

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 71,170 & 171
(56 FR 14870)

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OSTEOPOROSIS SCREENING CENTER
2929 5TH ST.
RAPID CITY, SD 57701

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May 8, 1991

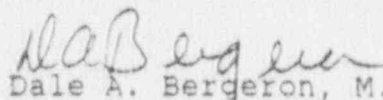
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Office of Controller
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sirs:

In regard to your annual fee of \$3400.00, which has been proposed, I would like to make the following comment. We possess a dual photon absorptiometry machine and this would fall under this fee. The licensing fee is already absurd since it is a very simple license and certainly does not require a great deal of evaluation and consideration to make sure that it is safe. This, in addition, would force us to go to x-ray or get rid of the machine. We service a small town and do not do enough studies to even pay for the cost of the machine at the present time. We've had the machine for approximately four years and have lost money on it every year. This would compound this and would force us to sell it.

If this rule is to be passed, we would like to know as soon as possible because we will not buy a new source and we will dispose of the machine. This, of course, will deprive this area of this facility and I'm sure will cause similar problems elsewhere in the country. I think Congress certainly is acting without any forethought if they feel that increasing these fees to a ridiculous level is in any way going to improve medicine, it certainly is going to increase the cost to at least two or three times of the charges that are being used for this particular procedure.

Sincerely,


Dale A. Bergeron, M.D./cp

DAB/cp

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