

May 20, 2004

Mr. Robin DeLaBarre  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
NP/NE, Room 3320  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. DeLaBarre:

Enclosed is an application for a license (IW015), recently received by NRC from Diversified Scientific Services, Inc. (DSSI), a subsidiary of Perma-Fix Environmental Services, Inc. for the import of Class A radioactive mixed waste. The material to be imported is from the Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Plant located in Mexico and is in the form of semi-solids, solids, liquid, used oil and/or other combustible material containing primarily mixed fission product radionuclides, H-3, C-14, and other contaminants. This may include oil, solvents, scintillation fluids, grease, paint chips, paint sludge, freon still bottoms, organic sludges, spent bead resins, powder resins, activated carbon, or other semi-solids. Only waste authorized by DSSI's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Permit, its Radioactive Materials License, and the Used Oil Regulations (40 CFR 279) will be imported.

The anticipated maximum quantity of radioactive/mixed waste is 20,000 kilograms. The anticipated maximum quantity of radioactivity is approximately 100 Ci of mixed fission product radionuclides and 100 Ci of H-3 and C-14. The wastes to be shipped to DSSI under this license will be classified as Class A-unstable material as described 10 CFR 61.55.

According to DSSI, the waste imported from Mexico will be commingled with other customers' waste for thermal destruction. In the process of thermal destruction, ash is generated, which becomes a newly generated waste stream for DSSI. The current disposition arrangement involves sending DSSI-generated waste to Envirocare of Utah, Inc. for final disposal.

In accordance with 49 CFR 171.21a, the material shall be transported in accordance with Mexican and U.S. transportation regulations. The material will be transported by exclusive use tractor-trailer to DSSI as Radioactive low specific activity (LSA) material or as an exempt quantity in drums, high integrity containers, B-25 boxes or bulk transport. The waste will enter the United States at Laredo, Texas.

Before taking action on this application, we request your assistance in notifying the Mexican Government of the proposed radioactive waste import into the U.S. and obtaining any comments that government might have in the context of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on Radioactive Waste Management. We also request your views as to whether the subject import will be consistent with the Convention's guidelines. NRC will consult with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the hazardous waste content, the States of Tennessee and Utah as well as the Southeast Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact authorities regarding the proposed import.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Edward T. Baker, Deputy Director  
Office of International Programs

Enclosures: Appl. Dtd. 3/16/04  
IW015 - Mexico  
Docket Number 11005485

cc w/enclosure:	M. Zobler, OIP	J. Bird, DOE/OR
	P. Tana, NSIR	J. Fedrigo, DOD
	A. Scheinman, DOE	S. Clagett, DOC
	S. Oehlbert, DOE	M. Romano, NAC/NMMSS
	A. Openshaw	

Mr. Robin DeLaBarre

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Before taking action on these applications, we request your assistance in notifying the Mexican Government of the proposed radioactive waste import and into the U.S. obtaining any comments in the context of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on Radioactive Waste Management. We also request your views as to whether the subject import/export will be consistent with the Convention's guidelines. NRC will consult with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the hazardous waste content, the State of Tennessee and the Southeast Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact authorities regarding the proposed import.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Edward T. Baker, Deputy Director  
Office of International Programs

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