

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE CALL ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2003

Participants:

Dennis O'Dowd, NH
Duncan White, RI
Paul Lohaus, STP
Kevin Hsueh, STP
Kathleen Schneider, STP

Background:

Following the New Hampshire Follow-up IMPEP, the Management Review Board (MRB) requested bimonthly teleconference calls be conducted between the appropriate New Hampshire and NRC staffs to discuss the status of the NH Agreement State Program. This is the second teleconference since the February 2003 Follow up IMPEP review and was held on September 25, 2003.

Brook Dupee provided a letter dated September 9, 2003, that summarized the program progress achieved since the previous teleconference and included a revised Program Improvement Plan, Monthly Inspection and Licensing Status Summary Reports, Radioactive Material License Inspections Completed in 2003, Inspection Schedules for the third and fourth calendar quarters, and Rule Adoption Plan.

Discussions from Summary Letter, Program Improvement Plan and Status Summaries:

Mr. O'Dowd discussed the status of the tasks and milestones as provided in the updated Program Improvement Plan. The current status of each recommendation was discussed and it was noted that most of the milestones had been completed.

Since the last conference call, three significant accomplishments were noted by Mr. O'Dowd: First, the Division of Personnel approved the reclassification of the Bureau Chief position. The next and final step is approval by the Governor and Executive Council. Once approved, the position can be posted. The Bureau Chief position has been vacant since May 2002. Secondly, all health physicist positions in the Bureau are fully staffed with Debanond Chakraborty starting work at the Bureau on August 22, 2003. Thirdly, the Bureau's new fee schedule was approved on July 18, 2003 which will provide 100% funding of the materials and machine source programs.

Mr. O'Dowd stated that there were no overdue inspections and that the Program was on schedule to perform a number of inspections over the next two quarters. He added that the number of pending licensing actions was currently at 25 of which 16 of these actions are currently with the licensees for response. Licenses are now being issued as complete with each amendment with the changes noted in bold. Mr. O'Dowd also noted that the Program plans to phase out the annual administrative renewal of fees since the new fees schedule has enforcement language for nonpayment of fees. Finally, Mr. O'Dowd discussed the current status of two significant renewal actions (University of New Hampshire and BAE Systems).

The State's contracts with a retired Agreement State supervisor (Vicki Jeffs) to perform license reviews and a former NH inspector (Mario Iannaccone, currently employed by the Massachusetts program) to conduct inspections continues to be successful.

The new employees on staff hired over the last several months have completed or have been signed up for a variety of NRC training classes need for materials inspector qualification. Mr. O'Dowd indicated that training requests have been submitted to STP and that he looking into sending new staff to the Texas A&M course due to NRC's decision to no longer offer the five-week health physics course. Mr. O'Dowd attended the NMED training course conducted on September 16 in Albany.

Mr. O'Dowd noted that on September 18, the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR), approved the re-adoption of Parts He-P 4090, 4091, 4092, and 4062 of the State's Rules of the Control of Radiation which has expired. These sections were Part 20 tables and the LLRW waste manifest rule. The JLCAR re-adopted Part He-P 4037 (transportation) at their October 6 meeting. The Bureau plans to adopt a number of overdue NRC amendments in the next package of rules. The current plan is to have the rules approved by JLCAR by the end of February 2004. Based on the State's administrative process, the NRC will have the opportunity to review the draft rules in either November or December 2003. Mr. Lohaus encouraged Jerry Kwasnick, the Bureau staff person assigned the task of adopting rules, to contact John Zabko in STP to discuss the necessary information needed for NRC's compatibility review. Mr. O'Dowd confirmed that the Bureau will work with Mr. Zabko on their submittal.

Mr. O'Dowd passed along a request from Brook Dupee to 1) discontinue the bimonthly conference call but the State will continue to submit the current level of written information regarding the status of their Agreement State program; or 2) extend the intervals between the conference calls to quarterly. Mr. White indicated that the State's request will be considered, but noted that any changes in the current level of heightened oversight will require approval by the Management Review Board.

IMPEP Review:

The next full IMPEP review is tentatively scheduled for the week of June 21, 2004.

Next Conference Call:

The next conference call is scheduled for December 4, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Attachment:

Letter from Brook Dupee to Paul Lohaus dated September 9, 2003 with attachments (ML032820419)