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From: "Scott Stuckman" <stuckman.1@osu.edu>
To: "Secretary Nuclear Regulatory Commission" <secy@nrc.gov>
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Subject: Comments on ?Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials? (10 CFR Part 20)

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June 18, 2003

Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

Dear Secretary:

I believe the NRC's proposed ?rulemaking on controlling the disposition of solid materials? should strictly prohibit the deregulation of any solid materials contaminated with manmade radiation, and require that such materials be disposed of only in secure, licensed facilities that are designed to isolate such radioactive waste from humans and the environment.

The NRC accepts the validity of the linear, no-threshold (LNT) model of human exposure to radioactivity, which holds that ?any increase in dose, no matter how small, results in an increase in risk? to human health. Despite this, the Commission has been pursuing a contradictory proposal that would, in fact, result in exposing the public to greater doses of radioactivity! NRC Chairman Richard Meserve advised that ?it would not be appropriate to mask the Commission?s continuing support for the release of solid material? (NRC Commission Voting Record of October 25, 2002).

It is a travesty of proper government regulation that the NRC is pursuing, in effect, a subsidy worth billions of dollars that rewards waste generators for irresponsibly scattering their waste into the unregulated environment and ducking responsibility for any of the consequences.

Under no conditions should nuclear waste be deregulated, dumped in unlicensed facilities that are not prepared to monitor for or contain radioactive waste, or allowed into general commerce.

The NRC?s primary mission to ?to protect public health and safety, and the environment from the effects of radiation from nuclear reactors, materials, and waste facilities? can only be upheld by, at a minimum, establishing permanent policy wherein all radioactive material waste is restricted from general commerce and required to be disposed of in an NRC- or Agreement State-licensed low-level waste disposal site, best articulated as ?Alternative 5? in the notice published in the Federal Register on February 28, 2003.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this very serious matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Stuckman

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