

262

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USNRC

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555
Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications

February 26, 2008 (10:30am)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Office of the Secretary,

I am writing regarding the request by Energy Solutions to import 20,000 tons of Italian nuclear waste into the U.S. and dispose of that waste at a location in Utah.

I strongly urge you to deny this request. There are several reasons for my position.

1. It is my understanding that the U.S. does not really have adequate sites available for the storage of its own low-level waste due to widespread public concern about potential health effects. This is not a problem that is easily solved. To accept waste from outside the US will only compound this problem. Granting this request would set a dangerous precedent that could put us on the path of becoming the world's repository when we haven't adequately solved the problem of how to manage our own waste in a manner the public feels is safe and responsible.
2. It is my understanding that this request represent a much greater amount of waste than the amount approved under import licenses in the past. This is a serious departure from current policies for handling nuclear waste and I would argue, inconsistent with the direction we should be headed.
3. The US is not currently prepared to adequately safeguard waste sites from potential intrusions or terrorist acts.
4. The transportation of this waste also presents risks to communities across the U.S.
5. Energy Solutions state that "the sources of this material are not fully known" and that some of the waste may include levels of contamination not legally acceptable for processing and disposal in Utah. This ambiguity is unacceptable.

Please reject the application submitted by Energy Solutions.

Thank you for considering my comments

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