

August 7, 2003

Dr. Edwin S. Lyman
Senior Scientist, Global Security Program
Union of Concerned Scientists
Two Brattle Square
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238

Dear Dr. Lyman:

This is in response to your letter of June 25, 2003, in which you express concern regarding the Commission's lack of objection to a proposed legislative amendment to permit export of highly-enriched uranium targets for the production of medical isotopes to specified countries that are either utilizing low-enriched uranium fuel or have agreed to convert to use of such fuel. At the outset, I can assure you that the Commission remains committed to meeting fully all statutory responsibilities that the Congress has assigned to it in regard to consideration of individual export license applications. In addition, the Commission will continue to monitor and support any applicable developments in the Reduced Enrichment in Research and Test Reactors program.

The Commission continues to believe that the enactment of legislation to allow export of HEU targets limited to specified countries under the conditions set out in the legislation could be beneficial to ensuring the timely supply of needed medical isotopes to the United States. The Commission's position in not objecting to such an amendment is not inconsistent with its strong support for U.S. non-proliferation policy objectives. In this regard, if such legislation were enacted, the Commission would continue to review applications for the export of HEU targets and require advance notice prior to each shipment to closely monitor the need and delivery schedules.

Sincerely,

/RA/
Nils J. Diaz