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Bob Meck
c/o the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
MS P9C24
Rockville MD 20852

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKING AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Mr. Meck:

I understand that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering the smelting of radioactively contaminated scrap metal along with regular scrap metal.

Since minute amounts of radioactive materials remain lethal for centuries or longer, these contaminated metals must be isolated from our environment as effectively as possible. We do not want to risk an incident like last year's cesium-137 release from the Acerinox steel mill and smelter in Algeciras, Spain. The mishap exposed not only workers, but also the general population as the toxic plume drifted over much of Europe. Radioactivity levels in France measured 2,400 times above the normal level.

Even if we could somehow reduce the risk of such accidents to zero, recycling radioactive metals as consumer goods makes no sense. There exists no "safe" level below which we can say exposure poses no threat to health. To unnecessarily allow such hazardous materials into our daily lives and homes, exposing our families and nation to cancer and other health problems, is clearly unconscionable and unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Greg Edblom
3015 Charnelton
Eugene OR 97405

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Acknowledged by card AUG 13 1999

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