

65 FR 44843

7-19-00

(116)

From: <JNadle@aol.com>
To: <tjn@nrc.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 2, 2000 9:13 PM
Subject: Human interaction with reused soils

Dear Sir,

I reviewed the recent NRC document on radioactive soil recycling, and am writing to comment on it.

I oppose the plan to let radiation contaminated soils be used in public areas. This will intentionally increase public exposure to radiation. That's not good.

My understanding of radiation's effects on the human body are that it is cumulative, and that there is no truly safe threshold level below which negative effects may not occur. Any unnecessary exposure to radiation is undesirable, and should be avoided if possible.

In our daily lives, we of course are exposed to many sources of radiation. Some exposures such as x-rays can have benefits, and the risk of exposure is intentionally taken. In stark contrast, this proposal would cause many people to be unintentionally and likely unknowingly exposed to radiation--a fundamental difference.

The spreading of radioactive soils offers no public benefit I can see, and by intent benefits only the nuclear power industry that has generated the waste. It allows them off the hook for dealing with this so-called low level waste in a more responsible, albeit more expensive manner, and exposes the public to unnecessary risk.

Despite "realistic use scenarios," the truth is that no one can guarantee with certitude that people won't get sick, and even die prematurely from the (added) radiation exposure that implementing this plan would cause.

I believe radioactive soil should remain regulated as the hazard it is, and not be intentionally spread into the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this plan. I'd appreciate confirmation that you have received and read this e-mail, and entered it into the official public comment record.

Jonathan Nadle

Template ADM013

ADM03
ERIDS-03
Add Tom Nicholson
TJN