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(64FR 35090)

930

From: Mindy Landau  
To: GWIA:Wheezin2@aol.com  
Date: Wed, Jan 10, 2001 8:05 AM  
Subject: Re: Rad metal recycling

DOCKETED  
USNRC

01 JAN 11 P4:34

Thank you for your views.

>>> <Wheezin2@aol.com> 01/09 10:56 PM >>>  
Gentlemen:

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKING AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

The removal of the moratorium of contaminated metals from the Department of Energy sites is still unacceptable. There have already been reports of over-limit releases, and the trade-off of profit versus public health is simply not worth it. Secretary Richardson offered the alternative of internal recycling, which would still pose some hazard to workers, but at least spare the general public from the all-too-common mistakes which I listed in my objections some time ago. As a 30+ year worker at Oak Ridge Operations, I have seen far too many examples of how things are, as opposed to how they should be. Please do not allow this recycling to happen.

Glenn Bell  
504 Michigan Ave.  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

<< Dr. Richard Meserve, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), asked the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel to examine the practice of releasing radioactively contaminated solid waste materials into everyday commerce. He said this type of recycling is necessary to insure the continued viability of the commercial nuclear power plant industry and the Cold War decommissioning activities of the U.S. Department of Energy.  
fyi-janet

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<http://ens-news.com/ens/jan2001/2001L-01-03-15.html>  
Environment [ENS -- Environment News Service]

U.S. Agencies Seek to Turn Radioactive Metals into Consumer Items

By Brian Hansen

WASHINGTON, DC, January 3, 2001 (ENS) - The manufacture of consumer products out of radioactively contaminated materials discarded from commercial nuclear power plants and government bomb factories could become a fact of American life. In an extraordinary move, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission today asked the National Academy of Sciences to sanction the controversial practice.

Dr. Richard Meserve, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), made the request during the public portion of a special National Academy of Sciences committee meeting in Washington. >>

Template = SECY-067

SECY-02

Subj: Comments on Contaminated Metals Release  
Date: 10/11/2000 11:14:47 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [Wheezin2@aol.com](mailto:Wheezin2@aol.com) (Glenn Bell)  
To: [harold.peterson@hq.doe.gov](mailto:harold.peterson@hq.doe.gov)  
To: [stephen.domotor@hq.doe.gov](mailto:stephen.domotor@hq.doe.gov)

Mr. Harold T. Peterson, Jr.  
Mr. Stephen L. Domotor  
Air, Water, and Radiation Division  
Office of Environmental Policy and Guidance  
USDOE (EH-41)  
1000 Independence Ave. , SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Gentlemen:

I wish to comment on the proposal to allow the recycling of volumetrically contaminated nickel, and possibly other contaminated metals, from Department of Energy sites, Oak Ridge's ETTP, in particular. I have followed this issue since its inception, and agree with Secretary Richardson's decision for a moratorium on such action. There have simply been too many "mistakes" to allow this process to continue. Secretary Richardson's office has offered what I

see as a viable alternative, in converting the scrap into waste-handling containers for containment of the untold amounts of rad and mixed wastes at the sites across the complex. The recent DOE IG report affirms my belief, and

that of others, that over-limit shipments will, indeed, be released. I have expressed my concerns to Secretary Richardson's office, the NRC, the Steelworkers' Union, scrap recyclers groups, and the offices of Senator Thompson and Congressman Wamp. The NRC letter is copied below. I will be sending this message through postal mail, along with copies of other supporting documents. I believe the recycling should remain within the DOE complex, and avoid any risk of release to the public.

Glenn Bell  
Oak Ridge Resident, Y-12 Machinist, & CBD Victim  
Beryllium Victims Alliance  
Y-12 Beryllium Support Group  
Coalition for a Healthy Environment  
DOE Chronic Beryllium Disease Protection Program Member  
DOE Risk Analysis Committee, Worker Representative  
504 Michigan Ave.  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
865-482-7641 / 865-574-2712

November 24, 1999  
Mr. Richard Meserve, NRC Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555  
Attn.: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

Dear Chairman Meserve and Staff:

I am writing to comment on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's intent to

approve historically contaminated nuclear and legacy waste for release in recycling. I find this concept unacceptable, based on past mistakes, incompetency, and the growing revelation that rad contamination, at any level, can be hazardous to human health. Murphy's Law- "If something can go wrong, it will"- is especially true in the rad arena.

For background, I am a 51-year old machinist at Oak Ridge's Y-12 Plant, where I have been employed since 1968. I was diagnosed with Chronic Beryllium

Disease in 1993, after several years' misdiagnosis as asthma. My symptoms range from mild to quite severe. Since being diagnosed, I have immersed myself in educating myself in the historical blunders of DOE/DOD throughout

the 50 years of nuclear development. In the last few years, I have attended

several DOE and local health conferences, as an affected employee, and the relationship has resulted in much better communication for both sides. But much more work needs to be done.

I would cite several examples as reasons for my opposition to recycling the

contaminated metals. Locally, there are two former salvage yards, the DuPont Smith yard in Oak Ridge, and the David Witherspoon yard in nearby Knoxville. Both acquired salvage materials from Oak Ridge Operations, both were later

found to have contaminated equipment.

Last year, a large piece of equipment, I believe a vertical turret lathe, was purchased at auction from ETPP (the former K-25 site), and was found to have internal contamination, despite being "green-tagged" for public release.

About two years ago, barrels of rad waste, destined for out-of-state shipment to a proper disposal site, were found to have been misdirected to Y-12's burial grounds.

The well-publicized destruction of documents at INEEL and other sites (including Y-12) make verification impossible.

The acknowledgement of plutonium at Paducah, the cancer clusters around Brookhaven Lab, and the almost unbelievable contamination releases from Hanford solidify the assertion that we haven't done a very good job of containment to date, even at the site level. Heaven help us if we release these materials to the unsuspecting public. This is not the proper approach to population control.

I would call on the NRC to extend its comment period on this action at least a year, as more facts such as these examples are surfacing almost weekly.

The workers at these sites are your most valuable resource. I beg you to use them in any final decision.

Regards,

Glenn Bell

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