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From: Richard Wilcox <rwilcox@interlink.or.jp>
To: <teh@nrc.gov>
Date: 5/18/01 2:40AM
Subject: Attention: Tim Harris re;NRC ON WEAPONS-GRADE PLUTONIUM FUEL

(18)

TO the NRC c/o Mr. Tim Harris,

5/18/01

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is engaged in a licensing process for a new nuclear fuel factory at the Savannah River Site in SC that would make experimental nuclear fuel from plutonium recovered from nuclear weapons (and residues from the bomb-making process) for use in commercial nuclear power reactors. Since the plutonium would be mixed with uranium, it is a "mixed oxide" or "MOX" fuel. This proposal is mirrored by a similar program in Russia. Justified as "disposition" programs for surplus weapons-grade plutonium, these programs have far reaching consequences. MOX production & use in the US would reverse decades of policy against plutonium use, as well as "blend" civilian and military nuclear programs.

As a citizen of the United States I am strongly opposed to this kind of operation, for what should be obvious reasons! Nuclear technology is an ecological disaster, further processing like MOX just exacerbates the problem of nuclear waste and radioactive contamination of the biosphere!

Stop the NRC's licensing of the MOX production at SRC or anywhere else immediately.

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