

June 19, 2003

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, MINNESOTA, PENNSYLVANIA, WISCONSIN

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON NATIONAL MATERIALS PROGRAM-PILOT PROJECT NO. 5, REVISED MATERIALS INSPECTION PROGRAM (TEMPORARY INSTRUCTION 2800/033 AND 12 ROUTINE INSPECTION PROCEDURES)

The Working Group for National Materials Program-Pilot Project No. 5, is seeking comments* from the Agreement States by Friday, July 18, 2003 on Temporary Instruction (TI) 2800/033, Revised Materials Program, and 12 associated routine inspection procedures. These documents can be found on the Office of State and Tribal Programs' (STP) web site at <http://www.hsrdo.ornl.gov/nrc/materials.htm>, under the link for Pilot Project No. 5.

The Working Group specifically requests comments on Attachment A of the TI and the 12 routine inspection procedures that are being tested under the TI. The States are also requested to comment on two focus questions for the Pilot Project. Attachment A describes the administrative aspects of the materials inspection program and incorporated specific changes to: (1) lengthen routine inspection intervals to reduce the number of routine inspections to be completed; (2) authorize inspectors to sign routine inspection records and submit them for the official docket files without management review; (3) reduce the intensity of inspector preparation for routine inspections; (4) improve effectiveness and efficiency for initial inspections of new licenses; (5) increase flexibility for inspecting field office locations; and (6) expand the use of NRC Form 591, Safety Inspection Report and Compliance Inspection. Attachment A also contains conforming changes from the 12 routine inspection procedures.

The structure and emphasis of the 12 routine inspection procedures were changed to seven Focus Elements which describe the key aspects of a radiation safety program for use of byproduct material. Inspections should be conducted in a manner that will allow the inspector to develop conclusions about licensee performance relative to: (1) security and control of licensed material; (2) shielding of licensed material; (3) comprehensive safety measures; (4) radiation dosimetry program; (5) radiation instrumentation and surveys; (6) radiation safety training and practices; and (7) management oversight. These focus elements are structured as a performance expectation and address the activities or program areas most commonly associated with measures that prevent overexposures, medical events, or release, loss or unauthorized use of radioactive material. The inspector's evaluation of the focus elements at a licensed facility is based on direct observation of work activities, interviews with workers, demonstrations by workers performing tasks regulated by NRC, and independent measurements of radiological conditions at the facility, rather than exclusive reliance on a review of records.

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* This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 06/30/04. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 6 hours. Forward any comments regarding the burden estimate to the Information and Records Branch (T-6F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0029), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a document does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information.

The focus questions for Pilot Project No. 5 were discussed during the special topics session at the May 2003 Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. Annual Meeting. The questions are: (1) "What risk-informed or performance-based changes have been implemented in Agreement State materials inspection programs?" and (2) "What inspection data analyses have been completed to measure effectiveness and efficiency of Agreement States materials inspection programs?" These questions can also be found under the Pilot Project Focus Questions link on the STP web site. If you have any questions please contact Thomas Young by e-mail, TFY@NRC.GOV or phone (301) 415-5795. Comments can also be faxed to (301) 415-5385, Attention: Tom Young.

/RA/

Thomas Young, Chair
NMP Pilot Project 5 Working Group, NRC

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