

submissions

From: Dawn Joyce [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 September 2014 7:24 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Reject application A1092

Submission: Reject **Application 1092 (A1092)** for the irradiation of 12 fruits: Apple, apricot, cherry, honeydew melon, nectarine, peach, plum, rockmelon, strawberry, table grape, zucchini and scallopini (summer squash).

I oppose the irradiation of apples, apricots, cherries, honeydew melons, nectarines, peaches, plums, rockmelons, strawberries, table grapes, zucchinis and scallopinis (summer squashes). I have concerns about the wholesomeness of irradiated food as well as the environmental and social impacts of irradiating our food. Numerous alternatives to irradiation exist and I do not believe that the irradiation of these fruits for quarantine purposes benefits my family. I am also worried that irradiated food will not be labelled.

Numerous studies have shown the potential health risks posed by irradiated food. The approval of these 12 regularly eaten fruits could significantly increase the amount of irradiated food in our diet.

In 2003, concerns over the safety of irradiated food led the European Union to rule out further irradiation approvals. The Australian Senate followed suit with a call for approvals to be halted until further research has been conducted. Claims that irradiated foods are safe are indefensible as no research on long-term consumption of an irradiated diet have been conducted.

Irradiation has been shown to deplete vitamin C, vitamin A, proteins, essential fatty acids and other nutrients in food and has been linked to health problems such as nutritional deficiencies, immune system disorders, abnormal lymph cells, and genetic damage.

In 2008-9, irradiation was linked to neurological disorders leading to paralysis and in some cases, death, of up to one hundred Australian pet cats. Irradiated cat food is now banned in Australia. The European Food Safety Authority acknowledges that the risk to humans cannot be ruled out.

While irradiation is promoted as beneficial to Australian farmers; each approval also enables irradiated imports from overseas. Irradiation is a tool of large agri-business – and supports mass production systems that diminish the power of local food producers and destroy local markets.

Furthermore, irradiation will not eliminate the use of chemicals and pesticides in crop production; it will be used in conjunction with these and other food processes.

I also have concerns about the impartiality of the approval process as the Qld government is both the applicant for A1092 and a member of the decision-making Ministerial Forum.

Finally, I am not confident that these fruits will be labelled. The government has initiated a 'review' of mandatory labeling which will likely lead to the removal of labeling requirements. This will lead to these foods being deceptively marketed as "fresh" though they are processed and remove the consumers right to choose. Irradiated food and their packages must be individually labelled as "treated with radiation" or "irradiated." A1092 does not assure me that this will be the case.

For these reasons I call on you to reject A1092 and to rescind all previous irradiation approvals.

I look forward to hearing your response to my concerns.

Thank you

Dawn Joyce

