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NICHOLAS P. D. SMYTH, M.D., P.C.
106 IRVING STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20010

THORACIC SURGERY
CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY
PERIPHERAL VASCULAR SURGERY

TELEPHONE 723-5565

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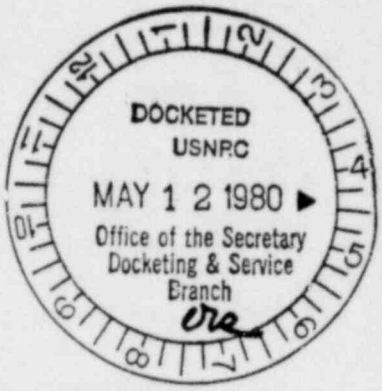

Mr. Joseph Hendrie
Chairman
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

I am writing to request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission simplify the licensing of nuclear pacemakers to facilitate the use of this very valuable device.

At the present time, nuclear pacemakers are falling behind in technological sophistication because the manufacturers are unwilling to spend money on a device which is not selling well. All of the new technology is being diverted to lithium pacemakers.

A study of Doctor Michael Bilitch's ongoing review of pulse generator reliability and longevity statistics in the journal PACE shows--as expected--that the nuclear pacemakers exceed all others, including lithium, in reliability and longevity.

It is entirely conceivable, with the development of increasing sophistication in circuitry design, that greater energy demands will be made on the power source of the pulse generator to permit multiprogrammability. The nuclear power source is, in my opinion, a natural and obvious choice in this regard.

I have requested that Coratomic provide me with a nuclear pacemaker having at least the programmable properties of output, rate, and sensitivity. They have told me that there would be no difficulty in providing such a pulse generator but they are not willing to do so until their position in making such a change is clarified with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I, as you know, am a strong believer in the use of the nuclear pacemaker and continue to use them, although my indications for their use are gradually declining in the absence of the features

of multiprogrammability.

I would strongly urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to make the necessary change to allow this valuable device to survive in a competitive situation so that physicians may have a clear choice based on the merits of the device and not the ease or difficulty of the paperwork involved in its use.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas P. D. Smyth, M.D.

NS/nk