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# Activists to urge tight rules on radioactivity

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ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Warning that radioactivity could end up in places like kids' dental braces, jewelry and house foundations, environmental activists will urge the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission today not to expand the release of low-level radioactive material.

The NRC on Tuesday opened two days of hearings at the Palmer House Hilton to get public comment as it considers whether to loosen control over the materials.

The agency now looks at requests to release waste, metals, concrete and other solids containing small amounts of radioactivity on a case-by-case basis. Setting standards for release would offer

the public more uniform protection, said Donald Cool, the NRC's director of industrial and medical nuclear safety. "There is no consistent standard in the regulations now, [although] guidance from the agency is widely used," he said.

Cool said radioactivity exists at some level in virtually everything—including our bodies.

Environmentalists will pressure the NRC to not only keep the current limits in place but also to recall radioactive materials that already have been released.

"There is no safe level of radioactivity to human beings," said Diane d'Arrigo of Nuclear Information and Resource Services. "Every amount of exposure increases a person's risk" to cancer, birth defects and other problems.

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*From other research I have found that I agree and fear the use of recycled nuclear materials. Do not agree to recycle radioactive materials.*

*Ms. Rosalyn Trapp*