

The Honorable Robert S. Walker
 United States House of
 Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515-3816

January 24, 1994

Dear Congressman Walker:

I am writing in response to your letter of December 30, 1993, to Chairman Selin, requesting that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission review a concern raised by your constituent, Mr. Robert L. Anderson. Mr. Anderson heard on television that the United States is considering accepting nuclear waste from other countries, and requested more information on this situation. There are a number of valid reasons related to national security, national economic policy, or public health and safety that could result in United States government agencies or United States businesses accepting radioactive materials from other countries. For example, the United States may accept plutonium from dismantled nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union as a means of reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation. The United States may also accept research reactor fuel containing highly enriched uranium from institutes in foreign countries, also as a means of safeguarding against nuclear proliferation. Firms in the United States manufacturing radioactive sealed sources and devices for sale overseas may have a contractual agreement with the purchaser to exchange or accept used sources for recycle or disposal. These are but a few examples of situations where "nuclear waste" might be accepted from other countries. Commercial import of radioactive materials is regulated by the NRC. The NRC has published a proposed rule for comment which would place special requirements on the import or export of commercial radioactive waste. The Commission expects to promulgate a final rule in 1994. Import of radioactive waste by the Department of Energy is not under NRC jurisdiction.

I hope you find this information useful in responding to Mr. Anderson's concern.

Sincerely,
Original signed by James M. Taylor
 James M. Taylor
 Executive Director
 for Operations

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The Honorable Robert S. Walker
 United States House of
 Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515-4401

Dear Congressman Walker:

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Without knowing in more detail what your constituent heard in this televised report, I regret that I can provide you only with this general response. I hope you find this information useful in responding to Mr. Anderson's concern.

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James M. Taylor
 Executive Director
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Sincerely,

Robert M. Bernero, Director
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
 and Safeguards

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From: Stuart A. Treby (SAT)
To: WN1:WN7:MJB2
Date: Wednesday, January 12, 1994 3:47 pm
Subject: EDO LETTER -Forwarded -Reply

mike:
no legal objection to response. s. treby