

June 25, 2003

Mr. Ronald G. Fraass, Executive Director
Conference of Radiation Control
Program Directors, Inc.
205 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mr. Fraass:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to your May 14, 2003, letter transmitting the resolution passed by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD) membership on May 7, 2003, on security of radioactive materials. In your letter you ask for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) action on the ideas and recommendations addressed in the resolution. As you are aware, the Commission scheduled a closed meeting with the CRCPD, and the Organization of Agreement States (OAS) on June 6, 2003 covering a variety of security issues. As discussed in this meeting, the NRC strongly supports actively working with CRCPD and the OAS to undertake initiatives to enhance the coordination between the NRC and States with regard to the security of radioactive materials.

For example, the Commission has chartered a Materials Security Working Group with representatives from the CRCPD, OAS and the NRC. This group was formed as one of several mechanisms for State representatives to work closely with NRC to develop future materials Compensatory Measures (CMs) and to help in the resolution of any issues that arise during the implementation of the Orders for large irradiator licensees. A copy of the charter for this working group was shared with CRCPD and OAS at the CRCPD annual meeting. The CRCPD and OAS leadership identified members to the working group and the steering committee.

The NRC is also coordinating with OAS and CRCPD during the commencement of work on a new national system to track radioactive sources of concern with activities over a specific threshold. A working group and steering committee will be established to support the planning and development of this system. The OAS and CRCPD will be represented on both of these committees.

The NRC also recognizes the benefit of the States' involvement in Department of Homeland Security (DHS) activities and coordinated a meeting between representatives of CRCPD and OAS with representatives of DHS on June 5, 2003. The NRC and DHS also sponsored a State Homeland Security Outreach Workshop on June 17-18, 2003, at NRC Headquarters. The attendees included State Homeland Security Advisors, State Liaison Officers, Radiation Control Program Directors, NRC, DHS, and other Federal agencies. The Workshop strengthened NRC linkages with the State Homeland Security Advisors, State Liaison Officers, the Radiation Control Program Directors, and provided information on DHS and NRC initiatives relating to homeland security, incident response, and other significant agency activities, as well as an opportunity for State input and dialogue.

In order to support future inspection activities, the NRC staff is also exploring the possibility of entering into Section 274i agreements with Agreement States interested in performing security inspections for the NRC, on the implementation of CMs. Agreement States electing to inspect the security enhancements put in place by licensees in response to an Order will be trained and funded by the NRC. Also, a draft agreement will be shared with the Agreement States for input.

Thank you for your letter and we will continue to look for opportunities to involve the States on issues relating to the security of radioactive materials, consistent with the intent of the CRCPD resolution.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Ronald G. Fraass

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