

May 5, 2008

Ms. Debbie Bray Gilley, Chairperson
Conference of Radiation Control
Program Directors, Inc.
205 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Ms. Gilley,

Thank you for your letter dated April 3, 2008, which provided comments and recommendations from the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD) on the report entitled "Radiation Source Use and Replacement," prepared by the National Research Council and the National Academies of Science. CRCPD's comments and recommendations address both programmatic issues as well as specific items for consideration. As a general matter, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff agrees with your recommendations, many of which we have already been working to address. Each of your recommendations, such as the need for a careful review of the current use of the sources in question, the role of the Federal government, impacts on medical practice and research, unintended international consequences, and the impact on the States' regulatory programs, represent issues that the NRC, other Federal agencies, and States need to consider together in the context of any potential regulatory actions.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 established the Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force (Task Force) which is comprised of 14 Federal agencies and includes representatives of CRCPD and the Organization of Agreement States, Inc. (OAS). The Task Force meets regularly and plans to systematically address the information contained in the "Radiation Source Use and Replacement" report, as well as related comments such as CRCPD's, with the goal of submitting a report to Congress in 2010. I want to assure you that we will continue to coordinate closely with and actively involve the CRCPD, OAS, individual States, and other external stakeholders, through the Task Force and routine interactions between our organizations. The continued presence of State representatives on the Task Force and its related sub-groups will help assure that CRCPD and OAS views on these matters are thoroughly considered.

I look forward to further cooperation with you and with the CRCPD for enhancing the security of radioactive sources.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Martin J. Virgilio
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,
Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

cc: Cindy Cardwell, OAS

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