

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / / EDO CONTROL: G20040331
DOC DT: 05/07/04
FINAL REPLY:

Leslie Seff
GRACE Public Fund

TO:

Senate Armed Service Committee

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 04-0307

DESC:

Reclassify High-Level Radioactive Waste/Stricter
Regulation and Isolation of all Radioactive Wastes
/Recapture and Recall Radioactive Materials and
Wastes that have been Released

ROUTING:

Travers
Norry
Virgilio
Kane
Collins
Dean
Burns
Lohaus, STP
Cyr, OGC

DATE: 05/12/04

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NMSS Strosnider

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For Appropriate Action.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: May 11, 2004 16:19

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-04-0307 **LOGGING DATE:** 05/11/2004

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Leslie Seff
AFFILIATION: NY
ADDRESSEE: John Warner
SUBJECT: Concerns legislative measures re the defense authorization bill to reclassify high-level radioactive waste so that it is treated for disposal purposes low-level waste

ACTION: Appropriate
DISTRIBUTION: RF

LETTER DATE: 05/07/2004

ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Made publicly available in ADAMS via SECY/EDO/DPC

NOTES: OCM #5015

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: **DATE SIGNED:**



5015

GRACE PUBLIC FUND

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To	all agencies		From		
Co./Dept.	related on		Co.		
Phone #	page 2 of		Phone #		
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May 7, 2004

Senate Armed Services Committee
 John Warner, Chairman;
 Ranking Member Carl Levin;
 Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton,
 228 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510
 Fax: (202) 228-0037

Mr. Chairman, Senator Clinton, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

We are writing with respect to Senator Graham's current legislative measure before you as part of the defense authorization bill, to reclassify high-level radioactive waste so that it is treated for disposal purposes as low-level waste. The measure would allow radioactive sludge from the reprocessing of plutonium for the nation's nuclear arsenal to remain *in situ*, covered merely by grout, rather than be shipped to a high-level waste repository as the law currently requires.

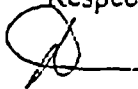
We recognize that this measure will purportedly minimize the prohibitive extraction and clean-up costs associated with disposal of 90 million gallons of residual spent fuel. However, this so-called "remediation" will have the unintended effect of undermining long-held public protections under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, which mandates the burial of such highly toxic material in deep, geological vaults. Background radiation already has been proven to cause unavoidable exposures to our communities; the addition of preventable doses from such 'remediated' sites is therefore unsupportable.

We oppose this measure in the strongest terms, and urge you to assure that state regulators, rather than the Department of Energy, will have the final word in overseeing decisions regarding such disposal, so that this toxic brew not leave a legacy of radioactive pollution at defense sites in Idaho, Washington, and South Carolina for generations to come.

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We also call on the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Transportation to revoke/reverse their internal orders, proposals and expenditures of late, which have as their coincident aims the release of radioactive wastes into the environment, infrastructure and marketplace under weaker restrictions than the law requires at present. We call upon them, rather, to initiate policies requiring stricter regulation and isolation of all radioactive wastes, and to recapture and recall radioactive materials and wastes that have already been released.

Respectfully Submitted,



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