

August 11, 2008

Peter Crane
6545 27th Ave. NW
Seattle, WA 98117

SUBJECT: LETTER DATED JUNE 29, 2008

Dear Mr. Crane:

I am responding to your June 29, 2008, letter in which you described your concerns with regard to Dr. Darrell Fisher's patients' rights advocate title on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI).

Although the National Association of Cancer Patient's (NACP's) website currently states their status as a Section 501(c)(4) organization, the NRC staff verified with the Internal Revenue Service that the NACP was registered as a Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization before sending you our June 11, 2008, response. It appears that the website you relied on may be misleading.

NRC fully agrees with you that ACMUI's work benefits from understanding the perspective of patients, but it is our impression that Dr. Fisher's background and his work with ACMUI show him to be an effective spokesman for patient concerns. For example, over the years Dr. Fisher has served as a volunteer or cancer patient counselor with many organizations, including the Citizens for Medical Isotopes, Fighting Children's Cancer Foundation, and Nuclear Medicine Research Council. While serving on the ACMUI, Dr. Fisher has spoken up for patient interests on a wide range of issues, as documented in the following publicly available ACMUI meeting transcripts: June 13, 2007, October 22 and 23, 2007; and April 28, 2008.

As noted in our June 11, 2008, letter to you, we continue to believe that Dr. Fisher represents patients' perspectives effectively. The NRC staff intends to retain Dr. Fisher's title as patients' rights advocate on the ACMUI. We, of course, would welcome any nomination from the general public whenever an ACMUI vacancy occurs.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles L. Miller, Director
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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