

NOTE TO FILE

January 18, 2017

MEMORANDUM TO: File

FROM: Eric Reber, Project Manager
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Programs

SUBJECT: TELECONFERENCE ON POSSIBLE IMPORT OF RADIOACTIVE
WASTE FROM DENMARK HELD DECEMBER 14, 2016

Participants: Morten Svendstorp, Senior Advisor for Climate,
Energy and the Environment
Danish Embassy, Washington, MORTSV@UM.DK,
(202) 797-5312
Peter Habighorst, OIP
Janice Owens, OIP
Andrea Jones, OIP
Maurice Heath, DUWP/NMSS
Eric Reber, DUWP/NMSS

Mr. Svendstorp stated that Denmark has radioactive waste consisting of spent fuel from a research reactor and medical waste. [An email dated November 28, 2016 from Mr. Svendstorp indicated that the mass of the waste is 223 kg.] Disposal of this waste in Denmark is not currently feasible. Mr. Svendstorp indicated that he has been tasked with investigating whether this waste could be disposed of in the US.

Ms. Owens discussed the import licensing process including the requirements Part 110. She explained that importing radioactive waste into the US is not banned per se, but that there are significant regulatory requirements and political considerations that must be addressed before the import of waste could be authorized by the NRC. Ms. Owens indicated that she is not aware of instances where radioactive waste has been imported with the intention of disposal. She said that she is aware of a few cases where radioactive waste has been imported into the US, treated for volume reduction or otherwise processed, and then exported. Ms. Owens explained that the DOE has a program whereby spent fuel outside the US that is of US origin is repatriated. Mr. Reber indicated that the import licensing requirements are less onerous for radioactive material that would only be stored at a US facility compared with the requirements that would apply to radioactive material that is imported with the intention of disposal.

Mr. Svendstorp asked about broad, general trends concerning radioactive waste disposal in the US. Mr. Heath indicated that it seems to be an international concern that there is generally

more radioactive waste than corresponding disposal options. In response to a question about Yucca Mountain, Mr. Reber indicated that the NRC is not currently working on this project and that any possible disposal at this facility would be many years in the future.