



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 14, 2000

2000-002

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MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF ALL DEPARTMENTAL ELEMENTS

FROM:

BILL RICHARDSON

SUBJECT:

Release of Materials for Re-use and Recycle

I am hereby directing actions to improve the management of materials which might be released from Department facilities for re-use or recycling. These actions are intended to better ensure protection of public health and the environment, openness and public trust, and fiscal responsibility.

First, pursuant to my decision on January 12, 2000, the Department will continue its moratorium on the release of volumetrically contaminated metals. Volumetrically contaminated metals are those which have radioactive contaminants distributed throughout their mass. This moratorium will remain in effect at least until the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) makes a decision regarding whether to proceed with a rulemaking which would set national standards for the release of solid materials (see 64 FR 35090). If the NRC determines to proceed with its rulemaking process, the moratorium will continue throughout that process, and the Department will support the NRC's efforts. I will encourage the NRC to move expeditiously to establish national standards because such standards are in the best interest of the Department and the Nation.

Second, I have established a Re-use and Recycling Task Force, co-chaired by Brian Costner, my Senior Policy Advisor for Environment, Safety and Health (6-8567), and Steve Cary, Senior Technical Advisor for the Office of Environment, Safety and Health (6-0264), which will conduct a review of Department policies regarding the release of all materials for re-use and recycling. This task force will recommend to me this summer ways the Department can better meet the objectives I have outlined above. The task force will operate in an open manner so that concerned citizens and government and industry officials can follow its work and provide input directly to the task force.

Each affected Program Secretarial Officer (see attached list) and the General Counsel should designate one, permanent member to the Re-use and Recycling Task Force. The scope of the task force does not include nuclear materials being managed by the Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, radioisotopes sold for commercial or research purposes, or waste disposal.

Thank you in advance for actively supporting the work of this important task force.

Attachment