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From: Mike Ewall <catalyst@actionpa.org>
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Subject: CORRECTION: Scoping comments on radioactive "recycling" proposal

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Note: this is a correction on the scoping comments I just submitted. I mistakenly wrote that 15,000 radioactive sources have been lost or stolen in the last 5 years. That should have said 1,500, not 15,000. The source for this information is:

http://www.house.gov/markey/iss_nuclear_pr020730.htm

"In the past 5 years, nearly 1500 radioactive sources have been reported lost or stolen in the U.S., but less than half of them have been found."

1,500 is still an incredible number and it would be a travesty if NRC's rulemaking allowed the 15,000 figure to become true.

My revised comments are as follows...

The following are my comments regarding the following regulatory process:

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on
"Rulemaking on Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials"
Scoping Process for Environmental Issues
Federal Register: Feb. 28, 2003 Vol. 68 No. 40 Pp. 9595-9602

Summary: DO NOT DEREGULATE RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS/WASTES!!!

Details:

In the last 5 years, there have been 1,500 missing (lost or stolen) radioactive sources, of which only about half were recovered.

Institutionalizing the release of radioactive materials and wastes into unregulated and uncontrolled environments is nothing short of crazy, irresponsible and completely against any sane principles of waste management.

Instead of allowing further release of radioactive materials and wastes, NRC must strengthen the existing rules to ensure their maximum isolation for their full hazardous life. Furthermore, NRC must seek to locate and recapture the radioactive materials/wastes which have already been lost, stolen or otherwise released from regulatory control.

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