

DANIEL K. INOUE  
HAWAII

APPROPRIATIONS  
Subcommittee on Defense

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation  
and Merchant Marine

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

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United States Senate

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September 28, 2000

NOV 1 11 11 AM '00

Mr. Dennis K. Rathbun  
Congressional Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

I would like to share with you a letter I received from Mr. and Mrs. Phillip C. Hoffman regarding recycled radioactive materials.

Within existing rules and regulations would you kindly respond to the concerns raised by Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman? Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Aloha,



DANIEL K. INOUE  
United States Senator

DKI:kkt  
Enclosure

Template=SECY-067

SECY-02

F.B. Doc 1813

Kalahouka Hi, 96750

7 Sept 2000

Senator Dan Snouye

U. S. Senate, Wash., D. C. 20010

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Dear Senator:

I've been made aware of a potentially disastrous so-called "cost-cutting and recycling" scheme being promoted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and, to my alarm, the Dept. of Energy. (Please see the enclosed info I've included with this letter.)

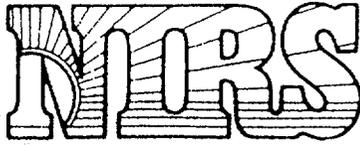
This scheme would permit radioactive contaminated materials from uranium enrichment plants and nuclear reactor sites to be "released" into the general commerce stream to unsuspecting steel recyclers and manufacturers. These lethal materials would subsequently be made into a wide variety of consumer items, building supplies and materials, etc., obviously resulting in unnecessary, involuntary and irreversible ionizing radiation exposure and risks; solely as a consequence of misguided nuclear utility restructuring and deregulation.

Are you aware of all this, Senator? What info can you give us now? We are very interested in knowing what you are able to do to stop this hare-brained, totally unacceptable assault on human health and the environment. Please write us, soon. Thank you.

Cordially and sincerely

(Mr. Mrs.)

AD: 11.11



## Nuclear Information and Resource Service

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August 2000

Dear Friend:

Imagine a world where kitchen utensils from frying pans to spatulas are made from "recycled" radioactive materials...

Where parts of your baby's stroller, your belt buckle, your refrigerator-- were once components in nuclear power and weapons plants...

Where the building you work in is reinforced with steel beams manufactured from a dismantled uranium enrichment plant; where your oedsprings once served as a valve in an atomic reactor...

It sounds like a science fiction movie. But it isn't.

Instead, it's the latest cost-cutting measure promoted by the nuclear power industry. And, unbelievably, it's supported by the federal government.

Unfortunately, this radioactive "recycling" already has begun. The good news is that we can stop the worst of it—if you'll help and speak out now.

Companies from Tennessee to California have received permits to "release" radioactive materials (including metal, concrete, asphalt and others) into open commerce and regular garbage dumps.

NIRS joined the atomic workers' union and others in a court challenge to this sham "recycling." We sued the Department of Energy (DOE) and British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. (BNFL) over their contract to dismantle and release 126,000 tons of metal from a massive contaminated uranium enrichment plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Federal Judge Gladys Kessler described the process as "entirely experimental" and said "the potential for environmental harm is great, especially given the unprecedented amount of hazardous materials which [BNFL] seeks to recycle." But, due to a legal loophole, Judge Kessler was unable to stop the process. Undeterred, we continued our organizing efforts.

Fortunately, public pressure has begun to work where the legal system failed. As a result of public and congressional concern, last month Energy Secretary Bill Richardson announced that the DOE will stop radioactive metal "recycling"—for now. Other contaminated materials are still going out.