

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR SAFETY

1030 OLD PARK DRIVE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62704

211-166-2611 (DD)

Jim Edgar
Governor

Thomas W. Ortziger
Director

September 12, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
P1-37
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attn: Richard L. Bangart, Director, OSP



Re: Training Course List and Request for Interest in Attending (SP-96-089)

Dear Mr. Bangart:

In response to the above-identified Agreement States letter, the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (Department) is hereby notifying you that we do not intend to send anyone to NRC training courses during FY 97. We will reevaluate our position on participation at NRC training courses when the results of the rebaselining study become available.

While arriving at this decision, we became aware of certain inconsistencies in interpretation or implementation of your current policies. We will be watching the following issues very closely:

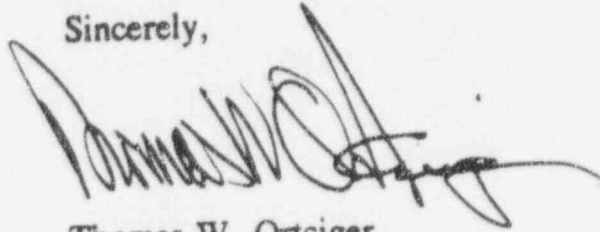
1. How will the new training policies affect IMPEP reviews? NRC cannot claim that Agreement State staff must attend NRC training courses to ensure adequacy when in fact, a program may demonstrate that it is "adequate" without attending the NRC "core" training. How will equivalent training recommendations be handled?
2. The course costs listed on the attachment to SP-96-089 appear to be based on the capacity number of students attending a specific course. When courses do not fill up, would remaining slots be offered to Agreement States free of charge, or would they remain empty? In essence, the NRC licensees would continue paying for training slots that are not used. We doubt that NRC licensees would agree that this is an "equitable" way to spend their money.

9/17...To EDO for Appropriate Action...Cpy to: Chairman, Comrs, RF..96-0988

Mr. Richard Bangart
Page 2

We sincerely hope that as a result of the rebaselining study, the Commission will change its policy of not funding training and other assistance for Agreement States. We are looking forward to seeing preliminary results of the rebaselining study, and trust it will reflect a true partnership with the Agreement States. If you have any questions regarding these comments, do not hesitate to call me or Kathy Allen at (217) 785-9931.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Ortiger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas W. Ortiger
Director

TWO:kaa

cc: All Agreement States
Chairman Jackson
Jim Lynch, State Agreements Officer