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Subj: Public Comment to "Release of Solid Materials at Licensed Facilities"

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As a private citizen, I would like to strongly endorse the NRC's interest in establishing risk-based release criteria for materials from licensed facilities. It is long overdue. I attended one of the public meetings on this topic and was frankly quite surprised at the opinion of many that any amount of radioactivity released is unacceptable. As a professional in the field of radiation protection, these type suggestions are illogical and irrational given the sea of radiation and radioactivity that is part of our existence. The question for those who do not have a fixed agenda on this issue is "what is the correct level or perhaps more appropriately what is the right level of risk?".

I recommend that the NRC strongly consider the use of ANSI N13.12 as the basis for any rule making on this topic. This technically strong document offers an adequate protection margin to workers and members of the public and is consistent with international standards.

We need to move forward on this important rulemaking.

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