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December 12, 1999

Mr. Richard Meserve
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

OFFICE OF
ADJUDICATION

Attn: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

To the Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff and Mr. Meserve:

As a member of the public, I am commenting on releasing radioactive waste into commerce. I wish to state my opposition to any release of radioactive wastes and materials, and any objects they contaminate, into public commerce and into our shared environment. I also request that the NRC extend public comment on releasing radioactive wastes and materials into commerce ~~to~~ through at least September 2000.

We have made a grave error in removing and refining radioactive materials from naturally occurring ores. We have made a grave error in processing these materials into weapons and fuels. We must not now compound these errors by classifying wastes as materials for commerce. Please do not allow nuclear wastes and materials of any sort to be "released," ~~or~~ "cleared"; deregulated, exempted, generally licensed; or designated as "de minimis," "unimportant," "trivial," or "below

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regulatory concern," or by any other creative, indirect, or deceptive means⁶² allowed out of nuclear facilities and into the marketplace or the environment at any level. Furthermore, methods currently used to release radioactive wastes from nuclear facilities should cease immediately and a full accounting and recapture of already-released wastes should commence.

I am very concerned that the NRC seems convinced that it should legalize the release of radioactive wastes into the marketplace and the environment. This suggests the NRC is not seriously examining all options available, including non-release, even though the National Environmental Policy Act requires all options to be considered. I urge the NRC to include and ultimately endorse non-release of radioactive materials. Furthermore, by prohibiting release, we can lead the way to international prohibition of release of radioactive materials. As the first country to use nuclear weapons, we have the particular responsibility to be the first to prohibit release of radioactive wastes and materials, and eventually to lead the way to prohibition of nuclear weapons and fuels.

I call on the NRC to serve the interests of the public by prohibiting the release of radioactive materials into commerce, landfills, waterways, and incinerators; identify, track, and recapture all such materials released prior to such prohibition; and give the public at least 8 more months to continue response on this issue. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,
Clair L. Schoner