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Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

November 13, 2002 (9 02AM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

Comments filed via the Internet on behalf of the Snake River Alliance Education Fund, Inc., PO Box 1731, Boise, Idaho 83701-1731—email: gary@snakeriveralliance.org

Re: 10 CFR Part 40—Transfers of Certain Source Materials by Specific Licensees

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Snake River Alliance, Idaho's nuclear watchdog, and its 1,300 members.

The NRC should recognize that by continuing to use the 0.05% standard it would allow the **free release** of uranium and thorium into the unregulated environment with unsafe dose levels. This practice must stop!

The NRC should dispense with the 0.05% free release standard for uranium and thorium source material altogether and apply to uranium and thorium materials the standard that is determined to be protective of human health and the environment in the proposed rulemaking for the control of solid materials currently covered by the 0.05% standard.

In the meantime, no transfers should be allowed unless and until the solid-material rulemaking results in safe dose levels that have scientific and public acceptance.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Richardson, Executive Director
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