

374

DOCKETED

From: "JLipman" <jlipman@earthlink.net>
To: OWFN_DO.owf5_po(SECY)
Date: Mon, Dec 20, 1999 3:58 PM
Subject: RE: TURNING NUCLEAR WASTE INTO HOUSEHOLD ITEMS '99 DEC 21 2 4:25

TO: The NRC (secy@nrc.gov)
FROM: JANE LIPMAN
RE: TURNING NUCLEAR WASTE INTO HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
DATE: 12/20/99

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TURNING NUCLEAR WASTE INTO HOUSEHOLD ITEMS ??

I AM OPPOSED TO THE PROPOSAL DESCRIBED BELOW:

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 20
(64FR35090)

A large scale radioactive "recycling" program that would turn RADIOACTIVE WASTE into HOUSEHOLD ITEMS is being planned by the folks at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in conjunction with the nuclear industry and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

By turning radioactive metal into common household items, the nuclear industry would save billions of dollars by reusing metals that were once part of nuclear power plants, weapons factories and weapons themselves. Additionally, the DOE would save money by escaping the responsibility of cleaning up the huge mess DOE and the nuclear industry have made at the nation's weapons plants.

Some of the radioactive items would include:

- Cookware and eating utensils
- Eyeglass frames
- Zippers
- Computer batteries
- Jewelry
- Food and cans & containers
- Braces for teeth
- Anything made with metal

What is the real cost?
Unfortunately, the release of these metals would cause increased exposures to radioactivity to the extent that direct contact with the household items, along with the effects from increased overall background radiation, would cause an estimated 92,755 additional cancer deaths in the U.S., according to the NRC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS NEEDED BY DECEMBER 22, 1999
The NRC is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider all potential impacts and options.

I do not want nuclear power and weapons wastes "released," "cleared," "deregulated," "exempted," "generally licensed," designated "de minimis," "unimportant" or BRC -- below regulatory concern -- or by any other means allowed out of nuclear facilities and into the marketplace or the environment, at any level.

PDR PR 20 64FR35090

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Once these radioactive wastes enter the recycling stream, recovering or controlling them will be outside the ability of anyone, citizens, government or industry.

No matter what level the NRC sets for allowable radiation risk, dose or concentration, it will be difficult or impossible to measure, verify and enforce.

Using radioactive wastes in consumer products poses unnecessary, avoidable, involuntary, uninformed risks. The consumer, the producers and the raw materials industries don't want these radioactive wastes or risks.

The NRC should also extend the comment period to at least September 2000. This issue is too important to act hastily upon and it should be fully debated by the public.

I fully support the complete opposition and "zero tolerance" policies of the metal and recycling industries, the management and the unions. I appreciate their efforts, not only in opposition to legalization of radioactive releases, but in their investment in detection equipment and literally holding the line against the radioactive threat to the public.

The fact that radioactive waste is already getting out into the environment should not be used to justify legal levels allowing more releases. The NRC, EPA and DOE should prevent future releases and try to correct past releases. The United States should take the lead in preventing the contamination of the international marketplace.

I am opposed to any form of use of metals or other materials previously used in any way in connection with nuclear energy for public contact. I am unwilling for myself, my countrymen or any citizen of the world to receive any amount of radiation so that others can save money and avoid having to deal with this issue responsibly.

I will contact the media and notify all my friends about this so they can meet the public hearing deadline.

JANE LIPMAN
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