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Allied Citizens Opposing Pollution
P.O. Box 195
Palmyra, N.J. 08065

Secretary
U.S. NRC
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attn: Docketing and Service Branch

Dear Secretary;

The enclosed Ordinance/Resolution Against the Deregulation of Radioactive Waste ('Below Regulatory Concern'), has been passed by the following representatives of grass roots environmental groups which cover the area of N.Y., Northern New Jersey and Southern New Jersey. These representatives have affiliated themselves and their groups with a regionally formed Mid-Atlantic Coalition Against Incinerators group. Among the concerns of these individual and this regional group is the accumulative effect policies such as the one that is the subject of this letter, would have on the region's environment. We are acutely aware of the inherent dangers of mass burning municipal solid waste. The "Below Regulatory Concern" deregulation policy the NRC has proposed will significantly increase those dangers because; a) the NRC has no real life data to base it's mathematical calculations on, b) the NRC's policy provides no assurance as to what amount of BRC waste can accumulate at one particular disposal site, c) individual state Departments of Environmental Protection have mandated no monitoring devices for significant accumulations of radio activity at waste disposal sites, d) no assessment on air impacts due to wind roads has been performed, e) no assessment on crop damage due to the composting of sewage sludge has been performed.

Enclosed please find a map of incinerator projects in the State of New Jersey. It is being submitted as an example of the accumulative impact these facilities will have on the State especially in the light of the NRC's proposed policy. Please note that not all incineration facilities are included on this map therefore the impact will be much more significant. With out real life data and an accumulative assessment to base a decision upon the NRC's proposed policy can be classified as 'arbitrary and capricious' and should be recinded.

Sincerely,

Patrice Meloni

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Patrice Meloni,
Allied Citizens Opposing Pollution/ Borough of Palmyra Environmental
Advisory Committee/ Mid-Atlantic Coalition Against Incineration.

2510

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION
Against Deregulation of Radioactive Waste
("Below Regulatory Concern")

Whereas, the United States Congress and the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have approved the concept of deregulating heretofore radioactive waste to the status of nonradioactive waste (waste "Below Regulatory Concern," BRC),

Whereas, such deregulated radioactive waste will go to landfills, sewers, incinerators and any other facilities for solid, liquid or hazardous waste, which are neither designed nor intended to take radioactive waste,

Whereas, it has been estimated that up to 40% of the volume of what is currently considered "low-level" radioactive waste could be deregulated by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Whereas, evidence is growing that exposure to low-levels of ionizing radiation have greater negative health effects than previously assumed by national and international agencies,

Whereas, radiation and chemicals have synergistic effects on the environment and human health and such exposures to both may result from deregulation of nuclear waste,

Therefore, be it resolved that the (your jurisdiction-state, town, county, municipality, landfill, incinerator, organization, etc) prohibits the acceptance of radioactive waste deregulated or otherwise at any solid, liquid, or hazardous waste facilities, or down the drains, in this jurisdiction.

Therefore, be it resolved that this body hereby informs the appropriate potentially affected local, state and federal agencies of this resolution/ordinance.

Therefore, be it resolved that this body calls for the US Congress to rescind Section 10 of the 1985 Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act (PL 99-240) which requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to set BRC standards.

that this body urges

Therefore, be it resolved/that the US NRC halt all activities that will result in deregulating nuclear waste and nuclear materials (BRC).

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08065



• LEGISLATIVE
REGULATORY

ALERT

March 1988

COMING SOON !!
TO A LANDFILL, SEWER, INCINERATOR, OR WASTE DUMP NEAR YOU!
RADIOACTIVE WASTE!

Action Needed
on "Below Regulatory Concern" Radioactive Waste

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has adopted a nuclear waste disposal policy which allows the public to be exposed to a level of radiation which the Commission believes is trivial and not worth the money to regulate. Thus, the NRC is encouraging radioactive waste generators to apply to have their waste considered "Below Regulatory Concern" (BRC). This policy will inevitably result in increased public exposure to radiation.

The agency finalized a policy, Radioactive Waste Below Regulatory Concern (in 10 CFR Part 2), which provides for nuclear waste generators to identify various radioactive waste streams (such as dry radioactive waste and sludges from nuclear power plants) and to petition the NRC to have each of the waste streams considered Below Regulatory Concern (BRC), i.e. as regular garbage that can be disposed of in any way--landfill, incinerator, down the drain, in the dumpster out back.

The rationalization is that if the waste meets certain computer model criteria, it will expose people to an amount of radiation NRC has declared "insignificant" or de minimis. Since it is not possible to actually measure the amount of exposure people receive due to BRC waste, as opposed to other exposures, the rule will be unenforceable. This will reduce the amount of so called "low-level" radioactive waste that must be taken care of, reducing the costs to the waste generators. It will increase the cost to environmental quality and increase health risks.

The Result? Regular garbage will include much more nuclear material than it does now--potentially from many different generators that have been exempted from regulation. It will be up to the waste generators to consider the possibility of accumulating more than a little radiation at any one dump, incinerator or sewer, or in any one area from a combination of those waste facilities.

. Leaky landfills will leak radioactive materials. Incinerators will release radioactive gasses. Workers at these sites (and possibly at hospitals or other places of generation) will inevitably be exposed to more radioactivity, but the amount may never be determined. Radioactive and chemical wastes can act synergistically to increase the damage to human health and the environment.

How Can This Happen? Congress passed amendments to the 1980 Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act in December 1985. Section 10 calls for NRC to set up a simplified procedure for waste generators to get their waste exempted from regulatory control. NRC is now encouraging generators to petition to have their waste exempted.

What Can Be Done?

-> Inform your local landfill, incinerator and sewage treatment plant workers, and activists that work on those issues, of this new policy because no precautions will be required by NRC nor monitoring done at those sites.

-> Write a letter to the editor of your local or regional newspaper to get the message to the public and the press about what is being slipped through without asking us--the people who are taking the radiation risks.

-> Contact your municipal and county officials and representatives since these entities are often responsible for waste management and may be unaware of the deregulation of nuclear waste.

-> Since a federal law (PL 99-240) established the Below Regulatory Concern provision, we need to inform our state and federal legislators that the provision should be removed from the law.

-> Please send NIRS a copy of your letters or sign up to receive future information on nuclear waste "Below Regulatory Concern."

Contact us if you'd like more information or if you have ideas on this! Thanks for your interest and time on the radiation issue.

Diane D'Arrigo

Diane D'Arrigo
Nuclear Waste Project Director

202-328-0002

NEW JERSEY

GARBAGE INCINERATOR PROJECTS

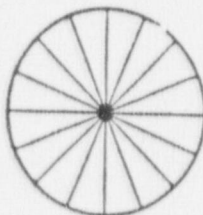
PROPOSED OR PENDING

POPULATION

CITIES AND TOWNS OVER 10,000

LEGEND

10 MILE RADIUS FROM INCINERATION



NUMBER OF CHEMICAL TOXIC
WASTE DISPOSAL SITES
PER 100 SQUARE MILES

- 51 OR GREATER
- 26-50
- ▲ 10-25
- ◆ 9 OR LESS

