



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

October 24, 2005

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STP

Janet R. Schlueter, Director
Office of the State and Tribal Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 03C10
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Schlueter:

The Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) is pleased with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Management Review Board's findings that the Mississippi Radiation Program is adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with the NRC. The review, utilizing the Integrated Material Performance Program (IMPEP) process, was informative and beneficial to the MDH in our continuous efforts to improve the Mississippi's radiation protection program.

The responses to the recommendations contained in the final report of the Mississippi Agreement State Program are addressed below.

1. The review team recommends that the State take additional actions, such as increasing salary and benefits, to stabilize staffing and ensure continued successful program implementation.

Prior to the IMPEP team's review of the program, a request to realign health physicist salaries, which included a salary survey of the surrounding states, was submitted to MDH's Human Resources. To further support this request, a copy of the NRC's June 17, 2005, draft report was submitted to the Director of Human Resources. The request has been submitted to the State Personnel Board for final consideration. The MDH will continue its efforts to increase health physicist salaries.

2. The review team recommends that the State ensure that individuals who make allegations are informed of the resolution of their concerns.

BRIAN W. AMY, MD, MHA, MPH • STATE HEALTH OFFICER

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As stated in the report, the Agency's policy is to inform the alleged of investigation results. The staff immediately amended the allegation procedures with a checklist to ensure that such individuals are properly informed in the future.

The MDH is also looking forward to continuing our cooperative relationship with the Office of State and Tribal Programs and working with you, as the new Director. Should you have any questions, please contact Robert W. Goff at (601) 987-6893.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Craig", is written over the printed name.

Jim Craig, Director
Office of Health Protection

cc: Martin J. Virgilio
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Research,
State and Compliance Programs
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Robert W. Goff, Director
Division of Radiological Health