

February 16, 2010

The Honorable Jim Matheson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Matheson:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 14, 2010, in which you expressed concerns about the blending of low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) streams. While blending of LLRW is currently not addressed or prohibited in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) regulations, and is acknowledged as appropriate in some circumstances in our guidance, a number of stakeholders have raised questions about the large-scale blending that has been proposed by industry.

I recently directed NRC staff to prepare a policy paper for Commission consideration that would address this important issue. The NRC has held four public meetings on blending and accepted public comments through January 29, 2010. The NRC staff will consider your comments and questions in developing the policy paper which is due in April.

Our Office of Congressional Affairs will continue to update your staff and provide any briefings that may be helpful. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko