



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

April 15, 2003

Mr. Thomas E. Hill, Manager
Radioactive Materials Program
Department of Natural Resources
4244 International Parkway, Suite 114
Atlanta, GA 30354

Dear Mr. Hill:

A periodic meeting with Georgia was held on March 26, 2003. The purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss the status of Georgia Agreement State program. The NRC was represented by Cardelia Maupin from the NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP), Mr. Douglas M. Collins, Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, Region II, and myself. Specific topics and issues of importance discussed at the meeting included program strengths, staffing and training, performance of licensing and inspection activities, and the updating of regulations for compatibility.

I have completed and enclosed a general meeting summary for your review. No action items were identified during this meeting.

If you feel that our conclusions do not accurately summarize the meeting discussion, or have any additional remarks about the meeting in general, please contact me at 404-562-4704, or e-mail to rlw@nrc.gov to discuss your concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard L. Woodruff
Regional State Agreement Officer

Enclosures: 1. Periodic Meeting Summary
2. Organization Chart

cc w/encls:

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C. Maupin, STP

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AGREEMENT STATE PERIODIC MEETING SUMMARY FOR GEORGIA

DATE OF MEETING: MARCH 26, 2003

ATTENDEES:

NRC

Richard L. Woodruff, RSAO, Region II
Douglas M. Collins, Director, DNMS, Region II
Cardelia Maupin, ASPO, STP

STATE

Thomas E. Hill, Manager, Radioactive Materials Program (RMP)
Cynthia Sanders, Principle Radiation Specialist, RMP

DISCUSSION:

The previous Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMEPEP) review was conducted during the period of April 3-7, 2000. Only one recommendation was made during the IMPEP, and the program reported that their action on the recommendation was completed in October of 2000. A periodic meeting was also held with the program on August 8, 2001, and there was one action item regarding the adoption of regulations.

This meeting was held with the Georgia representatives on March 26, 2003, in Mr. Hill's office. The topics listed in NRC letter dated February 18, 2003 (ML 030490040) to Mr. Hill were discussed. Details for each area are discussed below.

1. Results of any internal program audits/self assessments conducted by the State

The Program conducted self assessments prior to the previous two IMPEPs. It was noted that three staff members have participated on IMPEPs which also helps the program to be knowledgeable of changes that could impact their program, and the IMPEP process. During the meeting, the Director responded to discussions with data, charts, lists, and other computerized information that demonstrated the program's ability to track and assess the status of regulatory issues, and the management of resources. The Director also tracks performance goals with quarterly reports from the technical staff. The manager has established performance goals for the program, the objectives for each goal, and time schedules for completion of the goals.

2. Status of State program and/or policy changes

a. Program reorganizations

There have been no changes in the structure of the organization since the last review. The Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) reports to the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Directors. The Radioactive Materials Program and the Environmental Radiation Programs are located in the Program Coordination Branch under EPD.

The Materials Program is headed by the Program Manager and has a Secretary 2 position, an Accounting Clerk position, and eight Environmental Radiation Specialist 3 positions. The workload is divided into six geographical areas with one person assigned to handle all licensing, inspections, and incidents in that area. All of the technical staff work out of the Atlanta office except for one person assigned to the Savannah, GA, EPD Area Office. One Radiation Specialist performs all licensing and inspection actions associated with Sealed Source & Device reviews, and coordinates/proctors the Industrial Radiographer certifications. One Radiation Specialist manages the technical data, tracks all licensing and inspection information, and tracks incidents and makes entries into the NMED system. An updated organization chart is provided as Enclosure 2.

The program currently has 514 specific licenses of which 314 are core licenses (inspection priorities 1, 2, and 3 years), and currently there are no licensing, inspection, or enforcement backlogs. The Program Manager related that there were no unusual or major regulatory actions taken with regard to the licensing and inspection program.

b. Changes in program staff

The Manager reported that one person came back to the program to fill a vacancy. There is a statewide hiring freeze, but all RMP positions are currently filled. The program director related that he will retire this calendar year, and that two other persons will be eligible for retirement soon.

c. Legislative changes

The Program Manager reported that there have been no legislative changes that directly impacted the Materials Program

d. Redistribution of responsibilities

The Manager reported that there were no redistribution of responsibilities.

e. Changes in program budget/funding

The Program is funded 100% from fees. The fees were last revised in 1992. The fee schedule will be restructured effective July 1, 2003, and is designed to be revenue neutral. No increase in fees is projected until FY 2005 or FY 2006.

f. Training

All of the technical staff are trained, including the one person that returned to the program. The staff participates in seminars and refresher courses.

3. Compatibility of Agreement State regulations and status of any proposed regulation changes

The State Regulation Status (SRS) from the STP web site was reviewed, and document shows that the program has adopted all regulations needed for compatibility, except for some comments that were provided to the program by letter dated June 26, 2002. These comments are being addressed in a rulemaking currently being drafted for adoption by the Department of Natural Resources board on May 28, 2003, and will also include the adoption of 10 CFR Part 35 equivalent regulations.

4. NMED reporting including event follow-up and closure information

A printout of the incidents reported by the program to the NMED system was reviewed. The printout shows that there have been 29 events reported by the program since August of 2001, the events were routinely entered into the system during the period and all but three had been closed. The program maintains the event data on their own tracking system including information on complaints and non-AEA materials. No performance issues concerning the reporting of incident data were identified.

5. Status of Allegations Previously Referred

The Manager related that their agency had very few allegations, that allegations were processed on a case-by-case basis, and that follow-ups were conducted as needed. Five allegations have been referred to Georgia by the NRC Region II office since August 2001, and there are no outstanding NRC issues related to the referrals. Only information concerning the NRC referred allegations was reviewed. The program manager related that there had been no changes in the process since the last review.

6. Program Strengths and/or Weaknesses

The Program Manager related that the strength of the Program was the staff. The Program received adequate support from the DNR, legislative support, stable sources of funding, administrative support, legal support, adequate equipment, low staff turnover, and the staff are well trained. No performance type weaknesses were identified by NRC or the program manager during this meeting.

7. Feedback on NRC's program

The program director related that the common defense and security orders being issued by NRC could be confusing to the licensees, and that good communication and coordination from NRC was needed.

The program director expressed concern about duplication in the General License (GL) program, and requested the name of the NRC contact for the GL program . Mr. Bolling, STP, provided the information which was sent to GA via e-mail. The contact at NRC is Mr. Binesh Tharakan, MSIB, telephone: 301-415-7138.

8. Status of NRC program changes that could impact Agreement States

The Director, Division of NMSS, RII, discussed NRC program changes that could impact the State, such as the MOU with the EPA, the control of radioactive sources (accountability, orphan sources, physical protection, control of imports), federal guidance on dose to members of the public (clearance rule, Part 40 exemptions), the evolving materials program, risk analysis (NUREG 6642), priorities, safety goals, new inspection procedures, the need for a questioning attitude by inspectors, and Compensatory Measures.

The Program Manager keeps track of regulatory issues through the STP web site, STP correspondence, the Organization of Agreement States (OAS), the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), and is knowledgeable of changes that could impact the Georgia program. The Program Manager regularly provides comments on NRC issues, and the Manager and one Radiation Specialist participates on the National Materials Program working group. The staff actively participate on other NRC working groups and CRCPD committees.

9. Schedule for the next IMPEP review

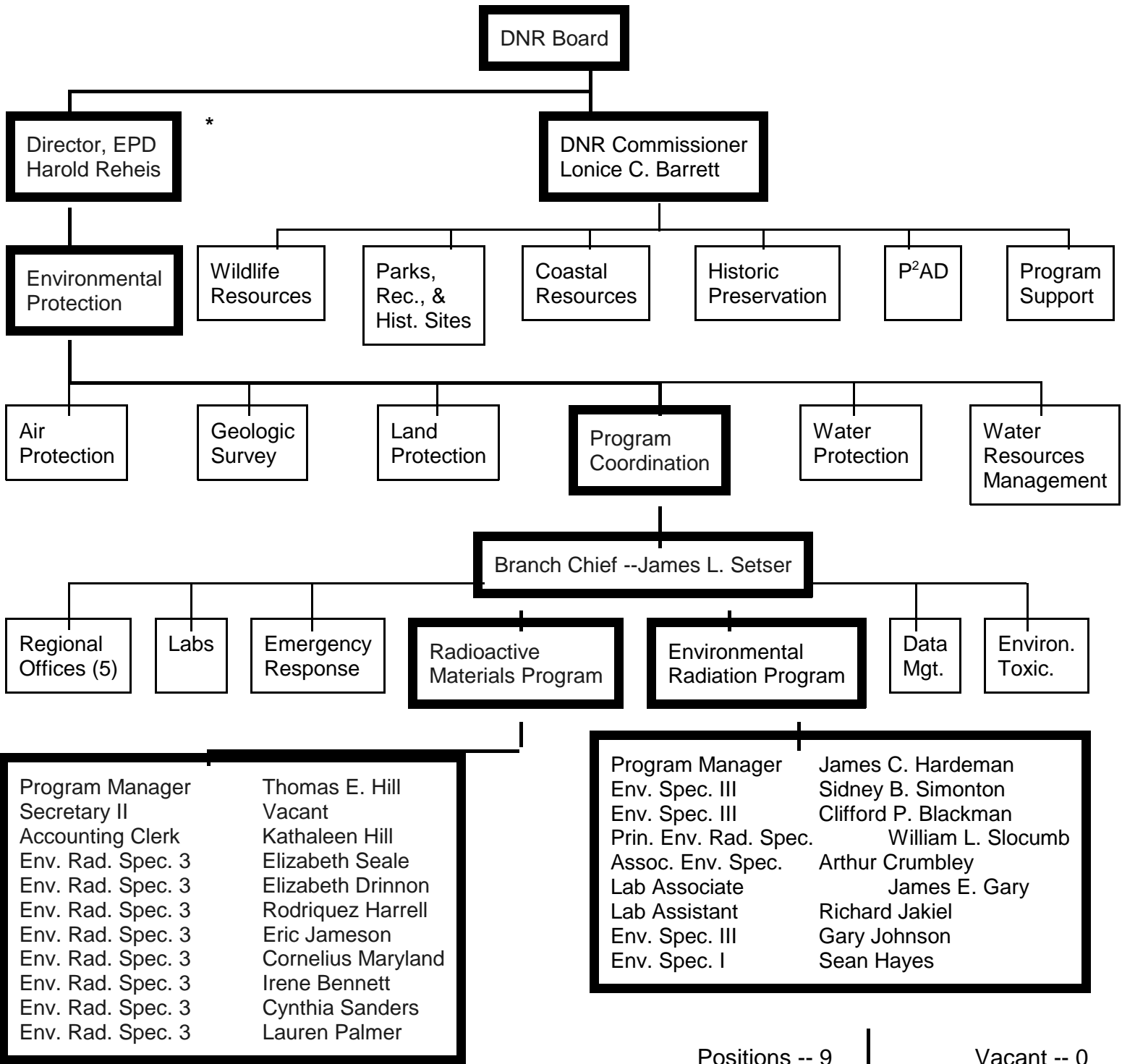
April 2004

CONCLUSION:

The Georgia program reported having good support from the DNR, good managers, and trained, experienced staff. By all indications (performance), the Georgia program has the resources to be adequate to protect public health and safety under the IMPEP criteria. All of the IMPEP indicators affecting the Georgia program were discussed during the meeting, and there were no performance issues identified.

ACTION ITEM: None

Organizational Chart -- Georgia Department of Natural Resources



Positions -- 11 Vacant -- 1

***NOTE: The EPD Director serves at the pleasure of the DNR Board. The DNR Board members are appointed by the Governor.**

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Positions -- 9 Vacant -- 0

<u>Environmental Radiation Laboratory</u>	
Contracted with Georgia Tech	
Director	Dr. Bernd Kahn
Associate Director	Robert Rosson
Radiochemist	Vacant
Radiochemist	Jeff Lahr
Electronic Tech.	David Crowe