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Richard Meserve, Chairman
Rulemaking and Adjudications
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSEL
ADJUDICATIONS

RE: Radioactive "Release" rulemaking 64 FR 35090, 6-30-99

Dear Chairman Meserve:

In June of 1990, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced the implementation of a policy called "Below Regulatory Concern" or BRC that would have resulted in the deregulation and subsequent recycling of radioactive waste. This announcement resulted in legislation by several states prohibiting deregulation as well as a lawsuit initiated by Public Citizen and several other concerned citizen groups against the policy. Because of the overwhelming outcry against this threat to public health and safety, the agency dropped the BRC policy.

Now the Nuclear Regulatory Commission seems to be attempting BRC under another name. It **still** poses a risk to the public and **therefore is still unacceptable**, especially since consumers would have no way of knowing if the goods they buy were made from recycled radioactive material.

The argument that people are exposed to naturally occurring radiation is not a justifiable excuse for increasing that exposure. Because of the manufacture of atomic weapons and the production of nuclear energy, those of us living today are already exposed to background radiation far higher than were our ancestors who lived prior to 1940. Health studies both here and abroad have shown that cumulative exposures to low dose radiation result in increased cancers, birth defects and other health problems. To increase this exposure to the public would be irresponsible. The primary goal of your agency should be to protect citizens from radiation, not expose them to more!

Please do not allow radioactive waste to be recycled into consumer products. Radioactive material needs to be isolated from the environment, not released into it.

Sincerely,

Carolyn A. Miller

P.S. Please extend the comment period on this important issue for at least another 6 months.

FAXED ON DECEMBER 22, 1999

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