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Secretary
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20555

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May 6, 2003 (9:09AM)

Attn.: Rulemaking Adjudications Staff

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The nation's use of radioactive materials should be conducted in a manner that protects public health and safety and the environment.

I understand that new rules are being proposed which will allow more types of waste to be taken out of facilities where radioactive materials are used or manufactured or produced as a by-product. It seems to me that any time larger volumes are handled by more people and vehicles that there is greater chance to be careless with the precautions that must be taken. All materials, without exception, should be tested for even low-level emissions before they being released into the commercial waste stream, and those not meeting the test must be segregated in separate disposal facilities.

I have seen documentaries about the "hot" materials that were thrown into the rivers in the Soviet Union, and the whole world knows about the wasteland that was once Chernobyl. I am sure you wish to keep your land cleaner and safer than those areas that were treated so badly by the Soviets. Please do not loosen the regulations; in the long run it does not make for prosperity.

Respectfully yours,

Mary E. Johnston

cc.: B.N.

Mrs. Mary E. Johnston

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