

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE **PR 20**
(64FR35090)

328

DOCKETED
USNRC

Mary Lee Maloney
550 Sherman Avenue
Apt. 3
Evanston, IL 60202
December 18, 1999

DEC 21 P4:14
RULMAKING STAFF
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

NRC Chairman Richard Meserve
Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff
U.S. NRC
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve,

I am writing to remind you that radiation recycling will expose our descendants to unavoidable risk of genetic damage and disease due to release of artificial radionuclides. I realize that you and others may have become innured to the dangers of contaminated materials, having dealt with this issue for so long. There is, however, irrefutable evidence that by selling low level radioactive waste, rather than treating it as the nuclear waste that it is, the nuclear industry is trying to make money at the expense of the public's health and safety.

As John Gofman, nuclear physicist and former director of Livermore National Laboratory, put it, "There is no safe dose or dose rate below which dangers disappear. No threshold-dose. Serious, lethal effects from minimal radiation doses are not 'hypothetical,' 'just theoretical,' or 'imaginary.' They are real." In other words, no cell in the human body will benefit from sending an alpha particle through it. Even low level exposure to radioactive wastes can cause neurological problems and interfere with the body's immune system.

Please allow the "better angels" of your conscience to prevail. You can go along with others in your field, denying that there will be health effects on the public, or you can take a stand, now, as others have, and in so doing, be counted among the courageous.

Sincerely,

Mary Lee Maloney

Mary Lee Maloney

PDR PR 20 64FR 35090

DS10