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To: OWFN_DO.owf5_po(SECY)
Date: Mon, Dec 20, 1999 6:52 PM
Subject: Rulemaking and radioactive scrap disposal

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I read a disturbing article today. If true, your policy decisionmaking procedures are in dire need of external review. As a physician, one who has seen cancer's ravages of body and soul from many perspectives, I find it inconsolable that scrap disposal is "worth" 4 fatalities due to cancer per 10,000 lifetimes. I see cancer as a physician, it's toll monetarily, physically and spiritually in patients is readily apparent. I saw cancer in my parents as a medical student. They are some of your fatality statistics lined up neatly in tabular form on your shelves. I now have come to face Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma as a patient and truly feel the "face of cancer" from that final perspective left to experience.

OF
ADMIN

Perhaps the bean counter engineers have and accountants have a different perspective.

108,000 additional deaths at \$200,000 per death (minimum in 1999 dollars, an estimate likely conservative) is 21.6 Billion dollars "wasted" in efforts to cure a fatal process.

Not all wasted... it gave a fleeting glimmer of hope at first, then consolation, then merely pain relief at the end.

Then there is the rest of the equation not listed in the article... you must have the numbers somewhere. THE NON-FATAL CASES OF CANCER. At least quadruple the cases and double the cost per case because survivors require LIFETIME followup. Another 172.8 Billion dollars (1999)? This also represents diversion of care resources away from existing medical issues.

You correct the math and ask the advisors if their insurance is paid up. If they were told that one family member or friend will get cancer from this decision they may change their perspective (assuming they know 500 people). My perspective is clear, as is my conscience. Be prepared with good answers, for you may face the public on this one. May God advise you on this matter, now and in the future. The next time you "see the face of cancer" may your conscience be both aware and clear.

If you can't put it among the bears, don't put it among the people.

thank you,
BDC

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