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USNRC

May 20, 2008 (3:30pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Governor Huntsman and Office of the Secretary,
I'm writing to urge you to deny EnergySolutions' request to import 20,000 tons of Italian nuclear waste. This single request is many times larger than previous import licenses granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. 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 facilities for low-level waste with another country's nuclear waste will put considerable pressure on existing U.S. disposal sites to expand or for new sites to open. The emergence of new and larger nuclear waste sites due to foreign waste disposal constitutes an unreasonable risk to public health and safety. Safeguarding these sites from terrorist attacks or other acts of intrusion will put considerable strain on our national defense and security. Furthermore, the transportation of this waste presents an unacceptable risk to our health, safety, and security. EnergySolutions states in its application that "the sources of this material are not fully known" and that some of the waste may be above allowable contamination for disposal in Utah. The Commission should not agree to allow this import when the nature and hazards of this material remain unclear. I strongly urge you to deny EnergySolutions' request. Thank you.

Name Alex Pearson
Address: 3970 S. 700 W. Apt. 111 City SLC
State Utah Zip 84123 Phone 661-3318
E-mail:
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SECY-02