JONATHAN M. BLOCK ATTORNEY

LAW 94 Main Street P.O. Box 566 Putney, VT. 05346-0566 802-387-2646 (vox) -2667 (fax) jonb@sover.net

April 27, 2004

AT

Related Case:	2004-0160
Specialist:	Pool
Date Rec'd:	04-28-04
Case No.:	2004-004A
FOIAF	A REQUEST

FOIA/PA Officer United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission 11545 Rockville Pike Rockville, MD 20852 <u>Attn: FOIA/PA APPEAL</u> BY USPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

RE: APPEAL OF DENAIL OF FOIA/PA 2004-0160

Dear FOIA/PAA Officer:

Pursuant to the directions contained in the form 464 mailed to me in the above matter, I hereby submit the enclosed appeal of the negative determination of FOIA/PA 2004-0160. For your convenience and expedition, I have enclosed an original and five copies of the appeal.

Please let me know at once if there is anything else you require to perfect this filing.

Thank you for your continuing cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

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-Jonathan M. Block Attorney for Citizens Awareness Network, Inc.

cc: Deborah B. Katz, Executive Director Citizens Awareness Network, Inc.

Before the UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of US NRC DENIAL OF FOIA/PA 2004-0160

April 26, 2004

APPEAL OF DENIAL OF FOIA REQUEST

Petitioner, Citizens Awareness Network, Inc. [CAN], by and through its attorney, Jonathan M. Block, hereby petitions that the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission [Commission or NRC] to reverse its denial of CAN's Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] request FOIA/PA 2004-0160. CAN contends that the NRC should take this action immediately because it erred in determining that the requested document falls under the attorney/client privilege, Exemption 5 of the NRC's FOIA regulations, and failed to act on CAN's request for expedited action in this matter. In support of this appeal, petitioner sets forth supporting facts and law.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. At the beginning of February, petitioner's attorney received from the NRC Public Document Room copies of a set of documents from NRC Materials Docket



70-143 entitled "Memo to Service List, NFS-Erwin Proceeding from [Commissioner]

Peter A. Bradford" (June 27, 1980). Commissioner Bradford's memo states:

At the public session at which the Commission action regarding this proceeding was confirmed, the NRC General Counsel was asked, after the vote was taken, whether he considered the Commission's action legal. The question, coming in the context that it did, seemed misleading as to the nature of the General Counsel's earlier advice. I therefore undertook at the meeting to make the attached documents generally available.

Id. Not only did an NRC commissioner distribute this set of documents to the parties to the NFS-Erwin proceeding, the document was also placed in the NRC public document room as part of that case docket, from which it was located upon request by one of the PDR librarians. Public Document Request Number 05365 (January 28, 2004).

2. One of the attachments included in this set is listed as "Memorandum to Chairman Ahearne from Howard K. Shapar, Executive Legal Director, "Prior Notice Requirement for Rule Change" (June 19, 1980). That document includes, in pertinent part, the following disclosure:

Section 189(a) of the Atomic Energy Act does not specifically state that a hearing shall be "on the record" and in conformity with the Administrative Procedure Act provisions governing adjudications (sections 5, 7, and 8). However, the legislative history of section 189 indicates that such a hearing was intended and the Commission has consistently interpreted the provision to require a trial-type hearing. The rationale for this interpretation was discussed at length in my note to Joseph Hennessey, AEC General Counsel, dated April 3, 1967. In brief, the Commission took the position that the 1957 amendment to section 189 of the Atomic Energy Act, which added a mandatory hearing requirement for the issuance of facility licenses, required the



hearing and decision to comply with the provisions of sections 5, 7 and 8 of the APA. This position was articulated, among other times, when Congress was considering some liberalization of the mandatory hearing requirement in 1961. A panel discussion among Professor Kenneth C. Davis, Professor David E. Cavers, Mr. Lee Hydeman and Dr. Theos J. Thompson was held at the conclusion of the hearings which preceded the enactment of the amendments (Radiation Safety and Regulation, Hearings before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, 87 Cong., 1st Sess., pp. 372-389). Professor Davis disagreed with the Commission's view that section 189 required a trial-type hearing and the exchange between Professor Davis and the Commission continued after the close of the hearings. AEC General Counsel Naiden, in a letter dated September 6, 1961 to Mr. Ramey, Executive Director of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, stated that "Section 189(a) of the Atomic Energy Act explicitly requires a hearing on the record conducted in accordance with the APA. For the Commission to have made any other interpretation would have been inconsistent with what we believe to have been the intent of Congress in adopting the mandatory hearing requirement." The Commission's interpretation of the mandatory hearing requirement was, in effect, ratified when Congress passed the amendments in 1962. One of these amendments added Section 191 to the Act which authorized the Commission to establish one or more Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards ["...]notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7(a) and 8(a)" of the APA. Sections 7 and 8 of the APA apply only to adjudications required to be determined on the record after opportunity for agency hearing which are subject to the provisions of section 5. Therefore, the exception to permit the use of Licensing Boards in lieu of hearing examiners would not have been necessary unless the trial-type procedures of section 5 were considered to apply to such hearings.

Thus, since the adjudicatory provisions of the APA apply to NRC adjudications, the "statutory authority to conduct a legislative hearing in an NRC adjudication" would have to be found in the APA itself. Section 5 of the APA provides that its provisions apply to every adjudication "except to the extent that there is involved

- (1) a matter subject to a subsequent trial of the law and the facts de novo in a court;
- (2) the selection or tenure of an employee, except a hearing examiner appointed under section 3105 of this title;
- (3) proceedings in which decisions rest solely on inspections, tests, or elections;



(4) the conduct of military or foreign affairs functions;

(5) cases in which an agency is acting as an agent for a court; or

(6) the certification of worker representatives.

Id. at n4, 3-4.

3. On March 15, 2004, after counsel's repeated searches in public databases, and, following the NRC's PDR librarians' failure to turn up the Shapar "note" to Mr. Hennessey, at the suggestion of the PDR librarians, petitioner's attorney filed a FOIA request for it. The request was made using the NRC FOIA office web-based request form. *See* Exhibit 'A' page 3-4, attached hereto.

4. Petitioner asked for expedited action in this matter based upon the need to use the document in a court case:

The information in this request relates directly to whether there is any truth in the NRC's claim--in support of recent rulemaking changing Part 2 adjudicatory rules--that there is no congressional requirement for formal hearing process. If the requested record information contains the information indicated in the source for this request, a copy of the record and the information in it will be placed before a United States Court of Appeals reviewing the legality of the rule. The information is needed as soon as possible for briefing this matter to the Court.

Id. The NRC ignored this request.

5. On April 15, 2004, the FOIA office mailed an NRC Form 464 Part 1 (6-1998)

denying the request and refusing to release the document based on FOIA Exemption

5, "Attorney-Client privilege. (Confidential communications between an attorney and

his/her client)." See Exhibit 'B', page 2 of 3, attached hereto.

ARGUMENT

Well establishes principles of law govern the invocation of attorney-client

privilege:

The burden of establishing the attorney-client privilege rests upon the party claiming it. *Fisher v. United States*, 425 U.S. 391 (1976); *Sneider v. Kimberby-Clark Corp.*, 91 F.R.D. 1, 3 (N.D. Ill. 1980). The privilege attaches:

(1) where legal advice of any kind is sought

(2) from a professional legal advisor in his capacity as such,

(3) the communications relating to that purpose,

(4) made in confidence

(5) by the client,

(6) are at his instance permanently protected

(7) from disclosure by himself or by the legal advisor,

(8) except the protection be waived * * * *.

United States v. Bein, 728 F.2d 107, 112 (2d Cir. 1984), cert. denied, sub. nom. DeAngelis v. U.S., 469 U.S. 837 (1984), quoting United States v. Kovel, 296 F.2d 918, 921 (2d Cir. 1961); accord, In re Grand Jury Subpoena Duces Tecum, 731 F.2d 1032, 1036 (2d Cir. 1984); In re Horowitz, 482 F.2d 72, 80-81 n. 7 (2d Cir. 1973) cert. denied, 414 U.S. 867 (1973), reb. denied, 414 U.S. 1052 (1973).

The attorney-client privilege is triggered only by a client's request for legal, as contrasted with business advice, and is "limited to communications made to attorneys solely for the purpose of the corporation seeking legal advice and its counsel rendering it." In re Grand Jury Subpoena Duces Tecum, 731 F.2d at 1037. When the ultimate corporate decision is based on both a business policy and a legal evaluation, the business aspects of the decision are not protected simply because legal considerations are also involved. SCM v. Xerox, 70 F.R.D. 508, 517 (D. Conn. 1976).

Furthermore, the privilege only protects disclosure of communications; it does not protect disclosure of the underlying facts by those who communicated with the attorney. *Upjohn Co. v. United States*, 449 U.S. 383, 395 (1981).

Finally, the party who wishes to claim the privilege must take appropriate action to preserve the confidentiality of the documents. *In* re Horowitz, 482 F.2d at 82; see also, Teachers Ins., Etc. v. Sharnrock Broadcasting Co., 521 F. Supp. 638, 645 (S.D.N.Y. 1981).

Hardy v. New York New, Inc., 114 F.R.D. 633, 644-45 (S.D.N.Y. 1987) (citations omitted). An additional consideration in this case, as it concerns an agency's invocation of the privilege, is whether the privilege should even be applied to the type of information sought under the FOIA request. See generally, "The Government's Attorney-Client Privilege: Should It Have One?" Public Counsel, Maryland State Bar Association's Public Counsel Newsletter (January 2000).

Petitioner contends that the NRC failed to protect its allegedly privileged information by failing to protect from disclosure to the public Mr. Shapar's extended discussion of the substance of his note to Mr. Hennessey. By failing to protect from public disclosure that information, the agency cannot now reasonably claim that there is any privilege protecting the remainder of the information. A party may not successfully assert the privilege when its conduct is inconsistent with an intention to keep information confidential. *See Hardy v. New York News, Inc.*, 114 F.R.D. 633, 644-45 (S.D.N.Y. 1987) (failure by counsel to segregate confidential information from general corporate files destroys privilege); *see also Donown v. Fitzsimmons*, 90 F.R.D. 583, 585 (N.D. Ill, 1981) (when allegedly privileged documents are produced without a timely invocation of privilege, the party failing to invoke privilege is deemed to have waived any right to assert it later).

Significantly, voluntary or inadvertent disclosure of an otherwise privileged document also waives the right to assert the privilege. In re Sealed Case, 877 F.2d 976, 980 (D.C. Cir. 1989) ("If a client wishes to preserve the privilege, it must treat the confidentiality of attorney-client communications like jewels--if not crown jewels."). Here, the NRC's failure to make any effort to protect from disclosure Mr. Shapar's recounting of what the NRC now claims is privileged information shows that the agency did not care to protect that information. Rather than "crown jewels" the agency handled this information as if it were just another can of beans. The FOIA request at issue asks for disclosure of a document that is on the identical subject as the disclosure contained in the cited footnote to Shapar's memo--in fact, it is merely request for the very document Shapar tells Commissioner Ahearne he is Here, where the NRC failed to invoke the privilege to protect summarizing. Shapar's summary of his note to Hennessey, the waiver of privilege implicit in that disclosure is a complete bar to the NRC's assertion of privilege to all other communications regarding the same subject. Glenmede Trust Co. v. Thompson, 55 F.3d 476, 486-87 (3d Cir. 1995); In re Martin Marietta Corp., 856 F.2d 619, 623 (4th Cir. 1988).

'The NRC's failure to protect Shapar's memo to Ahearne is an 'implied' waiver of its privilege claim for the subject matter discussed in that memo. An 'implied waiver' occurs whenever a party asserting the privilege discloses the same subject matter as contained in the allegedly confidential communication to someone who is

APPEAL OF FOIA/PA 2004-0160

outside the privileged relationship. See generally, 26A CHARLES ALAN WRIGHT & KENNETH W. GRAHAM, JR., FEDERAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE § 5722 (1992); see also Sheet Metal Workers Int'l Assoc. v. Sweeney, 29 F. 3d 120, 125 (4th Cir. 1994) (any voluntary disclosure to a person outside the privileged relationship waives the privilege); accord, United States v. Oloyade, 982 F.2d 133, 141 (4th Cir. 1993); In re Martin Marietta Corp., 856 F. 2d at 623; In re Grand Jury Proceeding, 727 F.2d 1352, 1357; United States v. Jones, 696 F.2d 1069, 1072 (4th Cir. 1982) Jones at 1072 ("The burden is on the proponent of the attorney-client privilege to demonstrate its applicability [citations omitted].

The proponent must establish not only that an attorney-client relationship existed, but also that the particular communications at issue are privileged and that the privilege was not waived. Any disclosure inconsistent with maintaining the confidential nature of the attorney-client relationship waives the attorney-client privilege. Any voluntary disclosure by the client to a third party waives the privilege not only as to the specific communication disclosed, but often as to all other communications relating to the same subject matter...)

The NRC waived its privilege when it placed Mr. Shapar's memorandum in the public document room in 1980; it reaffirmed that waiver when it provided a copy to petitioner's counsel in the instant matter. The beans have been out of the proverbial can since 1980. The NRC cannot "re-can" by merely making a contemporary assertion of the privilege. The Commission has no right to assert a privilege now for the very same information that Mr. Shapar briefed to Commissioner Ahearne within a *publicly released* memorandum. The subject matter is, according Shapar, identical to that in the document for which the NRC is claiming privilege. The allegedly privileged "note" merely provides a more complete version of the basis for believing that Congress intended that NRC hearings take place "on the record." Given the circumstances--i.e., the NRC's recent rulemaking that the agency justifies by claiming the exact opposite and the pending petition for review of that action in the United States Court of Appeal for the First Circuit--the public interest in disclosure in and of itself should over-ride any assertion of privilege, let alone the assertion of a defective one.

The kind of disclosure that took place when Commissioner Bradford made public the Shapar memo to Ahearne accomplished a waiver of the privilege as to the specific information disclosed therein and (significantly) any privilege as to the subject mater of the disclosure. *Sheet Metal Workers Int'l Assoc.*, 29 F.3d at 125; *Oloyede*, 982 F.2d at 141; *In re Martin Marietta Corp.*, 856 F.2d at 623; *In re Grand Jury Proceedings*, 727 F.2d at 1357; *Jones*, 696 F. 2d at 1072. The "note" is the detailing of that subject matter. No privilege attaches to it now. Under these circumstances, the claim of privilege cannot stand. The document at issue should be released to the public.

CONCLUSIONS

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should reverse its determination in this matter and order that the documents satisfying FOIA/PA 2004-160 be released to the petitioner forthwith and without any further delay.

Respectfully submitted:

CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK, INC.

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Jonathan M. Block, Attorney at Law 94 Main Street P.O. Box 566 Putney, VT 05346-0566 802-387-2646 (voice) 802-387-2667 (fax) jonb@sover.net

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

Petitioner's Exhibit 'A' Page 1

March 18, 2004

FOIA/PA 2004-0160

Jonathan Block 94 Main Street P.O. Box 566 Putney, VT 05346-0566

Dear Requester:

We received your Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request on March 15, 2004.

Your request has been assigned the following reference number that you should use in any future communications with us about your request: FOIA/PA 2004-0160.

To ensure the most equitable treatment possible of all requesters, the NRC processes requests on a first-in, first-out basis, using a multiple track system based upon the estimated time it will take to process the request. Based on your description of the records you are seeking, we estimate completion of your request will take 10-20 workdays (2-4 weeks). We will advise you of any change in the estimated time to complete your request.

For purposes of assessing fees in accordance with our regulations (10 CFR 9.33), we have placed your request in the following category: Non-Excepted

If applicable, you will be charged appropriate fees for Search and Duplication of records.

A sheet has been enclosed that explains in detail the fee charges that may be applicable. Please do not submit any payment unless we notify you to do so.

You have asked that your request be accorded expedited processing. To ensure fairness to all, requests are normally processed in turn based on time of receipt. Exceptions are made only in cases where a requester has clearly shown a compelling need based on a threat to life or safety, or when a requester that is primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public has clearly shown a compelling urgency to inform the public concerning matters of actual or alleged Government activity.

You have not provided sufficient information to substantiate expedited processing. Therefore your request is denied. You may appeal this determination. Any such appeal must be made in writing within 30 calendar days by addressing the appeal to the Secretary of the Commission.

The following person is the FOIA/PA Specialist who has been assigned responsibility for your request: Mary Jean Pool, 301-415-7097.

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Page 2	

If you have questions on any matters concerning your FOIA/PA request please feel free to contact the assigned FOIA/PA Specialist or me at (301) 415-7169.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Reed FOIA/Privacy Act Officer Office of the Chief Information Officer

Enclosures: Incoming Request Explanation of Fees



From:uid no body <nobody@nrc.gov>To:<foia@nrc.gov>Date:Mon, Mar 15, 2004 1:30 PMSubject:WWW Form Submission

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

() on Monday, March 15, 2004 at 13:29:53

FirstName: Jonathan

LastName: Block

Company/Affliation:

Address1: 94 Main Street

Address2: P.O. Box 566

City: Putney

State: VT

Zip: 05346-0566

Country: United_States

Country-Other:

Email: jonb@sover.net

Phone: 8023872646

Desc: A note from Howard K. Shapar to Joseph Hennessey (dated April 3, 1967) in which Mr. Shapar explains to Mr. Hennessey "at length" why "the Commission has consistently interpreted the provision [section 189a of the Atomic Energy Act] to require a trial-type hearing."

This record is referenced in footnote 4 of a memorandum from Howard K. Shapar to NRC Chairman AHearne, "Prior Notice Requirement for Rule Change" (June 19, 1980), which is one of the enclosures attached to 70-143 (6/27/80), memo from Commission Peter A. Bradfor to Service List NFS-Erwin Proceeding (June 27, 1980).

FeeCategory: Educational

MediaType:

FeeCategory_Description:

Expedite_ImminentThreatText:

Expedite_UrgencyToInform: on

Expedite_UrgencyToInformText: The information in this request relates directly to whether there is any truth in the NRC's claim--in support of its recent rulemaking changing Part 2 adjudicatory rules--that there

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Case ind.	2004-0160
Date Reod	3-15-04
Action Off:	POOL
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Petitioner's Exhibit 'A' Page 4

is no congressional requirement for formal hearing processes.

If the requested record information contains the information indicated in the source for this request, a copy of the record and the information in it will be placed before a United States Court of Appeal reviewing the legality of the rule. This information is needed as soon as possible for briefing this matter to the Court.

Waiver_Purpose: Record will be provided to a Court of the United States Court of Appeals.

Waiver_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: If the record contains the information stated in the document referring to it, it will be used in its entirety and referred to in presenting that information to a reviewing court.

Waiver_SpecificActivityQuals: The records will be used in preparation for a case of judicial review of the NRC's recent rulemaking altering the adjudicatory process available to members of the public interested in NRC licensing proceedings. They are part of research into the legislative and agency history of the meaning of section 189a of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and as amended. The requester is an experienced attorney who represents a non-profit public interest organization that is seeking judicial review of the recent rulechange. As in previous use of similar material, it will become part of the public record of the case and will also be disseminated as widely as possible through the organization's website.

Waiver_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: If this document contains the information that the referring document states that it does it will provide an extremely crucial insight into the reasons why the AEC claimmed that Congress intended there be a formal hearing process even though the Atomic Energy Act on its face appears silent on that point.

Waiver_NatureOfPublic: All persons who may be affected by the recent NRC rulemaking altering the adjudicatory process--am extremely substantial number of persons--could be affected by release of this information for the indicated intended purposes. In addition, the judges on the panel in the United States Court of Appeal that hears this case will also have a different understanding of the issues on the basis of having access to this document.

Waiver_MeansOfDissemination: The document will be disseminated to the general public by becomming part of the public record in a judicial review of NRC action and will also be available on the requesting organization's web site.

Waiver_FreeToPublicOrFee: Access to information will be free of charge.

Waiver_PrivateCommericalInterest: There is no commerical or private interest. The information will be used by a public interest, non-profit organization whose pruposes are eductional. The information will become part of the public record in the case and generally available to any interested person at no charge on the organization's website.

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NRC F (6-1598)	ORM 464 Part U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION		RESPONSE NUMBER	Petitioner's
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	PART L-INFORMATION RELEASE	D		page
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	Requested records are available through another public distribution program.	See Commants cartion		_ _
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	public inspection and copying at the NRC Public Document Ro	som.		
	Enclosed is information on how you may obtain access to and the charges for Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC.	copying records located at th	e NRC Public	
	APPENDICES Agency records subject to the request are enclosed.			
	Becords subject to the request that contain information originated by or of inter	est to another Federal agenc	y have been	
	referred to that agency (see comments section) for a disclosure determination. We are continuing to process your request.	and direct response to you.		
	See Comments.			
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\$	You will receive a refund for the amount listed.	Fees walved.		
	comments details			
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V	Certain information in the requested records is being withheld from disclosure p the reasons stated in Part II.	oursuant to the exemptions d	escribed in and for	
V	This determination may be appealed within 30 days by writing to the FOIA/PA (Washington, DC 20555-0001. Clearly state on the envelope and in the letter in	Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulati at it is a *FOIA/PA Appeal.*	ory Commission,	
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NRC FC/RM 464 Part 1 (6-1998)

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A Exemption No.(s) of the PA and/or the FOIA as indicated below (5 U.S.C. 552a and/or 5 U.S.C. 552(b)). Exemption 1: The withheld information is properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 12958.					he [
	hheld information relates solely to the internal perso		NRC.		
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The information	was submitted by a foreign source and received in a	confidence pursuant to 10 CF	FR 2,790(d)(2).		
Exemption 5: The wind Applic	thheld information consists of interagency or intraag able privileges:	ency records that are not ave	liable through discov	ery during litigation	τ.
deliberative pro	cess: Disclosure of predecisional information would cess. Where records are withheld in their entirety, the no reasonably segregable factual portions because to rocess of the agency.	he facts are inextricably intert	when with the orege	cisional intormatio	e n,
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FOIA-2004-0160

APPENDIX A RECORDS WITHHELD IN THEIR ENTIRETY

NO. DATE DESCRIPTION/(PAGE COUNT)/EXEMPTIONS

1. 04/03/67 To Hennessey from Shapar, Mandatory Hearing Requirements of Section 189 of the Atomic Energy Act; Subjection of Such Hearings to Section 5 of the APA and Section 5(a) of S. 518 (4 pages) Ex. 5