

January 31, 2013

Mr. Peter Crane
6545 27th Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98117

Dear Mr. Crane:

On behalf of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of July 16, 2012. I apologize for our delayed response. Your detailed review of NRC's regulation and guidance related to nuclear medicine, as well as the discussion of your concerns regarding patient release practices in the United States, provides useful input to the NRC in our review of these issues.

With regard to your concerns about patient release after radiation treatment, the Commission in April 2012 directed the staff to revisit the methods and calculations, and obtain data related to doses from patients who have been administered Iodine-131. Staff has begun implementing the Commission's direction and over the next few years, they will determine if new or updated guidance is needed with regard to patient release. We invite you to participate in future NRC stakeholder forums and opportunities for comment that may arise during assessment or revision to the medical program. In addition, please note that staff is revising 10 CFR Part 35 to address issues other than patient release, and will be soliciting public comments during the summer of 2013. We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking process.

The staff has reviewed your concern that the NRC's position on patient release is being misrepresented in a 2004 Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) publication titled "Guide for Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine and Radiopharmaceutical Therapy." Staff contacted SNM and SNM removed the statement attributed to the NRC from their website. The staff also notes that the NRC has not endorsed this publication as NRC guidance. We appreciate that you brought your concern to our attention.

Finally, I extend an invitation to you to meet with me to further discuss your concerns. Thank you for your time, and attention, and focus on the public's safety and well-being.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane