



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 12, 1997

Ms. Deb Thomas, Director  
Department of Regulation and Licensure  
Nebraska Health and Human Services System  
301 Centennial Mall South  
P. O. Box 95007  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5007

Dear Ms. Thomas:

On January 22, 1997, the Management Review Board (MRB) met to consider the proposed final Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) report on the Nebraska Agreement State Program. The MRB considered and concurred with the review team's recommendation that the Nebraska program be found adequate to protect public health and safety but needs improvement, and compatible with NRC's program. Due to the significance and number of deficiencies found in the Nebraska program at the time of the review, that included unsatisfactory in one performance indicator, the team recommended a period of probation for a duration to be established after consultation with Nebraska radiation control program management.

In consideration of the corrective actions already taken and action plans identified by the State at the MRB meeting, the review team revised their recommendation from probation to a follow-up IMPEP review, to be conducted within one to one and one-half years from the date of the last IMPEP review, but not later than September 1997. The team also recommended that the State keep NRC apprised of the status of corrective actions and plans. Due to the State's current staffing level (all vacancies staffed), the MRB revised the review team's Unsatisfactory recommendation for Section 3.2 Technical Staffing and Training, to Satisfactory with Recommendations for Improvement. The MRB considered and concurred with the review team's revised recommendation for a follow-up review no later than September 1997, based on the State's performance, unless program concerns develop that require an earlier evaluation.

NRC recognized the efforts already taken and planned by the State to address the 15 recommendations made by the review team to improve the performance of the Nebraska radiation control program. During the MRB meeting, the MRB discussed with the State representatives the need to ensure that sufficient staffing is maintained to reduce the backlogs in licensing, inspection and enforcement actions, or any other situation which increases the risk to public health and safety. Discussions also covered when the State expected to complete most of the corrective actions identified in their action plans presented at the meeting. The State representatives responded that they planned to have all corrective actions completed by July 1997.

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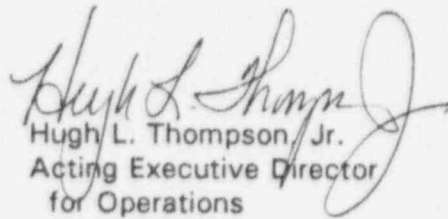
Deb Thomas

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Section 5 page 23 of the enclosed final report presents the IMPEP team's recommendations. We request that you provide: (1) a copy of your actual Corrective Action Plan (Step I and II), and (2) updates of the status of corrective actions taken in response to the review team's recommendations at two month intervals, beginning with receipt of this letter.

I appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to the IMPEP team during the review.

Sincerely,

  
Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.  
Acting Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosure:  
As stated

Deb Thomas

2

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Original Signed by  
Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.

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Acting Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosure:  
As stated

bcc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan

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Deb Thomas

2

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*at two month intervals*

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Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.  
Acting Executive Director  
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Enclosure:  
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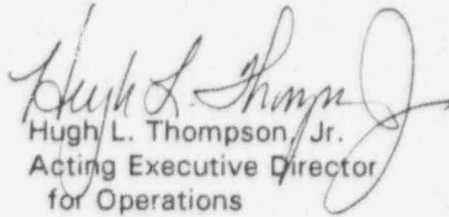
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