



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 24, 1994

CFD

The Honorable Robert S. Walker  
United States House of  
Representatives  
Washington, DC 2051 -3816

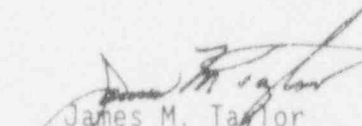
Dear Congressman Walker:

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 used 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,

  
James M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
for Operations

220057

94φ216φ165 XA 3/17/94

CC571

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 used 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,  
 James M. Taylor  
 Executive Director  
 for Operations

TICKET: ED09656  
 DISTRIBUTION: Central File LLWM r/f LLWM t/f NMSS r/f CPoland t/f SECY r/f  
 OCA r/f NMSS Dir r/f DMorris JKubel JSniezek HThompson JThoma  
 JKennedy JAustin JHolonich JBlaha PLOhaus JGreeves OGC r/f

Mark Small Boxes in Concurrence Block to Define Distribution Copy Preference.

In small Box on "OFC" line enter: C = Cover; E = Cover & Enclosure; N = No Copy

\* SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

OFC: LLWB \* : LLWM \*  
 NAME: MBell /km : PLOhaus  
 DATE: 1 /12/94 : 1 /13/93

*OCA*  
*OK 1/24/94*

OFC	NMSS*	NMSS*	OGC*	DEDS	EDC
NAME	GArlotto	RBernero	STreby	HThompson	JTaylor
DATE	1/14/94	01/18/94	1/12/94	1/21/94	1/21/94

S:\LLWMTYPE\KAREN\ED09656.MJB

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

In small Box on "DATE" line enter: M = E-Mail Distribution Copy; H = Hard Copy

PDR: YES X NO     Category: Proprietary     or CF Only      
 ACNW: YES     NO X  
 IG: YES     NO X Delete file after distribution: Yes     No X