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Gallagher, Carol

From: Grace Adams [graceadams830@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2013 10:00 AM
To: Gallagher, Carol
Subject: recycling low level radioactive waste

10/25/2012

77 FR 65137

Zipper pulls and buttons made out of radioactive wastes -- even low level radio-active wastes are NOT cool. We had glow in the dark radioactive wristwatch faces early in the 20th century when we did not know any better. Now we know better. We can probably get away with low-level radioactive wastes in concrete basement floors under an inch thick layer of lead shielding under plywood sub-flooring under vinyl flooring. To avoid noticeable levels of mutants in the next generation, radioactivity to gonads needs to be kept down to somewhere between background levels and what is permitted at the fence between a nuclear power plant campus and the rest of the world. I know people live over granite bedrock--and have to take trouble to vent radon out of their basements--but that can't be helped at this point. Hospitals put their X-ray departments in their basements to avoid exposing innocent bystanders to radiation as much as possible.

U S Navy has the world's best record on nuclear power plant safety. I urge you to put the whole problem of disposing of wastes from civilian nuclear power plants in the hands of U S Navy--and give them carte blanche on how they do it. If they want to reprocess nuclear fuel rods to salvage the half of U235 left in them--fine. If they want to use some sort of breeder reactor to make good use of all the Uranium including U238 in those fuel rods--that also is fine with me. U S Navy knows nuclear power plant safety better than anyone else. The only drawback I can see is that there would be less excuse to mine more uranium to make nuclear fuel rods out of virgin uranium ore. That problem would be better solved by buying the uranium ore as reserves to be kept underground forever. Remember, it takes 3000 years for the radioactivity in a spent nuclear fuel rod to decay to the amount of radioactivity in all the uranium ore that was dug up to make that nuclear fuel rod to begin with. The smaller the volume of waste that needs to be stored safely out of harm's way for 3,000 years, the better.

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