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Harry W. Orf, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Scientific Operations  
and Professor of Chemistry

5353 Parkside Drive, RF-A  
Jupiter, Florida 33458  
Telephone: 561 799 8944  
Facsimile: 561 799 8959  
E-mail: harryo@scripps.edu

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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

**RE: Public Comments on the Continued Use of Cesium-137 Sources**

Dear Mr. Lesar,

In response to the Request for Comments by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the issue referenced above, please accept this letter. Our comments are as follows:

- We fully support the comments made by Richard Toohey, Ph.D, President of the Health Physics Society, which urge careful and thoughtful approaches in making a decision on the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences report on CsCl utilization and possible source replacement alternatives.
- We also note that Question Q2-2, in Issue No. 2 – Use of Alternative Technologies, which is listed in the request for comments, fails to fully address the issue of the cost of alternative technologies, such as x-ray or electron beams. The cost benefit analysis of alternative technologies should include not only the cost of replacement, calibration and maintenance, but also the cost of down-time for critical-use biomedical research irradiators.

The risk of intent to maliciously use CsCl sources in a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) is assumed to be 100% for the purposes of protecting such sources. The risk of a given CsCl source being successfully obtained for the purpose of an RDD, under current Increased Control security requirements is, at best, unquantifiable. We urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to carefully consider all of the quantifiable risks and associated costs, and verify that essential biomedical research, for example that funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, or the National Science Foundation, is not impaired by any potential actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Orf, Ph.D.  
VP, Scientific Operations  
Professor of Chemistry

John Cleveland, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair  
Dept. of Cancer Biology

Howard Petrie, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Dept. of Cancer Biology

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Add = J. Jankovic (SPS2)

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