

March 31, 2003

The Honorable W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested by the staff of your committee, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has reviewed the amendment pertaining to medical isotope production that could be offered by Representative Burr at the Energy and Commerce Committee's markup of the proposed "Energy Policy Act of 2003." The purpose of the amendment is to ensure that there will not be statutory impediments to the timely export of high-enriched uranium targets for the production of medical isotopes by specified countries in reactors that are either utilizing low-enriched uranium fuel or have agreed to convert to use of such fuel. As the Committee is aware, targets utilizing low-enriched uranium are being developed, but are not yet available for use.

The Commission believes that the enactment of this amendment could be of benefit in ensuring the timely supply of medical isotopes to the United States. Accordingly, the Commission does not object to the amendment.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Representative John Dingell
Representative Richard Burr