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Secretary, Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Washington, DC 20555

OR
ADJ

Dear Secretary:

The nuclear power and weapons industries, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) want to dispose of radioactive waste by recycling it into consumer products. Instead of storing it responsibly, the generators of this waste want to profit by using the waste to make new products. If products made with these materials are sold to the public, untold numbers of people could be exposed to radiation through their braces, silverware, and virtually any other material.

Radioactive metal is already being sold by the DOE to scrap metal dealers. According to the Department of Energy National Center of Excellence for Metals Recycle Web site, DOE facilities have 1.4 million tons of metal they plan to recycle. The material is already being released on a case-by-case basis and is being manufactured into new products without any warning labels.

The NRC is preparing to set standards to legalize the large-scale release of these contaminated materials for recycling. It is currently requesting public comments on assumptions and estimates of radiation doses from materials made with recycled radioactive copper, steel, aluminum and concrete.

No dose of radiation is acceptable! Exposures to radiation should be avoided as much as possible, not increased through an industry backed rulemaking policy.

Sincerely,
John Butler
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