



colleagues from both the Georgia Emergency Management Agency and the Public Service Commission, to work with the Department of Energy, through both national and regional organizations, on the development of plans, protocols, and procedures designed to insure the safe, uneventful transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, and to insure the availability of emergency response resources at the state and local level. This effort is ongoing, and while we have seen progress, we still have several concerns regarding transportation. Many of these concerns have been noted in our previous comments on other DOE EIS documents, including the EIS related to the disposition of surplus weapons-grade plutonium.

2... The transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste from the various points of generation to a national repository is of keen interest to Georgia. Public acceptance of transportation of spent nuclear fuel in the U.S. is not a given, as media reports of recent and upcoming shipment campaigns will attest. Public acceptance of the risks of transporting spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, however small or large they are, or are perceived to be, is critical to the success of this program. A strong, credible education and public outreach program is essential to achieving some measure of public acceptance for this program, as is the existence of knowledgeable emergency response personnel at the state and local level, armed with both the training and equipment which would be required to respond to a transportation incident

2 involving spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste.

3 We are pleased to see that the Department has taken some of our suggestions from comments on previous EIS documents, and incorporated them into this document, particularly as relates to the analyses of potential transportation accidents. As we have noted in the past, however, explicit treatment of post-accident protective measures, such as interdiction of contaminated properties and the embargo of contaminated crops, would make the document stronger, and would provide state and local officials and members of the public with a more complete picture of the radiological consequences of major transportation accidents. As we also have commented previously, we would like to see recovery issues, such as decontamination, re-entry, and return, explicitly addressed in the EIS.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this important national issue. We plan to submit additional written comments to the Department on this matter prior to the close of the comment period.