December 17, 2002

William R. Hendee, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean and Vice President
Office of Research, Technology and Informatics
Medical College of Wisconsin
8701 Watertown Plank Road
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226

Dear Dr. Hendee:

I am responding on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter of November 19, 2002, written on behalf of the American Board of Radiology and other certification boards. Your letter expressed concerns regarding possible revisions to 10 CFR Part 35 that could impact NRC recognition of the various certification boards. Specifically, you requested that the Commission make the NRC staff options paper on this matter public. You also reiterated the desire of the certification boards for continued NRC recognition that the boards provide "evidence of competency" for their diplomats.

The Commission made the NRC staff options paper on this subject publicly available on November 19, 2002. You can access this document (SECY-02-0194) on our web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/2002/. An electronic copy of this web link was also e-mailed to you by one of the NRC staff.

The Commission is currently evaluating the NRC staff options paper. We recognize the importance of this issue to the certification boards and also appreciate how hard you and others associated with the boards worked on this issue with the NRC Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes. The ongoing dialog with stakeholders in the medical community is helpful and constructive.

If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve