GBN-1039

1123 E. 26th St.
San Bernardino, CA 92404
April 4, 2000

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Dear Secretary Shalala,

The radioisotopes CESIUM-137 and Cobalt-60 are nuclear waste products of plutonium processing. These two isotopes together account for only 4% of the total volume of all nuclear waste, but give off 93% of its heat and 95% of its radioactivity. Cesium alone accounts for 50% of the heat and 55% of the radioactivity.

Leasing Cesium-137 to the private sector both home and abroad for food irradiation facilities will sharply reduce the Department of Energy's spiraling waste management costs, turning a liability into an asset. DOE's By Products Utilization Program reports that by 2021 there will be 11,000 million curies of cesium-137 in U.S. storage tanks.

Source: CH_2M hill prep. brochure for DOE-BUP 1985.

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CS153

FDA regulations require that a food that has been irradiated must bear a statement "treated with ionizing (or electron or gamma) radiation. FDA has interpreted that regulation to apply only to food that has been irradiated, not to a food that contains an irradiated ingredient.

Irradiated food, genetic altered food, scrap metal from decommissioned nuclear plants used in products for consumer use. Where does it all end when the government is supposed to protect the public, not use them as guinea pigs?

Sincerely,
Mrs. Marian Scully

Mrs. Marian Scully
1123 E 26th St.
Sn Bernrdno, CA 92404-4132

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Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Health + Human Services
200 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201