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USNRC

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Underhill, VT 05489

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE **PR 20**
(64FR35090)

Re: Radioactive Recycling and Release

The environmental community is declining to participate in the NRC's Atlanta rulemaking workshop for two reasons:

1. The concept of release of radioactively contaminated materials into the marketplace is unconscionable, morally abhorrent and contrary to the NRC's mission to protect public health and safety.

2. The environmental community told you exactly that in 1990 at the Below Regulatory Concern hearings and again in 1993 when we participated in the NRC rulemaking procedure which established the decommissioning criteria for nuclear power plants. The final decommissioning standard, 100 millirems/year, flies in the face of input the NRC was given by public interest groups and the American people to allow zero (0) release above preexisting natural background. In fact, by the NRC's own estimates, thousands of people will die if NRC's standard is used.

Our position remains: The NRC's enforced standard must be to contain radioactive wastes--isolate them from the environment.

Two other controversial and environmentally unacceptable practices are showcased in the current NRC process; dumping of so-called "low-level" radioactive waste and dismantling and landfilling of used nuclear power plants, the source of massive amounts of contaminated metal and soil.

We share a common concern for the high volume of contaminated metals and earth that have been spoiled for other uses by the nuclear industry. IT IS HIGH TIME OUR SPECIES FACES THE GRIM REALITY OF NUCLEAR WASTE AND COMES TO TERMS WITH IT. (Caps mine).

There is no safe level of exposure to radiation. Let us not be seduced by short-term economic concerns to make decisions that can wreak irrevocable damage in the gene pools of every species of animal and plant on our earth.

The honorable nuclear work is now towards developing and implementing effective technologies for nuclear waste containment. Please enter these comments into the National Environmental Policy Act record.

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Concerned Citizen