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**To:** OWFN\_DO.owf5\_po(SECY)  
**Date:** Thu, Dec 16, 1999 10:22 PM  
**Subject:** radioactive metal to be RECYCLED?!!

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USNRC

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to the attention of:  
NRC Chairman Richard Meserve  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

OFFICE  
OF  
ADMINISTRATION

Attn: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

It has come to my attention that a large scale radioactive "recycling" program that would turn RADIOACTIVE WASTE into HOUSEHOLD ITEMS is being planned by the folks at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in conjunction with the nuclear industry and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

By turning radioactive metal into common household items, the nuclear industry would save billions of dollars by reusing metals that were once part of nuclear power plants, weapons factories and weapons themselves. Additionally, the DOE would save money by escaping the responsibility of cleaning up the huge mess DOE and the nuclear industry have made at the nation's weapons plants.

Some of the radioactive items would include:

- Cookware and eating utensils
- Eyeglass frames
- Zippers
- Computer batteries
- Jewelry
- Food and cans & containers
- Braces for teeth
- Anything made with metal

What is the real cost?

It sounds very risky to me.

Unfortunately, the release of these metals would cause increased exposures to radioactivity to the extent that direct contact with the household items, along with the effects from increased overall background radiation, would cause an estimated 92,755 additional cancer deaths in the U.S., according to the NRC.

I do not want nuclear power and weapons wastes "released," "cleared," "deregulated," "exempted," "generally licensed," designated "de minimis," "unimportant" or BRC -- below regulatory concern -- or by any other means allowed out of nuclear facilities and into the marketplace or the environment, at any level.

Once these radioactive wastes enter the recycling stream, recovering or controlling them will be outside the ability of anyone, citizens,

government or industry.

No matter what level the NRC sets for allowable radiation risk, dose or concentration, it will be difficult or impossible to measure, verify and enforce.

Using radioactive wastes in consumer products poses unnecessary, avoidable, involuntary, uninformed risks. The consumer, the producers and the raw materials industries don't want these radioactive wastes or risks.

The NRC should also extend the comment period to at least September 2000. This issue is too important to act hastily upon and it should be fully debated by the public.

We fully support the complete opposition and "zero tolerance" policies of the metal and recycling industries, the management and the unions. We appreciate their efforts, not only in opposition to legalization of radioactive releases, but in their investment in detection equipment and literally holding the line against the radioactive threat to the public.

The fact that radioactive waste is already getting out into the environment should not be used to justify legal levels allowing more releases. The NRC, EPA and DOE should prevent future releases and try to correct past releases. The United States should take the lead in preventing the contamination of the international marketplace.

Susan Baylies voter & taxpayer  
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