

February 21, 2002

Mr. William J. Sinclair, Chair
Organization of Agreement States
168 North 1950 West
P. O. Box 144850
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4850

Dear Mr. Sinclair:

I am responding to your October 26, 2001 letter to Chairman Richard A. Meserve providing two resolutions developed at the 2001 Annual All Agreement States Meeting.

The first Organization of Agreement States (OAS) resolution recommended that the Commission create a standing Compatibility Committee representing both Agreement States and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In light of our positive experiences with the Agreement State/NRC Working Groups, we are prepared to explore this concept. My staff and I will work with the OAS's Executive Board to develop procedures and an operational framework for such a Committee to recommend compatibility designations for Agreement State regulations and other program elements in accordance with the Commission's Policy Statement on Adequacy and Compatibility of Agreement State Programs.

The second resolution requested that the Compatibility Category for "Training and Experience" for physician authorized users and others be changed from Category "B" to "C." The Commission previously reviewed this issue, considered input from the States and other stakeholders, and the need for consistency between NRC and Agreement State requirements. For these reasons, we are not considering a change in compatibility category at this time.

My staff and I look forward to continued cooperation and to working with the OAS on the wide range of issues that we have in common. If you have any questions, on this matter, please contact me at 301-415-3340 or Lloyd Bolling at 301-415-2327.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs

William J. Sinclair

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