

May 30, 2003

Ms. Lauren Whitley, Research Associate  
NC WARN  
P.O. Box 61051  
Durham, North Carolina 27715-1051

Dear Ms. Whitley:

I am responding to your letter of May 6, 2003, inviting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to the meeting, "A Citizen's Hearing on Nuclear Risk Reduction," on May 31, 2003. The NRC recognizes North Carolina citizens' interest in spent nuclear fuel transportation and appreciates your organization's efforts to facilitate collecting comments on the NRC's Package Performance Study (PPS) test protocols report and its related proposals for full-scale testing. The NRC published the PPS test protocols report in February 2003 for a 90-day comment period. In connection with the comment period, NRC convened four public meetings in March, including meetings in regional locations. Regarding your concerns about the expansion of waste storage capacity at Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, NRC's conclusion that the expansion posed no significant safety hazard was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals in September 2002.

I would like to thank you for the invitation to the NC WARN meeting on May 31, 2003. Regrettably, we will not be able to attend this meeting. Note that the comment period for the PPS protocols ends May 30, 2003. However, we will do our best to consider any comments you collect and submit after that date. Comments can be submitted by email at [nrcprep@nrc.gov](mailto:nrcprep@nrc.gov); in writing to Mr. Michael Lesar, Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, MS T6-D59, U.S. NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555; or at the web site: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/form.html>.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Nils J. Diaz