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NRC ISSUES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ON PROPOSED ENVIROCARE LICENSE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a draft environmental impact statement on the proposal by Envirocare of Utah, Inc., to construct and operate a facility near Clive, Utah, for the disposal of uranium and thorium mill tailings.

The Envirocare facility would be located adjacent to a Department of Energy disposal area containing about 2.5 million cubic yards of uranium mill tailings from the former Vitro South Salt Lake, Utah, facility that were cleaned up and moved to this site under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978. The proposed Envirocare facility would also be adjacent to the applicant's existing facility licensed by the State of Utah to dispose of naturally occurring radioactive material, low-level radioactive waste and mixed waste. However, only the NRC (and not the State of Utah) has the authority to regulate the disposal of uranium and thorium mill tailings, as defined in Section 11e(2) of the Atomic Energy Act as byproduct material.

The NRC staff's draft EIS concludes that the overall benefit-cost balance for the Envirocare license application is favorable, and that the indicated action is that of licensing.

Free single copies of the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement to Construct and Operate a Facility to Receive, Store, and Dispose of 11E.(2) Byproduct Material Near Clive, Utah," (NUREG-1476) are available by written request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Attention: Distribution Section, Room P-368B, Washington, DC 20555.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the draft to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publication Services, Mail Stop P-223, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. The comments should be received within 45 days of publication of a Federal Register notice on this subject by the Environmental Protection Agency--expected later this month.

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