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From: "WILLIAM A BRIANT" <HAWNGECKO@prodigy.net>
To: <tjn@nrc.gov>
Date: Sun, Oct 22, 2000 8:52 PM
Subject: This in your backyard?

This kind of thinking has got to STOP before it gets any further. We do not want to be exposed to any more contaminated soil or building material. No more scenarios like ASBESTOS.... Things getting out of hand like KILLER BEES..... We human beings were NOT put on this earth to be subject to HUMAN MADE things like RADIOACTIVE material in any kind of quantity. I am appalled by anyone who could even think this way. It just makes me sick that we have people in any form of power that would let anything like this ever be considered. It probably just boils down to someone getting their pockets FILLED with MONEY (get rich scheme / scam)... If so, how about filling all your pockets full of radioactive soil in place of the money and then walk around with it for the rest of your lives!!!!!!

PLEASE, do NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!! It needs to be STOPPED!!! N O W !!!!!! To go no further!!!!! Our planet is contaminated enough already!!!!

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> Radioactive Soil from Nuclear Plants May be Sold to Homes, Farms
>
> By Brian Hansen
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> WASHINGTON, DC, October 19, 2000 (ENS) - A controversial plan that would
> allow nuclear power plant operators to market their radiologically
> contaminated soils to construction companies, farmers, golf courses and
> other commercial entities is moving closer to reality.
>
> After a 14 month literature search, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
> (NRC) has selected 56 documents with which to define "realistic reuse
> scenarios" for the many tons of contaminated soils currently piled up at
> nation's nuclear power plants.
>
> According to the NRC, the nuclear power industry's stockpile of low level
> contaminated soils could be safely used for a number of private and public
> endeavors, such as home landscaping projects, athletic fields, and
> playgrounds.
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> Palo Verde Unit #1 nuclear power plant is located 34 miles west of
Phoenix,
> Arizona. (Photo courtesy Nuclear Regulatory Commission)
> The 56 documents selected in the literature search, which were culled from
a
> collection of some two million scientific articles, academic publications
> and industry reports, will be used to characterize the impacts that the
> recycled contaminated soils would have on public health and the
environment.
> Specifically, the NRC hopes to use the documents to analyze the "exposure
> pathways" that will result from each soil reuse scenario. For example, the

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> NRC will use the documents to analyze the exposure pathways in a "suburban
> scenario," where recycled nuclear power plant soils are used as backfill
> around a domestic residence.
>
> The exposure pathways resulting from any given soil reuse scenario would
> vary according to the activities of the people living area, the NRC notes.
> For example, if people within a suburban reuse scenario engaged in
gardening
> activities, the exposure pathways could include inhalation, ingestion of
> vegetables or fruits, inadvertent ingestion of soil, and external
exposure,
> the NRC points out.
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> Curtis Park Adventure Playground, Sacramento, California (Photo courtesy
> Sacramento Parks Dept.)
> In order to evaluate the potential overall impact of reusing the power
plant
> soils, the NRC will analyze several scenarios to determine a "critical
> group." The NRC defines a critical group as a group of individuals
> reasonably expected to receive the greatest exposure to residual
> radioactivity for any applicable set of circumstances.
> The dose of radiation received by the average member of the critical group
> will then be used to determine whether limitations are required so that
soil
> reuse will be controlled in a way that is protective of public health and
> the environment, according to the NRC.
>
> The 56 documents that were culled from more than two million during the
> literature search will provide valuable information in setting those
> parameters, the NRC maintains. Some of the document titles selected
include:
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> "Hazardous soils to be used in paving mix."
>
> "Large scale adobe brick manufacturing in New Mexico."
>
> "Methodology to estimate the amount and particle size of soil ingested by
> children: implications for exposure assessment at waste sites."
>
> "Ash: A valuable resource."
>
> "Building with adobe brick."
>
> "Probabilistic prediction of exposures to arsenic contaminated residential
> soil."
>
> "Technical basis for establishing environmentally acceptable endpoints in
> contaminated soils."
>
> "We're in the soils business, remember!"
>
> A key element of the project was to have a team of outside experts review
> the results of the literature search, the NRC emphasized. According to the
> NRC, the role of the outside experts was to alert the agency to concepts

or
> information overlooked in the literature search.
> One of the independent reviewers, Carlo Long Casler, did make such an
alert
> to the NRC. Casler, who is affiliated with the Arid Lands Information
Center
> at the University of Arizona, asked the NRC to review Russian documents
> pertaining to the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986.
> Casler also suggested that the NRC analyze Japanese documents pertaining
to
> the long term health effects of the atomic bombs that were dropped on
> Hiroshima and Nagasaki some 55 years ago.
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> Severe soil erosion in a wheat field in Washington. (Photo by Jack Dykinga
> courtesy U.S. Dept. of Agriculture)
> The NCR, in a report released earlier this summer, concluded that the
> environmental and health impacts of those cases were not relevant to the
> question of reusing radiologically contaminated soil from U.S. nuclear
power
> plants.
> "The unintentional exposure hazard from the high-level radiation that
> occurred in the cases Ms. Casler mentioned is significantly different from
> the anticipated exposure derived from soils intentionally released from
> NRC-regulated locations," the NRC stated in its report.
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> That's not good enough for Diane D'Arrigo of Nuclear Information and
> Resource Service, a watchdog group based in Washington, D.C.
>
> D'Arrigo, like many environmentalists, takes issue with the NRC's plan to
> release low level radioactive materials from regulatory standards.
>
> "The goal should be to isolate radioactive materials and prevent
exposures,
> not to deliberately expose people by allowing radioactive materials into
> regular daily commerce, D'Arrigo said. "If it's contaminated from nuclear
> power and the fuel chain, then it should be treated as a waste and
> isolated."
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> Joseph M. Farley Unit #1 is situated 16.5 miles from Dothan, Alabama
(Photo
> courtesy Photo courtesy Nuclear Regulatory Commission)
> The NRC has already set radiation benchmarks that nuclear power plants
must
> meet before they can be decommissioned. Now, the NRC is trying to set
> standards that would allow individual aspects of the plants to be released
> from regulatory control prior to a shutdown. In addition to contaminated
> soils, these standards would apply to metals, concrete and equipment used
at
> nuclear power plants.
> Like many environmentalists, D'Arrigo is not convinced that the NRC's
> standards will be protective.
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> "When the whole motivation behind it is to allow radioactive materials to
be

> released from regulatory control, we can't have a lot of hope that these
are
> really going to be objective or comprehensive or realistic," she said.
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> The NRC will take public comments on its report on human interaction with
> reused soils until November 17. The document can be viewed on line at:
> http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NUREGS/SR1725/index.html.
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> Comments can be submitted by email to: tjn@nrc.gov, or by fax to:
> 301-415-5385.
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