

APR. 30. 2008 4:39PM

SENATOR VITTER

NO. 504 P. 2

DAVID VITTER
LOUISIANA

DOCKET NO. 11005711

DEPUTY WHIP

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Environment and Public Works

Foreign Relations

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Special Committee on Aging

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

1624

WASHINGTON, D.C.
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE SH-516
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4523
FAX: (202) 225-5051

BATON ROUGE
858 CONVENTION STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
(225) 383-0331
FAX: (225) 383-0352

Website with E-Mail Access:
vitter.senate.gov

April 30, 2008

Dr. Dale E. Klein
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North Building
1555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738

DOCKETED
USNRC

May 2, 2008 (4:03pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED

Dear Chairman Klein:

I write to express concern with a proposal to import radioactive waste material from Italy into the United States. As I understand the proposal, the waste materials could come through a number of ports, possibly including the Port of New Orleans. I have a number of concerns that I believe must be answered before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should grant approval of this proposal.

First, EnergySolutions, the company asking to import the waste, has not been able to verify that the materials comply with NRC limits until after processing takes place in Tennessee. That would mean the waste could travel through a port of entry and then hundreds of miles via our inland waterways before its compliance with our regulations can be confirmed. That seems to me to be a huge risk.

Second, part of the company's proposal asks for an export license to return to Italy any waste that, after being processed in Tennessee, would not qualify for storage in its Utah facility. Again, the concern remains that material that may not comply with our regulations would be allowed to travel for hundreds of miles on our waterways and through our ports.

Finally, there are concerns that the origin of the material could not be explicitly known. I do not see how we can ensure the safety of these materials and the communities the material would have to travel through without knowing its specific origin and risks.

I hope you will give all these concerns careful consideration before allowing EnergySolutions to import potentially dangerous waste into our country. The Port of New Orleans is vital to our national economy, as it is a key point of entry and export from the Mississippi River. Unless we know that the materials coming in are safe and would not lead to an increased risk of closure of ports and waterways, I ask that the Commission deny the request.


ACADIANA 800 LAFAYETTE STREET SUITE 1200 LAFAYETTE, LA 70501 (237) 262-6898 FAX: (337) 262-6373	CENTRAL LOUISIANA 2230 SOUTH MACARTHUR DRIVE SUITE 4 ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301 (318) 448-0169 FAX: (318) 448-0189	NORTHEAST LOUISIANA 1217 NORTH 18TH STREET MONROE, LA 71201 (318) 325-8120 FAX: (318) 325-8165	NORTHWEST LOUISIANA 920 PIERREMONT ROAD SUITE 113 SHREVEPORT, LA 71106 (318) 861-0437 FAX: (318) 861-4885	SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA 2800 VETERANS BOULEVARD SUITE 201 METAIRIE, LA 70002 (504) 589-2753 FAX: (504) 589-2607	SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA 3221 RYAN STREET SUITE E LAKE CHARLES, LA 70601 (337) 438-0453 FAX: (337) 436-3163
---	--	---	---	---	--

Template = SECY-043

SECY-02

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your work to ensure the nuclear facilities and materials in our nation are safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Vitter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

David Vitter
U.S. Senator

CC: Commissioner Kristine L. Svinicki
Commissioner Gregory B. Jaczko
Commissioner Peter B. Lyons