

August 12, 1998

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The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private
Property and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the Subcommittee's information is a copy of a notice of a proposed revision to a policy statement, to be published in the Federal Register for a 90-day public comment period (Enclosure 1). A copy of the press release for the proposed revision is provided in Enclosure 2.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to revise its 1979 "Medical Use Policy Statement," as part of an overall program to revise the Commission's regulatory framework for medical use. The goals of this program are to focus NRC regulation of medical use on those medical procedures that pose the highest risk to workers, patients, and the public, and to structure its regulations to be risk-informed and more performance-based. Another component of the program, the revision of 10 CFR Part 35, "Medical Uses of Byproduct Material," will be separately published and transmitted to the Subcommittee.

During the development phase of the proposed policy statement, NRC held public meetings with various interested groups, including physicians, medical associations, patient advocates, Agreement States, and NRC's Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes. In addition, proposed alternatives for the revised policy statement were placed on the INTERNET for public comment. NRC received many useful comments as a result of these interactions with the public, and has carefully considered them in the development of the revised policy statement. NRC will carefully consider the comments received during the formal comment period in developing the final policy statement.

Sincerely,

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures:

1. Federal Register Notice
2. Press Release

Original Signed by

cc: Senator Bob Graham
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Identical letter was sent to
The Honorable Dan Schaefer

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*See previous concurrence on SECY-98-127.

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