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PROPOSED RULE (43 FR 70374)  
SMELTED ALLOYS

Secretary of the Commission  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

003105



Attention: Docketing and Service Branch

Dear Secretary:

This is in reference to your news release, dated 27 October 1980, concerning "licensing requirement exemption for contaminated smelted alloys."

I am unalterably opposed to such license exemption. The effects of low level radiation haven't been studied fully, and it would be better to risk wasting metal now rather than to try to recall contaminated smelted alloys later. Uranium tailings, which were deemed safe, have been used for roads, home foundations, schools, etc. Now negative health effects are evident in people living near these tailings. I do not want that to happen again.

From my readings on radiation, I feel that there is no safe level of radioactivity. Background radiation is dangerous. Radiation already released into our environment is harming us now. I just can't believe that implementation of this proposal would result in "less than one health effect."

You state that the existing "requirement has stifled trade in metal scrap contaminated with small amounts of radioactive materials." Licensing would require record-keeping, reports, and inspections. All are necessary when dealing with radioactive materials. Wherever radioactive materials go should be recorded. The U.S. government did not keep track of the type or volume of wastes dumped in the ocean. This would be another example of hasty, imprudent, short-sighted decisionmaking.

If businesses do not want to bother keeping track of radioactive materials, that is their decision. They obviously are not interested in helping to save your estimated 41.6 million dollars. Don't ask us to contribute by living with this extra share of radioactive contaminants in my "automobiles, appliances, furniture, utensils [sic], personal items and coins."

And it is not my position to help you avoid burial costs. I've helped you out, against my will, in subsidizing the nuclear fuel cycle in many ways. I strongly object to this proposal to make it easier for business to make money, to diffuse radioactivity, to eliminate any of your problems, and to get us out of one problem (waste burial) and into another (waste recycling).

Yours truly,

*John Whitney*

c: Rhode Islanders for Safe Power.

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