



STATE OF IOWA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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DIRECTOR

August 5, 2003

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
Office of State & Tribal Programs
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike-3rd Floor
Rockville, MD 20852

03 AUG 12 AM 11:40
STP

RE: Iowa Bureau of Radiological Health/IMPEP Review

Paul
Dear Lohaus:

During the week of July 28, 2003 we had our IMPEP Radioactive Materials Program review. I have come to the conclusion, based on the exit meeting held on August 1, 2003, that our program will receive a final designation of "SAISFACTORY" in all appropriate areas. I do realize that you may not fully agree with my conclusion because the MRB has not made their ruling and the official report is not signed, sealed and delivered as yet.

As with our two previous IMPEP's, in my opinion the review went very well. I must say that the major reason this review went so well was because of the way Dr. Sueh, as the team leader, and Messer's Lynch, Mullauer and Backer, as the other team members, conducted themselves. They were all very professional, very considerate when asking for information and aware of the fact that we had other work to do. Their assistance with everything last week was certainly appreciated.

I must take this opportunity to raise a point I did with Dr. Piccone and I've done with you every time I see or talk with you. The issue is visits from NRC staff more frequently than every 4 years for the IMPEP and once halfway between the last and forthcoming IMPEP. I still firmly believe that an annual 2 day visit, is not unreasonable. We have been very lucky that we have not gotten into bad habits which turned into problems. The NRC's frequent visits would help prevent such situations because of a new program person. I must say that part of the reason that we did not get into a problem, during the last 4 years time frame, was because Mr. Johns, who left my staff in April 2003 to work with the MN Program, participated in IMPEP's in NV and OR between our IMPEP. He always came back doing a fresh look at our program and came up with ways we could change to make the IA Program better. I regret that at this point in time I can not have staff participate in the other states IMPEP reviews. The reason has to do with our

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STP-006 Template
RIDS: SPD7

Paul H. Lohaus, Director
August 6, 2003
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RAM Program reorganization and new duties for personnel. This was discussed with Dr. Piccone and at the time I did indicate that in 6 months to 12 months we can reconsider the current position.

Paul, I must also take this opportunity to express great appreciation to one of your immediate staff who has helped us with many issues, problems and questions including IMPEP guidance. Lloyd Bowling has been a major friend to the Iowa Radioactive Materials Program since we became the 28th Agreement State in 1986. He is a valuable source for all types of information, provides credible regulation guidance and if he can not answer our questions he will find the answer or get us to someone who can get the answer. Myself and my staff look forward to our continued partnership with Lloyd in the future. Please don't misunderstand me singling out Lloyd. Many others, including yourself, Kathy Schneider, Jim Myers, Brenda Usilton, etc. have also helped our program over the years. We have just focused on Lloyd as our main point of contact.

In closing, again thanks to the IMPEP Team, Gary Shear of Region III management and Dr. Piccone for making our 2003 IMPEP Review professional, educational and informative. We look forward to receiving the draft report, the MRB meeting and to responding to any suggestions made as a result of the visit. By the way, I would like to request that our participation in the MRB meeting be via a conference call. The primary reason for this request is that the conference call allows my staff to listen in and of course there are cost considerations. Just aside, Tom Newton, who is my new Division Director and was the Iowa senior management who attended the IMPEP exit meeting, was very impressed with the review and how the team conducted themselves. He looks forward to future IMPEP's.

Thank you for all your help and we sincerely look forward to our continued partnership with your Office in the regulation radioactive materials in Iowa.

Sincerely,



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DAF/rk