

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 20
(64FR35090)

264

DOCKETED
15 December, 1999

Re: Radioactive products

Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff
Washington, DC, 20555

'99 DEC 17 P3:09

Dear Sir/Madam:

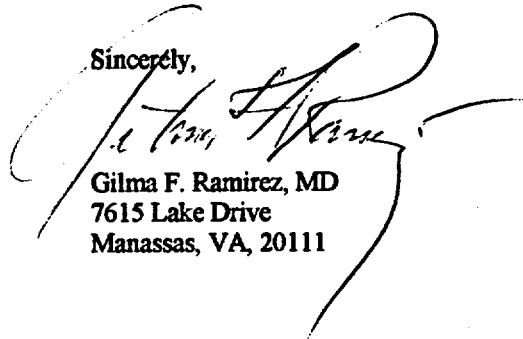
ADJUDICATION

I am alarmed to learn that the Department of Energy is considering a plan to dispose of radioactive waste by recycling it into consumer products. Radioactivity is harmful to living tissue and should be avoided when ever possible. By releasing contaminated materials to industry to recycle, the DOE and NRC will be exposing untold numbers of people to radiation and thus causing them harm.

As you know, there is no risk free dose of radioactivity. Citizens are now being exposed to excess radioactivity from nuclear weapons testing and nuclear power which continue to increase the background level of radioactivity. Under the plan to legalize the release of contaminated materials, our exposure could be as intimate as from the braces we wear on our teeth.

Acceptable disposal of radioactive waste is all about preserving the integrity of our planet and the life on it. The plan to release it for recycling in consumer goods would produce the opposite effect of exposing as many people as possible.

Sincerely,



Gilma F. Ramirez, MD
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Manassas, VA, 20111

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