

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Tucson Branch, 5349 W. Bar X Street, Tucson, AZ 85713

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USNRC

Secretary,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

July 2, 2003 (10:11AM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

Re: Uses and Disposition of Nuclear Waste; Dose Levels the Public Will Accept From
Deregulated Nuclear Wastes

Dear Sir:

There is NO LEVEL of nuclear waste that is "safe" for the public to absorb under any conditions, from any source. Therefore we strongly urge that the NRC follow through with Option 5, to send the waste to licensed radioactive waste dumps. ALL OF IT!!!

There is no way to assure that individuals won't receive many "trivial" doses that will therefore become a much higher risk for health damage.

We consider the present system of letting contaminated materials go into unrestricted commerce to be totally unacceptable. There is no scientific data that supports the safety of the 1974 levels of radiation now being used for decommissioning contaminated buildings.

Therefore we ask in addition to following option 5, that the NRC require the collection of all nuclear wastes that have been deregulated in the past, to prevent them from being used in consumer goods or construction projects that could possibly harm people.

There is NO SAFE DOSE OF IONIZING RADIATION. We even lament that so-called "background" radiation has increased over the last 50 years, due to the atomic bomb tests, and releases from nuclear power stations all over the world. It would be highly irresponsible to further contribute to the ambient radiation everywhere, to authorize contaminated materials to go into unrestricted commerce.

We urge the NRC to follow your mandate to protect the public health by advancing the phase-out of nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons operations, and all the fuel chain activities connected with both. We ask you to stop the radiation poisoning now occurring from present operations, and now adding further risk to the recycling industries as they process the contaminated materials now being deregulated.

Thank you for your concern for the public health. The industries now making profits from the nuclear fuel cycle and its end products can re-direct their focus to helping make a healthier world by better systems of isolating this waste from the environment.

Sincerely,
Patricia Birnie, Environmental Chair, WILPF
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