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(45) April 16, 1979

PROPOSED RULE 10 CFR 19, 20 (44FR10388)

Secretary of The Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Docketing & Service Branch

Dear Sirs:

In response to your proposed rule change(s) of 10CFR Parts 19 and 20 issued February 20, 1979, I wish to submit my thoughts on the elimination of the 5(N-18) formula.

Some time back a program was initiated which called for exposures to be held "AS LOW AS PRACTICAL" and was followed by our current "AS LOW AS REASONABLE ACHIEVABLE". These programs were to be achieved by planning, engineering, and design, etc. and did apparently exceed all expectations in that only 320 individuals exceeded 5 Rems during 1977.

It appears to me that we, the industry, did in fact take serious your "ALAP" and "ALARA" programs. Now that the program(s) are working, you are going to further penalize us by removing the only tool we had left in the regulations to handle some unforeseeable event. The elimination of this formula will not allow us the right to use volunteers (or volunteer ourselves) in the event of such a situation.

Based on your statement that "Elimination of the use of the formula would have little effect on the collective (man-rem) dose, but the individual risk could be reduced for approximately 320 people (1977 date)". I wish to ask some questions:

1) What is the risk that could be reduced?

2) How many more individuals must now be exposed to cover this small percentage (less than 0.5%)?

3) How many of those now to be exposed (based on the elimination of 5(N-18) are experienced and trained?

4) Are the rules and regulations I have been working under since 1955 that risky? (I truly don't believe it).

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5) What is the increased risk in having non-trained, experienced individuals filling the exposure gap for the 320?

In summary, I request that you leave the formula in the regulations for use as originally intended in special cases for which the additional dose could be justified, thereby allowing those of us our right to volunteer as we see fit within the 5(N-18) formula guidelines and provision.

Respectfully,

C. E. Winters, Jr.
Radiation Safety Officer

CEW/vg/21/79

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