



Corner

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AAHP President's Message

Carol Berger

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More is known about the potentially harmful effects of radiation than about almost any other toxic substance. Industry is now quite skilled at controlling these effects so that society can benefit from radiation's use. We trust that regulations promulgated to control these activities will be reasonable and -- at a minimum -- have a sound technical footing.

Some recent regulatory actions have caused us to question whether this expectation is being met. Two examples are the various existing and proposed state regulations for licensing and control of naturally-occurring radioactive materials at oil field exploration/production sites, and the proposed "Environmental Protection Agency Radiation Site Cleanup Regulation." Are the technical bases for these regulatory positions sound? Do they draw appropriately from our current knowledge base? Are they applicable to the radiological conditions they purport to regulate? Or is it possible that standards without a defensible technical foundation have been or are about to be promulgated?

We all believe that a technically-flawed journal article, position paper, or standards document should not be permitted to proceed to its final stages uncontested. Isn't the same thing true for proposed rules? Should the **American Academy of Health Physics**, in its mission to "improve the practice of health physics," provide technical input to certain review processes? As CHPs we are definitely interested in the outcome of rulemaking, and we certainly have the collective qualifications to put forth a strong technical position within the very broad area of radiation protection. Perhaps we should consider formalizing the AAHP's position on specific technical issues and sharing it with others.

This was one of many topics raised during the most recent meeting of the Executive Committee with regard to activities of the AAHP. In the near future, you will be

asked to provide your thoughts on this and other initiatives under consideration. Please think about these proposed activities carefully before you respond, since your responses will guide the actions of the AAHP over the next few years. Your input regarding the function of the AAHP, where its attentions should be directed, and how it can provide benefit to the collective body of CHPs is not just important, it is vital. After all, CHPs are the AAHP.

AAHP Investment Policy

The AAHP Finance Committee is finalizing an investment policy for the funds of the AAHP. Addressed in the policy is the handling of "long-term reserves" (for long-term investment; used only during times of extreme need), "intermediate-term reserves" (for use within the next 12 to 24 months), and "short-term reserves" (to support current-year operations). The following is an important principle guiding the investment practice: "Funds are of a fiduciary nature and the damage from a large permanent loss would outweigh the potential benefit of a large gain; conservative investment policies shall be practiced. These policies include the concept of diversification. Therefore, at the time of purchase, the Academy may not invest more than 25 percent of its bond or equity assets in any one issuer or industry (other than obligations of the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities)." The Executive Committee intends to have this policy in place by the Boston meeting. For additional information, contact the AAHP Treasurer, Howard Dickson.

The AAHP in Boston

Mark your calendars for the following AAHP activities at the HPS Annual Meeting in Boston:

Saturday, 22 July 1995 - AAHP eight-hour Continuing Education Courses (16 CE credits each):

- "Health Physics Aspects of Environmental NORM," John R. Frazier and Howard M. Prichard, instructors.
- "Radiation Physics at Accelerators," J. Donald Cossairt, instructor.
- "Calibration of Survey Instruments," George E. Chabot, instructor.

Wednesday a.m., 26 July 1995 - AAHP Special Session, Topic: Professional Practice of Health Physics.

The purpose of this session is to promote a greater understanding of the standards for professional practice within the U.S. and the role of the Professional Societies in upholding these standards.

Also that Wednesday - AAHP Open Meeting.

Please check the final program for exact times of the Special Session and Open Meeting. ■