

DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEM

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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

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES
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USNRC

Dear Mr. Lesar,

I am the primary user of a Cesium-137 Chloride irradiator, a cancer researcher and I am actively involved in developing and testing countermeasures against radiation injury. I am writing to convey my opinion that the improved security measures implemented at my institution sufficiently restrict access to the Cs-137 Cl irradiator such that the radioactive source does not pose a major risk to public safety.

I remain critically dependent on the Cs-137 Cl source for my research studies. I have helped develop and test a gene therapy approach with encouraging early results in patients with prostate cancer (extensively published in the scientific literature) and pancreatic cancer (unpublished). My research to develop and test countermeasures against total body irradiation lethality, brain radiation injury, lung radiation injury and skin radiation injury all use the Cs-137 Cl irradiator. My studies involving the Cs-137 Cl irradiator are in the national interest. The Cs-137 Cl irradiator is the radioactive source of choice because it is more reliable than other sources; the Cs-137 Cl irradiator is more accessible than the clinical radiation machines, more dependable than our lower energy x-ray machines and provides a stable, predicatable dose distribution.

In order to access the irradiator, there are 5 levels of security between the general public and the radioactive source including more than one active security guard operational 24 hours a

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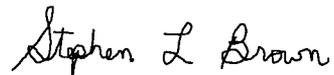
day, 7 days a week, a motion detector and three separate identification security checks (one physical and two electronic).

Obviously the Cs-137 CI irradiator is essential for much of my work and the loss of this equipment would have a devastating effect on my research endeavors.

Please contact me directly by page (313-705-9208) or email (sbrown1@hfhs.org) if you require further details or information.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen L. Brown".

Stephen L. Brown, Ph.D.
Staff Scientist, Henry Ford Hospital
Associate Professor, Wayne State School of Medicine