DEQ Cites EnergySolutions for Unacceptable Waste Shipments

Salt Lake City, Utah – The executive secretary of the Utah Radiation Control Board (RCB) today issued a “Notice of Violation” (NOV) and proposed civil penalty to EnergySolutions Inc. in connection with receiving shipments of waste that exceeded its Class A license.

Rusty Lundberg, director of the Division of Radiation Control (DRC), signed the NOV in his role as executive secretary of RCB, levying an $80,000 fine based on the 23 containers that exceeded the radioactivity permitted for disposal at EnergySolutions’ low-level radioactive waste landfill in Clive, Utah.

In addition to the penalties, EnergySolutions also will coordinate with DRC on a supplemental environmental project that benefits the citizens of Utah. That project will be determined through negotiations between regulators and company officials.

EnergySolutions notified regulators in December when it learned through a self-performed audit, that it had accepted containers containing waste above the Class A criteria. The majority of the shipments with the 23 containers were received last year. In January, Lundberg issued NOVs, including civil penalties, to generators who shipped the waste.

“EnergySolutions did report the problem to us and we did consider that when we determined the penalties,” said Lundberg. “Although we appreciate the cooperative efforts to resolve the errors we will continue to ensure a process is in place to prevent this from happening again.”

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 subsequently self-reported.

The NOV was issued according to state statute and rule that sets the enforcement and civil penalties. EnergySolutions has 30 days to respond, including any corrective action to be taken. For more information, visit: http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/energysolutions/index.htm.

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