EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 07/29/08 EDO CONTROL: G20080488
DOC DT: 07/17/08
FINAL REPLY:

Representative Jane Harmon

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 08-0388

Chairman Klein

DESC:

Cesium Chloride Irradiators
(EDATS: SECY-2008-0418)

ROUTING:

Borchardt
Virgilio
Mallett
Ash
Ordaz
Cyr/Burns
Zimmerman, NSIR
Schmidt, OCA
Bagley, OEDO

DATE: 07/18/08

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

FSME Miller

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

EDATS Number: SECY-2008-0418 **Source:** SECY

General Information

Assigned To: FSME
Other Assignees:
Subject: Cesium Chloride Irradiators
Description:

CC Routing: NSIR; OCA
ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

OEDO Due Date: 7/29/2008 5:00 PM
SECY Due Date: 7/31/2008 5:00 PM
Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20080488, LTR-08-0388
Related Task:
File Routing: EDATS

Staff Initiated: NO
Recurring Item: NO
Agency Lesson Learned: NO
Roadmap Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Signature Level: Chairman Klein
OEDO Concurrence: YES
OCM Concurrence: NO
OCA Concurrence: NO
Special Instructions:

Priority: Medium
Sensitivity: None
Urgency: NO

Document Information

Originator Name: Representative Jane Harman
Originating Organization: Congress
Addressee: Chairman Klein
Incoming Task Received: Letter

Date of Incoming: 7/17/2008
Document Received by SECY Date: 7/18/2008
Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jul 18, 2008 08:59

PAPER NUMBER:	LTR-08-0388	**LOGGING DATE:**	07/18/2008
ACTION OFFICE:	EDO		

AUTHOR:	REP Jane Harman
AFFILIATION:	CONG
ADDRESSEE:	CHRM Dale Klein
SUBJECT:	Cesium chloride irradiators
ACTION:	Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION:	RF, OCA to Ack.
LETTER DATE:	07/17/2008
ACKNOWLEDGED	No
SPECIAL HANDLING:	Commission Correspondence
NOTES:	
FILE LOCATION:	ADAMS
DATE DUE:	07/31/2008
DATE SIGNED:	

EDO --G20080488

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NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN
36TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

July 17, 2008

The Honorable Dale Klein
Chairman
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, Cesium-137 in its readily dispersible form (cesium chloride) poses a serious national security risk if acquired by terrorists and used to construct a dirty bomb. Many hospitals and universities use this radiological material in blood and research irradiators. These cesium chloride irradiators were not designed with security in mind and thus are vulnerable to acts of terrorism.

I applaud the steps that the Commission and the Departments of Homeland Security and Energy are taking to mitigate this threat. However, I encourage you to focus on a permanent solution and initiate a public rulemaking to develop regulations to eliminate the use of cesium chloride altogether. Retrofitting blood and research irradiators with security enhancements should not be the end goal. Federal agencies must also work with local law enforcement and the user community to secure radiological materials and prepare them for responding to a potential cesium theft. It is also important for the Commission to develop and use the capability to analyze the economic consequences of a radiological dispersal device and factor those impacts into decisions about safety and security requirements.

Many experts, including the National Academies of Science, argue that alternatives to cesium chloride radiation sources are feasible and note that some are already available. I urge you to consider discontinuing the licensing of new cesium chloride irradiators and instead creating an internal rule to require that blood/research irradiators using cesium chloride be replaced.

Please let me know how I can be of assistance.

Regards,

JANE HARMAN

CC: The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Commissioner Gregory Jaczko
Commissioner Peter Lyons
Commissioner Kristine Svinicki

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Congresswoman Jane Harman

♦36th District of California♦

FAX COVER SHEET

To: Annette Vietti-Cook (Secretary of the Commission) From: Congresswoman Jane Harman

Fax: 301-415-1672 Pages: 2

Phone: 202-225-8220 Date: 7/17/08

Re: letter attached CC:

☒ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

• Comments:

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