

Southampton Memorial Hospital

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DEC -7 AM 107

November 30, 1992

Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, Docket No. PRM-170-3

Dear Sirs:

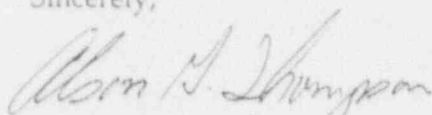
This letter is in support of the American College of Nuclear Physicians and Society of Nuclear Medicine petition for rulemaking on licensing, inspection, and annual fees charged to licensees. I would also like to voice Southampton Memorial Hospital's concerns on these annual fees.

Southampton Memorial is requesting that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission exempt health care facilities from licensing fees as is now being provided for non-profit educational institutions due to their particular contributions to the communities and society it serves. As a 200 bed institution, the fees paid in 1991 (\$3,500 as material user fee) compared to fees paid in 1992 (\$5,750 as material user and inspection fee) have increased over 64%.

The payor mix in our Nuclear Medicine Department is 76% Medicare, Medicaid, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield with fixed reimbursements. Any cost increases jeopardizes the Nuclear Medicine Department's operation. Being located in a rural area, the Hospital needs to continue its operation for the well being of the community.

It's our hope that there will be consideration for sliding scales of fees in comparison to the facilities size and that each institution will be considered for its particular circumstance as a health care provider.

Sincerely,



Alson G. Thompson, RRT
Administrative Director Cardiopulmonary/Radiology