PRM-35-20
(71FR64168)

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January 18, 2007 (8:30am)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

January 16, 2007

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

Re: PRM-35-20

Dear Ms. Vietti-Cook:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the petition for rulemaking filed by E. Russell Ritenour, Ph.D., on behalf of the American Association of Medical Physicists as published in the Federal Register Vol. 71 No. 211 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.

As a diplomate of the American Board of Health Physics, I support this petition for rulemaking; and urge 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 10CFR35.900 Subpart J - Training and Experience Requirements - Radiation Safety Officer. [Revised as of January 1, 2002]".

Although the petition specifically focuses on the American Board of Radiology and the American Board of Medical Physics in its discussion of this portion of the proposed rule change, the proposed change presented to the Commission, is more general. As such it includes recognition of individuals certified by the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP) in Comprehensive Health Physics as meeting the training and education (T&E) requirements to be an RSO on a medical license.

Candidates for certification by the American Board of Health Physics must meet the following requirements:

Academics. An applicant must possess at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in physical science, engineering, mathematics, or in a biological science with a minor in physical science, engineering, or mathematics. In lieu of a minor in a physical science, engineering, or mathematics, a candidate for certification may submit evidence of credit from an accredited college or university for course work in physical sciences, engineering, or mathematics equivalent to 20 semester hours.

Experience. An applicant must have at least six years of responsible professional experience in health physics as of July 1 of the year in which the examination is to be taken. At least three years of the experience must have been in applied health physics. The six years of professional experience, which must be documented by an applicant for Part II of the exam, must be

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experience that demonstrates that the candidate has been required to exercise judgment in one, or more, of the following:

Establishment and/or evaluation of a radiation protection program

Design and/or the evaluation of the design of the radiation protection aspects of a facility

Design and implementation of a radiation protection training course or program

Development of an experimental and/or measurement program designed to answer questions related to radiation protection

Evaluation of measurement data

Analysis and solution of radiation protection problems

Preparation, interpretation and implementation of recommedations and regulations.

The current regulations require that individuals certified prior to October 25, 2005 by the ABHP be forced to use the alternate pathway. I have, however, seen no evidence that support the assertion implicit in the current regulations that individuals certified prior to 2005 are any less capable of performing as RSO. Therefore, these additional steps pose a burden upon individuals and licensees without a corresponding increase in public or worker health and safety.

I believe that my certification by the ABHP establishes my credentials as a radiation safety professional. The ABHP comprehensive certification exam is devoted to radiation safety and training and has included medical applications since its inception. Therefore, I believe that individuals considered qualified to be RSO prior to October 25, 2005 by virtue of their board certification should continue to be considered qualified to hold this position.

In conclusion, as a certified health physicist, I believe that my certification by the ABHP establishes that I have the requisite training and education to serve as an RSO at a medical institution. I encourage the Commission to favorably consider the 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.

Sincerely,

Edwin L. Wright, CHP

From: Carol Gallagher
To: SECY
Date: Wed, Jan 17, 2007 4:59 PM
Subject: Comment letter on PRM-35-20

Attached for docketing is a comment letter on the above noted PRM that I received via the rulemaking website on 1/17/07.

The commenter's address is:

Edwin L. Wright, CHP
11287 SE 56th Ave
Milwaukie OR 97222

Carol

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Subject:	Comment letter on PRM-35-20
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