

February 13, 2006 (10:06am)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

DOCKET NUMBER
PETITION FILE: PRAE 35-18
(70FR 75752)

We are Mobile Chernobyl.

I am a thyroid cancer patient. I believe my cancer is the result of an unusual number of x-rays in the 1961-62 time frame – when the dentist I saw x-rayed my upper front teeth at every visit – which for over a year was every 2 weeks.

18

Medical personnel seem to minimize the possibility of “fallout” from exposure to radioactive iodine – at least in my case, and in the case of a very close friend.

15 year ago, my friend was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, had her thyroid removed, and underwent RAI 131. She was advised to stay away from her family for 3 days, which she did. At the time, she had 3 young sons at home, the youngest 15 months old. Naturally when she returned home, her baby was all over her – which the doctors assured her, was fine. She was not nursing.

Less than 2 years later, her child was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia. When I repeated this story to my radiologist, he was startled. Apparently the two things we expose our loved ones to are thyroid cancer and leukemia. My friend will forever bear the guilt of having exposed her baby to cancer.

My husband has CNS lymphoma, and my daughter has systemic lupus erythematosus. Our lives have been upside down for quite a while dealing with these health issues – and I would have thought I would qualify for inpatient RAI treatment. Not so! Even at 150mci, I was encouraged to simply drive home with my husband (a 40 minute drive) – sitting in the back seat as an extra precaution!

My dilemma was this: I didn't feel comfortable exposing my family to anything – if my friend's son could get leukemia, my immune-system-compromised family could certainly be at risk.

I didn't feel comfortable staying in a hotel – I couldn't expose strangers to radioactivity and have a clear conscience. I wasn't allowed to stay in the hospital – they don't cover inpatient RAI treatments at 150mci. I wound up staying in a hospital-owned apartment, which they cleaned using the hospital's hazardous materials protocol, but I was fortunate – the hospital chaplain took pity on my situation and called in a favor. The astonishing thing was – everyone was afraid to be exposed to me (the chaplain, the apartment manager, the radiology personnel) – yet it was ok to go home and expose my family. This happened a year ago, in February 2005.

Today, February 9, 2006, I am isolated in my home, yesterday having had a scan-dose of RAI 131. This time the dose was smaller – and I will be scanned tomorrow. Everyone has again assured me that I am not risking my family's health. I am in a private bedroom, with a private bath – and no one in the family is permitted to come down this hallway. Seriously, I don't want to over-react – but if someone in my family is diagnosed with thyroid cancer or god-forbid leukemia – to whom do I complain? This isn't about money – this isn't about insurance – this is about the lives of my loved ones! My daughter's comment hit me hard: “seriously, Mom, it would be unusual if one of us *didn't* get leukemia!”

My understanding is that thyroid cancer is on the rise – and I have to believe it has something to do with the patients who have received RAI 131 and been set loose on the world. We are, after all, Mobile Chernobyl!

Jeanne Greenfield
Hashimoto's Thyroiditis 11/2003; Thyroid Antibodies
Follicular Variant of Papillary Carcinoma 01/2005
Total Thyroidectomy 01/2005; 150mci RAI 131 02/2005
Scan-dose RAI 131 02/2006

Template = SECY-067

SECY-02

From: Carol Gallagher
To: Evangeline Ngbea
Date: Fri, Feb 10, 2006 10:14 AM
Subject: Comment letter on PRM-35-18

Attached for docketing is a comment letter on the above noted PRM from Jeanne Greenfield that I received via the rulemaking website on 2/9/06.

Her address is:

Jeanne Greenfield
3081 Longview Lane
Santa Ynez CA 93460
jeg@sbceo.org

Carol

Mail Envelope Properties (43ECADD6.21E : 3 : 886)

Subject: Comment letter on PRM-35-18
Creation Date: 2/10/06 10:14AM
From: Carol Gallagher

Created By: CAG@nrc.gov

Recipients

nrc.gov
owf5_po.OWFN_DO
ESN (Evangeline Ngbea)

Post Office

owf5_po.OWFN_DO

Route

nrc.gov

Files

MESSAGE
1661-0018.pdf

Size

1152
15335

Date & Time

02/10/06 10:14AM
02/10/06 10:12AM

Options

Expiration Date: None
Priority: Standard
Reply Requested: No
Return Notification: None

Concealed Subject: No
Security: Standard