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From: HOME <heal@h-o-m-e.org>
To: <secy@nrc.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 27, 2003 11:57 AM
Subject: Nuclear Waste 'Releases'

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Dear NRC,

Regarding your comment period on releasing contaminated materials into public use, I submit the following:

NRC and Agreement States should stop granting exemptions and allowing nuclear wastes to be treated like regular trash or recycled into the marketplace. Current releases should be halted. All releases should be tracked and records kept available to the public. NRC should improve its ability and public knowledge of detection capabilities and practices so as to be able to detect and prevent releases of any contamination.

Radioactive waste should be stored, managed and isolated from the environment for as long as it is hazardous at facilities specifically licensed for that purpose for radioactive waste. Existing regulations (10CFR 61) for nuclear waste disposal should be strengthened. NRC should use this rulemaking to truly devise ways to control radioactive waste, not release it from licensed control.

Sierra Club is requesting NRC to recapture the radioactive wastes that already have been released. Since the claim is made that these releases have had no effect, Sierra asks them to prove it by identifying where the nuclear wastes have gone and checking to see what effects there have been.

As time goes on, researchers find that smaller and smaller doses of radioactivity, especially repetitive doses, have profound effects on genetics and resistance to disease. Therefore, as the producers of these toxins, and as caretakers of future generations and of the planet that sustains us, it is imperative that we know exactly where all such contaminants are and that we isolate them from the environment.

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Jennifer Olaranna Viereck, Director
HOME: Healing Ourselves & Mother Earth
PO Box 420, Tecopa CA 92389 USA
Yucca Mt. Needs You! <http://www.h-o-m-e.org>

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