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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
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To the Staff and Commission:

Controlling the Disposition of Radioactive Solid Materials

Since I am unable to attend the public meeting on May 21 and 22, 2003, I wish to enter my comments on the record.

I strongly oppose the use in consumer goods of radioactive materials contaminated with plutonium-239, strontium-90, cobalt-60 or any radionuclide from nuclear power production. Such use is not the same as disposing of ordinary waste goods in, for example, landfills.

First of all, there is no safe level of radiation. The proposed use would expose public consumers, materials handlers and manufacturing personnel to radiation at some level. The "millirem" that will be used as a basis for measurement is nonverifiable and cannot be proved trivial.

None of the alternatives proposed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are acceptable. Certainly we don't want radioactive waste in public landfills. All radioactive waste and any materials contaminated with radioactivity from the nuclear fuel chain should be kept isolated in specifically licensed facilities. Human and other species exposure to radiation should be prevented.

I oppose the idea of radiation standards that set a legal range of public exposure to nuclear waste and a standard that will allow radioactively contaminated solid materials to be released from regulatory control. Please refer to the work of Dr. Alice Stewart and other concerning the effects of low level radiation.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Leah R. Karpen



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