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Office of State Programs
Items of Interest
Week Ending February 23, 1996

Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management

Maria Lopez-Otin, Federal Liaison, attended the February 14, 1996 meeting of the Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management held in Washington, D.C. The Commission was authorized by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and is composed of ten members who have been meeting since May of 1994. The Commission's Chairman is Gilbert S. Omenn, Phd., Dean of the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. The Commission is to consider how human health risk assessments are performed and how the results of such assessments are used in regulatory decision-making. The Commission heard testimony from representatives of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA emphasized its dealing with wide range environmental risks while FDA emphasized that they look at risks from specific devices and chemicals. Of interest to the NRC is the Commission's goal on balancing between real and theoretical risks. The Commission plans to issue a draft report for review in March 1996, with a final report in the fall of 1996.

State of Maryland Renews License for Neutron Products, Inc.

The State of Maryland, an Agreement State, issued a license renewal for the source manufacturing operations at Neutron Products, Inc. (NPI), in Dickerson, Maryland. The renewal completes work that has been ongoing for many years and was delayed due to litigation with the licensee. The renewed license was sent to the licensee by letter dated February 1, 1996. Maryland's recent promulgation of their rules that are equivalent to NRC's new Part 20 and decommissioning funding surety requirements, together with this license renewal, establish an up-to-date framework for conducting regulatory activities.

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