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Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Dear Sir :

It is my understanding from reading several reports to that effect that the Department of Energy is subsidizing the recycling of thousands of tons of radioactively contaminated scrap metal from a former nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, TN. As an agency established to look after the radiation health of US populations, How can you tolerate such action a?

It is my strong feeling that Congress should be called upon to require that those leaders who approve of such plans should be required to purchase randomly all kinds of goods fashioned from these products made from such radioactive metals and use them in their house and those of their children (and that these be checked on periodically to establish that these furnishings reside regularly as they would in the homes of unaware purchasers of the same items . Perhaps then we citizens of the USA who distrust the financial motivations of such leaders might feel that these leaders are sincere in their convictions about the safety of all citizens .

My background is that of a PhD chemist retired from 36 years of teaching . Among the courses which I took with some background in the area of nuclear radioactivity is the intensive 2 weeks one at Harvard and MIT named "Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control " . Later for several years I taught a one-term course of the same name. My reading during this teaching was extensive on a regular basis . It also occurred that in Albany , NY , some physicists found that radioactivity of not insignificant amounts was found downwind of a manufacturer of "depleted uranium " . Investigation eventually led to the shut-down of this plant ."Depleted " had led many to feel that DU is innocuous !

It is easy to say that the dosage of radiation is such that only 'x' percent of those exposed will develop leukemia or other cancers within 30 years , when those making such pronouncements themselves will be certain to live in safe locations and avoid known sources of enhanced radiation . After all , it is only "some unfortunates " who will be affected, and probably never even some of their friends or acquaintances . Let's think of social JUSTICE , and let the children of those who "know" and proclaim that the exposure level is "safe" be also equally exposed !

Is your Commission doing anything about the sale of such radioactive metals ?
Your response will be important to myself and friends !

Sincerely ,

William B. Martin, Jr.
William B. Martin, Jr. (emeritus, Union College, Schenectady)