

April 7, 2000

Ms. Hildegard Hannum
P. O. Box 190
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Dear Ms. Hannum:

I am responding to your letter to Senator Christopher Dodd, expressing your opposition to possible recycling of materials containing radioactivity into consumer products.

At this time, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is in the preliminary stages of examining its approach for controlling solid material. The NRC is seeking public input to its decision-making process through various forums. An initial step in that process was to prepare, for public comment, a paper that discusses issues associated with alternative courses of action. This "Issues Paper" was published in a Federal Register notice (FRN) on June 30, 1999 (64 FR 35090), with a comment period that was originally scheduled to close on November 15, 1999, but which was extended to December 22, 1999. To provide further opportunity for public input, the NRC held a series of public meetings during the Fall of 1999 at four locations, as announced in the FRN. Information about current NRC efforts in this area, including the contents of the Issues Paper, opportunities for further public comment, and summaries of comments at the public meetings held to date, is available on NRC's website address at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NMSS/IMNS/controlsolids.html>. The NRC website can be accessed, using internet services, on computers at home, or available at local schools or libraries.

Currently, the Commission is reviewing a paper by the NRC staff summarizing the public's concerns, expressed both during the public meetings and in written comments, along with the staff's recommendations on how to proceed regarding control of solid materials at licensed facilities. The Commission is anticipating holding two separate meetings, open to the public, in May 2000. At the first meeting, the staff will brief the Commission on the paper, and at the second meeting, representatives of various stakeholder groups will be provided with an opportunity to express their comments and concerns to the Commission. The dates of those meetings are tentative and will be announced on NRC's website. Please be assured that we will consider your comments, along with those of others that are received, as part of the NRC's decision-making process.

I trust that this reply responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA by Martin J. Virgilio, Acting For/

William F. Kane, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: Office of Senator Christopher Dodd

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William F. Kane, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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cc: Office of Senator Christopher Dodd

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