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PROPOSED RULE PR 10
(59 FR 4868)

To: The Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
From: Rod McCoy
20 Thirteenth St.
Atlanta, Ga. 30309

Dear Commissioners,

I want to thank the commission for the opportunity to participate in the process of developing this rule and to encourage fuller participation in future processes. I realize there are a number of interests to consider in this task. I will keep my comments here brief and to the point by avoiding repetition of points I have covered both in writing and on the panel in Atlanta.

Fission by-products which have been generated by human action are unnecessary forms of pollution to the bio-sphere. The particular effects of these forms of pollutants is little understood or agreed upon. Many are virtually permanent hazards.

By establishing a decommissioning standard which terminates licensee liability the NRC is preparing to shift all financial and other burdens for future PREDICTABLE health effects onto the public. In a time when the nation is moving toward insuring health care to all citizens the NRC is shifting the responsibility for these guaranteed health effects to the taxpayer where there is currently a known causal agent, the generators of these wastes. This practice further releases a business to open new operations with similar associated hazards on another site.

This last point along with the planned transportation of these wastes from contaminated facilities to other previously uncontaminated sites for containment while releasing property acknowledged as bearing residual radioactive contamination to unrestricted use, contribute to a ruling which merely proliferates the hazards associated with the use of radionuclides in industry.

The commission consistently acknowledges the complexity and uncertainty of the "decontamination" process throughout the proposed rule. The "flexibility" of its proposed standard complicates the issue further.

This rule as proposed contributes to the illusion that these facilities and their wastes are acceptable and even inevitable.

In conclusion this rule cannot be considered to adequately protect the public welfare. My position continues to be that the commission must first propose to end the production of any man-made radioactive wastes before any standard for decommissioning can be considered complete.

Sincerely,
Rod McCoy
Atlanta, Ga.

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