

EnergySolutions----- *The Department of Environmental Quality & its Regulatory Role*

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) regulates radioactive and hazardous waste in the state of Utah. UDEQ has the authority to regulate radioactive materials generated and disposed within Utah under agreement with the [U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#) (NRC). It regulates hazardous waste treated, generated, and disposed in Utah as an agreement state with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Division of Radiation Control (DRC) and the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste (DSHW) are tasked with administering these programs according to their areas of authority.

EnergySolutions LLC, (formerly Envirocare of Utah, Inc.) operates a commercial treatment, storage and disposal facility for mixed waste and radioactive waste in Tooele County, Utah.

EnergySolutions receives two distinct waste streams, one with only radioactive materials, and the other with both hazardous waste and radioactive materials. Due to the unique nature of these waste streams, each is regulated according to applicable rules by the UDEQ.

Mixed Waste

This waste, as received at EnergySolutions, is comprised of both low-level radioactive and hazardous wastes and is regulated by both the DRC and DSHW. Mixed Waste disposal must meet the standards for both radioactive and hazardous wastes. Should the standards conflict between the two programs, the most restrictive requirement is applied.

The mixed waste portion of the EnergySolutions facility consists of a disposal cell, treatment, storage, operations buildings along with waste storage pads. Inspectors are in regular communication with EnergySolutions regarding permitting and compliance issues with the facility.

DSHW inspects the facility several times per month. During these inspections, DSHW reviews waste acceptance; monitors groundwater; inspects the condition of storage containers, looks for leaks, proper container labeling, and proper aisle clearance in storage areas. DSHW also inspects all treatment processes, including stabilization and thermal treatment, as well as annual systems testing, facility processes, and construction of new disposal cells.

For specific information about how DSHW regulates the facility, a compliance history, or a copy of the permit, please click here:

http://www.hazardouswaste.utah.gov/CFF_Section/EnvirocarePermit.htm)

Radioactive Waste

The majority of the waste disposed at EnergySolutions contains only low-level radioactive materials. Wastes that are only radioactive are regulated by the DRC. Through the radioactive decay process and the passage of time, all radioactive elements change into a stable (non radioactive) element.

DRC is focused on regulating EnergySolutions in order to protect the health and safety of the public, the occupational worker, and the environment. They do this by issuing the facility a Radioactive Material License and a Groundwater Discharge Permit. Between the License and Permit, EnergySolutions is required to have an appropriate and proper training program, environmental monitoring program, an adequate radiation safety program, and waste acceptance criteria.

The DRC conducts multiple radiological, engineering, and groundwater inspections on a yearly basis. In addition, incoming waste shipments are inspected on an almost daily basis. DRC inspectors are at EnergySolutions Monday through Thursday. The DRC also performs unannounced inspections on Fridays and Saturdays. In 2010, seventy five percent of the incoming shipments were inspected by the DRC.

For specific information about how DRC regulates the facility please click here.
(<http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/energysolutions/index.htm>)

To sign up for the EnergySolutions list serve please click here:
(<http://www.deq.utah.gov/Issues/energysolutions/index.htm>)