

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 11/03/00 EDO CONTROL: G20000498
DOC DT: 09/12/00
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Ron Wyden

TO:

Kane, NMSS

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN **

CRC NO:

Travers, EDO

DESC:

ROUTING:

Nuclear Waste Disposal (Charles F. Stocking)

Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Rathbun, OCA

DATE: 10/20/00

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NMSS

Kane

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: EDO-001

E-RID: EDO-01

RON WYDEN
OREGON

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

516 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC
20510-3703
(202) 224-5244

September 12, 2000

web site:
www.senate.gov/~wyden/

Mr. William Kane
Office Director of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Mail Stop T8A23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Two White Flint North
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

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Budget
Commerce, Science
& Transportation
Energy & Natural Resources
Environment & Public Works
Special Committee on Aging

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707 13th St, SE
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Salem, OR 97301
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Dear Mr. Kane:

Enclosed please find correspondence I recently received from my constituent, Charles Stocking, regarding nuclear waste disposal. Mr. Stocking is especially concerned with long-term radioactive waste containment at sea.

I would greatly appreciate your response to his concerns through a direct reply to Mr. Stocking. Please also send a copy to my Washington office, as I am interested in your response. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



RON WYDEN
United States Senator

RW:rrr
Enclosure

863297
Sen. Wyden - OR

From: Nobody [nobody@ftp5.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 06, 2000 10:25 AM
To: Sen. Wyden - OR
Subject: www_email

Mr.
Charles F.
Stocking
1025 S.W. Evans St.

Portland
OR
97219

cstocking@NLXcorp.com
21 Health/Medical
From: Charles Stocking
Subject: Radio-active waste disposal

Dear Senator Wyden:

This is an update to my previous e-mail regarding radio-active waste disposal at sea (the original e-mail is included below for your convenience).

I have since learned that waste dumping was carried out off the coast of Oregon and Washington - (from the family of one of the tug boat captains), and that it was a routine and an accepted means of disposal at the time.

The disposal process was not a secret and I can only conclude that turning the barrels to obscure the radiation warning symbols was an effort to avoid raising public concern during transport.

That leaves only the question "is the radio active material safely contained?". I am concerned about the basic premise that "the material will be silted over and completely contained before the barrels rust through" may be flawed. Do you know if any attempt has been made to verify containment or to monitor for radiation to make sure that radio-activity is not entering the food chain? The prospect of Oregonians developing health problems from seafood contamination or from direct exposure along the coast is my basic reason for contacting you.

I know you are very busy and I contacted you first just to give you a heads up. I suspect that dumping was also carried out on the east coast and I am going to be contacting my representatives on this matter. Since I understand that you do not acknowledge out of state mail (the above address is my other home in Oregon), I would appreciate it one of your staff would at least verify it was received. I will continue pursuing my concerns through our New York representatives.

Thank you very much,

Charles F. Stocking
Sr. Systems Engineer
NLX Corporation
4th Floor-Center Plaza
53 Chenango St.
Binghamton, NY 13901-2890
607-722-2965 Ex 121

Previous mail:

Dear Senator Wyden:

I am writing you on a subject that you may or may not be interested in. It's a completely off the wall memory from my past (1950's) but since my worst case intuitive scenario may effect the Oregon coast, I thought I would convey my story to you for your assessment.

In approximately the mid 50's, I was a Sea Scout (SSS City of Roses) and we used to sail the Columbia River upstream from Vancouver. We used to take our boat out during weekdays and on several occasions we tacked close to very large ocean-going size tugs shepherding large ocean-going barges. The barges were heading down stream carrying a large number of 55 gal drums. They were in new condition and stacked approximately 6 high. We wouldn't have paid much attention to them except on one close tack I could see a radiation hazard sticker on the side of one of the drums. What seemed odd to me was that when they were loaded, all of the outer drums had been rotated so the hazard symbols were not facing out. On subsequent days we checked out passing barges and they were all the same. On very close tacks, we could see a little bit between the outer drums and many of the inner drums appeared to have radiation stickers. Since Hanford is upstream, I surmised that was their origin.

Later that year I sent for some documents from the Government Printing Office, I included a request for a pamphlet on how to dispose of radioactive waste. The pamphlet touted disposal at sea in 55 gal drums as one of the best methods. It recommended dumping them in a deep-sea trench. It concludes the drums would not rust through for 45 to 50 years and that in the mean time, silt would cover them to hold the material in place.

I have no knowledge as to the destination of those barges and absolutely no reason to believe they where to be dumped at sea. I do remember however, the many accidents Hanford had (reported in the paper then and since -- especially the radio active ducks, but that's another story). In retrospect, I do not think dumping radio-active waste at sea was a very good idea.

Oregon happens to have a deep trench of its coast. If they were dumped at sea, they would be rusting through about now. Further, if they were not completely covered with sediment, some of the material could be escaping into the sea. (I remember the Japanese floats that used to wash up on the beach after coastal storms)

I guess my question is -- do you think it worth while to search Hanford's records to verify the destination of those drums?

Sincerely,
A former Oregonian

Charles F. Stocking

UNITED STATES SENATE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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