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April 29, 2004

Robert W. Goff, Director
Mississippi Division of Radiological Health
State Department of Health
3150 Lawson Street
PO Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39215-1700

SUBJECT: PERIODIC MANAGEMENT MEETING SUMMARY

Dear Mr. Goff:

A periodic meeting with the Mississippi Department of Health was held on March 30, 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the status of the New York Agreement State program. The NRC was represented by Shawn Smith from the NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs and me. Specific topics and issues of importance discussed at the meeting included the Department's actions taken to staff vacant positions.

I have completed and enclosed a general meeting summary, included 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 discussions, or have any additional remarks about the meeting in general, please contact me at (610) 337-5042 or by e-mail at adw@nrc.gov to discuss your concerns.
Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Duncan White

Duncan White, CHP
Regional State Agreements Officer
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure: As stated

cc:
R. Bores, RI
R. Trojanowski, RII
S. Smith, STP

R. Goff
Mississippi Division of Radiological Health

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AGREEMENT STATE PERIODIC MEETING SUMMARY FOR MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH

DATE OF MEETING: March 30, 2004

ATTENDEES:

Duncan White, RSAO
Shawn Smith, ASPO (by phone)
Bob Goff, Program Director
B.J. Smith, Radioactive Materials Supervisor
Jim Craig, Director for the Office of Health Protection

DISCUSSION:

During the previous meeting on November 19, 2002, the status of the two recommendations from the 2001 Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review of the Agreement State Program were discussed and recommended for closure at the next review.

Since the last periodic meeting, two individuals left their radioactive materials positions and the State implemented a hiring freeze due to budgetary constraints. In September 2003, the Division of Radiological Health (the Division) was transferred from Environmental Regulation to Emergency Planning and Response within the Office of Health Protection. Subsequently, the new Office Director had the Division report directly to his Office. The new Office Director has been very supportive of the Division and has approved the hiring of personnel into the two unfilled positions. At the time of this periodic meeting, one new individual has been with the Radioactive Materials group for three months and the second position is expected to be filled by June 2004.

In addition to the meeting with Program Director and the Radioactive Materials Supervisor, NRC staff also met with the Director for the Office of Health Protection. NRC staff briefly discussed the Agreement State Program and the IMPEP process. The Office Director expressed support for the Agreement State Program and its importance to the Department's mission. The Director also indicated that the Division of Radiological Health is the only Division in the Department that reports directly to an Office Director.

The Program Director discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the Program. The Division's staff is the Agreement State Program's strength due to the experience of the Radioactive Materials Supervisor and the varied backgrounds of the health physics staff. Another strength cited was the fee support for the program. The lengthy periods it takes to fill unfilled positions and lack of competitive State salaries compared to the private sector were cited as program weaknesses.

With regard to the NRC, the Program Director would like NRC to do more to help support the States financially with the training of new staff, particularly with regards to the five-week health physics course. Without NRC financial support for training, the Program Director indicated the Division would be more selective on who gets to attend a particular training course based on the individual's background, train an individual in one area of expertise, and use more on-the-job training.

The Program Director did note that the STP was very supportive of the States and appreciated the open door policy to bring and discuss any issues. The Division also found that the guidance and variety of information on the STP web site very useful.

There have been no legislative changes affecting the Agreement State program. There have been no changes in the Division's responsibilities. The Division has all NRC amendments adopted as final rule through the "New Dosimetry Technology" amendment due January 8, 2004. The only NRC amendment that the Division has yet to adopt is the "GL Rule"; however, there are no manufacturers or distributors in the State.

The Division currently regulates approximately 315 specific materials licensees, 100 general licensees and 80 non-medical x-ray devices.

The NRC staff discussed the recent developments regarding the nominations for the two vacant Commission positions. Also discussed was the consolidation of the Region I and Region II materials programs, the status of National Materials Program pilot projects, materials security issues as they impacted the States, and the potential impact of NRC's aging workforce (i.e., succession planning). Major activities at NRC headquarters of interest to the State included the two fuel fabrication applications, early site permits, and the probable impact of the Yucca Mountain application. NRC staff also highlighted the proposed changes to two documents that directly affect the IMPEP process: Management Directive 5.6 and STP Procedure SA-116. The changes to the inspection frequencies in Inspection Manual Chapter 2800 were also discussed.

There were no allegations referred to the Division by the NRC since the last IMPEP.

The Program Director indicated that the State is not interesting in pursuing a 274i agreement with the NRC at this time since the State's only commercial irradiator was decommissioned in early March 2004 and as previously indicated, there are no manufacturers or distributors located in the State.

NRC staff discussed the changes to the NMED database and program. Prior to the meeting, the RSAO generated a printout of events reported by the State that were available on the national database through the web site. The list off the national database had a few differences from the information maintained in the local database by the Division's staff. The RSAO reviewed the events with the Division's staff and discussed possible reasons for the differences. The Division was committed to resolving the differences promptly.

The RSAO was introduced to the members of the Radioactive Materials Group and was given a tour of the Division's offices, laboratory and emergency response capabilities.

The NRC staff indicated that next IMPEP of the Mississippi Program is scheduled for FY 2005. No issues were identified by NRC staff to change the scheduling of the next review. The Program Director requested that the review take place in late April or May since the Division has a nuclear power plant emergency response exercise scheduled for March 2005.