

OUR VIEW

By The Tribune Editorial Board

Italian waste

Control board says Utah isn't the place

The Utah Radiation Control Board has spoken. And the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, for the sake of the nation and Utahns in particular, should listen.

Utah-based Energy Solutions hopes to accept low-level nuclear waste from Italy's nuclear power industry, sparking legitimate concerns that the Beehive State could become the world's radioactive dumping ground. If the import license is granted, about 1,600 tons of Italian waste would be buried at the firm's low-level radioactive waste disposal facility at Clive in Tooele County.

The control board unanimously opposed the plan last week, and approved a rough draft of a letter to the NRC which will rule on the licensing request.

We believe that any country that has the technological capability of producing nuclear power within its borders should not seek to dispose of its waste outside them. Development of nuclear power should go hand in hand with the development of disposal options, the draft reads.

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Board members make a wise and convincing argument. Those are words the NRC should live by when considering import requests.

The board is powerless to stop the shipments. Only the NRC can reject the license and stop the madness. But the control board's eloquent, rational objections,

coupled with those of more than 500 individuals and organizations that have responded to the NRC's call for comments, could and should turn the tide against radioactive waste from abroad.

It's not too late to add your voice to the growing chorus. The NRC has extended the public comment period until June 10. Send your objections to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001, Attn: Rule-making and Adjudication Staff.

The dump is a burden for Utah, and a necessary evil for the nation. Beginning this summer, it will be the only disposal option available for domestic waste from 36 states.

While the waste stream from Italy would be small — the 1,600 tons equals less than 1 percent of the waste received annually at Clive — the dump has a limited capacity, and the deal would set a dangerous precedent. When it's full, it's full, and it should not be expanded. That is why every remaining cubic foot should be reserved for domestic, not foreign, waste.

*3/12/08
Once again, hoping you will consider the views of the citizens of Utah*

*Best,
Carol M Dmoat*

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