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Secretary , U.S.Nuclear Regulatory
Washington , DC 20555

DOCKETED
USNRC

Attention : Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff ,

'99 DEC 21 P4:15

Dear Sirs :

If the report of "Public Citizen News (Nov.Dec.) under "Activist Alert" is correct , I am horrified ! I am not an activist for the Public Citizen group. The report (about which you have probably had numerous letters) states that DOE and NRC are ready to recycle radioactive wastes by recycling it into consumer products , and also says that scrap metal dealers are already obtaining some of this radioactive materials .

Please stop this nonsense immediately . Do you not recall the uproar about metal tables being sold in the USA which contained radioactive materials scrounged from some junk sold to Mexico ? Do you not hear or read about the controversy of depleted uranium in armor piercing projectiles used in the Gulf War ? Tons of which this mostly U-238 were accumulated from the extraction of the 0.7 % of the 235 isotope by the AEC during the cold war , but the half life of this "depleted" (of U-235) has the huge amounts of U-238 with half life of 4.5 billion years . That may sound tiny , but only one gram of U-238 will have 177 thousand disintegrations **per second** , emitting alpha particles and gamma rays !

Now possibly cancers of various types might take 20-30 years to "maturity" , but for countless numbers of unsuspecting victims , this amounts to slow, painful genocide ! Is that the legacy you would want your agency to inherit ? Please , let's use some ETHICS when dealing with man-made radioactive wastes ! Remember , the sufferers may well include your own children or grandchildren , as well as long generations of followers !

Sincerely ,
William B Martin, Jr
William B Martin , Jr
(Professor emeritus , chemistry)

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