

IN RESPONSE, PLEASE
REFER TO: M930729

August 9, 1993

MEMORANDUM TO: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - BRIEFING ON OPTIONS FOR
CHANGES TO REGULATION OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE,
10:00 A.M., THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1993,
COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM, ONE WHITE
FLINT NORTH, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND (OPEN TO
PUBLIC ATTENDANCE)

The Commission was briefed by the NRC staff on options for changes to the regulation of radiation medicine and the report of the Task Force which studied the options. The Commission recognized the limitations of the report stemming from Commission restraints and the tight schedule under which it was prepared. The Commission is interested in obtaining additional input to the report from a number of patients' rights and consumer interest groups and representatives. Also the Commission noted that the question of what is the proper scope of Federal regulation of radiation medicine goes beyond NRC's purview because it includes activities (such as regulation of linear accelerators) and considerations (such as cost-effectiveness of the use of the nation's regulatory and health care resources) for which NRC has no statutory authority.

Therefore, the Commission asks that the Task Force's effort be continued so as to prepare for public release by September 10, 1993, a final report including the above additional consumer group input. The report should indicate also the breadth of the question that was directed to the NRC staff and the extent to which the Task Force was able to address that breadth.

In addition, to the extent practicable within resource and time constraints, the Commission would prefer that the final report provide (1) a sharpened characterization of the various options which considers their practicability and other pros and cons (to the extent that the available information would allow, even if only on a tentative basis), and (2) at least a preliminary indication of what additional data are needed to perform an appropriate evaluation of these options (i.e., data needed to consider both protection of public health and safety and effective use of resources) and the Task Force's recommendations

on how the necessary data might be acquired.

Also, the Commission requested that the final report reflect some examination of the data currently available (from Agreement and non-Agreement States) to more accurately assess the magnitude (and its uncertainty) of the risks of misadministrations.

The report should be forwarded for Commission review and approval prior to issuing the report to the public.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

9/3/93)

cc: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque
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OCA
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