

Secy

DOCKET NO. 11005711

2347

From: Ross McCluney [rmccluney@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 3:26 PM
To: Secy
Cc: senator@alexander.senate.gov; senator@corker.senate.gov
Attachments: To the NRC.pdf

Attached is a letter from me to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about License applications IW023 and XW013. (Federal Register Vol. 73, No. 28, 2/11/08)

Dr. Ross McCluney
SunPine Consulting
3517 Elderview Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37419
Home: 423-821-0981
Cell: 321-917-8292
RMcCluney@comcast.net
www.rossmccluney.com

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USNRC

May 20, 2008 (3:32pm)

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Template = Secy-043

Secy-02

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(148.184.100.43) with Microsoft SMTP Server id 8.0.751.0; Tue, 20 May 2008
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From: Ross McCluney <rmccluney@comcast.net>

To: <secy@nrc.gov>

CC: <senator@alexander.senate.gov>,
<senator@corker.senate.gov>

Subject:

Date: Tue, 20 May 2008 15:26:23 -0400

Message-ID: <038001c8baaf\$63e38f40\$2baaad0\$@net>

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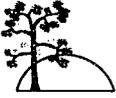
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Content-Language: en-us

Return-Path: rmccluney@comcast.net



SunPine Consulting

May 20, 2008

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: License Applications Nos. IW023 and XW013 (Federal Register Volume 73,
Number 28, 2/11/08)

EnergySolutions, based in Salt Lake City, is seeking a license import up to approximately 20,000 tons (a total volume of up to approximately 1 million cubic feet) of various types of materials from decommissioned nuclear facilities in Italy. The waste has been stored in Italy since the 1980s and earlier.

EnergySolutions fails to provide detailed data on the characteristics of each waste stream prior to and after processing by weight, volume, and radionuclide content.

Promises by EnergySolutions should not substitute for actual data provided prior to the granting of a license.

Waste data should be verified by US regulators in Italy before it is shipped here.

EnergySolutions would process and recycle most of the contaminated material at its Oak Ridge facilities in Tennessee, in accordance with licenses issued by the state of Tennessee.

EnergySolutions says that about one-third of the 20,000 tons of waste is metal which it would reform into blocks to shield radiation. These blocks would be sold for use at other nuclear plants. EnergySolutions intends to incinerate the remainder (materials such as radioactive - contaminated filters, gloves, plastic equipment etc) at its facility in Oak Ridge to reduce the volume by a factor of 200 before it is shipped to Utah.

These plans are unacceptable to me, a resident of Tennessee, and should be stopped by the NRC immediately. I already experience risk from existing emissions of radioactive materials and don't need to have more added to the air I breathe and the water I drink. Tennessee leads the nation in nuclear waste processors, incinerators, radioactive "recycling" and release from control. TN residents are at elevated risk for undisclosed, unmonitored and ongoing radiation exposure. Nuclear waste is being burned, melted, physically and chemically processed. We do NOT need any more of this deadly substance in our state. We should not have to pay in reduced health and contaminated air and water for the failure of this company to develop safe methods for disposal or outright elimination of these dangerous materials.

The State of TN licenses processors who can make their own determinations to free release radioactive materials and wastes for reuse, recycling or regular landfills. This is unacceptable and shocking.

TN regulators reclassify foreign low level waste as domestic waste once it is processed in Tennessee, a practice it has been doing since 2006 with incinerated waste from countries such as Canada, France and Germany. This allows the remaining waste to be buried in US low level waste landfills. Some of this waste has been deregulated by TN Department of Environment and Conservation and allowed to go to regular trash disposal in the state. Another atrocity, all for the economic benefit of this company while being an uncompensated detriment to the people of Tennessee.

The remaining 1,600 tons of incinerated and compacted waste would be sent to EnergySolutions' low-level radioactive waste disposal facility in Clive, Utah for disposal in accordance with its Utah license. That's a matter for Utah citizens to deal with.

The Northwest Compact on Low-level Radioactive Waste voted unanimously to tighten the compact's contract with EnergySolutions to make it clear that foreign waste is not permitted. The Compact also closed a loophole that has allowed past shipments of foreign waste to be buried in Utah after being processed at the company's Tennessee processing plant.

Beginning in July, EnergySolutions' Utah site will be the only low-level landfill available in the United States for low-level waste generated in 36 states. And just the least radioactive type of waste, dubbed "Class A," is permitted in Utah.

The import of significant mounts of radioactive waste is a major federal action and import should not be permitted without an Environment Impact Statement. Such a statement should include options for management and disposal of the wastes in Italy.

I urge the NRC to prevent these dangerous practices from further contaminating my wonderful state.

Ross McCluney

Dr. Ross McCluney
Research Physicist

cc.: Office of Senator Corker, 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, Office of Senator Alexander SD-455 / Washington, DC 20510