



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

DOCKET NUMBER PR-40
PROPOSED RULE (49FR 18308)

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Mr. Samuel Chilk
Secretary of The Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attn: Docketing and Service Branch

Dear Mr. Chilk:

In accordance with EPA's responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) proposed amendment of 10 CFR 40 "Glass Frit and Glass Enamel Frit containing Small Amounts of Uranium" (49 F.R. 18398). EPA strongly supports the proposal, which would subject the glass materials to licensing by NRC.

EPA believes that licensing of these glasses will prevent unnecessary exposure to radiation. It is EPA's expectation that promulgation of this rule will preclude the use of uranium as a pigment in consumer products such as jewelry. Although there are legitimate scientific uses of uranium bearing glass (such as scientific reference standards), the proposed licensing requirement allows parties which might manufacture uranium bearing glass to apply for a license. EPA supports this approach, which allows a potential NRC licensee to show a need for the glass.

If you have any question concerning EPA's comments, please contact Dr. W. Alexander Williams (382-5909) of my staff.

Sincerely,

Allan Hirsch
Director
Office of Federal Activities

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