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3665 w. diablo dr.  
las vegas, nevada 89118  
(702) 736-1551

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June 16, 1989

To whom it may concern:

We are not in favor of the new rule that  
would eliminate the licensing process that  
requires public comment.

Sincerely,

Patricia & Dennis McLaughlin

**HEAR NO EVIL** — Federal officials who regulate the nuclear-power industry routinely ignore public opposition to that industry. But instead of covering their ears, now the regulators have figured out a way to silence the opposition.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently proposed cutting the public out of the decision-making process in the case of radioactive-waste storage permits.

Currently, nuclear-plant operators have to ask the NRC for a license to store certain kinds of nuclear waste. People who are concerned about safety problems can air their views at hearings and by writing to the NRC, while each application is being considered.

The new rule would eliminate the licensing process that requires public comment. All nuclear-reactor operators would get blanket permission to store waste without seeking a permit from the NRC.

The agency's foolish idea is not

**Jack Anderson**

yet law. In this case, public comment is still being solicited until June 19. Letters should be addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Docketing and Service, Washington, D.C., 20555.

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