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March 21, 2006

Ms. Karen D. Cyr  
General Counsel  
Office of the General Counsel  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Ms. Cyr:

This letter is in response to a notice published in the Federal Register on March 6, 2006. The notice concerned the application by Eastern Technologies, Inc. (ETI) of Ashford, Alabama, to import radioactive waste. The notice does not contain any provision for submission of comments; however, the following remarks are submitted in lieu of intervention and are intended to provide information meriting the Commission's consideration.

ETI is a radioactive laundry company located in Ashford, AL, a small economically underprivileged community in which ETI is one of the larger, if not the largest enterprises. ETI receives dissolvable clothing contaminated with radioactive material at its plant in Ashford, and then releases the dissolved radioactive solution to the Ashford sewer system where it makes its way to a large, stagnant, sewage lagoon.

ETI has a laundry license. The laundry license does not authorize the receipt of waste. ETI has maintained, and as far as can be determined, the Commission, and the State of Alabama have agreed, that the dissolvable protective clothing is not waste, but laundry, and it is on this premise that the activity described above has been allowed to continue.

ETI is now planning to import dissolvable clothing from Mexico, and to dissolve it. But now ETI is explicitly asking for a license to import waste.

I do not believe it is a good idea to bring any kind of waste let alone radioactive waste from other countries into the small economically underprivileged community of Ashford Alabama for disposal. Alabama is not the world's dumping ground and we think the Commission should DENY ETI's application to import waste. The following are some specific reasons why this request should not be granted:

First, ETI is not licensed by the State of Alabama, or any other legal authority to receive waste. It seems to me that one of the first criteria for obtaining a permit to import waste is to license to receive, possess, and process it. Since ETI lacks the prerequisite licenses, they should have to obtain these before the import license is granted.

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Second, it seems to me that ETI and the regulatory authorities have already argued that dissolvable laundry is not waste. Granting a license to import radioactive waste to ETI so that they can use it to import used dissolvable clothing from Mexico would be inconsistent with the previous positions taken by the requestor and by the regulatory agencies.

Third, the rules provide for general licenses that would suffice to allow ETI to import the dissolvable laundry as contaminated material imported for decontamination. But I think ETI got it right this time. That dissolvable clothing is in fact waste and not laundry. I think ETI is processing waste in Ashford, and I don't want to see it continue. I definitely do not want to see ETI bring Mexican radioactive waste to Ashford and dump it into the sewage lagoon there.

For the foregoing reasons I respectfully request that ETI's application be denied and that this letter be accepted for consideration in this matter by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In closing, I have been monitoring ETI's operations in Alabama for a number of years in an attempt to protect our citizens. Now I am really concerned about what could occur with this application.

Sincerely,



Jerry Cochran