

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

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DOCKETED  
USNRC

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

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Dear Secretary Meserve,

I could not believe that the NRC tolerates any release of radioactive materials into the public domain. Yet it apparently does and is now considering whether corporations should be allowed to release radioactive materials into recycling processes that will let radioactive waste end up in the environment and in the workplace, homes, and bodies of our citizens. I speak as a sociologist who studies organizational behavior and the nature of scientific and technical controversies, and as an environmentalist who believes that our society should follow the "precautionary principle" in as many decisions as practical. Thus, I have some doubts about our scientific ability to accurately forecast the long-range consequences of specific exposures to various levels of radioactivity. **BUT EVEN IF THESE PROJECTIONS ARE 100% ACCURATE, I am very certain that a hundred psychological, social, and economic forces will make it impossible to achieve the idealized goal of minimal exposure.**

What do we as a society gain from taking these risks? Nothing!! The primary benefactors are corporations that will save a few bucks. Please take no risks at all with the public's health. This is one case where a mistake will have long-term consequences and cannot be "recalled" like a defective car.

Please extend the period of public comment on this action. It has immense implications for all of us and the public should be given a chance to understand fully the possible implications.

Sincerely,



John A. Stewart  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of Hartford

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