



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

March 31, 1998

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson
Chairwoman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Chairwoman Jackson:

I understand that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is undergoing a process of revising its regulations to be more risk-based and performance oriented. The part of this process that is of concern to me involves revisions of 10 CFR Part 35, which applies to the medical use of radioisotopes. While I support the direction in which the commission is moving, some of my constituents in the radiology community are concerned about the trend that is reflected in early drafts of the revisions of part 35 relating to the training and experience necessary to become licensed to use radioisotopes diagnostically.

The record of safe usage of radioisotopes compiled over many years under NRC Licensure is a very good one. I and my constituents are concerned that, with the severe reductions in required training and experience under 10 CFR Part 35.100, 200 and 300 that are being considered, this record of safe usage will end and more incidents that jeopardize patient care will occur. I urge you, as leader of the Commission, to consider carefully the implications of the proposal that the NRC staff is preparing for your approval. We believe that patient care would best be served if the training and experience requirements were revised as recommended in comments submitted to the NRC staff by the American College of Radiology (copy enclosed). While I support the new direction in which the Commission is moving, I await your response to my concern for patient care in light of the proposed reductions in training and experience requirements for licensing workers in radiology.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Selena Walsh of my staff at (202) 225-4065.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

EP:sw
encl.: NRC revision,
MQSA reauthorization