

March 22, 2010

ALL AGREEMENT STATES, MICHIGAN

OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE JOINT NRC/AGREEMENT STATE WORKING GROUP NUREG-1556 SERIES UPDATE PROJECT PROPOSED CHARTER (FSME-10-022)

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for Agreement States to review and comment on the proposed joint NRC/Agreement State working group charter for the NUREG-1556 Series update project. This is an opportunity to provide input* on the proposed charter.

Background: The 21 volume set of the NUREG-1556 provides detailed guidance for reviewing and obtaining materials licenses. Most of the NUREG-1556 volumes were initially published between 1997 and 2000. Only a few of the volumes have ever been revised. The documents are widely used by NRC staff, Agreement States, applicants, and licensees. In 2007, the Government Accountability Office exposed vulnerabilities in the licensing program. Staff developed an action plan to address needed changes. Working groups were established to implement the action plan, offer recommendations, and identify long term and short term strategies. The Materials Program Working Group (MPWG) and Independent External Review Panel (IERP) made several recommendations concerning the use of the good faith presumption concept in the licensing process; lack of security in licensing guidance; adoption of a security mindset by licensing and inspection staff, and process improvements for licensing and inspection training.

Discussion: As part of the NRC's routine review of its licensing guidance, in addition to recommended changes from the Materials Program Working Group and Independent External Review Panel, NUREG-1556 Series is being updated to remove exploitable information, incorporate security, and include regulatory and policy changes.

This letter encloses a copy of the proposed charter. If you wish to make detailed written comments, please send them to the point of contact listed below. We are requesting a written response within 30 days of this letter. We look forward to receiving your input.

*This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0029, expiration 08/31/2010. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0029), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

NRC Point of Contact: If you have any questions on this correspondence, please contact me at 301-415-3340 or the individual named below.

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Enclosures:
Proposed Charter

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