



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

July 27, 1979

FES AND SUPPLEMENT 1 DISTRIBUTION LIST (NUREG-0060)

Your comments are requested on the enclosed "Final Generic Environmental Statement on Routine Use of Plutonium-Powered Cardiac Pacemakers," (FES, NUREG-0060) issued in July 1976, and Supplement 1 to the FES, "Update of Information on Power Sources for Pacemakers." The Commission is interested in receiving additional public comments before considering a final regulation on the routine use of plutonium-powered cardiac pacemakers. Your comments should be sent to Mr. Ralph J. Jones, Chief, Transportation and Product Standards Branch, Office of Standards Development, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, by OCT 10 1979

Proposed amendments to NRC regulations were published in March 1977 (42 FR 13834) to lessen the administrative burden on patients, physicians, and regulatory agencies. Public comments on the proposed amendments raised no new safety questions. However, recent advancements in non-nuclear-powered pacemakers have prompted the NRC to reexamine the need for and how best to regulate Pu-238 pacemakers. Consequently, Supplement 1 was prepared by the staff to update the FES with respect to power sources for pacemakers.

Since the Supplement gives more current information on the extent of pacemaker use and the makeup of patient population, the Commission believes the public should have an opportunity to submit comments reflecting the present situation. The Commission will consider the comments received in its deliberations concerning the final rulemaking on the regulation of plutonium-powered cardiac pacemakers.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Minogue

Robert B. Minogue, Director
Office of Standards Development

Enclosures:

1. FES (NUREG-0060)
2. Supplement 1 to NUREG-0060

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