

NRC Chairman Richard Meserve
US NRC
Washington DC 20555

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE **PR 20**
(64FR35090)

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ATTN: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

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USNRC

Dear NRC, Staff, Mr. Chair,

'99 DEC 29 P5:27

It is not in the interest of the long term public health and safety for NRC to cooperate in creating standards, promulgating rulemaking or any other initiative that results in the release of radioactive wastes and materials into the production cycle of consumer goods. The public has opposed this for years.

The timeline and insidious nature of this kind of 'recycling' makes it virtually impossible to properly determine long term risks and effects. NRC must consider:

- 1) The near impossibility of determining cumulative effects of this kind of exposure. Natural background radiation is unavoidable, but its presence in no way justifies this kind of additional involuntary radiation exposure, no matter what its relation to background dosages. The point is cumulative.
- 2) The near impossibility of monitoring either 'release' or 'effects'
- 3) The indeterminate long term costs to the public in a) health, safety, psychological security and b) economic costs of attempting to deal with impacts, law suits, discovery, etc. etc.

NRC must actively investigate other options. NRC must not be driven by the economic convenience of the industry, but must put the long term public interest- health and safety first, as is its charge.

NRC SHOULD SUPPORT initiatives of the metals industries for "zero tolerance" in contamination. Or we may create a crisis of confidence for these industries both abroad and at home, as is happening with genetic alteration of our nation's food supplies. The fundamental dangers of this issue are not unrelated to the fundamental issue which NRC faces in the matter of allowing contaminated materials into the consumer product stream, where they may never be able to be recalled or recovered. NRC must consider the possible costs to all concerned of this possible scenario.

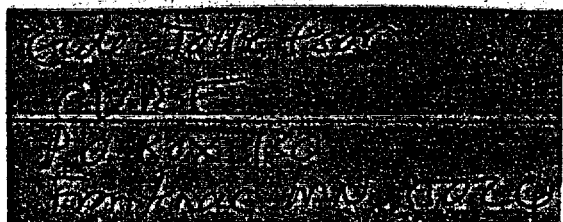
NRC should work to prevent future releases, document and attempt to curb past releases and the US should be a leader in preventing international contamination. The world is too much with us, to ignore the international dimension of this issue. NRC is making an initiative in the WRONG DIRECTION. Please reverse course now, before it is too late.

NRC MUST EXTEND THE COMMENT PERIOD. To September, 2000. This matter is too important to the public at large to leave comments in the hands of the few overburdened watchdogs that some of us have, by conscience, become.

Thank you for your attention to the public interest,

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