



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 4, 1998

Patricia A. Nolan, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 401
Providence, RI 02908-5097

Dear Dr. Nolan:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) uses the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) in the evaluation of Agreement State programs. Enclosed for your review is the draft IMPEP report which documents the results of the Agreement State review held in your offices on July 27-30, 1998. Mr. James Myers, Office of State Programs, was the Team Leader for the Rhode Island review. The review team's recommendations were discussed with your staff on the last day of the review. The review team's proposed recommendations are that the Rhode Island Agreement State program be found adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with the NRC program.

NRC has significantly changed the manner in which periodic reviews are conducted for Agreement State programs to ensure that public health and safety are adequately protected from the hazards associated with the use of radioactive materials and that Agreement State programs are compatible with NRC's program. The new process, titled IMPEP, employs a team of NRC and Agreement State staff to assess both Agreement State and NRC Regional Office radioactive materials licensing and inspection programs. All reviews use common criteria in the assessment and place primary emphasis on performance. The final determination of adequacy and compatibility of each Agreement State program, based on the review team's report, will be made by a management review board (MRB) composed of NRC managers and an Agreement State program manager who serves as a liaison to the MRB.

In accordance with procedures for implementation of IMPEP, we are providing you with a copy of the draft team report for review prior to submitting the report to the MRB. Your review of the draft report should focus on the factual correctness of information reported by the team. We welcome your comments on the draft report. If possible, we request comments within four weeks from your receipt of this letter. This schedule will permit the issuance of the final report in a timely manner that will be responsive to your needs.

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The team will review the response, make any necessary changes to the report and issue it to the MRB as a proposed final report. Our preliminary scheduling places the Rhode Island MRB meeting the second week of October. We will coordinate with you to establish the date for the MRB review of the Rhode Island report and will provide invitational travel for you or your designee to attend. NRC has video conferencing capability if it is more convenient for the State to participate through this medium. We will work with your staff to establish a video conference if you so desire. If you have any questions regarding the enclosed report, please contact me at (301) 415-3340 or Mr. James Myers at (301) 415-2328.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Bangart
Richard L. Bangart, Director
Office of State Programs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Walter S. Combs, Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Director, Environmental Health

Marie Stoeckel, Chief
Division of Occupational & Radiological Health

Peter Todd
Rhode Island State Liaison Officer

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Original Signed By
RICHARD L. BANGART

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 Office of State Programs

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 Executive Director, Environmental Health

Marie Stoeckel, Chief
 Division of Occupational & Radiological Health

Peter Todd
 Rhode Island State Liaison Officer

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Patricia A. Nolan, M.D., M.P.H.

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