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To: <secy@nrc.gov>
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Subject: Don't Relax Restrictions on Radioactive Waste

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USNRC

June 27, 2003 (3:31PM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear NRC, Radioactive waste is very dangerous in even the smallest doses. Relaxing restrictions and allowing it to enter the marketplace would put people and the environment in general at risk. Considering how long this material remains hazardous, thousands of years, I implore you to make sure regulations be as strict as possible on it and even more strict than you might think should be necessary when considering low probabilities of exposure. The result of exposure is just too tragic. This has been shown in the higher incidence of cancer at nuclear weapon testing sites. Please, I beg you. What you decide will be your legacy. I hope you decide for your presence on this Earth to be a positive thing. Allowing currently licensed and regulated nuclear wastes to be cleared from regulatory control in either a restricted or unrestricted way would result in unnecessary exposures to people and other living things. There are better ways to manage radioactive wastes.

If NRC decides to proceed with this rulemaking, it should concentrate on identifying and requiring isolation, monitoring and management for the hazardous life of all the waste. The goal should be to keep track of and isolate radioactivity and all materials contaminated with it, generated by nuclear power and weapons fuel chain industries, from the environment, workers and the public.

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