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From: "Phil Rutledge" <prutledge@carolina.rr.com>
To: <secy@nrc.gov>
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Subject: the NRC seems to be pulling an FCC, again...

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**OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF**

HelpTo the NRC,

Another rulemaking consideration coming up? Please do not redefine certain nuclear waste products as "safer" and therefore not subject to as strict safety standards. To even consider this reminds me of what has happened to the right-wing FCC in their recent decision to violate their own charter to protect diversity and the public interest over the airwaves. Is the NRC as bad as the FCC as a public-interest watchdog? Probably, but prove me wrong.

Years of research suggest that even small amounts of radiation cause mutations. To normalize the release of small amounts by nuclear utilities - something the NRC is already shamefully allowing - increases the harm to the public over the long term while saving the utility corporation money in the short term. In the end, the health and financial costs are passed to the next generation. This is not the honorable thing to do.

Of the 5 options the NRC is considering listed below, I support #6:

Option 1 Continuing unrestricted release on a case-by-case basis and through license amendments:

Option 2 Unrestricted release based on dose based standards.

Option 3 Conditional use or Restricted Release

Option 4 Disposal in EPA landfills

Option 5

Radioactive waste should be stored, managed and isolated from the environment for as long as it is hazardous at facilities specifically licensed for that purpose for radioactive waste. Existing regulations (10CFR 61) for nuclear waste disposal should be strengthened. NRC should use this rulemaking to truly devise ways to control radioactive waste, not release it from licensed control.

Option 6

Sierra Club is requesting NRC to recapture the radioactive wastes that already have been released. Since the claim is made that these release have had no effect, Sierra asks them to prove it by identifying where the nuclear wastes have gone and checking to see what effects there have been.

If you detect an air of cynicism it is because I have followed the NRC for years and do not believe this institution protects the public interest with safety as its first concern. Again, I beg you to prove me wrong. Support option #6. Let's see what kind of integrity this institution has.

Sincerely
Philip Rutledge