

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 20
(64FR35090)

(15)

From: "thalia" <thalia7@mindspring.com>
To: GATED.nrcsmtp("vice.president@whitehouse.gov")
Date: Fri, Jul 30, 1999 5:21 PM
Subject: Recycling of Radioactive waste

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Dear Vice President Gore,

I am shocked to learn that radioactive metal and other materials from the maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear power and weapons factories are being sold to US consumers, and that much more of the same is planned.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKING AND
ADJUDICATION STAFF

I writing to call your attention to, and express my agreement with, the findings in a recent Federal Court case, that the Department of Energy's project to recycle some 112,000 tons of radioactively contaminated metal from a nuclear weapons plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, poses a "great" and unexamined potential for environmental harm.

The Oak Ridge project involves recycling and selling radioactively contaminated metals for use in commercial products, such as cookware, furniture, and children's toys. It also establishes a precedent--an extremely dangerous one, in my opinion--for the Department of Energy and the commercial nuclear industry to release more than 1.5 million tons of radioactively contaminated metal from federal and commercial facilities throughout the country.

I request that you

- (1) advise Secretary Richardson to discontinue the radioactive recycling project until DOE completes an environmental impact statement;
- (2) take steps to assure that DOE promptly prepares an environmental impact statement pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA");
- (3) require DOE to provide information on companies and scrap metal dealers that have received, are and will be receiving radioactively contaminated metals and the products for which the metal is being used; and
- (4) direct the Council on Environmental Quality to investigate the circumstances under which DOE proceeded with the project in the absence of meaningful public participation.

Please direct your immediate attention to this grave threat against the health of the American people and our environment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thalia Morris
Greenville, SC

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Acknowledged by

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CC: OWFN_DO.owf5_po(CHAIRMAN)