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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

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PROPOSED RULE (45 FR 70874)
SMELTED ALLOYS

Dear People:

I have recently learned of your plan to allow the reuse of scrap metal from uranium enrichment plants. I am writing to voice my strong concern about this idea, which strikes me as evidently foolhardy.

Local reports indicate that the commission intends to allow the use of such metal for consumer items. Considering the lack of controls that would be inherent in such uses, this could prove disastrous if--as has happened in the past--new studies indicate that levels of radiation previously deemed "safe" are found to have unanticipated hazards.

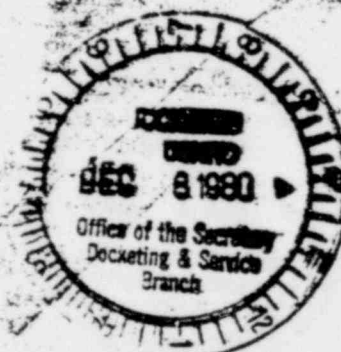
If for no other reason, I would have thought that the NRC would refuse to allow such use due to the appearance of unsafeness. After all, the charge of the NRC (implicitly if not explicitly) is to assure the public of the safety of nuclear-related activities. Even if the levels of radiation are such that the public is not in fact in danger, this sort of laxity is scarcely an assurance of safety.

What volumes of materials are being released for other uses? What metals are they composed of? What radiation level would be allowed? Does the revised regulation cover only government-run facilities, or also those under the control of private contractors and utilities?

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

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