



GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GREG BELL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 15, 2009

U.S. Department of Energy
Secretary Steven Chu
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Chu,

It is my understanding that an initial shipment of some 3,500 tons of depleted uranium (DU) is en route to Utah from DOE's Savannah River site in South Carolina. State officials received notice of this development late last week, just days before shipment of the material began.

The shipment, expected to arrive in Utah sometime next week, is apparently the first of several shipments of DU intended to be stored at a private waste storage facility owned by EnergySolutions in Clive, Utah.

As you know, the State of Utah's Radiation Control Board is engaged in a rule-making process that would require a performance assessment prior to accepting additional DU at the Clive facility.

Last week, I reaffirmed my call for a technical study of proper disposal methods for DU. As you know, this is a highly technical issue and one that my Radiation Control Board has been grappling with for nearly six months. I have allowed the experts to fully vet this issue by gathering additional scientific information and accept public comment on the matter.

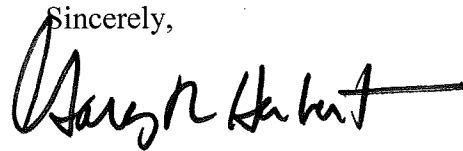
Unfortunately, the Department of Energy's decision to initiate transport of up to 14,000 tons of DU has circumvented our important state processes. I am disappointed that these shipments, which were not expected to begin until spring, are now coming before our rule-making process is complete.

It is only prudent that there be further study to determine how this waste is best stored *before* we accept it into the State of Utah. As a scientist yourself, I know you can appreciate that good public policy requires good science, and I am concerned that DOE's decision to ship this waste to Utah now is based more on politics than on science.

As Governor, my duty is to ensure the public health and safety of all Utahns. As such, I ask that you immediately halt this and any future DU shipments from the Savannah River site until Utah completes its rule-making process.

Thank you for your consideration, and your service on behalf of Utah and the entire United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Herbert", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary R. Herbert
Governor