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PROPOSED RULE (58 FR 21662)

FORT WAYNE STATE
DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

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April 30, 1993

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

Secretary
Docketing and Service Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Re: RIN 3150-AE49

Gentlemen:

My department is a small, biomedical research laboratory which uses less than 2 mCi C-14 and less than 100 mCi H-3 per year for metabolic studies. However, because we are an agency of state government, we can not qualify as a small entity. Although I have a joint appointment with Purdue University and students routinely train in my laboratory, we have also been denied educational status. As a result, even though we do highly regarded basic research and train students, we have been assessed license fees in excess of \$5,000/y. This includes over \$1,000 surcharge for waste disposal even though we incinerate our waste. Therefore, we strongly support alternative 4 of the low level waste plan which would base the fees on the curies of waste generated.

In view of the fact that NRC fees are the biggest single expense other than personnel for my department, it is very likely that we will have to terminate our license and much of our research in 1994 unless the fee schedule is revised to make the fees more correlated with the actual hazard involved rather than with your perception of the organization's ability to pay.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Coburn, Ph.D.

