

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Docket: NRC-2008-0419
 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-0056
 Comment on FR Doc # E8-22688

Submitter Information

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Comment

The use of Cesium irradiators in radiobiology and in immunology is critical to good quality results. These irradiators, with proper attenuation, allow exposures to a wide range of dose rates with uniform radiation fields, and further allow for irradiation from below, which is critical for certain applications and not possible with x-ray cabinets. The safety of this equipment in day-to-day use is also far superior to the hazards posed to operators from x-ray cabinets as there is no electrical or fire risk involved. With proper safeguards, these irradiators are a safe flexible and highly useful tool in biological sciences. In my career as an immunologist, then as a radiobiology researcher in the U.S. and U.K., I have used these to irradiate everything from cells to biopolymers, mice to fruitflies. I am currently the senior radiation protection supervisor for our department and consider this equipment to be more reliable, consistent and safe than the x-ray units and Linacs that we also have.

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