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Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

These are my comments on the request on Feb. 11 for a foreign waste contract in Oak Ridge. They were published as a letter to the editor in the Knoxville News Sentinel.

Foreign waste poses too many problems

This is in response to "Foreign waste in OR not new," in the Feb. 11 issue.

Business as usual is not OK in Oak Ridge.

Mike Johnson can't justify further foreign waste treatment by saying, "This is not anything different than what we've done." It's already wrong — more wrong won't make it right.

We haven't been able to clean up the mess we already have in Oak Ridge. Why should we add to the problem we already have?

Oh, because of jobs. Right. Well, my neighbor (one of many around here) got beryllium poisoning from one of those supposedly safe jobs at the plants.

Sometimes the hazardous material kills you; sometimes the stuff that's supposed to shield you kills you.

Six of one, half a dozen of another.

Not only are we encouraging nuclear energy by treating its waste (instead of truly clean, renewable energy sources), we are putting people at risk at their jobs.

Are we supposed to consider wrongful death settlements a boost to our economy?

We need to clean up the filth already in Oak Ridge and get out of the nuclear waste business. Millions of dollars from contracts translate into billions of dollars of cleanup and health care costs, and nobody can put a price on disease, death and environmental damage.

We can't afford this nuclear white elephant.

Emily Whetsel
Oak Ridge

We already have more domestic waste than we can handle. We should not accept foreign nuclear waste, regardless of whether we've done it before. Nuclear waste is unnatural, and I don't want to see more deaths like my neighbor. That was horrible, and totally unnecessary. It's not just statistics. These are real people getting sick and dying. Stop putting us at risk.

Comment "Give light and the people will find their own way." NEWS SENTINEL

B4 Thursday, February 28, 2008

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