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From: "C. Nevil Parker" <nparker@ufl.edu>
To: " Secretary Nuclear Regulatory Commission" <secy@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Jun 18, 2003 5:17 PM
Subject: Comments on Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials (10 CFR Part 20)

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USNRC

June 19, 2003 (7:40AM)

June 18, 2003

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

Dear Secretary:

Under absolutely no circumstances should nuclear wastes be deregulated, dumped in unlicensed facilities that are unprepared to monitor for or contain them, or be allowed into general commerce.

An agency that considers its "primary mission" to be protecting public health and safety from the dangers of radiation should not consider any rollback in regulatory protections.

Inasmuch as the current scoping process involves the NRC's alleged serious consideration of various alternatives—~~o~~ranging from no release of materials to unrestricted release—~~o~~while openly acknowledging a prejudice favoring release, the results of this rulemaking will likely endanger not only human health and ecological integrity, but the integrity of the NRC as a credible regulatory agency, as well.

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, at a minimum, by 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.

Further regulations and protections should be implemented as needed to fulfill said mission in a serious and responsible manner.

Sincerely,

C. Nevil Parker