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(32)

Even if we rigidly control all the known releases of radioactivity into the environment the background will continue to increase. The fact is that we do not control all such releases. Cases in point are the regular emission of radioactive nuclides from nuclear power plants: the unknown releases from the many radioactive sites that remain from the nuclear weapons programs of the past; the regular release of radon and other nuclides from the waste remaining from uranium mining operations. This does not consider the releases we do not know about yet. For this reason we must avoid adding to the environmental burden even the smallest amount of additional radioactivity.

Computer simulations cannot take into consideration unknown sources of radioactivity. Therefore they must always underestimate the risks.

In light of the above facts it is irresponsible to allow any level of additional radioactivity to enter the environment if we can possibly avoid it. We should not allow this to happen.

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