

15 JUL 2019

Brian Torrie  
Director General  
Regulatory Policy Directorate  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street  
P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5S9

Via E-mail

Dear Mr Torrie,

**RE: Regulations Amending Certain Regulations Made Under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act (Radiation Protection)**

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I am writing with regard to the proposed amendments published in *Canada Gazette* Part I, 15 JUN 2019, particularly proposed amendments to *The Radiation Protection Regulations*.

The proposed amendments seem to contain a mix of amendments that some of us have been waiting for for a number of years (such as restoration of dose exemption for non-occupational caregivers supporting a radionuclide therapy patient) to proposed amendments that will most likely create an administrative burden and possibly cause problems for some licenses in the future from a human resources/labor relations perspective (such as deletion of obligation for female Nuclear Energy Workers (NEWs) to report pregnancy).

The proposed “new” definition of “caregiver” in Section 1 and restoration to the *Radiation Protection Regulations* (RPR) of the previously eliminated exposure

“exemption” Section 2 (2) (c) is definitely a positive for medical licensees, radionuclide therapy patients and their families.

The proposed amendment in Section 24 with regard to retention of dosimetry records for five years is also a positive given that in Canada we do have a National Dose Registry as is noted in the Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement (RIAS). My organization went to a ten-year retention period in the recent past that may well be re-evaluated should the proposed amendment become Official Regulation.

The proposed amendment that I am having the most trouble with is removing the obligation of female NEWs to report pregnancy and make it voluntary self-reporting (Section 11 (1)), I know that the RIAS points out that Canada is in the minority of countries that makes reporting by NEWs mandatory but I’m not certain that is a bad thing. If reporting by a NEW becomes voluntary vs a regulatory obligation it will create an administrative burden on licensees whose internal Radiation Safety Policies document the current regulatory obligation. Likewise, reporting of breastfeeding by NEWs is proposed to be voluntary self-reporting, not a regulatory obligation – certainly it makes sense to have pregnancy reporting by NEWs and breast-feeding reporting by NEWs either a mandatory obligation under the RPR or voluntary self-reporting but not a mix of both. Licensees will be required to perform risk assessments and consider work modifications for NEWs who voluntary self-disclose pregnancy and breastfeeding – we are already doing that for NEWs who report pregnancy as required by the RPR. My concern is that voluntary self-reporting may be seen by some workers as a potential tool to use “against” licensees in times of strained labor relations, with the current regulatory obligation I do not have that concern.



Sincerely,

*J. Dovyak*

Jeff Dovyak RTNM, CRPA (R)  
Radiation Safety Coordinator  
Radiation Safety Program