

DOCKET NUMBER  
PROPOSED RULEMAKING 20  
(68 FR 09595)DOCKETED  
USNRC

From: Ollie Howe <ohowe@willapabay.org>  
To: <secy@nrc.gov>  
Date: Sat, Jun 7, 2003 11:39 AM  
Subject: TRUE?

June 9, 2003 (8:57AM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

With so many e-mail 'forwards' being sent around, I tend to ignore them but this one shocks me. Perhaps it is because I am uninformed on this issue. but please tell me if this is the truth..... and if so, why I shouldn't be concerned.

Ollie Howe  
Long Beach, WA

ohowe@willapabay.org

Nuke Waste to Make Zippers, Toys, Playgrounds? Tell NRC what you think by June 30!

#### THE PROBLEM:

Radioactive waste from nuclear weapons and nuclear power are being released and used to make everyday household items, building materials, and more. Standards are being developed to dramatically increase the amount of radioactive material recycled into the marketplace.

#### WHO IS DOING THIS AND HOW?

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is one several US government agencies pushing for nuclear waste to be dispersed, unregulated, into everyday commerce.

#### NRC IS NOW

SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE USES and DISPOSITION of NUCLEAR WASTE THAT THE PUBLIC WILL ACCEPT and THE DOSE LEVELS THE PUBLIC WILL ACCEPT FROM DEREGULATED NUCLEAR WASTES.

[The US Department of Energy (DOE) is allowing some radioactive materials out as if not radioactive but has a moratorium on letting some radioactive metals out. DOE is in the process (drafting an environmental impact statement) of reversing or codifying the ban but seems to be waiting for NRC to act. NRC's rule will affect how much DOE waste gets out through licensed processors.]

\*\*\*NOW (until June 30) is your chance to TELL THE NRC how much nuclear power and weapons waste YOU want in unrestricted or restricted commercial daily use! And in your local landfills as if it were normal trash or at hazardous waste sites not designed to take radioactive materials.

138

Template = SECY-067

SECY-02

EMAIL NRC at [secy@nrc.gov](mailto:secy@nrc.gov)

The public is being asked to tell NRC what the scope (range of issues) to be addressed should be. For example, should radioactive concrete be used to make basements or just bridge abutments? How much radioactivity should be permitted in the metal used for pipes, dental braces, intrauterine devices, belt buckles, frying pans and tableware? Should radioactive soil be used for agricultural land or playground fill? Should radioactive asphalt be used for parking lots and bike paths? Should it go to regular or hazardous waste facilities never intended to take radioactive materials. One of NRCs goals is to reduce regulatory burden on stakeholders, which really means on nuclear waste generators. You could give NRC your opinion on this.

NRC is making a rule that legalizes public exposure to deregulated nuclear waste and allows radioactive materials to be released from regulatory control.

Metal and concrete are the largest volumes of materials threatened but soil, asphalt, building rubble, equipment, tools, glass, plastic, paper and sites themselves could be deregulated.

NRC offers us 5 choices but you can suggest others—

- 1 ) continue releasing nuclear waste like is now being done—letting contaminated materials go into unrestricted commerce (consumer goods and more) based on detection levels set in 1974 for decommissioning contaminated rooms or
- 2) continue releasing nuclear waste but allow more out by using "dose estimates" that the NRC thinks are "trivial doses" or negligible risks (dose-based release standards cannot be physically measured, verified or enforced-- they are a like a blank check to the nuclear industry to let wastes out) or
- 3) let nuclear waste be released into commerce, based on dose estimates like in option 2, but try to limit where it ends up like in roads or bridges or piping— Someone would place conditions on the uses of the waste even though it would not be tracked or
- 4) treat the nuclear waste like regular trash so it can go to regular garbage dumps or incinerators (referred to as RCRA Title D facilities) or treat it like hazardous waste

and dump it in hazardous landfills or facilities (called RCRA Title C facilities) or  
5) send the waste licensed radioactive waste dumps.

Sierra Club is suggesting a 6th choice-- they are asking NRC to report on and recapture all the nuclear wastes they have already deregulated over the years, since they claim no harm has come from it.

NIRS is telling NRC to

- \* Focus the rulemaking on better ISOLATING nuclear waste from the public and the environment rather than dispersing deliberately;
- \* PROHIBIT RELEASE of radioactive wastes and materials from nuclear power and weapons into the marketplace for unrestricted or conditional uses;
- \* Prevent additional radiation exposures rather than "justifying" them with computer codes and dose modeling created by nuclear advocates. We oppose "dose-based" or "risk-based" standards.
- \* Since there is no safe dose of ionizing radiation, we accept NO dose above naturally occurring background and voluntary exposures for our own personal benefit.
- \* Stop poisoning us and the recycling industries with ANY level of radioactive contamination from nuclear power and weapons fuel chain activities.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Comment by June 30 to NRC at [secy@nrc.gov](mailto:secy@nrc.gov).

Email Address: [secy@nrc.gov](mailto:secy@nrc.gov)

Mail Address: Secretary, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555  
Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

Upload onto the NRC website at

[http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/rulemake?source=SM\\_RFC&st=ipcr](http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/rulemake?source=SM_RFC&st=ipcr)  
<[http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/rulemake?source=SM\\_RFC&st=ipcr](http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/rulemake?source=SM_RFC&st=ipcr)>

Send a copy to your local, state and federal officials and to NIRS (at [dianed@nirs.org](mailto:dianed@nirs.org)).

Encourage elected officials and friends, family, organizations to comment by the June 30 deadline too.

Spread the news about this!

MORE INFO:

Contact: Diane DArrigo at Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)  
[dianed@nirs.org](mailto:dianed@nirs.org)  
202 328-0002 ext 16  
NIRS website (being updated) [www.nirs.org/radrecycle/recyclehome.htm](http://www.nirs.org/radrecycle/recyclehome.htm)

Federal Register notice:

[http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/downloader/SM\\_RFC\\_lib/515-0045.htm?printable=1](http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/downloader/SM_RFC_lib/515-0045.htm?printable=1)

le=1

nrc website:

[http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/rulemake?source=SM\\_RFC&st=ipcr](http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/rulemake?source=SM_RFC&st=ipcr)

<[http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/rulemake?source=SM\\_RFC&st=ipcr](http://ruleforum.llnl.gov/cgi-bin/rulemake?source=SM_RFC&st=ipcr)>