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Mr. Richard Meserve, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Rule Making and Adjudication Staff  
Washington, DC 20555

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OFFICE OF  
RULE MAKING  
ADJUDICATION  
STAFF

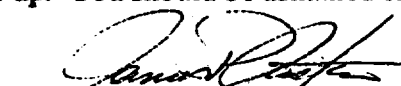
Dear Sir:


I just read a newspaper article regarding a proposal by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in conjunction with the Department of Energy, to sell massive amounts of radioactive metal to the scrap metal industry. I have no idea how the bureaucratic brain thrusts of your organization could conceive such a ridiculous scenario for disposal. While I realize that there is no easy solution to this problem, I find this proposal to be even more outrageous than the existing conventional wisdom which prescribes burying radioactive material in the ground, where it will remain active for the next thousand years or so ( with a real possibility of serious subterranean leaching ), with the hope that future generations will be brighter than you people are now, and somehow find a real solution.

As was stated in the aforementioned article, the radioactive metal could then be recycled and introduced into thousands of items we use everyday. Everything from braces for our children's teeth to toys, even to the pots and pans we cook in would contain radioactive material. This, of course, begs the question; by what whimsical formula or equation were you able to determine just how much radioactive material the consumers of this country should be subjected to? Apparently you found a comfort zone since the NCR is considering radiation doses that, over a lifetime, could cause fatal cancer in ONLY 4 in 10,000 people. Are we to be grateful that it will not be worse? Given the population of the United States is near 270 million, the additional cancer deaths related to your disposal plan will ONLY be 108,000.

Oh, by the way. Since it is estimated that approximately 50% of cancer patients die from the disease, the figure of additional cancer victims will approximate 216,000, of which 108,000 will die. The 108,000 that survive only have to suffer the treatments and ravages of the disease.

Once again it appears that, for the sake of finding a cheaper solution to a problem, the American public (at least 108,000 of us) are considered expendable. I do not have a scientific background and I am not charged with the responsibility of nuclear waste disposal, but, if I did, and if I were responsible, I would be ashamed of myself if this was the best solution I could offer up. You should be ashamed too.

  
James P. Castor

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