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Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 7, 2000

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Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Hoffman
Post Office Box 1813
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman:

This is in response to your September 7, 2000, letter to Senator Inouye regarding your concerns about the Department of Energy's (DOE) recycling materials from its surplus nuclear facilities. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson has suspended the release of metals from our radioactive facilities for recycling, and he has set the Department on a course to ensure that in the future there is no detectable contamination above background levels on metals recycled from DOE facilities.

The enclosed news release describes the Secretary's policy. Additional information is available on the Department's web site: <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/oepa/> under the tab marked "focus areas." I encourage you to review this information and contact the Department with any further questions or comments.

If you have further questions about the Department's Environmental Management program, please contact me at (202) 586-7710, visit our home page at www.em.doe.gov, or contact Mr. Steve Lerner, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5470.

Sincerely,

Carolyn L. Huntoon
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission



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