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From: Mike Ewall <catalyst@actionpa.org>
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Date: Mon, Jun 30, 2003 3:54 PM
Subject: Scoping comments on radioactive "recycling" proposal

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The following are my comments regarding the following regulatory process:

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on
"Rulemaking on Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials"
Scoping Process for Environmental Issues
Federal Register: Feb. 28, 2003 Vol. 68 No. 40 Pp. 9595-9602

Summary: DO NOT DEREGULATE RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS/WASTES!!!

Details:

In the last 5 years, there have been 15,000 missing (lost or stolen) sealed sources, of which only about half were recovered.

Institutionalizing the release of radioactive materials and wastes into unregulated and uncontrolled environments is nothing short of crazy, irresponsible and completely against any sane principles of waste management.

Instead of allowing further release of radioactive materials and wastes, NRC must strengthen the existing rules to ensure their maximum isolation for their full hazardous life. Furthermore, NRC must seek to locate and recapture the radioactive materials/wastes which have already been lost, stolen or otherwise released from regulatory control.

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