

217 Burlwood Drive
Scotts Valley, Ca. 95066
December 8, 1980

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

Dear Secretary,
Sky Dosik has said it all. We agree.

SANTA CRUZ CALIFORNIA 95060

Friday, Dec. 5, 1980 - Santa Cruz Sentinel-63

Voice Of The People

Radioactive Scrap

Editor: The other day, it came to my attention that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing to exempt from license requirements smelted alloys that have been contaminated by enriched uranium.

According to the news release (volume six, No. 38, Oct. 27), a large amount of scrap metal that has been contaminated by Technetium-99 (TC-99), and low-enriched uranium would be melted down and "recycled" into "autos, appliances, furniture, coins and personal items." To quote the release:

Currently, this radioactive scrap is forbidden to be used or transferred without a specific license from the NRC. The author of the news release notes this and complains "this requirement has stifled trade in metal scrap contaminated with small amounts of radioactive material."

Surely, this has to represent the epitome of folly. Is there someone in the NRC that is in the scrap metal business, or is this the long awaited solution to what to do with radioactive wastes? Simply melt it down and recycle it across America.

It should be noted that the by-products of the enrichment process, including TC-99, and enriched uranium, are all

emitters of alpha, beta and gamma radiation that have little respect for human body cells. Of course, the NRC report says there is no danger.

Needless to say, the only thing standing between the implementation of this exemption is a concerned and aroused public. Unless written protest is received by Dec. 12, this proposal can become binding regulation by default and radioactive scrap metal may soon be turning up in homes, schools, factories and playgrounds around our fair country.

Write today to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555, and send a photocopy to Leon Panetta and Alan Cranston.

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Yours truly,
Charles W. Dunning
Barbara W. Dunning