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To: <secy@nrc.gov>  
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Subject: Comment on NRC Scoping Process for Radioactive Waste

DOCKETED  
USNRC

Secretary, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555  
Attn: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

June 29, 2003

June 30, 2003 (3:14PM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Secretary,

It has come to my attention that the NRC is once again attempting to eliminate oversight and responsibility of radioactive material and allow its unfettered flow into the common recycling stream. This is a replay of the NRC's discredited Below Regulatory Concern policy which was revoked by Congress in 1992 after citizen organizing and vocal opposition forced the issue.

It should be noted that although the NRC originally published its intent in February of 2003, in theory allowing four months of public comment, the fact remains that increasing control of media outlets by monopolies with political and moral agendas keeps the general public from becoming informed of issues that greatly affect their quality of life and the life they wish for their children and grandchildren. In addition, pushing this agenda through at this time when the public's attention is diverted by other obvious world events is unconscionable and verifies that the NRC does not have as its priority the public's right to know. It is beyond comprehension that the citizens of this good country would support a policy that allowed radioactive material to be used in products that would be purchased unwittingly for use in residential and commercial buildings, home and office products and furniture, automobiles, children's toys, and medical supplies, to name but a few.

At this time I do not intend to prove my grasp of the information by listing all of the pertinent talking points one by one, although I am capable of doing so. Surely these issues have been already analyzed and commented on by others in the past few months. I instead choose to question the morality, civic pride and patriotism of a government agency that presents as a viable business plan the blatant irradiation of the human species instead of holding that life precious and unique and deserving of living free from unnecessary carcinogens and pollutants of any type.

It is abundantly clear that the NRC's only purpose in its suggested protocol presented by this venture is the economic benefit to the nuclear power industry itself, and not the safety of United States' citizenry. This gross injustice would allow the nuclear industry to be freed from the financial burdens identified with the control and protection of the lethal material their business practices created, and allow them to ransack the decommissioning funds that have accumulated from ratepayers over the years, and instead compensate stockholders and management with that windfall. Instead, the most fiscally prudent action should be no action, by leaving the waste in full isolation from the environment. That is exactly what ratepayers have been paying for.

The fact that the NRC and DOE both admit they can't tell what levels of radiation in the atmosphere comes from their own processes and releases and what is naturally occurring background radiation should give both agencies pause. In addition, the release of radioactive material into regional municipal landfills that are not able to contain the waste they already hold will be set with further technical and political problems that they should not have to be forced to deal with. Once again, the public will pay and pay again, now to contain radioactive material that had been perfectly safe in a sanctioned repository.

As you receive what are sure to be many comments on this matter, think of your children and your grandchildren as you make these decisions that will affect all of humanity for thousands of years.

Sincerely,  
Gary A. Karch

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