

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: May 02, 2008 16:05

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-08-0256 **LOGGING DATE:** 05/02/2008  
**ACTION OFFICE:** OIP / EDO

**AUTHOR:** SEN David Vitter  
**AFFILIATION:** CONG  
**ADDRESSEE:** Dale Klein  
**SUBJECT:** Express concerns with a proposal to import radioactive waste material from Italy into the U.S.

**ACTION:** Signature of Chairman  
**DISTRIBUTION:** RF, EDO, OCA to Ack, SECY/RAS to place on docket

**LETTER DATE:** 04/30/2008  
**ACKNOWLEDGED:** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:** OIP...coordinate response with EDO  
**NOTES:** Commission correspondence  
**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS  
**DATE DUE:** 05/23/2008 **DATE SIGNED:**

**DAVID VITTER**  
LOUISIANA

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE SH-516  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4523  
FAX: (202) 228-5063

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

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) 262-6998  
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 19TH STREET  
MONROE, LA 71201  
(318) 325-8120  
FAX: (318) 325-8165

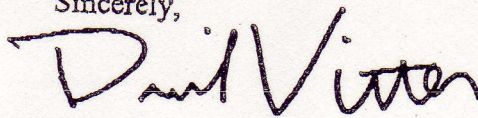
**NORTHWEST LOUISIANA**  
320 PIERREMONT ROAD  
SUITE 113  
SHREVEPORT, LA 71106  
(918) 861-0437  
FAX: (918) 861-4885

**SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA**  
2900 VETERANS BOULEVARD  
SUITE 201  
METairie, LA 70002  
(504) 583-2753  
FAX: (504) 589-2607

**SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA**  
3221 RYAN STREET  
SUITE E  
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70601  
(337) 438-0458  
FAX: (337) 438-3163

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 style with a large, prominent "D" and "V".

David Vitter  
U.S. Senator

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