

# Source Security Working Group

2000 M St NW, Ste 520

Washington, DC 20036

## **Preserving Access to Radioactive Sources**

**An Update From Washington on the Legislative and Regulatory  
Environment on Sealed Sources**

2017 NDTMA Meeting, Las Vegas

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# SSWG Goals

- **Promote public awareness about the use and benefits of medical and industrial uses of radioisotopes and radiation technologies.**
- **Conduct comprehensive outreach in U.S. Congress, federal agencies, and NGOs to raise awareness of the societal benefits of radiation technologies.**
- **Advocate for federal and state policies that strike the appropriate balance between security and access.**
- **Oppose policy proposals that would needlessly restrict the public's access to lifesaving technologies enabled by radiological sources.**



# **“We Need to Take a Dirty Bomb Threat Seriously”**

By Sam Nunn and Andrew Bieniawski August 21st, 2015

***“Security requirements put forth by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are too broadly written.”***



# **“We Need to Take a Dirty Bomb Threat Seriously”**

By Sam Nunn and Andrew Bienenawski August 21st, 2015

***“States should immediately be allowed to go beyond a federal minimum security standard if they choose. As it stands, even if a state wants to voluntarily increase security for its radiological sources beyond federal minimums, the NRC regulations don’t allow it.”***



# **“We Need to Take a Dirty Bomb Threat Seriously”**

By Sam Nunn and Andrew Bienenawski August 21st, 2015

***“Liability and insurance gaps must be carefully reviewed by those possessing and responsible for the security of radiological sources.”***



# **“We Need to Take a Dirty Bomb Threat Seriously”**

By Sam Nunn and Andrew Bieniawski August 21st, 2015

***“Publicly traded companies that use radiological sources should provide more specific information about the associated risks in response to Securities and Exchange Commission disclosure and reporting obligations.”***



# What are the risks?





# “Radiation Source Use and Replacement”

Committee on Radiation Source Use and Replacement,  
National Research Council, National Academies of Science, 2008

*“It is not possible to monetize the terrorism risks (TRC) because we do not have a firm basis for predicting the relationship between particular radiation source uses and the expected costs of terrorism. While it may be possible to identify representative scenarios of RDD deployment or other acts of terrorism involving radiation sources, it is not possible to quantify the probabilities of these scenarios or how any particular type of radiation source contributes to them. Consequently, the committee cannot recommend a simple algorithm in seeking to identify desirable radiation source replacements.”*

**Translation: There is no tidy formula for weighing the risk costs.**



**Risk = Damage + Fear**



# Recent Legislative History



# FY 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations

- **Section 402 of Senate Version**
  - **Sponsored by Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA)**
  - **NNSA given authority (from NRC) to set source security standards**
  - **NRC license applicants have to prove they reviewed alternative technologies**
  - **Eventually: new NRC licenses prohibited for 14 isotopes, including co60, cs137, am241, and ir192, & cf252**



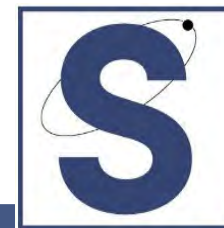
# FY 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations

- **Section 403 of Final (Omnibus) Bill**
  - **NRC to report on 10 CFR Part 37 implementation by end of 2017**
  - **GAO to conduct independent review by end of 2019**



# Senate Dem Leadership “Anti-ISIS” legislation

- **Directs NNSA to ...**
  - **Develop plan to secure all “risk significant” radiological material.**
  - **“A list of any gaps in legal authority ...”**
- **Directs NRC to ...**
  - **Prevent access to anyone of the terror watch list / convicted of terror related offense.**
  - **Suspend licensees that grant unescorted access to these individuals.**



# Regulatory Activities

- **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**
  - Category 3 “aggregation” issue. Subject CAT 3 sources to NSTS, LVS?
  - Review of financial assurance requirements
- **Department of Homeland Security**
  - Alternative technologies working group
- **Government Accountability Office**
  - Congressionally-mandated report on source security



# 2017 SSWG Activities

- **Outreach: 250 Sens/Reps with jurisdiction**
- **Monitor legislative process (appropriations, NDAA)**
- **NRC engagement on Cat 3 aggregation, financial assurance issues**
- **DHS reauthorization**
- **Non-proliferation community outreach**
- **GAO engagement**
- **Develop crisis response plan**
- **Targeted media outreach**





# Big Picture

## There is a persistent policy threat

- High political value of being against “dirty bombs”
- Legislative “Whack-a-Mole” continues.
- Many in the non-proliferation community focusing on sources as the “next logical issue.”
- The source “user community” has to be unified and engaged.

**We are one adverse event away...**



# Thank You / Questions

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