3210 E. Compton Rd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
December 19, 2010

Office of the Secretary
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555
Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications

To the Members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

I am disturbed to learn that Energy Solutions of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, has applied for a license to import up to 1000 tons of radioactive waste from Germany. Eckert and Ziegler Nuclitec, a German-based company, collects these materials from hospitals, research, and technical facilities throughout Europe and beyond. The plan, over a five year period beginning in 2011, is to transport this radioactive waste via boat to Portsmouth or Norfolk, Virginia, and then by truck to Oak Ridge. Energy Solutions would then incinerate the dry material in its Bear Creek processor and return the remaining ash to Germany.

As Congressman Bart Gordon has said, "If a country like Germany has the capacity to produce large quantities of nuclear waste, it should also have the capacity to treat it and store it....I am concerned once that waste is imported, nothing but an individual corporation's word prevents it from being shipped to U.S. disposal sites."

The enormity of this enterprise demands thorough study and public participation. This is the foot-in-the-door to bringing all the world's nuclear waste to the United States so that businesses such as Energy Solutions can turn a profit. Our citizens ought to have ample time to become informed and to have a say in whether we want nuclear waste brought into our country. This plan should not be quietly approved during the middle of the holiday season, while few people are paying attention. Therefore I am asking for a 45-day extension period for public comments and for deadlines to file for hearings or for interventions.

We need a thorough study of what kind of waste and what levels of radioactivity Energy Solutions proposes to bring to the United States. We need to know exactly how much radiation people would be exposed to during transportation. We need to know how much radiation would escape into the atmosphere during the incineration process. We need to know by what means of oversight the NRC plans to ascertain that the ashes would actually return to their place of origin. We need to know how much foreign waste has already been brought to the U.S. and how it has been disposed of. And above all, we need to know WHY this practice is being followed.

Yours truly,
Norman B. Ferris