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CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK

May 27, 2003

Mr. Mike Lesser
 Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Mail Stop T-6-D-59
 Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Lesser:

On behalf of the Citizens Awareness Network, we hereby request an extension of the public comment on NUREG-1768, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposed protocols for testing transportation casks for high-level nuclear waste (HLW).

As part of the public comments period, NRC held four (4) facilitated meetings in different areas of the country. These meetings were organized to provide the public information and an opportunity to ask questions and submit comment on NRC's test proposals. The agency's website lists six other public meetings on transportation cask regulatory activities, dating back to 1999.

Significantly, the Commission has never held a public meeting in the Northeast. According to some estimates published by the Department of Energy, nearly 40% of the total nuclear waste shipments to Yucca Mountain (38.8%, or 6,069 out of 15,638) would pass through the region comprised of the six New England States, New York and Pennsylvania. Communities in this region would be significantly affected by the transportation of HLW to the proposed Yucca Mountain and Private Fuel Storage facilities. Northeast residents deserve the opportunity to have their voices heard by NRC.

The week of June 16-21, CAN is undertaking a series of events in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont to collect public comment for submission to NRC. Public statements and questions will be videotaped and submitted to NRC in VHS format by June 27, 2003. We hope NRC staff will take the opportunity to review the

THE EXPERIMENT IS OVER

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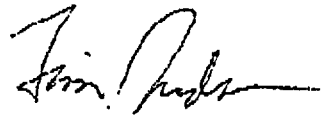
public's comments and consider them in finalizing the test protocols for transportation tasks. CAN will submit its own comments by separate letter before May 30, 2003.

Sincerely,

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