



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pat Quinn
Governor

Joseph Costigan
Director

August 13, 2013

Mr. Nick A. Walters, Regional Administrator
U.S. DOL – OSHA, Region V
230 South Dearborn Street, Room 3244
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Walters:

This letter is regarding the formal statement from the Illinois Department of Labor responding to the FY 2012 Federal Annual Monitoring and Evaluation [FAME] of the Illinois State Plan. As you are well aware, the Illinois State Plan is in an extended developmental stage with an October 2014 due date. While many efforts have been made to ensure our program is at least as effective as the federal OSHA program in the private sector, our program covers an entirely different constituency. Public sector employees do not fit into the typical industrial workplace mode that most of the OSHA standards were developed on. These are the police, the firefighters, the first responders, the transportation workers and the correctional guards who serve in some of the highest risk professions. We are proud of our program and believe that it has raised its professional standards under the Illinois State Plan.

This evaluation was conducted based upon case file reviews from FY 2011 and as noted in the Corrective Action Plan [CAP]; the issues were corrected almost immediately upon notification. The comprehensive developmental steps as published in the *Federal Register* are underlying some of the findings/recommendations and they are in the final stages of processing. One concern of note is that with the sequestered funding for FY 2013 and FY 2014, the hiring of certain vacancies may be in jeopardy. This is well beyond the control of the Illinois State Plan and may impact this comprehensive developmental step.

We look forward to a future where every employee can go home safe and healthy at the end of their workday. Moreover we appreciate the partnership the state of Illinois has forged with U.S. Department of Labor – OSHA.

Sincerely,

Joseph Costigan
Director

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