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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

January 28th, 2000

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

Dear Chairman Meserve:

I am writing to call on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to isolate radioactive wastes and materials and anything they contaminate, no matter the level of contamination. The radioactive legacy of atomic energy and weapons production must not be allowed to put the public and the environment at risk any longer.

The NRC appears convinced that it should legalize radioactive wastes being "recycled" into the marketplace. In its Staff Requirements Memo it says that the standard must allow "releases" to take place and that all radioactive materials will be eligible for "clearance." This means that the NRC is not seriously examining all of the options available, such as non-release, though the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which requires all options to be considered.

I want the NRC to serve the interests of the public instead of the nuclear industry and prohibit the release of radioactive materials into commerce, landfills and incinerators; to identify, track and recapture the radioactive waste that has already been released from nuclear power and weapons facilities by federal and state regulators; and to give the public at least eight more months to comment on what should be done with existing radioactive waste. This issue is too important to act hastily upon and sho uld be fully debated by the public.

Sincerely,

Paul McHugh

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SECY-02