

Texans For Public Justice

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Re: Title 31 Natural Resources and Conservation, Part 21. Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission, Chapter 675. Preliminary Rules, Subchapter B. Exportation and Importation of Waste

Dear Chairman Ford and Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Members:

We encourage you to halt what appears to be a rush to irradiation. Commercial interests have been placed well ahead of the public interest in the timetable for considering the proposed import rules before you. Public safety and fiscal responsibility demand a much more thorough examination of the consequences of the adoption of the rule.

Texans are distressed that the “rules” of the original Compact agreement are being changed in the middle of the game. Waste Control Specialists is engaged in a game of economic extortion to manipulate regulators into hastily approving and the public into swallowing a vast expansion of the original Compact. Such an expansion benefits Waste Control and the nuclear industry at the potential long-term detriment of the majority of Texans. What will Mr. Simmons demand next from the citizens of Texas?

Opening Texas to vast escalation of radiation migration is risky, unwise and unwarranted. Significant issues surrounding liability, health and safety and financial risk first need to be fully explored and soberly addressed. The key issues of preparedness and capability have not yet been answered.

We urge you to postpone the vote on the import rule, conduct hearings in communities that would be impacted by shipments of radioactive waste, allow Legislative oversight from both Texas and Vermont, address conflict of interest issues, conduct an economic analysis of risks and benefits to Texas, and meet the requirements of a major environmental rule since the expansion allowed by the rule is certainly of great significance.

If the import rule vote does move forward in the coming weeks, we urge you to vote no.

Thank you.

Craig McDonald
Director, Texans for Public Justice