

November 8, 2005

Dr. E. William Colglazier, Executive Officer
National Academy of Sciences
500 Fifth Street, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Dr. Colglazier:

I am writing in response to your letter dated October 3, 2005, regarding the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) project on radioactive source use and replacement. You expressed concerns regarding the independence of NAS in this project. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recognizes that in entering into an arrangement under which NAS will conduct a study under an NRC grant, NAS should not be subject to any actual management or control by the NRC. The NRC also recognizes its own responsibilities for safeguarding and maintaining the security of classified, safeguards, and other sensitive information.

We believe that the differences in the details of the grant language proposed by NAS and the NRC can be resolved by accurately describing the processes and conditions under which both NAS and NRC can mutually satisfy their respective views and responsibilities. The NRC staff will contact the NAS staff to compose acceptable grant language. I look forward to expeditiously resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz