

BOB SMITH  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

RANKING MEMBER  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

opinion@smith.senate.gov  
http://smith.senate.gov

ARMED SERVICES

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2903

February 13, 2002

Mr. Tom Essig  
Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards  
Division of Waste Management  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Agency  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Essig:

I recently received an inquiry from Mr. Bill Coviello, a resident of Newbury, NH. I am forwarding a copy of his message to you.

I hope that you can find Mr. Coviello's idea helpful. His company would like to test a new product for use in the event of a uranium fire. I would appreciate your responding to his message directly at your earliest possible convenience. As per a conversation my staff had with NRC Congressional Relations, I have encouraged Mr. Coviello to contact you in reference to his product.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Bob Smith, U.S.S.  
Ranking Member

Enclosure  
/jjq

*Add: Tom Essig  
Nm5521*

Date: 1/15/02 12:59 PM  
Sender: Bill Coviello <billc@tligroup.com>  
To: margaret hemenway  
cc: bob goodman  
Priority: Normal  
Subject: Uranium fires

*Bill -  
can you pls.  
do this one  
for me?  
Thank D.*

Hello Margaret. Hope you had a great holiday. While we wait for the new IG to be confirmed I was wondering if you could assist me in another area? I'll give you a quick overview of the problem we have with the DOE. Last year DOE placed a "Scope of Work" order with the Fluor Corporation division in Cincinnati, Ohio to come up with a set of "test protocols" for our material to be tested on a uranium fire. The Univ of Cincinnati was contracted to write the protocols as well as research uranium fires. The protocols were completed and now DOE in Washington, DC says that it is to much of a risk to have the uranium fires to test our material on. The Fluor corporations says they are still going to buy our product and keep it on hand in case they have a uranium fire during the clean up of the site they are working on. The main item though is to complete the testing and certify that our product works. The reason Fluor likes our material is that we have demonstrated on fires that burn at higher temperatures then an uranium fire. Because of this they believe it will work on Uranium fires.

I think there is a new Commissioner of DOE who is interested in new technologies and I believe our product falls right into this area. The second reason DOE should also have a great interest in seeing our product tested and certified is that presently there is no know fire extinguishing agent that works on uranium fires.

I am trying to get the Univ Of Cincinnati to send me a copy of the write-up and when they do I'll forward a copy to you. They seem a little bit reluctant about releasing a copy to me so it may take a couple of weeks to get our hands on it.

If there are any questions please let me know.

Many thanks and best regards.

<!

**Date:** 1/16/02 7:21 AM  
**Sender:** Bill Coviello <billc@tligroup.com>  
**To:** margaret hemenway  
**cc:** bob goodman  
**Priority:** Normal  
**Subject:**DOE

---

Hello Margaret. I think the Commissioner I mentioned in my first e-mail is the Commissioner of the NRC and not one located in the DOE. This Commissioner is the one who is pushing new technologies for this field. How does the DOE and NRC work together or are they totally separate?  
Best regards.

<!