UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
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NAPERVILLE, IL 60563-2657

March 24, 2026

Adnan Khayyat
Deputy Director
Chief Nuclear Officer
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Office of Homeland Security
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

SUBJECT: ILLINOIS FY26 IMPEP PERIODIC MEETING SUMMARY

Dear Adnan Khayyat:

A periodic meeting with Illinois was conducted with your staff on January 22, 2026. The purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss the implementation of Illinois's Agreement State Program. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was represented by Darren Piccirillo, Regional State Agreements Officer from NRC's Region III Office.

We have completed and enclosed a general meeting summary. If you feel that our comments or conclusions do not accurately summarize the meeting discussion, please contact me At (301) 807-5251, or via email at Darren.Piccirillo@nrc.gov to discuss your comments.

Sincerely,

Signed by Piccirillo, Darren
on 03/24/26

Darren W. Piccirillo
Regional State Agreements Officer

Enclosure:
Periodic Meeting Summary for Illinois

Letter to A. Khayyat from D. Piccirillo dated March 24, 2026.

SUBJECT: ILLINOIS FY26 IMPEP PERIODIC MEETING SUMMARY

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INTEGRATED MATERIALS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION PROGRAM

PERIODIC MEETING WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

TYPE OF OVERSIGHT: NONE

January 22, 2026

Enclosure

PERIODIC MEETING PARTICIPANTS

NRC

- Darren Piccirillo: Regional State Agreements Officer, NRC Region III.

State of Illinois

- Gary Foresee, Chief, Radioactive Materials Division, Office of Nuclear Safety, Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the periodic meeting held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the State of Illinois. The meeting was held remotely via Teams on January 22, 2026, and was part of the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review. It was conducted in accordance with NMSS Procedure SA-116 “Periodic Meetings between IMPEP Reviews”, dated June 3, 2009.

The Illinois Agreement State program is administered by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security, Office of Nuclear Safety, Radioactive Materials Division.

At the time of the periodic meeting, the Illinois Agreement State Program (the Program) regulated four hundred and eighty-seven specific licenses authorizing possession and use of radioactive materials. The review focused on the radioactive materials program as it is carried out under Section 274b. Agreement (of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended) between the NRC and the State of Illinois.

The Division is fee funded. At current staffing levels, the radioactive materials licensing fees fully cover both personnel and operational costs. There is support from senior administration to maintain funds as allocated.

At this point, the Division of Radioactive Materials is well positioned to face emerging challenges (numerous regulatory revisions, fusion technology, 11(e)(2) byproduct/source material licenses from possible rare earth ventures, and a spike in renewals in 2027). However, as the Program moves forward, retaining staff, developing rules/guidance/forms, training and updating procedures will be a significant effort over the next several years.

The Program last underwent a full IMPEP review from April 24-28, 2023 (ML23219A199). A Management Review Board (MRB) meeting to discuss the outcome of the IMPEP review was held on August 3, 2023.

During the August 3, 2023, MRB meeting, the Illinois Agreement State Program’s performance was found to be satisfactory for all indicators reviewed. The team made no new recommendations and there were no open recommendations from the previous review for the team to consider. Accordingly, the team recommended, and the MRB agreed, that the Illinois Agreement State Program is adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with the NRC's program. The team recommended, and the MRB agreed, that the next full IMPEP review will take place in approximately five years with a periodic meeting in approximately two and a half years.

2.0 COMMON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Five common performance indicators are used to review the NRC Regional Office and Agreement State radioactive materials programs during an IMPEP review. These indicators are: (1) Technical Staffing and Training, (2) Status of Materials Inspection Program, (3) Technical Quality of Inspections, (4) Technical Quality of Licensing Actions, and (5) Technical Quality of Incident and Allegation Activities.

2.1 TECHNICAL STAFFING AND TRAINING
(2023 IMPEP Rating: Satisfactory)

The Illinois Agreement State program is housed in two Divisions within the Office of Nuclear Safety. The Division of Radioactive Materials is responsible for licensing and inspection of byproduct, source and special nuclear material insufficient to form a critical mass. They also oversee the sealed source and device registry program and general licensing. This division has five managers (Division chief, licensing, inspection, LROPE and general licensing), five license/SSD reviewers, six inspectors and one administrative support staff. There are no vacancies, and all are 100 percent FTE allocations to the Agreement State program. At this time, the technical FTEs allocated towards the materials program are deemed sufficient. Senior leadership has supported the expansion of staffing in the Agreement State program which has allowed a renewed focus on generally licensed devices and dedicated personnel to regulatory and non-regulatory program elements

The training and qualifications of technical staff are described in Division Procedure RAM-006 (equivalent of IMC-1248) and individual progress including the required twenty-four hours refresher training for qualified staff, is documented in the respective unit's Qualification Journals and tracked by the supervisor.

The Division of Radiation Protection Services is responsible for the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Program (including the inactive Sheffield LLRW site) and the former Kerr-McGee 11(e)(2) facility in West Chicago, IL. This is unchanged from the 2023 IMPEP. The former Kerr-McGee site is no longer a uranium recovery site and is now classified as a complex decommissioning project.

The program noted that several staff have returned from NRC training (particularly the Advanced Health Physics (H-201) and the H-122 Lab course) having noted internal disputes between instructors, instructors seemingly not familiar with material, or teaching the incorrect material. In at least two instances, this has resulted in negative training results for the student. It is unclear if these are isolated instances or an indicator of a broader issue. The program also noted that recent attendees from the G-109 course had only positive comments. They found the hybrid format efficient and the two guest speakers very experienced and helpful.

2.2 STATUS OF THE MATERIALS INSPECTION PROGRAM
(2023 IMPEP Rating: Satisfactory)

Aside from general licensees, the only differences in inspection frequencies for the Program are in well-loggers and irradiators. IEMA-OHS inspects these facilities at a higher frequency than the corresponding NRC program code. This is unchanged from the 2023 IMPEP.

The Program performed one hundred and seventy-six Priority 1, 2 and 3 inspections; and ten initial inspections since April 28, 2023. All have been completed within the necessary inspection window described in RAM-001 (one year, equivalent of IMC 2800). No inspections have been identified as overdue since the last IMPEP review, and Illinois does not have any inspections that are currently overdue.

ONS-RAM adopted the NRC's updated version of IMC-2800 shortly after it was revised in March of 2020, to remove the quantitative inspection goals associated with reciprocity inspections. As resources allow, ONS-RAM targets a performance-based goal to inspect ten percent of all reciprocity candidates annually. Additionally, any reciprocity inspections that involve manipulation of CAT 1 quantities of radioactive material will have an inspector onsite to evaluate and perform a reciprocity inspection. To that end, these internal performance goals have been met throughout the review period.

The total number of reciprocity authorizations granted since April 28, 2023, are: April 28, 2023 -December 31, 2023 - (48); 2024 - (69); and 2025 to date - (50). The total percentage of candidate reciprocity inspections as defined by IMC 1220 performed during the review period are: for 2023, averaged 60 reciprocity licensees, and 7 (12%) reciprocity inspections; for 2024, averaged 61 reciprocity licensees, and 10 (16%) reciprocity inspections; and for 2025 through January 2026, 49 current reciprocity candidates (14%).

2.3 TECHNICAL QUALITY OF INSPECTIONS

(2023 IMPEP Rating: Satisfactory)

The Programs inspector accompaniments are performed at least annually for each inspector. Since several inspectors are working on independent qualifications across modalities, there are generally far more than one accompaniment per inspector. The Inspection & Enforcement (I&E) supervisor and Program Chief perform inspections and are accompanied in December of each year.

To monitor and ensure the timeliness of I&E inspection letters and responses, the I&E supervisor uses two primary tools: SharePoint and the RAM database. The RAM database creates ad hoc reports to document dates inspections are performed, dates compliance or non-compliance letters are issued, dates licensee responses are received, and dates of closure letters issued. The I&E SharePoint site is utilized to interconnect remote office staff, document inspection scheduling and facilitate data sharing.

2.4 TECHNICAL QUALITY OF LICENSING ACTIONS

(2023 IMPEP Rating: Satisfactory)

The Program has four hundred and eighty-seven specific licensees and STA-583, Weston Solutions, Inc.(Uranium Recovery licensee, administered by RPFS) at the time of the periodic meeting. There are four pending terminations. There are two hundred and forty-nine general licenses as follows: two hundred and forty-six Generally licensed devices (32 Ill. Adm. Code 330.220(a)(4)); (2) Generally licensed depleted uranium (32 Ill. Adm. Code 330.210(g)); 1 Generally licensed In Vitro Testing (32 Ill. Adm. Code 330.220(e)).

The Program completed one thousand three hundred and eighteen total licensing actions performed as of April 28, 2023, which includes twenty-three new applications, one hundred and twelve Renewals, one thousand and thirteen Amendments, forty-eight terminations, nineteen Financial Assurance, and one hundred and three “Other”. There are four licenses under timely renewal, and there is no backlog. The average timeline for completion of a renewal is three hundred thirty-six days, beneath the target criteria specified in Section IV.B.2 of SA-104. All licensing actions must be reviewed in accordance with the Pre-licensing and Licensing Confidence Security checklists as well as any applicable technical review checklists.

Moving forward, ONS-RAM is in the process of converting to the U.S. NRC’s Web Based Licensing system (WBL). Due to a lapse in federal appropriations, this move is not anticipated until the 1st quarter of 2026.

The program noted that there appears to be inconsistencies in how the NRC regional offices interpret and implement provisions of applicable NUREG 1556 guidance documents. Two examples are the release of cats treated with radioiodine and distribution of microspheres by nuclear pharmacies. Inconsistencies between regional offices translate to variability in Agreement State programs and licensed operations across jurisdictions.

2.5 TECHNICAL QUALITY OF INCIDENT AND ALLEGATION ACTIVITIES
(2023 IMPEP Rating: Satisfactory)

The Program has procedures (RAM-005) that are equivalent to the event reporting requirements detailed in SA-300. These procedures were updated in early 2025, after the NRC revised SA-300 in December of 2024. All events which required reporting were communicated to the NRC in compliance with SA-300 reporting timelines.

Since the 2023 IMPEP review, the Program received and responded to a total of two allegations, which were referred to by NRC Region III. The Program followed up with both allegers, and these matters were properly closed out and communicated to NRC.

Two notable developments have occurred on this functional area since the 2023 IMPEP. The local NMED application was updated from version 9 to version 10.1. The search feature for “Open Events” was removed - which was a key function used to search Illinois incidents and verify all were properly closed out. Requests to U.S. NRC for an update were unanswered. Illinois improvised solutions by placing all incidents in a TEAMS list that tracks their status, the timeline and any deliverables. It creates a dashboard for prompt reference and helps to ensure timely follow-up. A second development was the placement of a dedicated staff member as the events tracking coordinator for the incidents.

While eighty-seven events were reported to NMED since the 2023 IMPEP, there have been a total of one hundred and twenty-three events/allegations since that period. This difference lies in the fact that allegations and security incidents are not tracked in NMED. Additionally, not all incident investigations were reportable or involved applicable Atomic Energy Act materials.

3.0 NON-COMMON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Four non-common performance indicators are used to review Agreement State Programs: (1) Compatibility Requirements, (2) Sealed Source and Device (SS&D) Evaluation Program, (3) Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal (LLRW) Program, and (4) Uranium Recovery (UR) Program. The NRC's Agreement with Illinois relinquishes regulatory authority for all four non-common performance indicators; therefore, all four non-common performance indicators applied to this Periodic Meeting.

3.1 Legislation, Regulations, and Other Program Elements
(2023 IMPEP Rating: Satisfactory)

Illinois' administrative rulemaking process takes approximately eighteen months from drafting to finalizing a rule. The public, NRC, other agencies, and potentially impacted licensees and registrants are offered an opportunity to comment during the process. Comments are considered and incorporated, as appropriate, before the regulations are finalized and approved by the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules. The State's rules and regulations are subject to "sunset" laws. The Programs enabling statute, the Illinois Radiation Protection Act of 1990, is scheduled for sunset January 1, 2027. Proposed legislation has already been moving through to renew the Act. No delays or concerns are anticipated. Since the 2023 IMPEP, the Division has allocated an individual to tracking and developing both regulatory amendments and non-regulatory program elements. The Agency has hired additional attorneys to facilitate the review and approval of regulatory amendments.

The Program petitioned for revisions to the FOIA statute to enable withholding from disclosure any SUNSI or security sensitive information that would be withheld by NRC in accordance with RIS 2005-31. This passed in the fall 2025 legislative session. The Program is currently advancing revisions to several administrative rules (326, 330, 335 and 340) to more closely align with equivalent NRC regulations. Finally, multiple revisions to Low Level Radioactive Waste statutes were promulgated to align with definition of byproduct material with the changes made in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 amends to the Atomic Energy Act.

There are currently no regulations that are overdue for adoption. Since the 2023 IMPEP, the Program finalized RATS IDs 2020-1, 2020-3, 2021-1, 2021-2, 2022-1, 2022-2 and 2023-1. None are outstanding. RATS ID 2020-1 was due June 16, 2023, and became effective June 22, 2023. RATS ID 2021-1 was due September 8, 2024, and became effective August 29, 2024. The "No comments" letter from NRC was after the due date, but these rules were adopted timely. Aside from the six-day lapse on RATS ID 2020-1, all rules are adopted in advance of the due date, and an enhanced tracking system with dedicated staff have been put in place to prevent a recurrence.

The Program noted that with the number of proposed regulatory changes, both to address emerging technologies and in response to recent executive orders, represents a significant increase in workload for the national materials program. The downstream impacts on guidance, applications, procedures, and training (both staff and licensees) will take Agreement States years to fully implement compatible changes. Further, it is unclear what inconsistencies this could yield amongst Agreement State programs and NRC if not all assigned an A, B or C compatibility rating. Recognizing some of these changes are outside the control of the NRC, the IMPEP program should take into consideration the impacts these changes will have on available Agreement State programs in future reviews.

3.2 SS&D EVALUATION PROGRAM
(2023 IMPEP Rating: Satisfactory)

Illinois has four staff in training to perform primary sealed source and device registry reviews. Two have recently completed primary reviews and are nearing sign off in that regard. It is infrequent that the Program receives new applications for an SSD Registry, therefore, advancing staff training in this area is slower than other program areas. A previously qualified staff member is now in a different role, but still available to perform a primary review. The licensing supervisor is trained and able to perform concurrent reviews. Illinois does have a training program equivalent to NRC's IMC 1248, Appendix D.

Illinois has nine SS&D licensees and two custom registrations. No incidents related to SS&D defects involving sources or devices registered by the State of Illinois were reported during the review period.

3.3 URANIUM RECOVERY PROGRAM
(2023 IMPEP Rating: Satisfactory)

Weston Solutions Inc. was chosen by the trust beneficiaries as the Trustee. The Program then issued a radioactive material license to Weston Solutions Inc. The soil remediation/surface cleanup at the facility was completed at the end of 2015. All waste from the site has been shipped for disposal and no waste was disposed of at the facility. The Agency's primary focus is on groundwater remediation.

In May 2021, the Program discussed facility license termination options with the NRC. A subsequent meeting was conducted in June 2021. IEMA provided the NRC with a detailed license and facility status report which summarized all contaminated structures and soil had been remediated to meet site cleanup criteria, that all contaminated soils had been shipped offsite for disposal, and that the only remaining issue was groundwater contamination. NRC informed IEMA that since the facility had been completely remediated and the resulting waste had been shipped for disposal, the site should now be considered a complex material decommissioning facility and the license should be terminated in accordance with 10 CFR 20.1403, "Criteria for License Termination Under Restricted Conditions." Because of this NRC determination, the team determined that it would be appropriate for this facility to no longer be reviewed as a uranium recovery site. Rather, it could be reviewed as a complex decommissioning facility under the Technical Quality of Licensing Actions common performance indicator for future IMPEP reviews until final closure of the site has occurred.

The Program is preparing a regulatory initiative to amend 32 Ill. Adm. Code Part 340 to more closely mirror 10 CFR 20.1403.

3.4 LLRW DISPOSAL PROGRAM

(2023 IMPEP Rating: Satisfactory)

Aside from staffing changes, this LLRW Program remains unchanged from the 2023 IMPEP. The Sheffield LLRW disposal site is located approximately three miles southwest of the town of Sheffield in Bureau County, Illinois. The facility began disposing LLRW in 1967 and closed in 1978 upon reaching capacity. The Sheffield LLRW disposal site includes 3.2 million cubic feet of LLRW buried in 21 shallow earthen trenches on 20.4 acres.

While there have been some staffing changes, Illinois maintains six LLRW inspectors. Illinois performs four quarterly inspections each year for the Sheffield LLRW disposal site. Additionally, Illinois has a site contractor who performs daily inspections at the Sheffield LLRW disposal site.

Under the Sheffield Agreed Order, inspections involve site security, environmental monitoring, well sampling, postings, and radiation monitoring. There were no licensing actions during the review period. There have been no changes made to the Sheffield Agreed Order since it was issued.

There were no incidents or allegations that occurred during the review period or for several years prior to the review period, including any referred by the NRC involving the Illinois LLRW program.

4.0 SUMMARY

The Illinois Agreement State program continues to be a very effective and well managed Agreement State program. The Program is effectively managing its licensing and inspection activities. The Program responds to events as appropriate, and they currently have no regulations that are overdue for adoption. Based on the information discussed during the Periodic Meeting, NRC staff recommend that the next IMPEP review for the Illinois Agreement State Program be conducted as scheduled in 2029. The Program did not request a Special MRB.