To: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

(2499)

From: Arlene Sweeting, 800 17th Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205

Re: Proposal to deregulate disposal of nuclear waste.

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. I urge you to stand firm and not bow to political pressure to allow radioactive waste to be recycled into consumer products or disposed of in unlicensed facilities that do not have proper monitoring capabilities.

The scope of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) proposed "rulemaking on controlling the disposition of solid materials" should be greatly limited to only those regulatory options which would strictly prohibit the deregulation of any solid materials containing or 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. But despite this, the Commission is obstinately pursuing a contradictory proposal that would, in fact, result in exposing the public to greater doses of radioactivity! 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 absolutely 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.

DOCKETED
USNRC

June 30, 2003 (4:50PM)

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RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF