

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / /

EDO CONTROL: G20070547
DOC DT: 08/08/07
FINAL REPLY:

Kevin Nelson
Health Physics Society

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 07-0522

DESC:

Management of the University Education Assistance
Program to NRC for the Health Physics Society
(EDATS: SECY-2007-0264)

ROUTING:

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Ash
Ordaz
Cyr/Burns
McDermott, HR

DATE: 08/08/07

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

RES

Sheron

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For Appropriate Action.

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



EDATS Number: SECY-2007-0264

Initiating Office: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: RES **OEDO Due Date:** NONE
Other Assignees: **SECY Due Date:** NONE
Subject: Management of the University Education Assistance Program to NRC for the Health Physics Society
Description:
CC Routing: HR
ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE **Response/Package:** NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20070547, LTR-07-0522 **Staff Initiated:** NO
Related Task: **Recurring Item:** NO
File Routing: EDATS **Agency Lesson Learned:** NO

Process Information

Action Type: Appropriate Action **Priority:** Medium
Signature Level: No Signature Required **Sensitivity:** None
OEDO Concurrence: NO **Urgency:** NO
OCM Concurrence: NO
OCA Concurrence: NO
Special Instructions: For Appropriate Action.

Document Information

Originator Name: Kevin Nelson **Date of Incoming:** 8/8/2007
Originating Organization: Health Physics Society **Document Received by SECY Date:** 8/8/2007
Addressee: Chairman Klein **Date Response Requested by Originator:** NONE
Incoming Task Received: Letter



HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

"Specialists in Radiation Safety"

August 8, 2007

The Honorable Dale E. Klein
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Kevin L. Nelson, PhD, CHP

President

Mayo Clinic Jacksonville
Mayo Bldg 1-185N
4500 San Pablo Road
Jacksonville, FL 32224

Telephone: (904) 953-8978

Fax: (904) 953-1010

Email: nelson.kevin2@mavo.edu

Dear Chairman Klein:

I am providing, for your information, the latest Health Physics Society correspondence to the House and Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations committees regarding one aspect of their action on appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008.

As you know, the Health Physics Society is deeply concerned about the human capital crisis facing the nation's radiation safety professionals. An important part of combating this issue is the continued adequate funding of health physics academic programs to support students, faculty, and the infrastructure. Both the House and the Senate have rejected the administration's budget to not fund the existing university education support program managed by the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy. The House has voted to entrust the management of the university education assistance program to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Senate is expected to approve the subcommittee recommendation to remove money from the Department of Energy (DOE) research and development accounts and task the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy to continue to manage the University Reactor Fuel Assistance and Support program, which includes academic program support.

I thought you would be interested in the position of the Health Physics Society as it supports the efforts of the health physics academic program directors in securing funding support. I have enclosed, for your information, my letter to Senator Byrd, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. As you can see, the health physics community does not have a position on what agency should manage health physics program support

but does ask the congress to include specific language in their appropriations report to clearly specify that health physics is included in the disciplines that are supported and the support be directed to scholarships, graduate fellowships, faculty support and associate degree programs.

If the NRC is eventually tasked with managing this critical program, I would like to ask that the Health Physics Society be included in any advisory or consultation efforts the NRC undergoes as it develops its plan for implementing this program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "N".

Kevin Nelson, PhD, CHP

Attachment



HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

"Specialists in Radiation Safety"

August 1, 2007

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
United States Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Kevin L. Nelson, PhD, CHP

President

Mayo Clinic Jacksonville
Mayo Bldg 1-185N
4500 San Pablo Road
Jacksonville, FL 32224
Telephone: (904) 953-8978
Fax: (904) 953-1010
Email: nelson.kevin2@mayo.edu

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Health Physics Society, thank you for your leadership in taking action to combat the looming human capital crisis in the nation's supply of radiation safety professionals by restoring funding in S.1751, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, 2008, for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Nuclear Energy Research and Development *University Reactor Fuel Assistance and Support* line.

The Health Physics Society is now asking you to ensure that the conference committee report on Energy and Water Development Appropriations specifies that the funding for university academic programs in the nuclear sciences includes health physics programs and that it is for the conduct of scholarships, graduate fellowships, junior faculty support, and associate degree programs.

Our concern is that the conference committee report needs to provide specific direction as to how the appropriations are to be used. Two separate agencies have the potential for being tasked to manage the nuclear science's university academic program support, that is, the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy as recommended by the Senate or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as recommended by the House. **Whichever agency is eventually tasked with managing this program, they must have clear direction as to how the funding is to be spent.**

If the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy is tasked with managing the university support program we are concerned that without specific language they will not spend the money on deserving individual students or programs for scholarships, fellowships, junior faculty support, or associate degree program support but that they will funnel it into the new Nuclear Energy Research Initiative - Consortia (NEIR-C) program they have proposed. It is our experience that specific language to DOE is required to ensure that the

vehicles needed to sustain and grow the academic programs and to combat the human capital crisis in radiation safety professionals are actually funded. The vehicles needed by the university programs are student scholarships, graduate fellowships, and faculty support for four year, graduate, and associate degree programs available to any institution of higher learning with qualifying programs. As an example of the need for specific report language, the DOE did not recognize health physics as a qualifying nuclear science program for the Nuclear Engineering Scholarship and Fellowship Program. Then, finally, Senate Report 108-105, Energy and Water Development Appropriations for 2004, specifically tasked the DOE to request sufficient funds in future years to fund health physics programs.

We do not know how the NRC would administer this appropriation if they were tasked with managing the nuclear science's university support program. To our knowledge, the only existing legislation authorizing the NRC to support a university scholarship and fellowship program is Section 622 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Section 622). If the NRC does receive the appropriations and tasking, we have concerns, in the absence of other specific appropriations report language, that they may view this as an extension of the authorization in Section 622. Our concerns are due to the fact that (1) Section 622 carries a requirement that recipients of scholarship and graduate fellowship assistance must agree to employment with the NRC following completion of their program, (2) the NRC may not extend the university program support to needed vehicles such as infrastructure and faculty support or to associate degree programs and, (3) the NRC may extend the funding to fields of study beyond the nuclear sciences. Regarding concern (1) above, while the NRC clearly needs health physicists in the future, many other entities will also need health physicists; which the employment requirement does not support.

The Health Physics Society looks forward to your assistance in completing the task in which you have been a national leader, that is, funding an appropriate agency to manage a university support program for the nuclear sciences, including health physics, in order to combat the looming human capital crisis facing the nuclear energy industry and particularly the radiation safety profession.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,



Kevin L. Nelson, PhD, CHP

Nancy Belmore - HPS Letter to the Chairman and Commissioners

From: "Keith Dinger" <govtliasion@hps.org>
To: "Nancy Bellmore" <ndb2@nrc.gov>
Date: 08/08/2007 10:24 AM
Subject: HPS Letter to the Chairman and Commissioners

Dear Nancy

On behalf of Health Physics Society (HPS) President Kevin Nelson, I put the attached letter from President Nelson to the Chairman and a similar letter to each of the Commissioners in FedEx today to be delivered tomorrow. As I explained, since it deals with a congressional affairs issue I thought the Director or other congressional affairs staff would appreciate an advanced copy.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if Director Schmidt or any of the staff have any questions about the attached.

Best Wishes,

Keith

Keith H. Dinger, CHP
Governmental Relations Liaison
Health Physics Society
Tel: 603-692-4270
Cell: 603-781-4117
govtliasion@hps.org
<http://hps.org>

Mail Envelope Properties (46B9D21C.539 : 16 : 30009)

Subject: HPS Letter to the Chairman and Commissioners
Creation Date 08/08/2007 10:21:57 AM
From: "Keith Dinger" <govtliaison@hps.org>

Created By: govtliaison@hps.org

Recipients

nrc.gov
OWGWPO01.HQGWDO01
NDB2 (Nancy Belmore)

Post Office

OWGWPO01.HQGWDO01

Route

nrc.gov

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	685	08/08/2007 10:21:57 AM
TEXT.htm	1717	
nrc_Klein_fy08appropriations.pdf		97953
Mime.822	138762	

Options

Expiration Date: None
Priority: Standard
ReplyRequested: No
Return Notification: None

Concealed Subject: No
Security: Standard

Junk Mail Handling Evaluation Results

Message is eligible for Junk Mail handling
This message was not classified as Junk Mail

Junk Mail settings when this message was delivered

Junk Mail handling disabled by User
Junk Mail handling disabled by Administrator.
Junk List is not enabled
Junk Mail using personal address books is not enabled
Block List is not enabled