NRC Seeks Public Comment on 2 Sets of Regulations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced on July 25 that it is seeking public comment as staff begins to consider possible changes to radiation protection standards. The agency's radiation protection regulations traditionally have aligned closely with those used internationally, as issued by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The ICRP has made changes since the last NRC update in 1991. NRC staff has identified 6 policy and technical issues to be addressed as it begins to develop the technical basis for proposed changes. The request for comment, published in the July 25 *Federal Register*, asked for input on these issues. The lengthy *Federal Register* article noted that differences between federal 10 CFR part 20 requirements and the ICRP recommendations "have created challenges for the NRC and its licensees." The 6 protection regulation issues identified for potential harmonization include: an update of 10 CFR Part 20 to align with ICRP methodology and terminology; occupational dose limits for the lens of the eye; dose limits for embryo/fetus of a declared pregnant occupational worker; as-low-as-reasonably-achievable (ALARA) planning in individual protection; "metrication" of units of radiation exposure and dose; and reporting of occupational exposure. Each issue was accompanied by a series of key defining questions to be considered in changing current regulations.

The agency expects to hold a series of public meetings to discuss the issues during the comment period, which will be open for 120 days from the date of the *Federal Register* notice. Notices of those meetings and any material related to the proposed rulemaking will be posted on the federal rulemaking website. The full text of the request for comment is available at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-07-25/pdf/2014-17252.pdf.

Earlier in the same week, on July 21, the NRC also announced that it would be seeking public comments on proposed revisions to requirements for medical uses of radioactive materials. While implementing current regulations, NRC staff, stakeholders, and NRC's Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes identified the need for these proposed revisions, which were published in the July 21 *Federal Register.*

The NRC proposes to amend 10 CFR Part 35 and make some conforming changes to Parts 30 and 32. The changes would amend the definition of medical events associated with permanent implant brachytherapy; update training and experience requirements for authorized users, medical physicists, radiation safety officers, and nuclear pharmacists; address a petition the NRC received seeking to recognize the qualifications of board-certified physicists and radiation safety officers not specifically named on a license; change requirements for measuring molybdenum contamination and reporting generator tests that exceed allowed contamination levels; allow associate radiation safety officers to be named on a medical license; and make several minor clarifications.

The full text of the request for comments is available at: www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/07/21/2014-16752/medical-use-of-byproduct-material-medical-event-definitions-and-training-and-experience. Public comments on the proposed revisions will be accepted through November 18 and may be submitted through the Federal e-Rulemaking portal as described in the *Federal Register* article.

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proselytizing its usefulness to medical specialists began more than 50 years ago. His scholarly efforts with his colleagues in radiation oncology and pathology resulted in a technique that remains one of the most frequently performed and clinically useful contemporary nuclear medicine procedures." Malmud added that Charkes had originally introduced him early on to the new specialty of nuclear medicine and had served as "a cherished colleague and one of the finest teachers that I have experienced in my career." Other significant contributions have included Charkes' work with thyroidology, compartmental analysis, and thrombosis. He taught a popular thyroid scintingraphy course at the SNMMI Annual Meeting for almost 20 years.

"Thank you to the SNMMI and its award committee for bestowing on me this prestigious award. I'm humbled by reading the list of prior recipients, many of whom made outstanding contributions to human welfare," said Charkes. "In all of my work, my aim has been to apply experimental findings to the patient, in order to better understand what we see on the bone scan and to increase our accuracy in bone interpretation."

Each year since 1960, SNMMI has presented the de Hevesy award to an individual for outstanding contributions to the field of nuclear medicine. de Hevesy received the 1943 Nobel Prize in chemistry for his work exploring the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination of radioactive compounds in the human body.