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Bard College  
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Dear Secretary Meserve,

OFFICE OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

I am writing to ask the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to isolate radioactive wastes and materials and anything they contaminate, no matter what level. The radioactive legacy of atomic weapons and energy production should be isolated from the public and the environment.

The NRC should also extend the comment period on releasing radioactive waste into commerce to at least September 2000. This issue is too important to act hastily upon and it should be fully debated by the public. Several more months are necessary to engage American consumers and determine if they want their families put at risk by exposure to radioactive household items.

The public has spoken before on this issue. We still do not want nuclear power and weapons wastes "released," "cleared," deregulated, exempted, generally licensed, designated "de minimis," "unimportant," or BRC-below regulatory concern, or by any other creative, direct or deceptive means, allowed out of nuclear facilities and into the marketplace or the environment, at any level.

The current methods of releasing radioactive wastes from commercial licensees and weapons facilities must immediately cease. No future radioactive releases should be permitted and a full accounting and recapture of that which has already been released should commence. Using radioactive wastes in consumer products poses unnecessary, avoidable, involuntary, uninformed risks. The consumers, the producers, the raw materials industries don't want these radioactive wastes or risks.

Furthermore, the NRC is relying on a private contractor called Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to prepare the technical basis for the proposed regulation. This is a blatant conflict of interest. The NRC has not publicly disclosed the relevant economic interests of SAIC. The NRC has not notified the public that SAIC has simultaneously been working with or for other corporations with substantial economic interests in the Commission's determinations in this rulemaking. In particular, since mid-1996, SAIC has been the teaming partner of British Nuclear Fuels, Ltd. (BNFL) under a quarter billion DOE contract for recycling unprecedented amounts of contaminated radioactive metallic waste. This situation calls into question the entire NRC process.

In conclusion, the comment period should be extended and the NRC should serve the interests of the public instead of the nuclear industry and prohibit the release of radioactive materials into commerce.

Sincerely,

*Rachel Jacobs*

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