

40-8681



# TOOELE COUNTY COMMISSION

Tooele County Courthouse, 47 South Main, Tooele, Utah 84074

Phone: (435) 843-3150 ♦ FAX (435) 843-3400

July 20, 1998

Joseph J. Holonich, Chief  
Uranium Recovery Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Mail Stop T-7J9  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Holonich:

We would like to express some concerns that could impact Tooele County and the Envirocare facility that happens to be a substantial employer and revenue source for our county. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently issued an amendment to the license of the White Mesa Uranium Mill operated by the International Uranium Corporation (IUSA) in Blanding, Utah. This amendment would essentially allow White Mesa to become a disposal facility for radioactively contaminated material through the disguise of "sham" recycling and will allow White Mesa to dispose of this material without obtaining the proper licenses and permits.

The circumventing of the established process for the licensing and permitting of radioactive waste disposal facilities in the state of Utah does not support a fair playing field and does not provide for the protection of the public and environmental health and safety. The Envirocare facility in Tooele County has followed the complicated process of licensing, has the required permits, and is consistently regulated to ensure that the facility is operating within the terms of those licenses and permits. Any company interested in disposing of radioactive waste should be required to follow the same process of obtaining a radioactive materials license from either the NRC or the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) and a Groundwater Discharge Permit from the UDEQ.

We request that the NRC reconsider its decision to allow recycling of radioactive wastes from New York to be disposed in Utah. Tooele County has benefited greatly from Envirocare, a company that has followed the process and needs a level playing field to continue to contribute to the economic stability of our community. Your attention to this matter is of great importance to Tooele County and would be appreciated. Please feel free to call us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

TOOELE COUNTY COMMISSION

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PDR ADOCK 04008681  
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Teryl Hunsaker,  
Chairman

Gary M. Griffith

Lois E. McArthur

Commissioners: Teryl Hunsaker, Chairman; Gary M. Griffith, Lois E. McArthur.  
Administrative Assistant: Cheryl Adams

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