POLICY ON DECLARED PREGNANT RADIATION WORKERS

General Information

In accordance to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations 10 CFR 20.108 and California Code of Regulations, Title 10 and Title 17, section 32053 pertaining to declared pregnant radiation workers, the following policy has been adopted by USC’s Radiation Safety Committee:

All personnel who directly work with or are in close vicinity of sources of ionizing radiation will be made aware of the recommendation of NRC related to the control of radiation exposure received by declared pregnant women. It is responsibility of the immediate supervisor to include explanation of the category of “Declared Pregnant Radiation Worker” in any training or instructions about work hazards. If the worker declares pregnancy (in writing), the supervisor shall contact Radiation Safety to make sure appropriate steps are taken for monitoring.

Responsibilities of Supervisor (Permit Holder or designate)

- New employee training and annual refresher training for radiation safety shall provide information on the new “declared” pregnant category of radiation worker and the reason why the NRC and California Code of Regulation radiation protection rules recommend that a pregnant woman declare pregnancy. NRC Regulatory Guide 8.13, will be used as a reference. Training sessions should cover information concerning prenatal radiation exposure and that specific steps must be followed once a worker declares her pregnancy.

- Following declaration of pregnancy the supervisor shall contact the Radiation Safety with completed pregnancy declaration form).

  NOTE: The supervisor and the pregnant worker must read the NRC guide. If the pregnant women agrees, the supervisor may wish to assign her to duties that do not involve occupational radiation exposure. This is especially true if she has been involved in protocols that may present a potential for internal uptake of radioactive material (some chemical forms of I-125, S-35, C-14, and H-3).

- A signed record of the above training shall be kept on file by the supervisor and a copy retained by the Radiation Safety.

- A film badge dosimeter will be issued to the worker. The supervisor / lab coordinator will assure that dosimetry film is returned to the Radiation Safety for processing on a monthly basis.

- If required, assure that bioassay samples and counts (urine analysis and/or thyroid count) are completed on the required monthly schedule. Notify the Radiation Safety in the event of any radioactive materials spill, and arrange for appropriate bioassay monitoring for the pregnant person.

Responsibilities of the "Declared Pregnant Worker"

- Complete and sign the "Declaration of Pregnancy" form, and give it to your supervisor.

- Read NRC Guide 8.13 "Instructions Concerning Prenatal Radiation Exposure" (attached). Discuss with your supervisor for any changes in work assignment to assure that radiation exposure is maintained below 500 mrem for the entire gestation period, and 50 mrem/month during pregnancy.

- Complete and sign the film badge request card (attached). Be sure to change the film on the monthly change schedule, and return the used film to the Radiation Safety. After completion of the pregnancy term be sure to return the film badge holder along with the last month’s film.

- If potentially volatile radioactive materials will be handled by you, submit a monthly urine sample and/or report to the Radiation Safety for a thyroid count on a monthly basis. The Radiation Safety staff can assist you in determining if a radioactive material presents a volatility concern.