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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

December 3, 1999

Mr. Ray D. Paris
Radiation Protection Services
Oregon State Health Division
Department of Human Resources
P.O. Box 14450
Portland, OR 97214-0450

Dear Mr. Paris:

This year's periodic meeting with Oregon was held on November 18, 1999. The purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss the status of Oregon's Agreement State program. The NRC was represented by Mark Shaffer and me from Region IV.

I have completed and enclosed a general meeting summary, including any specific actions that will be taken as a result of the meeting.

If you feel that our conclusions do not accurately summarize the meeting discussion, or if you have any additional remarks about the meeting in general, please contact me at (817) 860-8116 or e-mail mim1@nrc.gov to discuss your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Linda McLean".

M. Linda McLean
Region IV State Agreements Officer

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl:: Paul Lohaus, Director, OSP

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AGREEMENT STATE PERIODIC MEETING SUMMARY FOR OREGON

Date of Meeting: November 18, 1999

ATTENDEES:

State of Oregon

Ray D. Paris, Radiation Protection Services Manager
Terry D. Lindsey, Radioactive Materials & Licensing Program Manager

NRC

M. Linda McLean, Regional State Agreements Officer, Region IV
Mark R. Shaffer, Regional State Agreements Officer, Region IV

DISCUSSION

The following is a summary of the meeting held in Portland on November 18, 1999, between representatives of the NRC and the State of Oregon. During the meeting, the topics suggested in a letter dated August 24, 1999, from Mrs. McLean to Mr. Paris were discussed. The discussion pertaining to each topic is summarized below.

Action on Previous IMPEP Review Findings

The previous Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review was conducted during the period August 10-13, 1998, with the findings discussed in a meeting between the State and the IMPEP Management Review Board (MRB) on October 13, 1998. The results were issued in a final report dated October 28, 1998. At that time the MRB found that the Oregon radiation control program was adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with NRC's program. The recommendations made in the final report are listed below followed by a summary of the State's actions in response to each recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The team recommends that Oregon continue to implement its policy for inspecting new licenses.

Current Status

Oregon's Radiation Protection Services (RPS) recognize that they are behind in conducting some initial inspections within the six months guidance criteria in IMC 2800; however, they are now fully staffed and have plans to complete the overdue new license inspections by January 2000.

It is recommended that this item be closed at the next IMPEP review.

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2. The review team recommends that the RPS management assess whether additional staffing is warranted to complete overdue rulemaking actions and to ensure timely completion of upcoming rulemaking actions.

Current Status

Currently the RPS is fully staffed. Following the IMPEP, the RPS assessed the staffing level and the workload and determined that additional staffing was not warranted. The RPS Manager stated that the staffing level is still adequate for their program.

It is recommended that this item be closed at the next IMPEP review.

3. The review team recommends that the State adopt the NRC standard practice license conditions for HDR units for the casework #11 license and future HDR licenses.

Current Status

The State has adopted the NRC standard practice license conditions for HDR units.

It is recommended that this item be closed at the next IMPEP review.

4. The review team recommends that the State develop a written policy with procedures for responding to allegations.

Current Status

The State has developed and implemented a written policy with procedures for responding to allegations.

It is recommended that this item be closed at the next IMPEP review.

5. The review team recommends that management obtain a State legal view on their interpretation that existing administrative rules require the implementation of all new requirements in the revised NRC regulations where required for compatibility purposes.

Current Status

The State stated that they seek legal review on all rule changes.

It is recommended that this item be closed at the next IMPEP review.

6. The review team recommends that the RPS management initiate rulemaking activities to ensure that NRC rule changes are adopted within the specified 3 year time period.

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Current Status

The RPS Manager committed to having all of the rule changes completed before September 2000.

It is recommended that this item be closed at the next IMPEP review.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Oregon Program

Some of the RPS program strengths discussed were: the RPS is presently fully staffed; revenues are currently adequate to support the materials program; the RPS staff are fully qualified; and the RPS has received approval to hire an Information Systems Specialist (ISS) staff member.

The RPS stated that one program weakness is the backlog of inspections of both initial and core licenses. However, it was noted that this weakness was caused by recent staff turnover and time had to be devoted to training new staff. This item is scheduled to be corrected during the first of calendar year 2000.

Recent or Pending State Program Changes

Changes in Program Staff

The RPS Radioactive Materials Licensing Manager retired in December 1998. The position was filled in March 1999, leaving an inspector position open. That position is now filled. The RPS is presently fully staffed.

The RPS has approval to hire an ISS staff member. This position will relieve the inspection and licensing staff from developing and maintaining program tracking systems and should provide more time for inspection activities. This position should be filled by the end of 1999.

No retirements are anticipated in the near future.

Program Reorganizations

The administrator of the State Health Division resigned on 11/1/99. Currently the position is being filled by an acting administrator.

Changes in program budget or funding

No changes are anticipated in the program budget or funding. The RPS is totally funded by license fees.

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NRC Program or Policy Changes That Could Impact Agreement States

Items discussed were: NRC organizational changes (e.g., the new Chairman); the risk informed/performance based inspection activities; and the new enforcement guidance.

Internal Program Audits or Self Assessments

Program audits consist of monthly audits of the inspection and licensing status, annual inspector accompaniments, and financial audits.

Status of Allegations Referred by NRC to the Oregon Radiation Control Program

No allegations were referred to The RPS during this period.

Compatibility of Agreement State regulations

The RPS staff are working on many regulations due by September 2000 and plan to have the draft rules completed by Spring 2000.

Nuclear Material Events Database (NMED)

No NMED problems were noted by the RPS staff.

Schedule for next IMPEP Review

August 2002

Action Items Identified During Meeting

The RPS requested a current list of NRC licenses in Oregon. (RIV provided a copy of the active and inactive license list by facsimile on December 1, 1999. This action item is closed.)

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