

This is a comment about the proposal to declassify and therefore, deregulate hundreds of categories of nuclear waste. This is either an irresponsible, corrupt or intentionally evil plan that will expose millions of people to radioactive elements and cause tens of thousands of cancer deaths attributable to exposure to the nuclear elements you plan to deregulate. These radionuclides would then be dumped, recycled into consumer materials and dispersed throughout the environment to contaminate our water, air and soil and expose innocent people, including children, to radiation they won't even be aware of and some will develop cancers that will be nebulous in the causation which is convenient for the deregulation and nuclear industry to not take responsibility for the cancers and cancer deaths that will come from your negligence. What you are proposing is the planned poisoning of the US and other countries such deregulated radioactive compounds may be shipped to. Despite who this declassification and deregulation is ordered by, you must not concede to such a traitorous, destructive and deadly order.

At every meeting I have been to, the NRC touts that its function is to regulate nuclear materials, oversee nuclear reactors and considers the safety and protection of the public its main purpose. To declassify harmful nuclear materials is against all the principles that the NRC has established.

There is no nuclear material that can be "Below regulatory concern" because even one exposure to nuclear materials can trigger a cancer that can be deadly. Nuclear materials are mutagenic and mutations of the natural world are negative. Exposure to radiation and nuclear materials causes birth defects in humans and animals and plant mutations that are irreversible. Once DNA is altered, there is no

salvation, no turning back. Perhaps you erroneously think this doesn't matter because it won't happen to everyone or everything but you are wrong. Nuclear materials are bio accumulative and they do not quickly or completely lose their toxicity. When a nuclear material is 'recycled' into a consumer product such as a cooking utensil, that radioactive consumer product will continue to poison victim after victim. There is no effort to keep track of lifetime exposures to radiation, x rays included. It is already a problem which will multiply with what you are proposing. It will be impossible to track exposures when they are not even listed or detected by consumers, most of which do not carry an operable Geiger counter around with them and many of which order products online that they could not test before purchase. Postal workers, delivery drivers and manufacturers/production workers will all be exposed to radiation if you allow the declassification and deregulation of radioactive materials, including plutonium radionuclides.

I would like to know why would you even consider it? Why would you even consider declassification and deregulation? To make it less visible than the nuclear waste that is piling up? To make room for more nuclear waste and nuclear expansion? To more easily do a fast track build of SMNRs without the regulation of their deadly by products? Do you think that dispersing it instead of safe storage is less deadly? After all, radiation is an invisible killer. Unlike other deadly forces, radiation is silent and it is not easily detected by our anatomical senses. That is exactly why it is so dangerous. How would you feel if your desk was fabricated of deregulated nuclear waste and ten years from now you were emaciated, ruined financially and devastated physically from battling cancer? Do you know how expensive it is to fight cancer?

People can spend millions of dollars in medical expenses to survive. Half of those contacting cancer usually die even when treated. This extra strain on the medical system will drive up health insurance costs, once again making life more difficult if not impossible. Let's face it. Some leaders don't know what they are doing. They only care about their personal profits and aren't concerned about what happens to the population they are lording over. I know that the NRC has been taken apart and many have lost their jobs just like in most other government agencies with the present regime and DOGE working to undo the good that this country has stood for. One thing we have had here is oversight on nuclear materials so that another Three Mile Island or Chernobyl or Fukushima wouldn't happen. The NRC has compromised far too often to accommodate the nuclear industry and politicians. The NRC should remember its purpose and not give in to going against its ethics and standards and should not give in to deregulation and declassification of hundreds of toxic radioactive isotopes, radionuclides, radioactive materials. Even if everyone was given a list, there is still no way to track the materials once they are released from control and oversight.

Declassification and deregulation is a recipe for disaster. It is a recipe for a wasteland. Is that what you want for our country, for the rest of the world? Tell me no. Tell me you do not want to see people get sick and die from avoidable cancers. Tell me that you are willing to take a stand for what is right, Tell me you care about people. Tell me you care about future generations. Tell me you don't want an altered form of life, a mutated altered state of being but want to preserve what the good Lord has created. Tell me that you will not declassify and deregulate any nuclear substance. Or will you lie and tell me that it is all below regulatory concern? How will you justify the deaths caused by

exposures to radioactive elements? What if it was your child dying, or yourself or someone else you care about that is going to die because you lacked the courage to do the right thing? This is a crossroads and a pivotal point. If I was a regulator I would not hesitate to stand my ground as a public servant and I would continue to demand radioactive materials...including LLW and BRC...to be monitored and safely stored. In fact, I would go further and work towards the decommissioning of deadly aging nuclear reactors and stop the rush to nuclearize this country and others with SMNRs.

I'm asking you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Barnes

Board Member

Don't Waste Michigan