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Transfer of Very Low-Level Waste to Exempt Persons for Disposal

Comment On: NRC-2020-0065-0001

Transfer of Very Low-Level Waste to Exempt Persons for Disposal

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Comment on FR Doc # 2020-04506

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General Comment

I just today learned of this proposed rule. I understand that the comment period has been extended until July, but this will be in a period of time when, as an older American with preexisting conditions, I will still be in isolation. Obtaining and preparing food, maintaining my household, working from home on several writing projects, and self care (particularly exercise) are overwhelming challenges and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future because Buffalo has not yet reached its peak of covid cases. I find it entirely inappropriate that the NRC and other agencies expect members of the public, including pro bono experts, to comment on matters of such import during the pandemic.

Ironically, as a medical anthropologist, I am in the midst of a writing project, a new edition of my chapter on the environment and health for the second edition of a reference work "Companion to Medical Anthropology" (Singer and Erickson, eds.) In the past few weeks I have done extensive on-line research in the journal literature on the controversial topic of the health effects of low level radiation. It is clear to me that I should have something to say on this topic, but I cannot take the time to read the docket materials or comment in detail under these conditions.

I recommend that that decision on this matter be deferred until serious long-term research resolves the controversy over long term exposure to low level radiation.