

March 16, 2012

Mr. Michael Garner
Executive Director
Northwest Interstate Compact on Low-Level
Radioactive Waste Management
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Garner:

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR NRC IMPORT LICENSE (IW031)

Enclosed for your consideration is an application, dated February 14, 2012 (Enclosure 1), received by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) from Perma-Fix Northwest Richland, Inc. for a proposed import of radioactive waste from the Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Mexico. We are sending an analogous letter to Mr. Terry Frazee, State of Washington, for his consideration.

The applicant is requesting a license to allow the import of up to 500 tons of radioactively contaminated combustible materials for volume reduction via thermal destruction at the Perma-Fix Northwest Richland, Inc. Richland, WA site. The applicant is also requesting a license to export (return) the ash generated from the process of thermal destruction, along with containers and any nonconforming material not valid for alternate processing, back to Mexico, the country of the origin, XW019 (Enclosure 2).

The import application (IW031) was forwarded to the U.S. Department of State (DOS) on February 24, 2012, for assistance in notifying the Mexican Government authorities of the proposed radioactive waste import in the U.S. NRC also requested DOS's views as to whether issuing the license would be consistent with the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. A Federal Register notice regarding both import and export license applications will be published in the near future.

It would be greatly appreciated if within three weeks of the date of this letter, you could respond with any comments you may have concerning the import license application (IW031) or if necessary, provide an estimate of how much additional time may be required to complete your review and provide a written response to NRC.

We welcome your response by e-mail or telefax, and request that you refer to NRC license application IW031 in your response. As the NRC's point of contact for this matter, my e-mail address is Janice.Owens@nrc.gov and my telefax number is (301) 415-2395. If you respond by

M. Garner

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e-mail, please copy your response to Ms. Jenny (Tobin) Wollenweber at Jennifer.Tobin@nrc.gov. Should you have questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-3684 or Ms. Wollenweber at (301) 415-2328.

Sincerely,

/RA by Brooke G. Smith/

Janice Owens, Branch Chief
Export Controls and International Organizations
Office of International Programs

Enclosures:

1. Application Dated 02/14/2012
IW031 - Mexico
Docket Number 11005985
2. Application Dated 02/14/2012
XW019 - Mexico
Docket Number 11005986

cc w/enclosures:

G. Kim, NRC/OGC
J. Kennedy, NRC/FSME
J. Shaffner, NRC/FSME

T. Frazee

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e-mail, please copy your response to Ms. Jenny Wollenweber at Jennifer.Tobin@nrc.gov. Should you have questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-3684 or Ms. Wollenweber at (301) 415-2328.

Sincerely,
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Janice Owens, Branch Chief
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IW031 - Mexico
Docket Number 11005985
- 2. Application Dated 02/14/2012
XW019 - Mexico
Docket Number 11005986

cc w/enclosures:

- G. Kim, NRC/OGC
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- J. Shaffner, NRC/FSME

DOCUMENT NAME: S:\IMPORTS\Imports – States-Compact\NW Compact IW031.doc

ADAMS Accession Nos:

TEMPLATE NO.: OIP-004

Package: ML12058A461

Letter: ML12058A471

Enclosure 1: ML12047A340

Enclosure 2: ML12047A348

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