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DEQ Issues Violations for Unacceptable Waste Shipments

Salt Lake City, Utah – The executive secretary of the Utah Radiation Control Board (RCB) has issued a "Notice of Violation" to waste generators in connection with unacceptable shipments of waste last year to EnergySolutions' low-level radioactive waste landfill in Clive, Utah.

Rusty Lundberg, director of Radiation Control and executive secretary of the RCB, plans to issue a Notice of Violation and fines to EnergySolutions for the disposal of waste that violated its Class A license.

EnergySolutions notified the Division of Radiation Control (DRC) in December when shipments contained waste above the Class A waste criteria. DRC reviewed the data and confirmed that 15 shipments with 23 containers exceeded the radioactivity permitted for disposal at the facility.

"The company did report the problem to us and has worked with DRC to resolve these errors," Lundberg said. "At this time, we intend to propose penalties and negotiate with EnergySolutions to do an environmental project that will benefit the citizens of Utah in retribution."

EnergySolutions regularly conducts analysis on all waste disposed at its Clive facility with software monitoring and analysis. It was through this process that the issue was discovered and consequently self-reported. The waste has been disposed of in EnergySolutions' Class A and Mixed Waste Disposal Embankments. Although the disposal poses no threat to human health or environment, state law prohibits EnergySolutions from accepting Class B or C wastes.

The Notices of Violations were issued according to state statue and rule that sets the enforcement of civil penalties. The following were cited last week: Bechtel of Oak Ridge, Tenn., including a civil penalty of \$4,875; CH2M Hill of Richland, Wash., including a civil penalty of \$3,250; Materials and Energy Corporation of Oak Ridge, including a civil penalty of \$3,250; Cavanagh Services Group Inc. of Salt Lake City, including a civil penalty of \$3,250 and NASA, including a civil penalty of \$3,250. The companies have 30 days to respond to the NOV. For more information, visit: http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/energysolutions/index.htm.

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