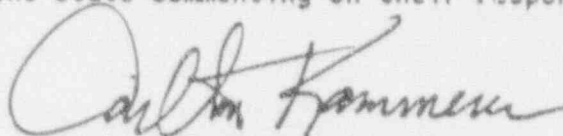
SUBJECT: IOWA AGREEMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

As stipulated in SECY-92-360, this is the second monthly progress report regarding the Iowa Agreement State program. NRC staff continues to provide licensing and inspection training and technical assistance to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). The goal of this assistance is to help Iowa return its radioactive materials program to an adequate and compatible condition. Another follow-up review is scheduled for February 1993 to assess the State's progress.

The Iowa program has continued to improve over the last month. Comments regarding progress and areas which need further improvement are described below:

- ♦ One of the two IDPH inspector/reviewers continues to show significant improvement regarding knowledge of regulations and overall program issues. He was recently promoted to the Supervisor position. This individual is on course with the training objectives outlined in the November 3, 1992 project plan. He is projected by the NRC to be qualified to inspect all types of licensed programs and to license all but the most complicated R&D programs, by May 1993. The progress of the second individual has been slower. However, this individual will be returning to the x-ray program shortly.
- ♦ Efforts to hire health physicists from outside the IDPH program were successful. A recent graduate with a Masters degree in health physics has been hired and is scheduled to start on January 11, 1993. He does not have much materials experience, but appears to be a sharp, aggressive individual with significant potential. The individual currently detailed to the program will be reassigned to the x-ray program after the new hire is on board.

- ♦ The anticipated restructuring of the Department to decrease other responsibilities of the Program Director was completed on December 18, 1992. Don Flater, Program Director, will be responsible for only the Radioactive Materials, X-ray and Radon programs. This reduces Mr. Flater's responsible program areas from 10 to 3 and has reduced the number of personnel he supervises by approximately 60 percent.
- ♦ NRC licensing and inspection training in nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, pharmacies and gauges has been provided over the last month. The training has resulted in much improved licensing actions. IDPH staff is asking more perceptive questions of their licensees.
- ♦ The IDPH consultant has provided significant training to staff in the areas of inspection philosophy and enforcement. Some of the training was audited by the Regional State Agreements Officer (RSAO) who found it appropriate and challenging.
- ♦ The consultant has finalized program procedures, similar to NRC Manual Chapter 2800, for the IDPH program.
- ♦ An inspection/licensing tracking system has been developed by State computer experts. The program is currently being debugged. Full implementation of the system is expected by January 1993.
- ♦ Iowa's November 25 and December 8, 1992 response letters to the follow-up review were received by the NRC. The response letters addressed the major items of concern. An acknowledgement letter is being drafted to the State commenting on their response.



Carlton Kummerer, Director,
Office of State Programs