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Michael Lesar, Chief  
Rulemaking, Directives, and Editing Branch  
Office of Administration  
Mail Stop T-6D59  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sir;

It has been brought to the attention of the medical research community that the NRC is soliciting public input on the issues associated with certain forms of cesium chloride ( $^{137}\text{CsCl}$ ) currently in use by NRC licensees. I write to inform you that the need for a frequently available irradiating source in my research has in the past been met by the use of an NRC licensed CsCl irradiator.

For my research, this unit is used by my laboratory at least weekly to irradiate cells to be infected with Influenza for the on-going propagation of the Influenza-specific normal, non-transformed T cell lines which we study. My research also makes use of chimeric mice, generated by the engraftment of genetically marked bone marrow cells into mice that have been subjected to total body irradiation. This is a procedure which at our institution can not be done in any irradiator except our research unit. As my work continues, I will continue to need a method of irradiation as reliable, inexpensive and usable as the research CsCl irradiator that is available to me at my institution. We can not use an X-ray source to replace the  $^{137}\text{Cs}$   $\gamma$ -irradiation source for studies with irradiated mice and cells.

I am not unaware of the potential of risk if these sources of CsCl are handled or used in a malicious act. My personnel have cooperated in the implementation of the strict measures already put into place to protect this radioactive source and to limit access to the source and they will continue to do so if even stricter measures are thought to be required. We are willing to implement more restrictive measures to protect this  $\gamma$ -ray source, if these can be put into place without compromising my research program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas J. Braciale M.D. Ph.D.  
Director, Beirne B. Carter Center for Immunology Research

SUNSI Review Complete  
Template Review Complete

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