Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.

July 15, 2019

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
P.O. Box 1046, Station B
280 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5S9

Re: Comments on REGDOC 2.7.1, Radiation Protection

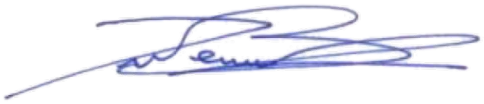
Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft REGDOC 2.7.1 “Radiation Protection” published March 2019. The document was reviewed by our radiation safety staff and the observations, comments, and request for clarification have been collected in Attachment A.

In summary, we support the CNSC’s work in producing guidance documents such as REGDOC 2.7.1. We hope that our feedback helps in its continued development.

If you require further information or have any questions regarding the submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



Trevor Beniston, CRPA (R)
Provincial Radiation Safety Leader
Cancer Control Alberta

Attachment

Alberta Health Services
CancerControl Alberta

Cross Cancer Institute
11560 University Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6G 1Z2, Canada
phone: (780)-577-8121
trevor.beniston@ahs.ca

Attachment A

Cancer Control Alberta comments on draft REGDOC 2.7.1, Radiation Protection

Alberta Health Services, CancerControl Alberta comments on draft REGDOC 2.7.1, Radiation Protection

Item Number	Document Section	Issue Raised	Comment
1	Provision of Information to Nuclear Energy Workers (page 24)	"Licensees should be aware that the **Canada Labour Standards Regulations restricts the employment of persons under the age of 17** in work activities that would require NEW status, as defined in the NSCA."	Does the Canada Labour Standards Regulations (CLSR) apply to all licensees? We don't believe this is a true statement. Our understanding is that the CLSR applies only to "federal work, undertaking or business" that is within the legislative authority of Parliament. Not all occupations working with sources of radiation would fall explicitly under federal jurisdiction. Healthcare workers, for example, are provincially regulated occupations and the CLSR would not apply. We agree with restricting the NEW classification to persons 17 or older, but the wording of the sentence is not factually correct and should be corrected or removed. Restricting the age of an NEW would be better addressed globally by adding it to section 10 of the Radiation Protection Regulations.
2	Provision of Information to Nuclear Energy Workers (page 24)	"Licensees' **obligations** to inform NEWs of their dose levels **do not cease** if the NEW leaves employment during the course of a year (e.g., contractor personnel, retirees and employee terminations). Licensees **should** make efforts to inform any NEW who has left their employment of their radiation dose levels in a timely manner, once this information is available."	These two sentences seem to be slightly contradictory. The first sentence states the certainty of the licensee's obligation to inform the NEW of their dose level, while the second sentence gives the impression that the effort to inform the NEW is optional. If the obligation is certain, then the second sentence could be reworded as: "Licensees **must** make **reasonable** efforts to inform any NEW who has left their employment of their radiation dose levels in a timely manner, once this information is available" The addition of "reasonable" is necessary as contacting departed employees is not always possible or done in a timely manner.

3	Provision of Information to Nuclear Energy Workers (page 24)	"Licensees must **inform all workers** of the risks associated with potential emergency activities in relation to the dose limits established in section 15 of the Regulations, and of how they should protect themselves while conducting their assigned duties during the emergency."	According to the proposed Radiation Protection Regulation amendments, the requirement is to notify Nuclear Energy Workers and not all workers. Additionally, this seems more appropriate as training content rather than notification. The NEW classification informs a worker of their higher dose level and potential risks associated with the possible higher dose. Describing the actions necessary to protect themselves during an emergency would be better delivered and received as part of a training program rather than an information document. When a worker provides written acknowledgement that he or she has received the information, does this imply the worker is familiar with their responsibilities during an emergency and the employer is not obligated to provide training? If not, then what is the purpose of informing the worker to begin with if they are going to receive emergency response training regardless?
4	Provision of Information to Nuclear Energy Workers (page 25)	"Records of written acknowledgments by NEWs must be retained by the licensee in **accordance with subsection 28(1)** of the General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations."	The subsection defines the record retention period in this case as "one year past expiry of the licence". For longer period licences (such as a Class II operating licence for a radiotherapy facility), the requirement would be the NEW record for an employee that leaves in the first year of the licence period be kept for another 10 years. What is the benefit of keeping this record for such a length of time? The employees training records and dose records are not kept as long. The NEW record should be maintained with the same period as the employee's training record.
5	Appendix B.1.1: Contamination control limits (page 46)	"Any surface contamination control limits for clean areas and release criteria chosen by a licensee **must meet the definition of a conditional clearance level** as defined in the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Regulations."	With respect to its application in the NSRD regulations, "conditional clearance level" means an activity concentration that does not result in an effective dose:

			(a) greater than 1 mSv in a year due to a low probability event referred to in the IAEA RS-G-1.7; or (b) greater than 10 µSv in a year. The use of an activity concentration or total activity in the context of surface contamination is not correct, and the section should reference the “Appendix: Classes of Radionuclide” appendix that is included in open source licences.