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US NRC
Rulemaking and Adjudications
Washington, DC 20555

ADJ

To the NRC,

I have worked on nuclear issues for over 20 years as a representative of several different public interest organizations. In various capacities I have opposed the spread of radioactive contamination that has accompanied nuclear technology in both private and government sector.

Environmentalists have repeatedly objected to the idea that low levels of radioactive contamination were benign, and the NRC's attempt to promote a BELOW REGULATORY CONCERN approach to low ^{radiation} level has been soundly rejected. We are opposed to *any* lowering of regulations standards and particularly opposed to the idea that radioactive materials can be "cleaned up" and put on the open market.

No doubt a use can be found for contaminated material arising from the decommissioning process somewhere within the nuclear industry where contamination is expected, but these materials must not be released to the general market. Any item that is radioactive must be marked as such.

The public must have confidence that the material used in any item they purchase is not radioactive....that it does not exceed background radiation levels. I will long remember the shock I got when a Geiger counter showed a piece of Mexican pottery was hot. Apparently the paint contained uranium.

I expect the US Government to act in the public interest, and that means protecting individuals citizens from something ordinarily ~~unacceptable~~ like radiation. I don't want to have to check everything I buy with a Geiger counter.

Sincerely,

Joan O. King
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(706) 878-3459

[Faded stamp and markings]

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