



**FSME Procedure Approval**  
***The Management Review Board***  
**SA-106**

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**NOTE**

***Any changes to the procedure will be the responsibility of the FSME Procedure Contact. Copies of FSME procedures are available through the NRC website.***

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## I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Management Directive 5.6, *Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP)*, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) periodically evaluates NRC Regional and Agreement State radioactive materials programs in an integrated manner, using common and non-common performance indicators, to ensure that public health and safety are adequately protected and that Agreement State programs are compatible with NRC's program. The Management Review Board (MRB) provides a senior-level review of the IMPEP team's findings and recommendations and issues the final NRC findings to the Region or Agreement State. For Agreement States, these findings can include decisions regarding monitoring, heightened oversight, probation, suspension, or the revocation of some or all aspects of the regulatory program's authority discontinued by NRC and assumed by the Agreement State. These discussions can also include an Agreement State's decision to voluntarily return assumed regulatory authority back to the NRC (i.e. sealed source and device review program).

## II. OBJECTIVES

- A. To provide the guidelines that will be followed by the MRB when conducting MRB meetings for IMPEP reviews and issuing findings for NRC Regional and Agreement State radioactive materials programs.
- B. To establish the means to keep the MRB and the Commission informed of the status of NRC Regional and Agreement State radioactive materials programs in a timely fashion.
- C. To provide guidance that will be followed by the MRB when considering the issuance of a letter of support.

## III. BACKGROUND

As of October 1, 2006, NRC reorganized its nuclear materials and Agreement State programs into two new program offices. The newly created Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME) is composed of the former Office of State and Tribal Programs (STP) and two technical divisions from the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). The reorganization prompted revisions to the composition of the MRB.

Prior to the reorganization, the MRB was composed of the Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste, Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs; the General Counsel; the Director, STP; the Director, NMSS; and an Agreement State Liaison to the MRB. The MRB positions for STP and NMSS were eliminated and the resulting vacancies on the MRB are filled by the Director, FSME, and a Regional Administrator from an NRC Regional Office.

**IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. MRB:**

1. Makes the overall assessment of each NRC Region and Agreement State radioactive materials program;
  - a. Determines the adequacy of NRC Regional radioactive materials programs.
  - b. Determines the adequacy and compatibility of Agreement State radioactive materials programs.
  - c. The MRB's overall assessment may include a consideration of the IMPEP review team's recommendations in the proposed final report, any information provided by the NRC Region or Agreement State at the MRB meeting, and insights provided by the Agreement State Liaison, other NRC Offices, or members of the public. Such information could include concerns regarding program decline, inability to retain and/or recruit staff, or inadequate resources for ensuring adequate protection of public health and safety.
2. Establishes precedents and significant changes to the IMPEP process;
3. Convenes to evaluate special reviews conducted to assess a specific program weakness, to consider the results of periodic meetings with Agreement States, or to discuss any other relevant issues, such as the results of conference calls with States under heightened oversight or monitoring;
4. Directs the issuance of letters of support to Agreement States; and,
5. Shall not convene a meeting unless all of the voting members consist of senior level management holding the title of Deputy Division Director or higher.

**B. Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste, Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs (DEDMRT):**

1. Chairs the MRB.
2. Designates a member of the MRB to act as the Chair of the MRB in instances when attendance is not possible.
3. Signs outgoing correspondence resulting from MRB proceedings.

- C. Director, FSME:
1. Participates on the MRB.
  2. Designates an alternate FSME representative in instances when attendance is not possible.
- D. General Counsel:
1. Participates on the MRB.
  2. Designates an alternate Office of General Counsel (OGC) representative in instances when attendance is not possible.
- E. Regional Administrator, NRC Regions:
1. Participates on the MRB.
  2. Designates an alternate Regional representative in instances when attendance is not possible.
- F. Agreement State Liaison:
- Acts as a non-voting member of the MRB that provides an objective perspective on any matter that is discussed or voted on by the MRB, based on experience gained from working for an Agreement State program. In addition, the Agreement State Liaison should be at the program management level or higher and/or currently serving on the Organization of Agreement States (OAS) Executive Board.
- G. IMPEP Project Manager:
1. Coordinates regularly scheduled MRB meetings, as well as special MRB meetings to inform the MRB of the results of periodic meetings with Agreement States.
  2. Coordinates participation of the MRB members, Agreement State program management, IMPEP review team members, and members of the public at MRB meetings.
  3. Ensures that public meeting notices for MRB meetings are prepared, added to Agencywide Document Access Management System (ADAMS), and e-mailed to the public meeting coordinator (PMNS) at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.
  4. Provides all relevant correspondence (i.e., proposed final reports, responses to draft reports, organization charts, briefing bullets, and

meeting agendas) to the MRB, the review team, and other attendees at least 7 days in advance of the meeting.

5. Takes and issues minutes of MRB meetings or designates an alternate.
  - a. The minutes should summarize major discussions, but should not be a verbatim account of the proceedings. Transcription services can be used if directed.
  - b. Underlying causes for program performance issues, precedents established by the MRB, and good practices should be clearly documented in the minutes.
6. Documents in a memorandum to the permanent members of the MRB (DEDMRT; General Counsel; and Director, FSME) any deviations or requests for deviation from prior MRB direction. Examples of deviations that will be documented include changes to frequency of heightened oversight or monitoring conference calls and extensions of intervals between IMPEP reviews. Significant deviations, such as reducing the interval between IMPEP reviews due to a performance weakness identified outside of an IMPEP review or periodic meeting, will be presented to the MRB for concurrence during a special meeting.
7. Prepares the annual memorandum to the Commission featuring a report on the status of Agreement States' and Regions' radioactive materials programs. The memorandum should include the following attachments: (1) Summary of Agreement States' Adequacy and Compatibility Statuses as of January of the year issued, (2) Summary of the NRC Programs' Adequacy Statuses, (3) Summary of IMPEP Report Issuance Against the 104-day Goal, and (4) Summary of Activities Related to States on Heightened Oversight and Monitoring.

## **V. GUIDANCE**

### **A. Meeting Schedule**

MRB meetings are to be conducted approximately 74 days from the last day of the IMPEP review in order to achieve the timeliness goal of issuing the final report within 104 days of the review. Although these meetings are exempt from the "Commission Policy Statement on Staff Meetings Open to the Public," the public is invited to observe each meeting. Each meeting will be published in the weekly notice of "NRC Meetings Open to the Public." MRB meetings may take place beyond the 74th day in order to assemble a quorum, to accommodate Agreement State/Regional schedules, and/or to incorporate important supplemental material. Every effort should be made to meet the timeliness goal for issuing the final reports in 104 days. Special MRB meetings to discuss the

results of periodic meetings with Agreement States will be scheduled on an as needed basis or at a frequency established by the MRB.

**B. Membership**

1. The MRB membership consists of four senior NRC managers, or their designees, representing the DEDMRT; OGC; FSME; and an NRC Region.
2. The Regional representative on the MRB is a rotating position. Regional Administrators or their designees should be invited to participate on a particular MRB based on the following criteria:
  - a. For Agreement State reviews, the invited Regional participant generally should not be from the Region in which the State is geographically located.
  - b. For Regional reviews, the invited Regional participant should not be from the Region under review.
3. The OAS is responsible for appointing a representative to serve as an Agreement State Liaison to the MRB. The Agreement State Liaison will be consulted for the Agreement State perspective on certain issues, may request additional information from the program under review during the meeting, and may be asked for their opinion in the review team's findings and recommendations. The Agreement State Liaison does not have voting privileges, but may be asked to provide insight to the MRB's deliberation of the review team's findings and recommendations or if he or she agrees with the review team's conclusions. The Agreement State Liaison will be provided all relevant documentation provided to the MRB in advance of the meeting.
4. The MRB may request additional non-voting members (either NRC or Agreement State) to participate on the MRB as subject matter experts to address concerns relative to a specific aspect of a program. For example, the MRB may request a representative from a State with authority to regulate low-level radioactive waste to participate on the MRB if the proposed final report indicates that the program under review has a performance concern with respect to low-level waste.

**C. Meeting Protocols**

1. In order to begin the proceedings, a quorum must be present. A quorum is established if three voting members are present. Designees count toward reaching a quorum. If a quorum is present at the scheduled start time of the proceedings; however, the Agreement State Liaison is not present, the MRB will delay the start of the proceedings to make every

effort to ensure that the designated Agreement State Liaison or an alternate is in attendance. If, after a reasonable amount of time, an Agreement State Liaison cannot be found, the meeting will proceed without an Agreement State Liaison, but efforts will be made concurrently with the meeting to continue to locate an Agreement State Liaison for the meeting.

2. The MRB Chair will consult with the other MRB members to reach a consensus position on each indicator and, if necessary, to provide specific instruction to the IMPEP team leader. If a consensus is not apparent, a vote is taken and a simple majority decides the MRB's position regarding findings and report revisions. In the situation where there is a tie vote, the MRB Chair will make the final decision.
3. In some instances, the overall program adequacy finding and, for Agreement States, the compatibility finding may not be possible at the time of the MRB meeting. In those cases, a report is issued to the Region or Agreement State within the goal of 104 days that addresses both completed review findings and the status of outstanding issues. A report supplement will be issued when the outstanding areas are resolved by the MRB.
4. The MRB may choose to go into an executive session during the public meeting at the discretion of the MRB Chair. For all matters that require a formal vote by the MRB, the vote will take place during the public meeting, regardless of whether the topic was discussed in an executive session or not. Efforts will be made by the MRB Chair to include the Agreement State Liaison in any executive sessions.

D. Actions Deriving from MRB Recommendations and Review Team Findings

1. If the MRB recommends that an Agreement State be placed on heightened oversight or monitoring, the guidance in FSME Procedure [SA-122, Heightened Oversight and Monitoring](#), will be followed.
2. If a finding of "adequate, but needs improvement" is made of a Region, the DEDMRT and the Director, FSME, will consult with the Executive Director for Operations to determine what remedial steps need to be taken and will inform the Commission accordingly. Probation, suspension, and termination are not applicable to Regional programs. NRC must implement immediate action to correct Regional program weaknesses that are similar to those that would warrant probation, suspension, or termination actions for an Agreement State.
3. If the MRB recommends that NRC initiate proceedings to place an Agreement State program on probation, FSME Procedure [SA-113, Placing an Agreement State on Probation](#), will be followed.

4. If the MRB recommends that NRC initiate proceedings to suspend an Agreement State program, FSME Procedure [SA-114](#), *Suspension of a Section 274b Agreement*, will be followed.
5. If the MRB recommends that NRC initiate proceedings to terminate an Agreement State program, FSME Procedure [SA-115](#), *Termination of a Section 274b Agreement*, will be followed.

E. Letters of Support

In accordance with the August 26, 2004 SRM-MO40817B (ML042390337), staff proposed a process for issuing “letters of support” to Agreement States. The process included options for issuing such letters on a staff-to-staff basis, with or without request from affected Agreement States, and review and approval function for the Management Review Board.

1. The MRB may direct NRC to issue a letter of support, upon receipt of a request from an Agreement State Program Director. In such a case, the Agreement State Program Director may view that their program is experiencing decline, unable to replace staff, or believe that NRC’s support is needed to help the program to effectively compete for Department resources. A State submitted request, will be considered for a letter of support provided:
  - a. The request is submitted to the Chair of the MRB (i.e.; DEDMRT) in writing;
  - b. The purpose of the request for a letter of support is clearly identified;
  - c. The request contains a detailed description of the program performance issues, including an assessment of the performance indicator(s), that the Agreement State Program Director believes will result in less than a “satisfactory” rating if the IMPEP criteria were applied;
  - d. The request contains a “Staff Needs Analysis,” performed as described in FSME Procedure [SA-700](#), *Processing an Agreement*, when staffing issues are to be addressed; and,
  - e. The request includes a description of the efforts made by the program to address the performance issues.
2. The MRB will consider the request at its next scheduled meeting, or sooner if warranted. The Agreement State Program Director should be available to discuss the request with the MRB during the meeting.



3. The MRB will determine if a letter of support (see sample letter, Appendix A) is warranted based on the following criteria:
  - a. The performance issues are significant enough to warrant either heightened oversight or monitoring as stated in FSME Procedure SA-122, *Heightened Oversight and Monitoring*;
  - b. The underlying cause of issues in performance areas needing improvement are budget and staffing issues that may need senior-level management attention; or
  - c. One or more performance indicators have the potential to result in an unsatisfactory rating if the IMPEP criteria were applied.

F. Special Recognitions

1. If a State has been found satisfactory for all performance indicators during two consecutive IMPEP reviews, the letter for transmitting the final IMPEP review will include language commending the State for consistently meeting the standards of performance in all program areas or for the State's continued support in protecting public health and safety (see sample letter, Appendix B). If a State meets the above criteria, the MRB may exercise the option to extend a State's performance review period from 4 to 5 years (see FSME Procedure [SA-100](#), *Implementation of the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP)*).
2. The MRB may also issue a letter of support to congratulate a State during special occasions such as achieving a milestone or celebrating a particular anniversary of the Agreement signing (see sample letter, Appendix C).

**VI. APPENDICES**

- Appendix A- Sample Letter Addressing a Potential Decline in Agreement State Performance Noted During a Periodic Meeting
- Appendix B - Sample Letter to Recognize Program's Good Performance and Express Appreciation for Program's Contribution in Ensuring Protection of Public Health and Safety
- Appendix C - Sample Letter to Congratulate a State During Special Occasions

**VII. REFERENCES**

1. NRC Management Directive 5.6, *Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program*.
2. FSME Procedure SA-100, *Implementation of the Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP)*.
3. FSME Procedure SA-113, *Placing an Agreement State on Probation*.
4. FSME Procedure SA-114, *Suspension of a Section 274b. Agreement*.
5. FSME Procedure SA-115, *Termination of a Section 274b. Agreement*.
6. FSME Procedure [SA-116](#), *Periodic Meetings with Agreement States Between IMPEP Reviews*.
7. FSME Procedure SA-122, *Heightened Oversight and Monitoring*.
8. FSME Procedure SA-700, *Processing an Agreement*.

**VIII. ADAMS REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

For knowledge management purposes, all previous revisions of this procedure, as well as associated correspondence with stakeholders, that have been entered into the NRC's Agencywide Document Access Management System (ADAMS) are listed below.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document Title/Description</b>	<b>Accession Number</b>
1	2/22/00	Summary of Comments on SA-106	ML011230584
2	5/18/00	STP Procedure SA-106	ML011230579
3	6/23/03	STP-03-048, Opportunity to Comment on Draft Revisions to STP Procedure SA-106	ML031740499
4	9/3/03	Summary of Comments on SA-106	ML040030005
5	9/8/03	STP Procedure SA-106	ML040030003
6	10/5/05	STP Procedure SA-106	ML061290105
7	10/5/05	Summary of Comments on SA-106	ML061290195
8	1/25/07	FSME-07-003, Opportunity to Comment on Draft Revisions to STP Procedure SA-106	ML070260137
9	5/14/07	FSME Procedure SA-106	ML071370629
10	8/6/10	FSME-10-073, Opportunity to Comment on Draft Revisions to FSME Procedure SA-106	ML102090030

## Appendix A

### SAMPLE LETTER ADDRESSING A POTENTIAL DECLINE IN AGREEMENT STATE PERFORMANCE NOTED DURING A PERIODIC MEETING

[NAME]  
[TITLE, STATE SENIOR MANAGEMENT]  
[ADDRESS]

Dear [NAME]:

I am writing to discuss the results of a Periodic Meeting held in your [Agency/Department] on [DATE], with staff of the [Bureau of Radiation Control/Radiation Control Program/other]. Periodic meetings are held to enable the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Agreement States to remain knowledgeable of their respective programs and to conduct planning for the next Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review. NRC has an oversight responsibility to periodically review Agreement State Programs for adequacy and compatibility with NRC's program and conducts these reviews under IMPEP.

NRC also uses the periodic meeting process to more effectively gather important performance information and increase focus on identifying performance issues early. This process includes an enhanced meeting coordination process; an earlier, more effective and active participation of the Management Review Board (MRB), a panel of NRC managers with an Agreement State manager liaison in the process; and active Radiation Control Program Director participation in the discussion of meeting results and decision making process.

The MRB met on [DATE], to discuss the results of the [STATE]'s [DATE], Periodic Meeting. Potential performance concerns identified in your radiation control program during the periodic meeting were discussed. I have enclosed a copy of the [DATE], letter to [Program Director], summarizing the results of the [DATE], Periodic Meeting. Highlights of the concerns identified during discussions are presented below.

The Program is experiencing difficulty in [DESCRIBE PROGRAM ISSUES]. Given these developments, we have concerns regarding the program's ability to maintain an adequate and compatible radiation safety program.

Your support in helping ensure that the [STATE] Agreement State Program has the necessary resources and support to continue to manage an effective program is crucial. I want to assure you that the Commission supports the objectives of the [STATE] Agreement State Program and that NRC staff will continue to work closely with your program. We thank you for your commitment to this effort.

Sincerely,

[NAME]  
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,  
Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: [STATE LIAISON OFFICER]  
[RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTOR]  
[OTHER]

## Appendix B

### **SAMPLE LETTER TRANSMITTING THE FINAL IMPEP REPORT RECOGNIZING PROGRAM'S GOOD PERFORMANCE AND EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR PROGRAM'S CONTRIBUTION ENSURING PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**

[STATE OFFICIAL]  
[ADDRESS]

Dear [STATE OFFICIAL]:

On [DATE] the Management Review Board (MRB) met to consider the proposed final Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review of the [STATE] Agreement State Program. The MRB found the [STATE] adequate to protect public health and safety and compatible with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) program.

[SECTION], [PAGE], of the enclosed final report contains a summary of the IMPEP review Team's findings. Based on the results of the current IMPEP review, the next full review of the [STATE] will take place in approximately 4 years, with a periodic meeting tentatively scheduled for [DATE].

The MRB recognized that this review marked the second consecutive IMPEP review of the [STATE] in which the program was found adequate to protect public health and safety, compatible with NRC's program, and satisfactory for all performance indicators reviewed. These are the highest possible ratings for an IMPEP review. I applaud your staff for their dedication to excellence in radiation protection.

I appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to the IMPEP team during the review. I also wish to acknowledge your continued support for the Agreement State Program. I look forward to our agencies continuing to work cooperatively in the future.

Sincerely,

[NAME]  
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,  
Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

cc: [STATE LIAISON OFFICER]  
[RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTOR]  
[OTHER]

## Appendix C

### SAMPLE LETTER TO CONGRATULATE A STATE DURING SPECIAL OCCASIONS

[NAME]  
[TITLE, STATE SENIOR MANAGEMENT]  
[ADDRESS]

Dear [NAME]:

On behalf of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I want to congratulate you and the State of [STATE] for [REASON].

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your State for the important services and hard work that the [STATE RADIATION PROTECTION AGENCY/PROGRAM] performs in support to the NRC's mission of regulating the use of radioactive materials for civilian purposes to ensure the protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Your continued efforts and support of the [STATE] Agreement State Program is critical to protect the public health and safety of the citizens of your State and the nation as a whole. I want to assure you that the Commission supports the objectives of the [STATE} Agreement State Program and looks forward to continue to work cooperatively with your program in the future.

Sincerely,

[NAME]  
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,  
Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

cc: [STATE LIAISON OFFICER]  
[RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTOR]  
[OTHER]