



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Georgia's Journey From Worst to First

August 14, 2025

Shatavia Walker
**Radioactive Material
Program**
Program Manager I
Air Protection Branch



GEORGIA RADIATION PROTECTION PROGRAMS

- Georgia became an agreement state **December 15, 1969.**
- **Radiation Protection Program is split between the Radioactive Materials Program and the Environmental Radiation Program.**
 - **~400-500 Licensees on average**
 - **~120-130 Inspections Average/year**
 - **~15 Incidents & Allegations/year**

Radioactive Materials Program (RMP)

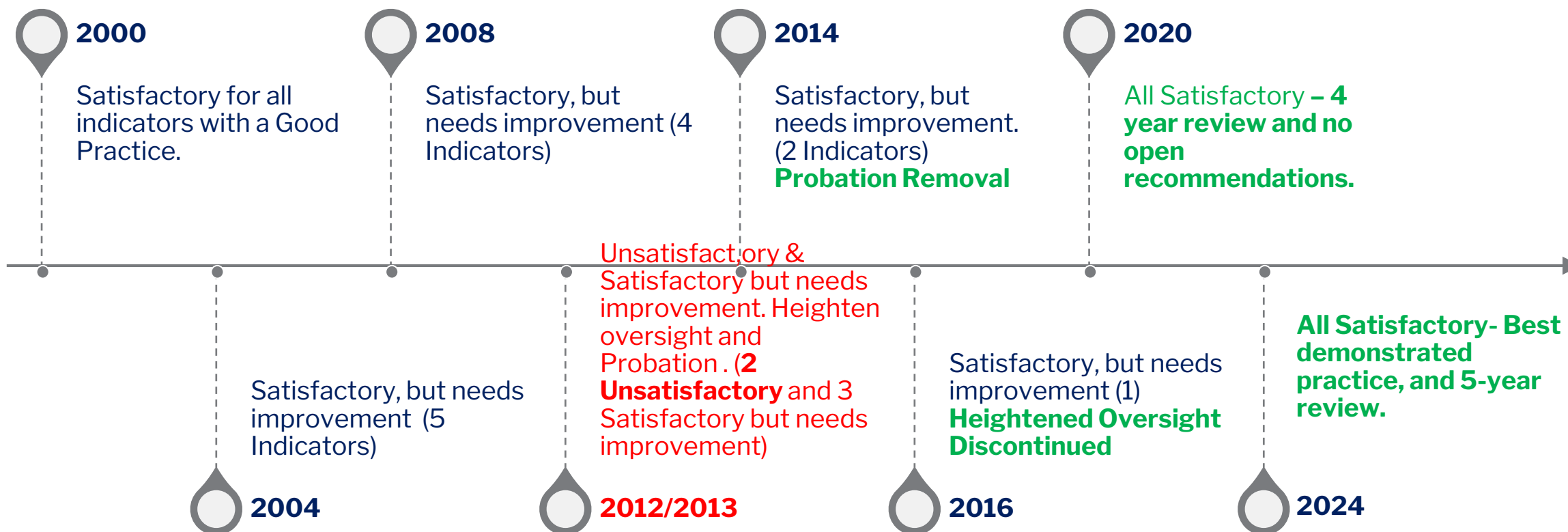
- 7 Environmental Compliance Specialist (fully staffed) + Program Manager
- Licensing & Inspection of users of Radioactive Isotopes
- Incident/Allegation investigation
- Reciprocities
- Some assist with ERP

Environmental Radiation Program (ERP)

- 3 Environmental Compliance Specialists (fully staffed) + Program Manager
- Radiological emergency planning and preparedness
- Response to peacetime radiological incidents in or affecting the State of Georgia
- Limited environmental radiation monitoring in the vicinity of commercial nuclear power plants and defense nuclear facilities in or bordering the State of Georgia (routine and as necessary)



IMPEP TIMELINE





HOW DID WE GET HERE?

1. Repeat Satisfactory, but needs improvement indicators

- 2004, 2008, 2014 - Technical Quality of Inspections
- 2008, 2012- Technical Staffing and Training, Status Materials Inspection Program, Technical Quality of Licensing Actions

2. Carrying open recommendations. Getting new recommendations while carrying old ones.

- 2012- 11 new recommendations with 1 open from 2008 & 2004

3. Getting Unsatisfactory Indicators on top of Satisfactory But Needs Improvement items.

- 2004, 2008 (open), 2012 (open)- Evaluation of Defects and Incidents Regarding SS&D's – Sub-indicator
- 2012-Technical Quality of Incident & Allegations, Technical Quality of Inspections

4. Potential to jeopardize public health observations [2012 I&A]

- 2012- NRC forwarded medical allegations left unaddressed for example.



SOME OF THE SPECIFIC ISSUES FOR THE INDICATORS

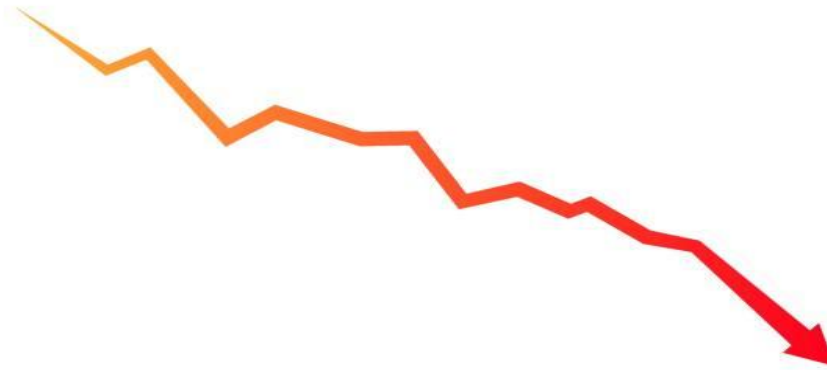
- Annual accompaniments - Understaffed
- Authorized User (AU) training documentation
- Pre- Licensing completion
- Procedures and training for event reporting
- Allegations procedures and training, communication
- Backlog of inspections (Specifically Increased Controls - now Part 37) with timeliness
- Outdated procedures
- Turnover
- Lack of staff and training for the Sealed Source & Device program



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The IMPEP team identified an overall declining performance by Georgia. Significant deficiencies were noted throughout the program and have the potential to impact public health and safety, if left uncorrected. Because of the significance of the findings, the MRB will

<https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1302/ML13023A380.pdf>





WHAT DID WE DO ABOUT IT?

1. Like any other business, when a systematic issue is identified, we changed management - 2014



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

May 30, 2014

Judson H. Turner, Director
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120
Atlanta, GA 30354

Dear Mr. Turner:

On April 15, 2014, the Management Review Board (MRB) met to consider the proposed final Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) report on the Georgia Agreement State Program (the Program). The MRB found the Georgia program adequate to protect public health and safety, but needs improvement, and compatible with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) program. In addition, the MRB agreed with the team's recommendation to recommend discontinuation of the period of Probation of the Georgia Agreement State Program and to place the Program on Heightened Oversight. The NRC staff is preparing to transmit this recommendation for Commission consideration by the end of June 2014. The final decision for the discontinuance of Probation will be made by the Commission and will be transmitted to the Governor of Georgia under separate cover.

Section 5.0, page 15, of the enclosed final report contains a summary of the IMPEP team's findings and recommendations. We request your evaluation and response to the recommendations in the report within 30 days from receipt of this letter. Based on the results of the current IMPEP review, and subject to the Commission's review the next full review of the Georgia Agreement State Program will take place in approximately 2 years, with a periodic meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2015.

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,

/RA/

Michael F. Weber
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,
Research, State, Tribal and Compliance Programs
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure:
Georgia Final IMPEP Report

cc: Lee Cox, North Carolina
Organization of Agreement States
Liaison to the MRB

David Crowley, Program Manager
Radiation Control Section

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WHAT DID WE DO ABOUT IT?

2. Implemented the recommendations - 2014

- Addressed Inspection backlogs
 - Prioritizing and Organizing
 - Microsoft database (Access) & Spreadsheets
- Updated and Developed Procedures & Guides - Including staff training
 - Ensured they comply with the Inspection Manual Chapter 2800
 - Developed procedures based on SA-300
 - Included timeliness and priorities
- Retroactively address training documents for Authorized Users (AUs)
- Returned Sealed Source & Device (SS&D) Authority
 - All staff is needed to help the program get into compliance. This was the best decision.



WHAT DID WE DO ABOUT IT?

3. Accountability & Follow up - 2014

- Weekly Staff Meetings
- Address IMPEP deficiencies, status updates, discussions between staff and management

4. Completed Annual Accompaniments - 2016

- Identify and address Performance Based Inspections

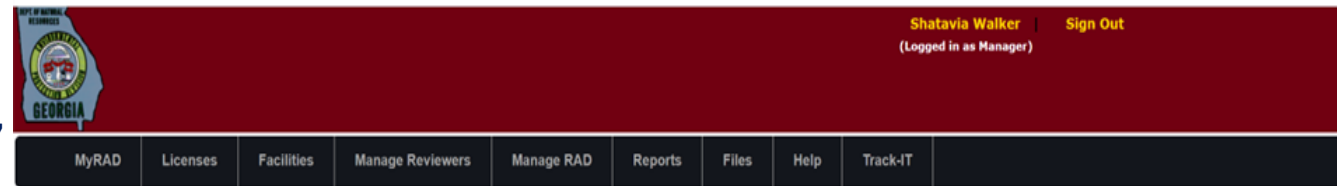
5. Peer review system in Licensing - 2016

- Qualified Reviewers review and sign licenses
- Cross Training from Qualified individuals - 2020

6. Built a web-based database designed to track inspection and licensing actions – 2017

7. Creating Positions for upward mobility -2020

- Subject Matter Expert when fully qualified and Program Manager I



RAD Dashboard

Manage Licenses

Current Assignments

License #	Licensee Name	Amendment #	Reviewer	Review Status	Assigned Date
GA 1231-1	JOSH ENVIRO-TECH, INC.	7	John Hays	Assigned	Sep. 10, 2018
GA 1231-1	JOSH ENVIRO-TECH, INC.	7	David Matos	Supv Review	May. 13, 2020
GA 1584-1	Water Remediation Technology, LLC	7	Shatavia Walker	Assigned	Nov. 12, 2021
GA 881-6	THERAGENICS CORPORATION	17	Avionne Fortner	Assigned	Dec. 30, 2021
GA 1655-1	LONG ENGINEERING, LLC.	7	John Hays	Assigned	Jan. 21, 2022
GA 1984-1	Burke Medical Center	0	Leslines Leveque	Assigned	Jan. 21, 2022
GA 1985-1	Municipal Base Services LLC	0	John Hays	Assigned	Jan. 27, 2022
GA 551-1	GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	18	John Hays	Assigned	Feb. 02, 2022

Upcoming Inspections

License #	Licensee Name	Due Date	Plan Date	Inspector
GA 1125-1	GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTING UNLIMITED, INC.	Oct. 15, 2021	Nov. 04, 2021	Avery Roney
GA 817-1	OWENS CORNING	Feb. 09, 2022	Feb. 10, 2022	Avery Roney
GA 948-1	Southern Nuclear Operating Company	Feb. 21, 2022	Feb. 17, 2022	Avery Roney
GA 54-1	EPD Laboratory	Oct. 27, 2021	Mar. 16, 2022	John Hays
GA 881-5	THERAGENICS CORPORATION	Jan. 23, 2022	Mar. 17, 2022	John Hays

Expiring Licenses

License #	Licensee Name	Reviewer	Expiration Date	Days To Expire
GA 1115-1	ACUREN INSPECTION, INC.	Shatavia Walker	Mar. 31, 2022	16
GA 976-1	PQ LLC	Greg Reese	May. 31, 2022	77
GA 1039-1	Prime Healthcare Foundation - Southern Regional, LLC.	Greg Reese	Apr. 30, 2022	46
GA 1699-1	Southeast Lead Consultants	Monica Johnson	Mar. 31, 2022	16
GA 656-1	WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital	Shatavia Walker	Mar. 31, 2022	16
GA 1561-1	WEST GEORGIA CARDIOLOGY ASSOCIATES	Joel Mims	May. 31, 2022	77
GA 136-1	WHITAKER LABORATORIES, INC.	Leslines Leveque	Apr. 30, 2022	46

Expired Licenses

License #	Licensee Name	Reviewer	Expiration Date
GA 1556-1	CARMICHAEL ENGINEERING, INC	John Hays	Nov. 30, 2021
GA 1125-1	GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTING UNLIMITED, INC.	Monica Johnson	Mar. 31, 2021
GA 1685-1	MED CROSS IMAGING, INC	Joel Mims	Feb. 28, 2021

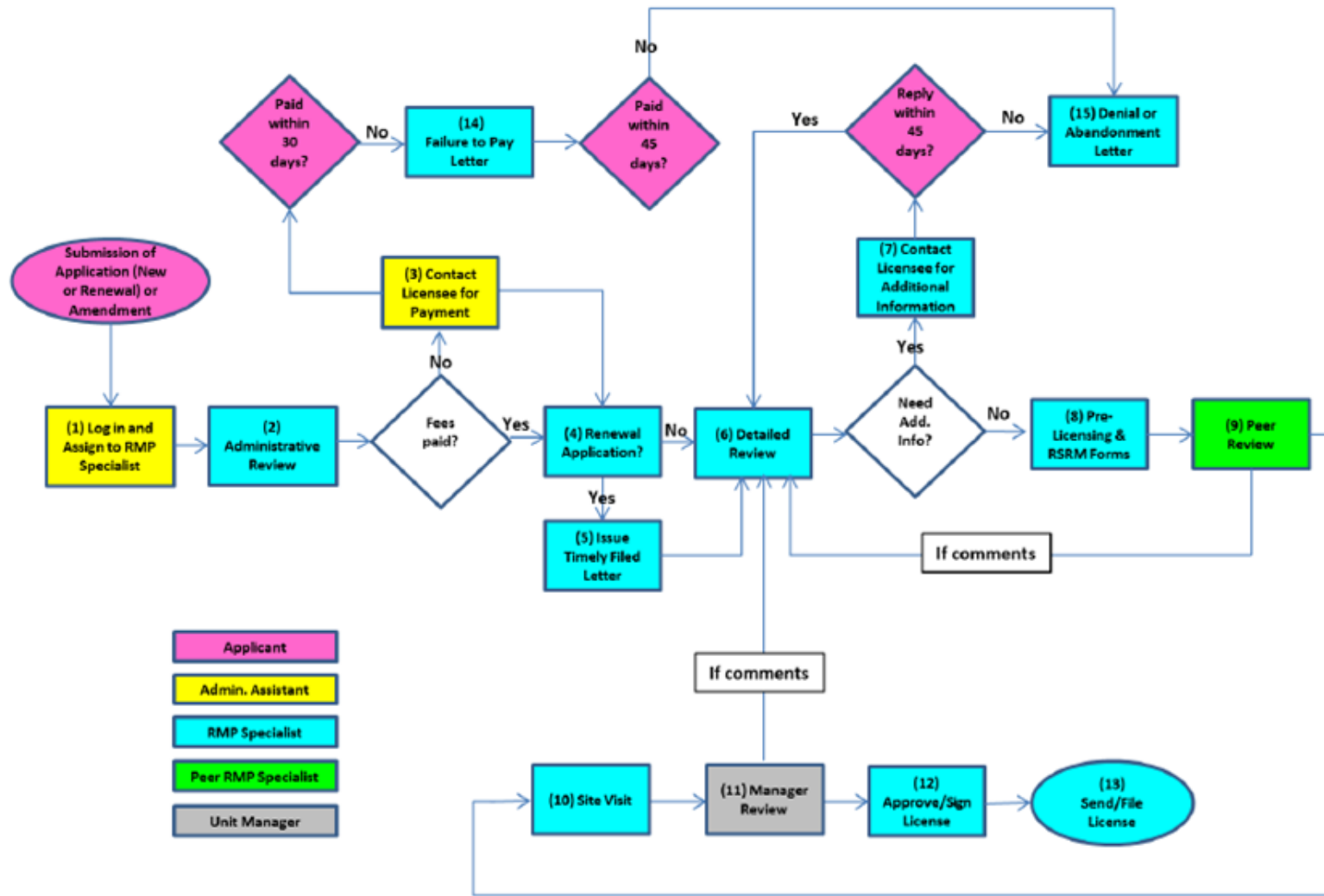
Upcoming Reciprocities



WHAT DID WE DO?

8. Lean Six Sigma –Licensing Procedures Revision With Staff Training -2020

Flow Chart Procedures: Radioactive Materials Licensing



Quick Reference Procedures: Radioactive Materials Licensing

Step	Description	Detailed Information and Notes	Timeline
1	Log in and Assign to RMP Specialist	Assign unique Amendment Number. (RAD Database)	1 day
2	Initial Administrative Review	Determine if new application, renewal application, or amendment. Check for basic applicant information and if fees have been paid. If fees have been paid, go to Step 4.	1 day
3	Contact Licensee for Payment	Contact applicant for payment. Reach out to applicant on a weekly basis until fees are paid or 45 days pass. RMP Specialist should continue to review the application/ amendment while waiting for payment to be made by applicant.	1 day
4	Renewal Application?	If this application is a renewal application, go to Step 5. If it is not, go to Step 6.	1 day
5	Issue Timely Filed Letter	RMP Specialist will issue Timely Filed Letter to applicant.	1 day
6	Detailed Review	The proper license guidance must be utilized to assess whether or not the licensing action is approved. Check for template licensing conditions.	28 - 80 days
7	Contact Licensee for Additional Information	RMP Specialist will contact applicant for additional information. Reach out to applicant on a weekly basis until additional information is submitted. If sufficient information is available, RMP Specialist should continue to review the application/amendment while waiting for the additional information.	1 day
8	Pre-Licensing & RSRM Forms	Complete Pre-licensing form (Enclosure 14a) and Risk-Significant Radioactive Material (RSRM) form (Enclosure 13).	1 day
9	Peer Review	RMP Specialist peer will perform a detailed review. If comment, go back to Step 6.	14 - 40 days
10	Site Visit	RMP Specialist will perform a site visit.	1 day
11	Manager Review	Manager will review Pre-licensing and RSRM forms. If comment, go back to Step 6.	1 day
12	Approve/Sign License	RMP Specialist will approve and sign License.	1 day
13	Send/File License	RMP Specialist will send approved license to applicant and file a copy in the File Room.	1 day
14	Send Failure to Pay Letter	If payment is not made within 30 days after receipt of application/amendment, RMP Specialist shall issue a failure to pay letter.	1 day
15	Send Denial or Abandonment Letter	If additional information is not submitted within 45 days after receipt of application/amendment, RMP Specialist shall issue a denial or abandonment letter.	1 day

*Note: an electronic version (email) of a notification letter is acceptable in most cases



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

2024 Satisfactory in all categories – 5-year Review

- Continued from 2020 IMPEP
- Best Demonstrated Practice for Continuous Recruitment

Lessons Learned & Current Practices

- Maintaining a good foundation is key
- Continue to find ways to become more efficient
- Developed a training curriculum for new hires
- Ensure all staff are exposed to all modalities
- Established a Mentorship for licensing and inspections
- Continue Biweekly meetings with Status updates
- Routine Monthly Training in addition to NRC Training Courses
- Promote teamwork and interaction for team morale





CONTACT INFORMATION

Shatavia Walker, Program Manager 1



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