



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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ALL AGREEMENT STATES

CHANGES TO THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION PROGRAM

At the recent All Agreement State meeting Roy Osborne described the Conference's State Profile data system and Joel Lubenau described our plans to integrate part of our Exchange of Information program with it.

We recently mailed to you forms for the January-June 1984 semi-annual report. We again ask that you complete and return these forms. The January-June 1984 issue will be the last of the semi-annual "Licensing Statistics and Other Data" reports in its present format. With the exception of data on incidents (discussed below), we will rely upon the Conference State Profile for data on Agreement State programs that had previously been kept in our semi-annual reports.

With respect to data on radioactive materials incidents we have become aware of the need to improve the data bases for such incidents, both in terms of quality as well as timeliness of reports. One important forum in which these needs recently surfaced is the Steering Committee on Industrial Radiography Radiation Safety.

Our objective is to improve the overall data base for materials incidents so that trends and potential problems, including those that are generic in nature, can be identified early and enable rapid feedback to regulatory staffs for action.

The present agreements for furnishing information on abnormal occurrences will remain unchanged. We will continue to ask for written reports from you for inclusion in our quarterly Abnormal Occurrence Reports to Congress on events that fall under the abnormal occurrence criteria.

We are also now asking for telephone reports from you on "significant incidents" involving radioactive materials. "Significant incidents" are defined as those requiring reports to you under your State regulations equivalent to 10 CFR 20.402 and 403 (i.e., thefts and losses of radioactive material and events requiring reporting to you by licensees either immediately or 24 hours after discovery); transportation

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accidents involving radioactive materials; and any other event involving radioactive materials where a significant radiation protection problem exists, particularly if the problem is potentially a generic one.

Telephone reports of significant incidents should be made to your Regional State Agreements Officer within five working days of your learning of the event. We should also receive a written report on the incident. In most cases involving licensees, the licensee will be subject to a requirement to furnish a written report to you. A copy of such report would be acceptable to us and should be sent to your Regional State Agreements Officer. If you wish instead to provide us with a copy of the report of the State's investigation or inspection, this will also be acceptable.

If registered sources or devices are involved, we would like to have sufficient information to identify the equipment.

We have no plans to place written reports into the NRC Public Document Room. Such reports can, however, be subject to requests made to NRC under the Freedom of Information Act and should be prepared accordingly.

We will collect data on other incidents during our routine reviews of your programs. This should involve no more than continuing the present practice of our asking for a recapping of investigations of incidents since the last review meeting. We normally have asked for such information as part of your preparations for a review. The recapping should include all incidents which are required to be reported by licensees to the State and events that come to the State's attention that may be of regulatory interest. As an example of the latter, a radiography equipment malfunction that does not result in an overexposure or other violation that might come to light during an inspection might merit inclusion on a list of incidents because of a possible generic problem with the equipment.

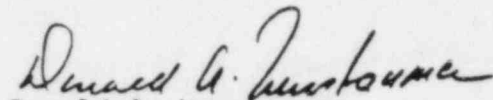
Our Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data will review all of the incident data from the NRC and Agreement States and will prepare periodic reports of their analyses which will be distributed to you. If problems or trends are identified that require immediate attention, such information will be promptly furnished to Agreement States and to NRC staffs.

We hope that you will see the same advantages that we foresee in these changes: streamlining and minimizing paperwork, improving our data bases on radioactive materials incidents, and providing feedback to you and to NRC staffs on possible problems that become evident through reporting of incidents.

We would like to implement this incident reporting system no later than December 31, 1984. However, feel free to begin implementation of the reporting of significant incidents any time before then.

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We appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions or see any problems please call Joel Lubenau or me.


Donald A. Nussbaumer
Assistant Director for
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cc: C. Hardin, CRCPD, Inc.

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