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704 Davidson Street
Raleigh, NC 27609
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Manager
Office of Emergency Planning
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am a high school student from Raleigh, North Carolina and I am presently writing a paper on radiation and its effects on people and the environment. I would appreciate it very much if you could give me your view on the following question.

I have found references to a theory involving safety procedures. It states that in the event of a radioactive release from a nuclear plant, the best course of action would be to shelter the threatened people instead of evacuation.

The reasoning behind this is that the estimates on the amount of radioactivity released from a nuclear plant usually do not take into account the mechanical and natural barriers designed to prevent radiation from escaping. This means that present estimates may be too high. Therefore, sheltering would prove to be more advantageous as opposed to the total evacuation of an entire area. Could you please give me your views on sheltering as opposed to evacuation during a radioactive release from a nuclear plant?

Thank you

Sincerely,

Debra Elleman

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