

June 9, 2003

DOCKET NUMBER  
PROPOSED RULE PR 20  
(68FR09595)

DOCKETED  
USNRC

June 9, 2003 (11:47AM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in regard to standards the NRC is considering for the possible release and recycling of radioactive waste materials. I understand the NRC is considering allowing radioactive waste materials to be recycled into industrial objects, such as bridge abutments, pipes, etc. As a cancer survivor and a concerned citizen, I am opposed to the industrial recycling of radioactive waste; it would create more background radiation, which in turn would increase the human risk of getting cancer. As the commission is undoubtedly aware, a living organism's exposure to radiation is cumulative. Like the gradual absorption of lead, toxicity can eventually occur if an organism is repeatedly exposed to bombardment by radioactive particles beyond what we normally get from cosmic, or "background" radiation.

160

I understand the NRC is even considering the recycling of radioactive waste into household appliances and objects ordinary people might encounter on an everyday basis without realizing they contain radioactive waste. I am scandalized that the NRC, which should protect the public from radioactive materials, would even consider recycling radioactive waste into household goods. We don't need a greater exposure to radiation than what we already get from our natural environment. We don't need the NRC to gamble with our health by allowing the release of radioactive wastes into landfills, industrial objects, or household objects.

The greatest pains should be made to isolate and dispose of radioactive wastes so that the public does not inadvertently come into contact with them. The whole problem with the nuclear industry is that it creates dangerous radioactive waste which is impossible to destroy. As this is the case, the NRC must make certain that the nuclear industry take responsibility for the safe containment of this waste, and guard religiously against leakage and public exposure. This waste should not be fobbed off on an unsuspecting public through "recycling."

Both the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and the Sierra Club advocate tightening current rules to safeguard the public from exposure to radiation. Like the

Template=SECY-067

SECY-02

NIRS, I believe the NRC should prohibit the recycling and industrial use of radioactive waste. Rather than camouflaging the use of such waste in computer codes and dose modeling, the NRC should do all it can to prevent possible public exposure to radioactive waste. Contrary to loosening standards to allow for the irresponsible release of radioactive waste into our homes and environment, the Sierra Club advocates that the NRC report on and recapture all the nuclear waste it has deregulated over the years. I agree with the Sierra Club's suggestion.

In summary, please prohibit the recycling of radioactive waste; tighten current rules to eliminate the risk of any public exposure to it. I would like to be informed of whatever rules the NRC does adopt.

Sincerely,  
Kimi Reith  
776 Alameda St.  
Altadena, CA 91001-2445  
pygmygod@eskimo.com