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COMMUNICATIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE

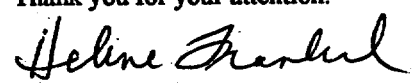
Richard Meserve
Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve;

I am shocked and terrified to learn this week of the proposals being considered for the release of radioactive materials into the marketplace. This is an extremely serious issue that should command more public scrutiny and commentary along with long term scientific study of the possible consequences. After all, radioactivity is almost forever. These decisions should not be made quickly on the basis of convenience or profitability for the nuclear industry. These actions will be our legacy to the next one thousand generations.

How many more unintended disasters do we need to make based on scientific theory or computer simulations that prove to be incorrect or based on faulty or incomplete data? Many situations have proven to be harmful to humans or the environment after long term exposures such as chemicals and fertilizers that have leached or spilled into our rivers and lakes; drugs rushed to the marketplace too soon; breast implants; high protein animal feed now suspected in "mad cow" disease; the bioengineered corn that killed monarch butterfly larvae. We can not continue to act as if our science is infallible. Although technology has made awesome changes in our life and conditions on the planet, many of the problems mentioned above did not manifest for ten or twenty years. You might not be in charge when the damage becomes recognizable in the public and environmental health profiles, but that does not excuse you from your job of being our ultimate watchdog and advocate. The safety of the American people, not the American corporation, should be your highest concern. I am deeply saddened to realize that you are jeopardizing our trust in you. Have you lost touch with the majority of American citizens who are frightened by the specter of nuclear waste and accidental release of radioactive material? This kind of government sanctioned commercial use of radioactive byproducts should further alienate citizens who already distrust the United States government. At this point the public is mostly unaware of this proposal; the media has been woefully silent, but this does not mean the public will not be concerned when they find out what has been decided in near silence. The citizens have stopped the previous shortsighted attempts to reuse radioactive waste and I hope we win again if you do not exercise the responsibility of your position to drop proposal #64FR35090 6/30/99.

Thank you for your attention.



Helene Frankel

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