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From: "Joe and Claire Newsom" <news@enid.com>
To: OWFN_DO.owf5_po(SECY)
Date: Wed, Dec 22, 1999 11:22 AM
Subject: 64 FR 35090, 6/30/99; Scoping of NRC proposed rule for radioactive "release" and "recycling" into the market place including consumer products

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To: US NRC (Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff)

OFFICE
 RULE
 ADJUDICATION

Dear Employees,

As a taxpayer, I find it difficult to think that time, human energy, and money are all being spent to proceed with a plan that is not good public policy.

I refer to the plan in the Federal Register (64 FR 35090, 6/30/99) whereby the NRC wants to release radioactive materials into my life via consumer products.

As part of the public comment period, I am offering this simple message to protest such action, and would like these comments entered into the public record.

I am a housewife. I do not claim to be a nuclear scientist, but I DO lay claim to my right to KNOW what is coming into my home. When consumer items have ANY degree of radioactivity, I have a right to know which items do have it, and which items do not. There must be labeling of all products containing any radioactive material. Let the marketplace and consumers decide if they want to buy such products.

"Corporate America" is used to labeling products. They know that the American consumer wants to know how much fat content is in a product. They want to know sodium content, and all other contents related to their health.

Even though there may be controversy over how animal fat effects the human body, they at least have a CHOICE as to whether or not they want it in their diet.

The same principle applies to the use of radioactive waste in consumer products. It may be a controversial issue, but give consumers a CHOICE to decide if they want it in their homes, or in braces in their teen-ager's mouth, or in the metal hardware of an infant's crib.

As members or staff of the NRC, you may possibly ask yourselves this question: "How come we have not heard many protests from the American people since they are the ones that are going to be affected by this rule?"

You won't have to look very far for the answer! Most Americans are not housewives or househusbands. Most are struggling to work long hours everyday to put bread on the table, and there are precious few minutes to read the Federal Register, if indeed they knew where they could obtain a copy in their local communities. In a nutshell, they DO NOT know what is about to happen in the world pertaining to the release and recycling of radioactive materials into their environment.

Furthermore, they do not have any clue that MILLIONS and MILLIONS of their hard earned tax dollars are going to be used to study and implement this disastrous plan.

I know that many plans in government are sealed in concrete before the plans reach the general public. Even though there may be a public comment period, often times it is just a formality in the process. In addition, only technical comments from scientists are the only comments given much weight.

Therefore, knowing this reality, I have to ask myself this question: "What am I going to do to try to protect myself from this invasion?"

Answers are very limited. One option is to go to estate auctions where old household items in very good condition may be purchased for home use. Everything from post hole diggers to pots and pans can usually be obtained from an estate sale. However, those same Americans, of which I spoke previously, are not going to be able to leave their jobs to go to an auction. Furthermore, this method does not answer the need for new consumer products in our lives.

I am 55. Why should I CARE about this problem? The answer is simple. We are all stewards of the lives following our own. For example, if people living in an earlier time would have invested more dollars in wind and solar power, then maybe the nuclear waste problems we have today would not be so horrendous.

What problems are we creating today for future generations? One answer is the use of radioactive materials spread around the planet in consumer products. There is no landfill or incinerator big enough to

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take care of THAT problem.

This release and recycling of radioactive waste is creating jobs in itself. If the project was placed on hold, many employees in this division of the NRC may fear loss of their jobs. Surely, there are enough challenges in other areas that these individuals could be transferred to another position.

The human condition is fragile enough. Do we have to sabotage it further by nuking everyone in their daily lives? I think not.

Thank you for your consideration of my remarks for the public record.

Sincerely, Claire Newsom