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PROPOSED RULE PR 20  
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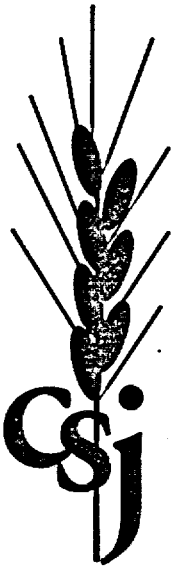
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USNRC

Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet

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OFFICE  
OF  
RULE  
ADJUSTMENT



NRC Chairman Richard Meserve  
Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Secretary Meserve,

We write to you as the governing body for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. As a religious community we have close to 2000 members of our community in the United States and sisters living and ministering in Japan, Peru, Chile, and Nicaragua. One of our major works since our community began in 1650 has been healthcare, especially of sick poor people. It is out of our concern for the health and well being of all persons that we write to you concerning radioactive waste and the possible release of it into commerce.

We understand that to make a new rule legalizing radioactive waste "recycling" or "clearance" into the marketplace, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is required by the National Environmental Policy Act to consider all potential impacts and options. We urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to isolate radioactive wastes and materials and anything they contaminate, no matter what level, from the public and the environment. Using radioactive wastes in consumer products poses unnecessary, avoidable, involuntary, un-informed risks. Monitoring for the specific types and forms of radioactivity that could get out can be very expensive, is not always accurate, and could put the public at great health risk.

We also ask that the current methods of releasing radioactive wastes from commercial licenses and weapons facilities be stopped until a full accounting and evaluation of that which has already been released is done. We urge you to extend the comment period on releasing radioactive waste into commerce to at least September 2000. This issue is too important to act hastily upon and it should be fully debated by the public.

The fact that other countries are releasing radioactive materials into the marketplace is no excuse for us to legalize it. We urge the United States to take the lead in preventing contamination of the international marketplace. We protect ourselves best by not facilitating international radioactive commerce.

Sincerely yours,  
The Provincial Council of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet:

*Sister Mary Delaney*      *Sister Maureen O'Connor*  
*Sister Thomas Susan MacConnell*      *Sister Kathleen Kelly*  
*Sister Barbara Anne Stoverson*      *Sister Claire Marie Williams*