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From: "Haney, Philip" <phaney@agr.state.ga.us>
To: "secy@nrc.gov" <secy@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Dec 22, 1999 4:00 PM
Subject: Comments on Recycling Proposal

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Richard Meserve
Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff
US NRC
Washington, D. C. 20555

OFFICE
OF
ADJUDICATIONS

December 22, 1999

Dear Richard,

This letter is in response to an editorial I read today in the Atlanta Journal Constitution (Viewpoints - Dec. 20, 1999). The story was entitled 'Radioactive Contamination,' and was written by Sara Barczak.

Honestly, it difficult for me to believe that the NRC is seriously considering recycling known radioactive materials into mainstream consumer goods. How can people that we entrust with important decisions choose a course of action that is so fraught with potential health and legal dangers?

It seems a cowardly and dangerous approach to an admittedly overwhelmingly difficult problem, yet there must be a solution more equitable than the one outlined here.

One of the most disturbing aspects of this approach is that no one would be held accountable for injuries that occurred. It reminds me of problems that arose following nuclear testing in the 1940's and 50's, only this proposal seems even more widespread and insidious. Why? Because we know more about radioactivity now than we did back then - we're no longer ignorant, and that would leave us without excuse to deliberately choose such a (potentially) harmful solution.

Please consider this letter as a token of my strongest possible opposition to the proposal to recycle known radioactive materials, either here in America, or in any other unsuspecting county abroad.

Sincerely

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