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Supplementary Note. I do not intent to repeat comments I have made previously, or to rebut the comments of others. I would only like to stress a point that has emerged from the comment process, and that introduces a public health issue I had not focused on adequately before. That is the practice, apparently widespread, of encouraging I-131 patients to go to hotels when they are at their most radioactive, rather than going home.

That means that the effect of the 1997 rule is to transfer the radiation burden to the chambermaids who clean the rooms. Are they warned that the sheets they are changing and the trash they are emptying are contaminated? It does not seem likely. Patients are told to wash their laundry separately from the laundry of other family members. Does anyone tell hotels to segregate contaminated from uncontaminated laundry? And what about the next hotel guest, who arrives, possibly pregnant or with small children, in a room just vacated by a radioactive patient?

We know from one commenter of at least one hospital that has a regular arrangement to send all its I-131 patients to a particular hotel; the patients even receive a special rate. Presumably, then, some chambermaids are cleaning the rooms of many I-131 patients. This is a public health issue and a moral issue that NRC cannot in conscience ignore.

Template = SECY-067

SECY-02

From: Carol Gallagher
To: Evangeline Ngbea
Date: Tue, Mar 7, 2006 10:15 AM
Subject: Comment letter on PRM-35-18

Attached for docketing is a comment letter on the above noted PRM from Peter G. Crane that I received via the rulemaking website on 3/6/06.

Carol

Mail Envelope Properties (440DA399.21E : 3 : 886)

Subject: Comment letter on PRM-35-18
Creation Date: 3/7/06 10:15AM
From: Carol Gallagher

Created By: CAG@nrc.gov

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