

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 08/11/00

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FINAL REPLY:

Senator Fred Thompson

TO:

Dennis Rathbun, OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN **

CRC NO: 00-0498

Travers, EDO

DESC:

ROUTING:

Moratorium on Recycling Contaminated Nickel

Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Reyes, RII

DATE: 08/02/00

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NMSS

Kane

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Aug 02, 2000 09:56

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-00-0498 **LOGGING DATE:** 07/31/2000
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: FRED THOMPSON
AFFILIATION: SEN
ADDRESSEE: DENNIS RATHBUN
SUBJECT: MORATORIUM ON RECYCLING CONTAMINATED NICKEL FROM THE K-25 PLANT
IN OAK RIDGE, TN

ACTION: Signature of EDO
DISTRIBUTION:

LETTER DATE: 07/13/2000
ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING: OCA TO ACK
NOTES:
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DATE DUE: 08/14/2000 8/15/00 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20000376

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4204
<http://thompson.senate.gov>

July 13, 2000

Mr. Dennis K. Rathbun
Director
Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

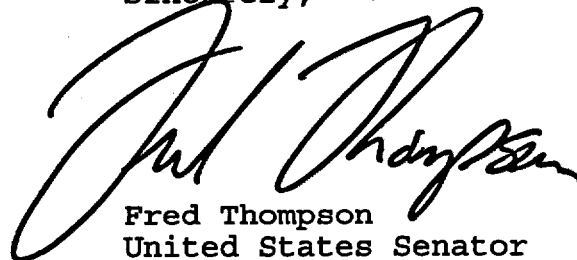
Dear Mr. Rathbun:

I am writing on behalf of Glenn Bell regarding his concerns about the moratorium on recycling contaminated nickel from the former K-25 plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. I have enclosed a copy of Mr. Bell's correspondence for your review.

I would appreciate your taking the time to look into this situation and to respond to Mr. Bell's specific concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Fred Thompson
United States Senator

FT:apm
Enclosure

JUN 27 2000

June 12, 2000
Senator Fred Thompson
523 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Thompson:

The information provided is for your information. I am deeply concerned that the present moratorium on the recycling of contaminated nickel from the former K-25 Plant in Oak Ridge, and other similar processes may be rescinded. I do not believe this is in the best interest of the public, for the reasons stated in the enclosed documents. I would appreciate your support of a permanent ban, which would eliminate the chance for error and possible ill health effects for an unsuspecting public.

Thank you for any consideration your office may give this issue.

Regards,

Glenn Bell
504 Michigan Ave.
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Cc: Senator Fred Thompson
Senator Bill Frist
Congressman Ed Bryant
Congressman Bart Gordon
Congressman Van Hilleary
Congressman John Duncan, Jr.
Mr. Richard Meserve, Chairman NRC

JUN 27 2000

November 24, 1999
Mr. Richard Meserve, NRC Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555
Attn.: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

Dear Chairman Meserve and Staff:

I am writing to comment on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's intent to approve historically contaminated nuclear and legacy waste for release in recycling. I find this concept unacceptable, based on past mistakes, incompetency, and the growing revelation that rad contamination, at any level, can be hazardous to human health. Murphy's Law- "If something can go wrong, it will"- is especially true in the rad arena.

For background, I am a 51-year old machinist at Oak Ridge's Y-12 Plant, where I have been employed since 1968. I was diagnosed with Chronic Beryllium Disease in 1993, after several years' misdiagnosis as asthma. My symptoms range from mild to quite severe. Since being diagnosed, I have immersed myself in educating myself in the historical blunders of DOE/DOD throughout the 50 years of nuclear development. In the last few years, I have attended several DOE and local health conferences, as an affected employee, and the relationship has resulted in much better communication for both sides. But much more work needs to be done.

I would cite several examples as reasons for my opposition to recycling the contaminated metals. Locally, there are two former salvage yards, the DuPont Smith yard in Oak Ridge, and the David Witherspoon yard in nearby Knoxville. Both acquired salvage materials from Oak Ridge Operations, both were later found to have contaminated equipment.

Last year, a large piece of equipment, I believe a vertical turret lathe, was purchased at auction from ETPP (the former K-25 site), and was found to have internal contamination, despite being "green-tagged" for public release.

About two years ago, barrels of rad waste, destined for out-of-state shipment to a proper disposal site, were found to have been misdirected to Y-12's burial grounds.

The well-publicized destruction of documents at INEEL and other sites (including Y-12) make verification impossible.

The acknowledgement of plutonium at Paducah, the cancer clusters around

Brookhaven Lab, and the almost unbelievable contamination releases from Hanford solidify the assertion that we haven't done a very good job of containment to date, even at the site level. Heaven help us if we release these materials to the unsuspecting public. This is not the proper approach to population control.

I would call on the NRC to extend its comment period on this action at least a year, as more facts such as these examples are surfacing almost weekly. The workers at these sites are your most valuable resource. I beg you to use them in any final decision.

Regards,

Glenn Bell
Beryllium Victims Alliance
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Oak Ridge, TN 37830
865-482-7641
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