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CD-2022-062

Mr. Doug Hansen
Director
Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control
195 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4880

Subject: EPA ID Number UTD982598898
Request for a Site-Specific Treatment Variance for the Macroencapsulation of
Lithium and Lithium-Ion Batteries

Dear Mr. Hansen:

EnergySolutions herein requests an exemption from Utah Administrative Code (UAC) R315-268-40 and R315-268-45 for the direct macroencapsulation treatment of lithium and lithium-ion batteries. This request is being submitted in accordance with the requirements of UAC R315-260-19.

The regulatory requirement authorizing this request is found in UAC R315-268-44 which allows a site-specific variance from an applicable treatment standard provided that the following condition is met:

UAC R315-268-44(h)(2) It is inappropriate to require the waste to be treated to the level specified in the treatment standard or by the method specified as the treatment standard, even though such treatment is technically possible.

Lithium and lithium-ion batteries typically exhibit the hazardous characteristics of ignitability (D001) and reactivity (D003). Regulations in UAC R315-268-40 (40 CFR 268.40, 2015 Edition, incorporated by reference) require that these characteristic hazards be deactivated to remove the characteristic prior to land disposal. As an alternative, UAC R315-268-45 allows hazardous debris to be treated using an immobilization technology (e.g., macroencapsulation). However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ruled that intact batteries are containers and not considered debris (see attached letter dated November 10, 1993). Furthermore, the definition of macroencapsulation in R315-268-42 states that "[M]acroencapsulation specifically does not include any material that would be classified as a tank or container."

In order to meet the regulatory standards described above, lithium and lithium-ion batteries would need to be shredded and mixed with chemicals to deactivate them; or punctured (and then considered debris) to macroencapsulate them. Both of these activities (shredding and puncturing) severely agitate the waste and would expose the reactive portion of the waste to open air which