ISSUES FOR AGREEMENT STATES

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Agenda

- Overview of the Integrated Materials Performance Assessment Program (IMPEP)
- Review of Issues Identified by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC)
- Potential Solutions
Overview of IMPEP Program

- Integrated Materials Performance Assessment Program
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Agreement State inspection program
- Areas of inspection (MD 5.6)
  - Common Performance Indicators
    - Technical staffing and training
    - Status of materials inspection program
    - Technical quality of inspections
    - Technical quality of licensing actions
    - Technical Quality of incident and allegation activities
  - Non-Common Performance Indicators
    - Regulatory/statutory compatibility requirements
    - Sealed sources and devices
    - Low-level radioactive waste
    - Uranium recovery
Overview of IMPEP Program (cont’d.)

- Guidance documents are basis of review
  - SA Series: SA-100 (General Implementation)
  - SA-101 through -105 (Common), -107 through -110 (Non-Common)
  - Inspection Manual Chapter Series
  - Management Directives 5.6 and 5.9

- Inspection Frequency (SA-100)
  - Normally, USNRC Regional and Agreement State program reviews are scheduled every four years;
  - Interval may be shortened or lengthened to another appropriate interval based on the review team’s recommendation
  - Separate trips to perform specific parts of an IMPEP review are permitted and may be advantageous to the Agreement State and/or USNRC. Examples are accompaniments of inspectors and visits to specific licensed facilities. Such activities; however, should be completed prior to the review exit meeting.

- USNRC might be moving to remote IMPEP inspections due to COVID-19
Overview of IMPEP Program (cont’d.)

- Follow-up reviews – limited evaluation specific to findings
- Special reviews – address specific challenges facing a program
- Implementation
  - Review questionnaire
  - Offsite review
  - Onsite review
  - Inspection observations
  - Personnel interviews
- IMPEP staff
  - USNRC personnel
  - Agreement State personnel – SA-120
Review of Issues Identified by the USNRC

- Adequacy and compatibility with USNRC Regulations
- Training and qualification programs were not compatible with appropriate Inspection Manual Chapters
- Inspection results not communicated to licensees in a timely fashion or poorly documented
- Failure to implement inspection procedures
- Insufficient training of inspectors
- Inadequate licensing procedures
- Inadequate incident and allegation investigation execution
- Inadequate staffing or staff retention
- License application or amendment application reviews that did not meet requirements of guidance
- Documentation of training and experience for users of radioactive materials.
Potential Solutions

- Adequacy and Compatibility with USNRC Regulations
  - Before proposing new regulations, meet with USNRC, Agreement State Program staff to discuss the regulations to ensure that no conflicts exist.
  - Engage industry experts to review regulations prior to promulgation to identify potential problems.

- Training and qualification programs were not compatible with appropriate Inspection Manual Chapters
  - Ensure that checklists are developed and that management reviews and signs checklists
  - Ensure that training programs include all necessary topics found in IMCs; use IMCs, Management Directives as training guides
  - Ensure training includes both classroom learning and field demonstrations
  - Confirmation of training should be required:
    - Tests
    - Field Practicals
Potential Solutions (cont’d.)

- Inspection results not communicated to licensees in a timely fashion or poorly documented
  - Ensure that standardized inspection forms are utilized
  - Ensure that managers are observing inspections to determine if inspections are being properly performed and documented
  - Ensure that training addresses proper documentation and communication of inspection findings
  - Develop a tracking database or spreadsheet with appropriate deadlines to ensure that inspection results are communicated promptly.

- Failure to implement inspection procedures
  - Review inspection procedures to ensure completeness and compatibility with NRC Regulations
  - Review inspection training procedures to ensure proper training
  - Retrain inspectors through classroom education and field practicals
  - Training and procedures reviews could include third-party services
Potential Solutions (cont’d.)

- Insufficient training of inspectors
  - Review inspection training procedures to ensure proper training
  - Retrain inspectors through classroom education and field practicals
  - Training and procedures reviews could include third-party services

- Inadequate licensing procedures
  - Review license review procedures
  - Develop new procedures that are consistent with guidance documents (NUREG-1556, -1569)
  - Retrain licensing staff
    - Classroom training
    - Management reviews of licensing documents
Potential Solutions (cont’d.)

- Inadequate incident and allegation investigation execution
  - Review incident and allegation procedures
  - Ensure that proper forms for documenting initial contacts are properly developed
  - Ensure that all personnel understand confidentiality regulations
  - Determine the need to train specific personnel for addressing incidents and allegations
  - Retrain all responsible personnel on procedures
    - Classroom training
    - Drills

- Inadequate staffing or staff retention
  - Inadequate staffing could be budget related.
  - Poor staff retention could be related to:
    - Salary
    - Unsatisfactory job responsibilities
    - Unsatisfactory relationship with management
Potential Solutions (cont’d.)

- Poor work environment
- Harassment/HR issues
- Although causes for poor staff retention are outside the scope of the AEA, the ramifications are within the scope
  - Reduced effectiveness in implementing the Agreement State program
  - Reduced effectiveness in protecting public health and the environment
  - Reduced effectiveness in controlling regulated materials
- Human resources support, either internal or external, would be needed to resolve some retention issues.
Potential Solutions (cont’d.)

- License application or amendment application reviews that did not meet requirements of guidance
  - Retrain licensing staff
    - Classroom training
    - Sample license application review
    - Management inspection of licensing review
QUESTIONS

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