



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 17 2001

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Jane Brae-Bedell, Ph.D.
Option Medical
P.O. Box 3084
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Dear Dr. Brae-Bedell:

Thank you for your letter dated July 13, 2001, to Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Robert Brenner. Your letter expressed concern regarding amendments to the low-level radioactive waste disposal license held by Envirocare of Utah. I understand your concern, as these amendments could result in significant changes in the volume, physical form, and radioactive content of waste received by the Envirocare facility. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also wants to ensure that disposal of any type of waste is carried out in an environmentally protective manner and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

However, EPA does not issue licenses for disposal of low-level radioactive waste, nor do we have primary regulatory oversight over these disposal facilities. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is responsible for regulating commercial low-level radioactive waste disposal. In the case of Envirocare, the State of Utah has entered into an agreement with NRC, as permitted under the Atomic Energy Act, to carry out NRC's licensing and regulatory authorities within the State. The State is required to apply NRC's regulations for low-level waste disposal facilities, found in 10 CFR part 61. Therefore, if you have reason to believe that the State is incorrectly or inadequately exercising its licensing responsibilities with regard to the Envirocare license amendments, NRC is the appropriate Federal agency to contact. I suggest that you direct your inquiries to:

Paul Lohaus, Director
Office of State and Tribal Programs
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 3 C10
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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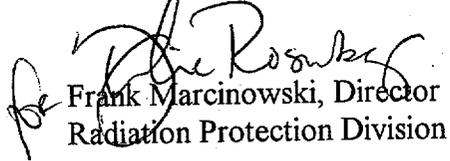
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I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions please call me at (202) 564-9290.

Sincerely,


Frank Marcinowski, Director
Radiation Protection Division

cc: Paul Lohaus, NRC