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STANDING COMMITTEES: PUBLIC UTILITIES AND
TECHNOLOGY, CHAIR; REVENUE AND TAXATION
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DOCKETED
USNRC

February 25, 2008 (10:45am)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Office of the Secretary,

Re: Comment on the importation of foreign waste

I'm writing to urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to deny the request to import foreign nuclear waste into the U.S. with eventual disposal in Utah. It is a serious departure in this country's policies for handling nuclear waste.

Granting this request would set a dangerous precedent for the U.S. to become the world's nuclear waste repository at a time when our own low-level waste disposal capacity remains uncertain. Filling up our domestic resources for low-level waste disposal with another country's nuclear waste will put considerable pressure on existing U.S. disposal sites to expand and create a need for new sites to open up. The emergence of new and larger low-level nuclear waste sites due to foreign waste disposal may present an unnecessary risk to public health and safety. Having to safeguard these sites from terrorist attacks or other acts of intrusion may put considerable strain on our national defense and security. Furthermore, the transportation of this waste into our ports and through our cities and towns presents a risk to our health, safety, and security.

It is my understanding that the application states that "the sources of this material are not fully known" and that some of the waste may be above allowable contamination for processing and disposal in Utah. The Commission should not agree to allow this import when the nature and hazards of this material remain unclear.

Because of the concerns stated above, I strongly urge the Commission to reject any application for acceptance of foreign nuclear waste in Utah.

Thank you,

Rep. Sheryl Allen
Utah House of Representatives

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