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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Secretary,

This is my response to: Federal register: June 29, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 126)
[Rules and regulations][Page 34523-34526]

I am writing to respectfully request an extension of the comment period. The fellow members of our organization and myself have only recently become aware of the Federal Register and have several questions we feel need to be addressed. Due to the importance of this matter and the fact that the decisions that are made have grave ramifications upon the affected communities, we feel it is our democratic right that we be given an opportunity to comment. We feel the community's rights to know and to comment should take precedence over any arbitrary time line. It is our understanding that a malfunction with the canisters can result in a major catastrophic event in which the surrounding communities will suffer the direst consequences.

Some of the questions and concerns we feel need to be addressed include but are not limited to:

- 1) How can we be sure that the helium gas used to pressurize the canisters will not leak.
- 2) If they do leak, how can they be repressurized?
- 3) What effect will depressurization have on the stored spent fuel rods.
- 4) Has depressurization ever occurred before?
- 5) How long will the helium gas remain effective in a loaded canister?
- 6) Will these canisters ever need to be opened after they are loaded?
- 7) How will they be resealed if they are opened?
- 8) Has a loaded canister ever been opened before?

Sincerely,

Donald Warren RN



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