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Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Richard Meserve, Chairman
 Attn: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff
 U.S. NRC
 Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Meserve and Staff:

We are writing in horror after reading in the Atlanta Constitution (page A 19, December 20, "Radioactive Contamination", by Sara Barczak) that the NRC and the Department of Energy are considering selling radioactive metals to the scrap metal industry.

Just how do you calculate how much radiation is a "safe" exposure for the American public? What about cumulative effects for people who buy many contaminated items? What size person is the norm for calculating "safe" amounts? Do babies count? What about salespeople working day after day near shelves full of items that each have the "acceptable amount" of radioactivity? Will you have us package our food in these recycled plastics, build our houses, schools, etc. out of the contaminated concrete, plant our food in contaminated soil?

The people would have the right to know, as well, if an item contained radioactive scrap materials. The DOE would allow labeling to be removed that warns of the radioactivity hazard. Would you warn your loved ones to avoid the contaminated products? Or would avoidance not be possible?

We strongly protest any radioactive materials being put into the market for use in any way. Do not let money - the cost of safe disposal of this radioactive waste material - decide the fate of even one person who would contract cancer from exposure that you deem "safe".

Sincerely,

Marilyn Wasserman

Marilyn Wasserman

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Dr. Allan Wasserman

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