

Women's Energy Matters

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U.S. NRC

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FAX MEMO

12/22/1999

TO: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff
FAX: # 301-415-1101
FROM: Barbara George, Executive Director, Women's Energy Matters
SUBJECT: Proposed Rule on Radioactive "Release" and "Recycling"

Hello people. I know the nuclear industry is in an economic crunch and wants to avoid dealing with its garbage in a responsible way, but it's just not ok for you to open the floodgates for them to release radioactive materials into the environment. I'm sure that somewhere deep down you really know this doesn't work for anyone.

I am sad that you have been unable so far to publicly acknowledge that radioactivity, even at low doses, cause many illnesses, including weakened immune systems and cancer. Even if you really think it has not been conclusively proven—how would you live with yourself if you finally learn that it really is?

Even if you don't recognize problems of low-level radioactivity, how about the "hot" spots? When you release radioactive materials, they can become concentrated in unknown places. Hardly anyone has geiger counters to check everyplace they go—and wouldn't it be awful to have to do that? Unwittingly, people could be surrounded by radiation in houses, schools and offices, sidewalks, cars, bikes, baby carriages, furniture and appliances—or even have radioactive materials in their zippers and belt buckles and teeth fillings and surgical devices inside their bodies. It would ultimately end up in soil, water and food as well. Many small doses of radiation over long periods of time accumulate in a way you cannot possibly predict, and nobody would be able to control, once it gets spread around everywhere.

Do you really want your children and grandchildren, and all your descendents—and everyone else's, and all the other creatures, on into the future, to be sick or die because of you? You could be affected in your lifetime too.

Once these things are out in the environment, it is incredibly hard to pull them back. However, you need to make sure that is done with whatever materials have been released up to now. Make sure anyone who is currently releasing radioactive garbage into the ordinary waste stream or "recycling" it stops immediately.

I can't believe you're making this proposal again. It's been over 20 years since I first heard it. NO NO NO NO! 250,000 times NO.

Sincerely,



Barbara George

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