

American Board of Health Physics

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PRM-35-20
(71FR64168)

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USNRC

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December 29, 2006

December 29, 2006 (4:00pm)

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary
Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Subject: Comment of Petition for Rulemaking (Docket No. PRM-35-20)

Dear Ms. Vietti-Cook:

This letter is to provide comments on the petition for rulemaking filed by E. Russell Ritenour, Ph.D for the American Association of Medical Physicists, which was published in the Federal Register on November 1, 2006.

Mr. Ritenour's petition seeks to restore the recognition of diplomates of certifying boards that were previously recognized in 10 CFR Part 35 prior to October 25, 2005. The American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) supports this petition for rulemaking, and urges the Commission to amend its regulations as stated in paragraph 4.2 of the petition to "recognize individuals that were certified by a board that was listed in Subpart J of the of the old regulations for . . . §§ 35.50 (RSO) . . . prior to October 24, 2005."

The ABHP is currently listed on the NRC website as meeting the Training and Experience requirements of Part 35 for Radiation Safety Officers (RSOs). The ABHP is listed with an effective date of January 1, 2005. As the ABHP has stated in previous correspondence, the ABHP was formed in 1958 and has granted 2,019 certifications in health physics over the past 48 years, of which 1,302 were still active. In addition, the ABHP recently certified an additional 37 individuals following the 2006 examinations for a total of 2,056. Of these, only the 53 individuals certified in the last two years have their certifications recognized as meeting the requirements of Part 35 for being listed as an RSO.

It is apparent that the certification board requirements of Part 35 were modeled on the ABHP requirements. These requirements include experience and academic requirements in addition to a rigorous examination covering radiation protection topics. While the ABHP believes that all of its diplomates meet the intent of the training and education requirements of Part 35 and that the vast majority (>95 percent) meet all of these requirements, minor differences in degree type between these two sets of requirements prevent a blanket assertion by the ABHP that *all* of its diplomates prior to 2005 meet these requirements.

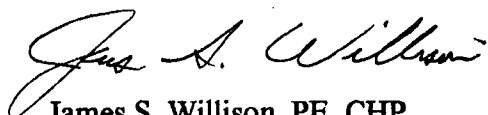
The ABHP agrees with Mr. Ritenour's petition that there is no evidence to support the premise that the training and experience requirements for RSO that were acceptable before October 25,

2005 are no longer acceptable as of October 25, 2005. Individuals certified prior to October 25, 2005 by the recognized boards should not be forced to use the alternate pathway. These additional steps are likely to pose an undue burden upon individuals and upon the radiation protection community.

In summary, the ABHP urges the Commission to favorably consider the Ritenour petition for rulemaking and modify 10 CFR 35 to recognize the certifications of those individuals who met the Part 35 training and experience requirements for RSO as of October 25, 2005.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact me at (803) 502-9852 or at my e-mail address (jim.willison@wsms.com) or you may contact the 2007 Board Chair Shawn Googins at 301-704-0255 or at (sgoogins@googins.org). Thank you for this consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



James S. Willison, PE, CHP
Chair, American Board of Health Physics

Cc: Richard J. Burk, Jr., Secretariat
Nancy Johnson, ABHP Program Director, Secretariat
James S. Bogard, President, AAHP
Ed Maher, President-Elect, AAHP
Shawn Googins, 2007 Chair, ABHP

From: "Willison, Jim" <jim.willison@wsms.com>
To: <SECY@nrc.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 29, 2006 3:34 PM
Subject: ABHP Comments on PRM-35-20

The American Board of Health Physics has prepared written comments in support of petition for rulemaking PRM-35-20. A hard copy of these comments is being sent through US mail. A courtesy electronic copy is attached to this email.

Jim Willison
ABHP Chair

Mail Envelope Properties (45957BE1.97B : 18 : 18811)

Subject: ABHP Comments on PRM-35-20
Creation Date Fri, Dec 29, 2006 3:33 PM
From: "Willison, Jim" <jim.willison@wsms.com>

Created By: jim.willison@wsms.com

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