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Security and Continued Use of Cesium-137 Chloride Sources and Notice of Public Meeting

Comment On: NRC-2008-0419-0014

Security and Continued Use of Cesium-137 Chloride Sources: Granting Extension of Comment Period

Document: NRC-2008-0419-DRAFT-0033

Comment on FR Doc # E8-22688

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES
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General Comment

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

Dear Dr. Lesar:

I am a practicing radiation oncologist and a basic science researcher studying DNA damage responses in human cells. I write to express my thoughts on the use of cesium source irradiators. I know from my clinical work that the treatments that we standardly use for cancer can be much improved, and it is my goal to improve these treatments through research. My research is critically dependent on the use of cesium as a source to apply clinically relevant doses of radiation to cells and small animals for use in what I believe is important cancer research. In addition, my research should give insight into the basic mechanisms of radiation response that could be used to design radiation countermeasures. I know that there are many other researchers also working on these important problems both in my institution, and nation-wide. I strongly encourage you to consider allowing the continued use of cesium in research. I know from personal experience at my institution (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) that the security measures surrounding the source are greatly improved in the past 3 years, and I now think

SONSI Review Complete
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 Add = J. Jankovich (JP52)

that it is a very secure site. I would ask you to consider ensuring similar levels of security nation-wide, and maintaining this vital resource for the research community.

Sincerely yours,
Scott Floyd