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The Honorable E. Christopher Abruzzo, Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
P. O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Dear Secretary Abruzzo:

I am writing to bring to your attention actions taken by the Radiation Protection Advisory Committee (RPAC) at our October 16, 2014 meeting.

At the RPAC meeting, the Department presented the draft fee changes as provided for in Radiological Health Regulation Chapter 218 - Fees. The proposal is for an across-the-board 50% increase in the existing fee schedule and addition of a \$50 remediation fee.

The Committee voted unanimously to concur with the Department's recommendation to present the proposed rulemaking amendment to the Environmental Quality Board, with the notation of some concerns discussed during the RPAC meeting, for consideration for adoption and publication as a proposed rulemaking for public comment.

The primary concern expressed by Committee Members was that the radioactive materials fee amounts may not be proportional to the actual demands placed upon the Department's resources for the specific fee category. The size of the increase may prompt some licensee to change their category, where such change is feasible. The net result may be more demands on the Department with reduced net funding. The best example of this relates to Human Use categories 7b and 7c. Category 7b licensees are permitted to handle many changes "in-house" that would require DEP licensing action for a 7c licensee, but these licensees would pay \$43,500 annually under the proposed increase, while a 7c licensee would pay \$7,350. This would be a significant incentive for 7b licensees to switch their licenses to the 7c category. The RPAC recommends that fees reflect Department resource demands for each category to the extent feasible.

Please call me at 215.955.7813 or email me at John.Keklak@jefferson.edu with any questions regarding this action

Sincerely,

John Keklak, CHP
Chair

c: Vincent Brisini, PA DEP
David Allard, PA DEP
Joseph Melnic, PA DEP RPAC Liaison