

THE NUCLEAR RENAISSANCE

A New Perspective



by Mike Winder

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I've watched *EnergySolutions* closely ever since my wife, Karyn, worked at what was then Envirocare eleven years ago.

In fact, I reached out to them for help in my campaign, and to help them with communications in my professional capacity as a marketer. And while I have long felt that they were Utah's most misunderstood

company, I feel that this week is the beginning of a new era for *EnergySolutions*.

First, under the solid leadership of new CEO Val Christensen, *EnergySolutions* announced a new strategy with regard to foreign waste. Rather than importing it to Utah, they would work on creating safe disposal facilities abroad. This is not only good policy for Utah, but it creates enormous opportunities for the company's continued international growth.

Second, I joined hundreds of civic and business leaders on Thursday where Mr. Christensen unveiled his vision for

EnergySolutions and a new communications campaign to better inform Utahns on what they do.

Val Christensen's candor and openness was a breath of fresh air, and it was a compliment to him that so many key community leaders came together to learn of his vision and to better understand *EnergySolutions*.

Finally, the invitation to all Utahns to take the tour of *EnergySolutions*' Clive disposal site in the west desert continues, and thousands have now gone. I've been to Clive and was impressed by the remoteness of the site,

the desolation of the geography, the stringent safety and monitoring standards, and the remarkable professionals who work there.

As more Utahns learn about the important role this company plays in Utah's economy, America's quest for energy independence, and the global nuclear renaissance, they will come to appreciate *EnergySolutions* as I have.

Mike Winder is Mayor of West Valley City and First Vice President of the Utah League of Cities and Towns.