

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICH., CHAIRMAN

JAMES H. SCHEUER, N.Y.
 RICHARD L. OTTINGER, N.Y.
 HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIF.
 TIMOTHY E. WIRTH, COLO.
 PHILIP R. SHARP, IND.
 JAMES J. FLORIO, N.J.
 EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASS.
 THOMAS A. LUKEA, OHIO
 DOUG WALGREN, PA.
 ALBERT GORE, JR., TENN.
 BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MD.
 AL SWIFT, WASH.
 MICKEY LELAND, TEX.
 RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALA.
 CAROL ANN COLLINS, ILL.
 MIKE SYNAR, OKLA.
 W. J. "BILLY" TALZON, LA.
 RON WYDEN, OREG.
 RALPH M. KALL, TEX.
 DENNIS E. ECKART, OHIO
 WAYNE DOWDY, MISS.
 BILL RICHARDSON, N. MEX.
 JIM SLATTERY, KANS.
 GERRY SIKORSKI, MINN.
 JOHN BRYANT, TEX.
 JIM BATES, CALIF.

JAMES T. BROYHILL, N.C.
 NORMAN F. LENT, N.Y.
 EDWARD R. MADIGAN, ILL.
 CARLOS J. MOORHEAD, CALIF.
 MATTHEW J. RINALDO, N.J.
 TOM CORCORAN, ILL.
 WILLIAM E. DANNEMEYER, CALIF.
 BOB WHITTAKER, KANS.
 THOMAS J. TAUCHE, IOWA
 DON RITTER, PA.
 DAN COATS, IND.
 THOMAS J. BUREY, JR., VA.
 JACK FIELDS, TEX.
 MICHAEL G. OXLEY, OHIO
 HOWARD C. NIELSON, UTAH

U.S. House of Representatives
 Committee on Energy and Commerce
 Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515

January 28, 1983

FRANK M. POTTER, JR.
 CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Nunzio J. Pallidino
 Chairman
 Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 1717 H Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Pallidino:

I have recently received a letter (enclosed) from Dr. H.J.C. Swan, a cardiologist at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, regarding a recent notice published by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

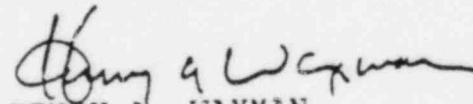
Dr. Swan is concerned that the notice would require physicians to undertake six months, rather than the current three months, training in the use of radioisotopes. Dr. Swan believes that this requirement is unwarranted and would unnecessarily add three months to the training of cardiologists. He recommends that the new regulations not take effect until a new committee, including an appropriate number of cardiologists, has reviewed the issue.

At this time I would urge you, as Chairman of the NRC, to appoint a committee to review the new policy. Such a committee could ensure that any new training requirements are fully necessary. It would certainly assure all physicians that the matter had been adequately studied.

I will appreciate your response to my request on or before February 11, 1983.

With best personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
 Chairman, Subcommittee on
 Health and the Environment

8302250338 830209
 PDR REGGD
 10.008 C PDR

HAW/bbc



CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

Reply to:
Box 48750
Los Angeles, California 90048

Direct Dial Number:

January 3, 1983

Honorable Henry A. Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attn: Brian Biles, M.D.

Dear Mr. Waxman:

As I indicated to you in my letter of November 17, 1982, following your visit here to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, I am a member of the Government Relations Committee of the American College of Cardiology. In that capacity, I wish to draw the attention of your office to a matter in which the College has an important interest.

Cardiologists make relatively extensive use of radioisotopes in diagnostic testing. This primarily in recognition of defects of perfusion in the heart muscle, and in the noninvasive quantification of defects of wall motion at rest and during exercise. Cardiologists are well trained in an understanding of these basic phenomena from a physiological and recognition standpoint. In addition, however, such cardiologists are currently required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to be trained in the isotope handling elements of nuclear cardiology as well as data interpretation relative to the scanning techniques and procedures. Currently, three months of training is required for this purpose, and there is no evidence that the present regulations have resulted in endangerment to patients or isotope personnel.

An increased training may be appropriate to radiologists and general ear medicine specialists, in that they ordinarily do not have the background and experience in the broader aspects of cardiovascular testing procedures. These include, but are not limited to, clinical interpretation of the cardiovascular responses, experience in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and a basis understanding of the physiological aspects of circulatory testing. On the contrary, the isotope handling aspects of nuclear cardiology testing includes the administration of only two radionuclides, technetium 99m and thallium-201. To my best knowledge, the handling of these materials (prepared radiopharmaceuticals and kits) do not require complicated handling procedures. Therefore, the cardiological community is strongly of the opinion that the proposal to increase compulsory training to six months is wasteful and unwarranted and is not in the best interests of the public's health. Further, the position of the College of Cardiology is that the NRC is not in a position to become involved in aspects of clinical training rather than safe handling of isotopes.

For the above reasons, the President of the American College of Cardiology requests that these regulations not be promulgated until Task Force appropriately representative is established to make proper and representative recommendations to the NRC.

Page two

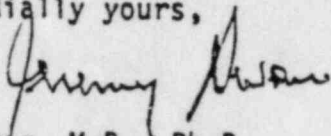
Honorable Henry A. Waxman

January 3, 1983

Re: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

For your information, the letter directed to the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the President of the American College of Cardiology, is appended.

Most cordially yours,



H.J.C. Swan, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Cardiology

Professor of Medicine

UCLA School of Medicine

HJCS:pk

Encl.

cc: Roger C. Courtney, J.D.

Director of Government Relations