NRCREP - Proposed Food Irradiation Facility in Honolulu, Hawaii

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From: <WJPerritt@nycap.rr.com>
To: <NRCREP@nrc.gov>
Date: 02/07/2007 8:55 AM
Subject: Proposed Food Irradiation Facility in Honolulu, Hawaii

(33)

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES BRANCH USNRC

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am expressing my strenuous objection to the proposed irradiation facility in Honolulu, Hawaii. My objection is based upon a number of concerns as follows:

Environmental Impact

1. INRC did a bad job assessing environmental impact for this proposal.
2. There was no independent research/modeling of impact of catastrophic event (i.e. "no new data were measured or derived as part of this report.")
3. It is inappropriate to use an inspection report from a Pennsylvania facility. Hawaii is different and should be viewed as such.
4. They should have considered an airplane crash's impact on the facility and the effect of losing control of radioactive material.

Security Issues

1. INRC's assessment minimizes several serious concerns with respect to security.
2. It is ill aadvised under any circumstances to bring radioactive material to an airport, with its risk of aviation accidents and terrorist threats.
3. It would be located in a tsunami evacuation zone and near two military bases, posing further security risks and making it even more appealing as a terrorist target.

Contaminated Food

1. Neither the people of Hawaii, nor the consumers outside of Hawaii to whom this produce is exported, want irradiated food, no matter how safe they claim it is.
2. Irradiation forms chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer and birth defects. One chemical, 2-ACBs, has been linked to cancer development in rats and genetic damage in human cells.
3. Irradiation can mask filthy conditions in today's mega-sized livestock slaughterhouses and food processing plants, where E. coli, Salmonella and other potentially deadly food-borne pathogens thrive in meat contaminated with feces, urine and pus.
4. Irradiated foods have failed spectacularly in the marketplace, despite millions of dollars in government subsidies for research and propaganda campaigns.
5. Many serious health problems have been observed in lab animals fed irradiated foods, including premature death, cancer, tumors, stillbirths, mutations, organ damage, immune system failure and stunted growth. In one experiment, genetic damage was detected in young children who ate irradiated wheat.
6. Because it can extend shelf life and allow food to be shipped long distances around the world, irradiation could further globalize and consolidate the food industry. These destructive forces have already bankrupted thousands of American family farmers and ranchers.

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7. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has legalized irradiated foods in defiance of federal regulations requiring comprehensive safety reviews.
8. Irradiation destroys vitamins, protein, essential fatty acids and other nutrients – up to 80 percent of vitamin A in eggs and half the beta carotene in orange juice.
9. Irradiation can ruin the flavor, odor and texture of food – sometimes disgustingly so. Zapped foods can taste and smell like a wet dog, burnt feathers, signed hair and rancid fat.
10. Numerous deaths, injuries, mishaps and acts of misconduct have occurred at irradiation plants throughout the world. In 1988 the owner of a New Jersey facility was sentenced to federal prison after covering up accidents and safety violations.
11. It remains legal to irradiate food with cesium-137, a highly radioactive waste material left over from the production of nuclear weapons. A cesium leak near Atlanta in 1988 – known as the "Three Mile Island of the irradiation industry" – cost taxpayers $40 million to clean up.

For these myriad reasons, the proposed food irradiation plant in Honolulu should not be approved, and I once again express my strenuous objection to it.

Yours truly,

William J. Perritt

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