

Letters

Disposal of Radioactive Scrap

The federal government has apparently discovered how to "solve" part of the problem of radioactive waste. At the request of the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing a rule that would exempt from licensing and regulatory requirements the use and transfer of smelted alloys made with radioactively contaminated metal scrap generated at three U.S. uranium enrichment plants.

This will make it possible for the contaminated alloys to end up in the marketplace as automobiles, appliances, furniture, utensils, personal items, coins and so forth.

The government's rationale for this is that it could make money by selling the scrap, that it wouldn't have to bury these alloys along with all the other radioactive waste and that the amount of radioactivity in the scrap would be reduced by being smelted into metal alloy.

This is a horrendous extension of the government's usual method of handling environmental insults: "Dilution is the solution to pollution." This time, it would mean exposure to doses of radiation from everyday consumer products, in addition to the exposure we are already getting from other sources. Since the health effects of radiation exposure are cumulative, this proposed ruling is a direct assault on each one of us.

A barrage of letters to the secretary of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, before the deadline for public comments on Dec. 11 might put this proposed regulation to rest.

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PROPOSED RULE (45 FR 70874)
SMELTED ALLOYS

Get smart you

001883

Assholes

Before you

Kill us all!



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L-41, 24, 30