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From: William J Sullivan <johnsu01@juno.com>
To: <secy@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Apr 16, 2003 6:23 PM
Subject: Recycling of Radioactive Waste

(68FR09595)

April 17, 2003 (8:51AM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

To the NRC:

I am writing to convey my opposition to the recycling, whether unrestricted or restricted, of radioactive waste into the commercial product stream.

From the reading I have done, I do not believe that there is a safe dose of radiation, and the rulemaking changes proposed presume a safe dose. Even if there were a safe dose, I can't see how it is possible to calculate the dosage people would actually be exposed to given the number of different products in which this waste might end up. I understand that your proposal rests heavily on a document produced by Science Applications International Corporation (NUREG 1640). I also understand that SAIC was in a conflict-of-interest situation at the time it produced that report, since it was under contract with the DOE. I don't understand how you can continue to rely on that report, given that the company was in fact let go.

I will be keeping an eye on this issue. Ultimately this seems to me to be another way to protect the nuclear power industry from its own operating costs. This administration pretends to support the idea of a free market economy. If we are ever to have such an economy, industries must bear the burden of their own operating costs. Otherwise there is no incentive to reduce those costs. Radioactive waste should be disposed of at the expense of those who produce it, and should not be slipped back into consumer goods with the fragile hope that no harm will come as a result.

Sincerely,
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