

ATTACHMENT 1A
OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING FOR LICENSE
RENEWAL AT CATAWBA 1 AND 2

EVENING SESSION
ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2001

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Public Environmental Scoping Meeting for
License Renewal at Catawba 1 and 2
Evening Session

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Location: Rock Hill, South Carolina

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Pages 1-61

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING FOR
LICENSE RENEWAL AT CATAWBA 1 AND 2
DOCKET NUMBERS 50-513 AND 50-414

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TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 23, 2001

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ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA

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The Public Meeting was held at 7:30 p.m. at Rock Hill City Hall, 155
Johnston Street, Mr. Chip Cameron of the NRC, facilitating.

PRESENT:

CHIP CAMERON
RANI FRANOVICH
JIM WILSON
MIKE CHANNELL
GARY PETERSON
MARGO ROTT
ANGELA VINEY
GREGG JACOY
JANET ZELLER
LEWIS PALTRIE

1 PRESENT: (cont)
2 MARY OLSON
3 LOU ZELLER
4 GLENN CARROLL
5 DON MONIAK
6 EDMUND FITZGERALD
7 TREY EUBANKS
8
9
10
11
12
13

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(7:30 p.m.)

MR. CAMERON: Good evening, everybody. Welcome -- tonight, welcome to the NRC's environmental scoping meeting on the environmental impact statement on Duke Power -- Duke Energy Corporation's application to renew the operating licenses for the Catawba Nuclear Stations.

My name is Chip Cameron. I'm Special Counsel for Public Liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and it's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for tonight's meeting.

I wanted to cover three things with you before we get started: One, the objectives for the meeting, two, the format and ground rules for tonight's meeting, and, three, I just wanted to briefly go over the agenda, so you know what to expect tonight.

In terms of objectives, the first objective is for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NRC, to explain to you what the process of license renewal is all about and, specifically, to talk about the environmental review that's done by the NRC in connection with deciding whether an application for license renewal should be granted or denied.

Scoping is a term that's used in connection with the preparation of an environmental impact statement by a federal agency. And as you probably know, an environmental impact statement, usually called an EIS, is a document that assists the agency, in this case, the NRC, in making a decision on a particular action, in this case, the application to extend the licenses for the Catawba Nuclear Stations.

Now, scoping helps the NRC to identify what information they

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1 should look at in the environmental impact statement, what types of potential
2 environmental impacts might there be from the renewal of the license
3 application - what types of alternatives to the renewal of the license application
4 should be looked at.

5 And this brings us to the second objective of tonight's
6 meeting, the most important objective, which is to listen to any comments,
7 suggestions, recommendations that all of you in the public may have on what
8 should be within the scope of the environmental impact statement. What types
9 of information, what types of impact should be looked at?

10 The NRC is taking written comments on these issues, and the
11 NRC staff will be explaining to you in a minute how those written comments
12 should be submitted. But we wanted to be with you tonight personally to talk
13 with you. And there may be some things that you hear tonight from others in
14 the audience, from the NRC speakers that will help you to prepare any written
15 comments that you might want to submit. But your comments tonight will carry
16 just as much weight as any written comments that we have.

17 The format for the meeting tonight, we're going to do two
18 segments, one being short presentations by the NRC staff on various aspects
19 of the license renewal process, and then we're going to have a question and
20 answer session after each of those presentations. We want to make sure that
21 you understand the background, the process that the NRC uses before we go
22 on to the second segment of tonight's meeting, which is to hear from any of you
23 who wish to make a more formal statement to the NRC to give information that
24 should be considered during the preparation of the environmental impact
25 statement process. And we do have a sign-up sheet or rather sign-up cards

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1 out there. I believe that many of you have taken advantage of that to sign up
2 to speak tonight. And we're looking forward to hearing from you tonight.

3 In terms of ground rules, they're very simple. We want to
4 make sure that everybody who wants to talk tonight has an opportunity to talk.
5 So to make sure that we can do that, I'm asking everyone to be concise in their
6 formal statements, and we have a five-minute guideline for your statements
7 tonight. And I would just ask you to try to follow that, if you could.

8 When you come up to -- if you have a question during the
9 question and answer, I'll bring you this talking stick out, and just please tell us
10 your name and your affiliation, if appropriate. We are taking a video/audio tape
11 of tonight's session so that we want to get you on the record. And I would also
12 ask that only one person speak at a time so that we can not only get a clean
13 audio/video tape, but also that we can give everyone the courtesy of our full
14 attention tonight, whomever has the floor at the moment.

15 The agenda, we're going to start with Rani Franovich who is
16 right here, and Rani is the Project Manager on the safety aspects of the
17 Catawba license renewal applications. And Rani is going to be telling us --
18 giving us an overview of the whole license renewal process. And you'll see that
19 there is a safety evaluation that the NRC performs, looking at safety issues
20 related to the Catawba Station. There is environmental aspects, and that's
21 what the main subject of the meeting is tonight. This is a scoping meeting on
22 the preparation of the environmental impact statement.

23 And then there will be inspection findings. All of these will be
24 factored into a decision by Rani and her branch chief who is here, Chris
25 Grimes, Chief of the License Renewal and Standardization Branch. They look

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1 at all that information and they make a recommendation to the Commission on
2 whether the license application should be granted or denied. And then the
3 Commission makes a decision on that.

4 And Rani's going to give us that overview. And then we're
5 going to go to Jim Wilson, who's right here. He's the Environmental Project
6 Manager for the license renewal application at Catawba. And Jim is
7 responsible for shepherding the preparation of the environmental impact
8 statement through, and you're going to be hearing about the environmental
9 process from Jim.

10 And I should just tell you a little bit about Rani and Jim in
11 terms of their background. Rani has a background in human factors
12 engineering, a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in
13 industrial systems engineering. And she knows the Catawba Plant well,
14 because she was an inspector there for six years. And she's been with the
15 NRC for approximately ten years.

16 Jim Wilson has been with the NRC for about 25 years. He
17 has a background in environmental sciences, as you could imagine. He has
18 a bachelor's in biology, he has a master's degree in zoology. He also has
19 patriotic shoes on that you --

20 (Laughter.)

21 -- might have noticed tonight. But I just want to thank you for
22 the NRC for all coming out to be with us tonight. This is a very important
23 decision that the NRC has to make, and it takes it seriously, and its looking
24 forward to getting some information from all of you tonight to help the NRC
25 make that decision.

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1 And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Rani for our first
2 presentation. And then we'll back out to you for questions. Rani?

3 MS. FRANOVICH: Thank you, Chip. Good evening. As
4 Chip indicated, I'm Rani Franovich. I'm the Project Manager for the safety
5 review of the application for license renewal for the Catawba Nuclear Station,
6 as well as the McGuire Nuclear Station.

7 Before I talk about the license renewal process, I'd like to
8 spend a few minutes talking to you about the NRC, the Nuclear Regulatory
9 Commission, what we do, what our mission is. The Atomic Act of 1954
10 authorizes the NRC to regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials. The
11 NRC's mission is threefold: To ensure adequate protection of public health and
12 safety, to protect the environment and to provide for the common defense and
13 security. The NRC consists of five commissioners, one of whom is the NRC's
14 Chairman, and the staff.

15 The regulations enforced by the NRC are issued under Title
16 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, commonly called 10 CFR in the nuclear
17 industry. The Atomic Energy Act provides for a 40-year license term for power
18 reactors, but it also allows for license renewal. The 40-year term is based
19 primarily on economic and anti-trust considerations, rather than safety
20 limitations.

21 Major components were initially expected to last 40 years, for
22 the life of the plant. However, operating experience has demonstrated that
23 some major components do not realistically last for that long. An example of
24 that is steam generators. For that reason, a number of utilities have replaced
25 major components, such as steam generators. Because components and

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1 structures can be replaced or reconditioned, plant life is really determined
2 primarily by economic factors.

3 Applications for license renewal are submitted years in
4 advance for several reasons. If a utility decides to replace a nuclear power
5 plant, it could take up to ten years to plan and construct new generating
6 capacity to replace that nuclear power plant. In addition, decisions to replace
7 or recondition major components can involve significant capital investment. As
8 such, these decisions involve financial planning many years in advance of the
9 extended period of operation.

10 Duke Energy Corporation has applied for license renewal
11 under 10 CFR Part 54 and requests authorization to operate the Catawba
12 Nuclear Units for up to an additional 19 years. The current operating licenses
13 for Catawba Units 1 and 2 will expire in 2024 and 2026, respectively. Next
14 slide, please.

15 Now, I'm going to talk about license renewal, which is defined
16 in 10 CFR Part 54, or the License Renewal Rule. That License Renewal Rule
17 defines the regulatory process by which a nuclear utility, such as Duke Energy
18 Corporation, applies for a renewed operating license. 10 CFR Part 54
19 incorporates 10 CFR Part 51 by reference. 10 CFR Part 51 provides for the
20 preparation of an environmental impact statement, or EIS. The license renewal
21 process defined in 10 CFR Part 54 is very similar to the original licensing
22 process in that it involves a safety review, an environmental impact evaluation,
23 plant inspections, and review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor
24 Safeguards, or the ACRS.

25 The ACRS is a group of scientists and nuclear industry

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1 experts who serve as a consultant body to the Commission. The ACRS
2 performs an independent review of the license renewal application and the
3 staff's safety evaluation. And they report their findings and recommendations
4 directly to the Commission. Next slide, please.

5 I'm going to stand aside so I can point to this graphic. This
6 slide illustrates two parallel processes: the safety review process and the
7 environmental review process. These processes are used to evaluate two
8 separate things. The safety review involves the staff's review of the technical
9 information in the license renewal application. That's this process here. The
10 staff assesses how the applicant proposes to monitor or manage aging of
11 certain components that are within the scope of license renewal. The staff's
12 review is documented in the safety evaluation report, that's here, and the safety
13 evaluation report is provided to the ACRS for review. An ACRS report on their
14 review of the staff's evaluation is prepared, and that's reflected here.

15 The safety review process also involves two to three
16 inspections, right here. These inspections are documented in NRC inspection
17 reports and are considered with the safety evaluation report and the ACRS
18 report in the NRC's decision to renew a nuclear unit's operating license.

19 If there is a petition to intervene, if sufficient standing can be
20 demonstrated, and if an aspect within the scope of license renewal has been
21 identified, then hearings may also be involved in the process. Here. These
22 hearings will play an important role in the NRC's decision as to whether or not
23 an application for renewal will result in a renewed operating license.

24 At the bottom of the slide is the other parallel process for the
25 environmental review, here, which involves scoping activities, the preparation

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1 of a draft supplement to the generic environmental impact statement,
2 solicitation of public comments on the draft supplement and then the issuance
3 of a final supplement to the generic environmental impact statement. This
4 document also factors into the Agency's decision on the application.

5 During the safety review, the staff assesses the effectiveness
6 of existing or proposed inspection and maintenance activities to manage aging
7 effects applicable to a defined scope of passive structures and components.
8 Part 54 requires the application to also include an evaluation of time-limited
9 aging analyses, which are those design analyses that specifically include
10 assumptions about plant life, which is usually about 40 years.

11 Current regulations are adequate for addressing active
12 components, such as pumps and valves, which are continuously challenged to
13 reveal failures and degradation such that corrective actions can be taken to
14 address those. Current regulations also exist to address other aspects of the
15 original license, such as security and emergency plans. And these current
16 regulations will also apply during the extended period of operation.

17 In August, the NRC issued a Federal Register notice to
18 announce its acceptance of the Duke Energy application for renewal of the
19 operating licenses for Catawba and McGuire. The notice also announced the
20 opportunity for public participation in the process. The NRC has received two
21 petitions to intervene, one from the Nuclear Information and Resource Service
22 and the other from the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League.

23 An Atomic Safety Licensing Board has been established to
24 preside over the proceedings. In an order issued on October 4, the
25 Commission directed the Board to decide within 90 days whether the two

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1 petitions for hearing will be granted. If a hearing is granted, the Commission
2 has ordered the Board to set a schedule for conducting the hearing with the
3 goal to issue a Commission decision on the license renewal application in
4 about 30 months.

5 This concludes my summary of the license renewal process
6 and the staff's safety review. Before I pass the microphone to Jim Wilson, are
7 there any questions that I can address?

8 MR. CAMERON: Yes, sir. Let me bring this out to you, and
9 if you could just tell us your name, please.

10 MR. JOCOY: I may not need it. My name is Gregg. I realize
11 this is a license renewal hearing. The question I have for you is has the
12 Nuclear Regulatory Commission ever denied a license request to any utility for
13 a nuclear power plant?

14 MS. FRANOVICH: Let me make sure I understand your
15 question. You want to know if the NRC has ever denied the issuance of a
16 renewed operating license?

17 MR. JOCOY: No, ma'am. From the ground up. In other
18 words, has any utility ever come to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and
19 said, "We want to build a nuclear power plant here," and had the NRC say, "No,
20 you can't."

21 MS. FRANOVICH: To tell you the truth, I don't know the
22 answer to that.

23 MR. JOCOY: Does anyone?

24 MR. CAMERON: Yes. We're going to try to find that answer
25 for you. I'm going to go to Chris Grimes on this one, who can explain -- I think

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1 he can give some information on that question.

2 MR. GRIMES: Yes. My name is Chris Grimes. I'm the Chief
3 of the License Renewal and Standardization Branch. And the answer to that
4 question is we've had some applications that have never been finished,
5 applications for site permits or applications for construction for which the
6 construction was never realized. It never reached a point where the
7 Commission denied the license, it was just never fulfilled.

8 MR. JOCOY: That was done for economic reasons. What
9 I'm asking --

10 MR. CAMERON: Glen, could I ask you, we need to get this
11 on the record, so it's not just a question of hearing you. Chris, I think you got
12 the --

13 MR. GRIMES: I got the gist of it.

14 MR. CAMERON: -- drift of what he said. Can you expound
15 on that?

16 MR. GRIMES: Yes. My response -- yes, my explanation is
17 not necessarily economic decisions. There may have been conditions that
18 would have to have been fulfilled in order to satisfy siting requirements or
19 safety requirements that did involve more than the utility was prepared to meet.
20 So we've never reached a point where the utility has insisted on pursuing a
21 license application with conditions that they were not willing to accept so that
22 we would have to deny it. It's just like applying for a driver's license and not
23 passing the test.

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much. Let's go right
25 out here. Don?

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1 MR. MONIAK: I have a follow-up to that and then one other
2 question. Could you provide some citations of which cases those were. Not
3 tonight, but could we be provided that, especially if it did involve some problems
4 with siting that they were unwilling to go further with because of safety reasons
5 or because -- I would love to see those cases. Let me leave it at that.

6 Okay. I'd like to know what is the definition of "common
7 security and defense," especially as compared to national security?

8 MS. FRANOVICH: Well, given that the NRC's statutory
9 authority is to regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, then it would be
10 along the lines of making sure that those nuclear materials were handled safely
11 and safeguards were in place to ensure that they were not out of the
12 possession of those people who were licensed to handle and use those
13 materials. Would you like to add anything to that, Chris?

14 MR. MONIAK: Could I follow-up to that?

15 MR. CAMERON: Yes, sure, sure. But, Don, Don -- again,
16 Don, I have to get you on the system, okay? And I just want to make a note:
17 Chris and -- can NRC staff note that we're going to get some information, the
18 citations that Don talked about. Go ahead, Don.

19 MR. MONIAK: Okay. So safety is tracking and accounting
20 for nuclear materials. How many missing sealed sources are there?

21 MS. FRANOVICH: I don't have the answer to that.

22 MR. MONIAK: Any kind of rough estimates, percentage-
23 wise?

24 MS. FRANOVICH: I have no information with regard to that,
25 but we can get that for you.

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1 MR. MONIAK: That would be good.

2 MS. FRANOVICH: Sure.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. I don't know if Tim Harris or Tim
4 Johnson, anybody here from that side of the NRC that deals with sealed
5 sources. We don't have any information to offer on that right now, I guess, is
6 that right?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's all the same agency.

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Right. Same agency but the people
9 who have that knowledge are not here, and we'll get that for you. Other
10 questions?

11 MS. FRANOVICH: Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Rani. Now we're going
13 to go to Jim Wilson who's going to talk about the environmental review process,
14 and then we're going to go out to you for questions.

15 MR. WILSON: My name is Jim Wilson. I'm the
16 Environmental Project Manager for the NRC's environmental review of Duke's
17 application for license renewal at the Catawba Station.

18 The National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, was enacted
19 in 1969. It requires that federal agencies use a systematic process to consider
20 environmental impacts during certain decisionmaking proceedings regarding
21 major federal actions. NEPA requires that we look at the environmental
22 impacts of the proposed action and consider mitigation measures to reduce
23 impacts if they're judged to be severe.

24 NEPA requires that we consider alternatives to the proposed
25 action and that we evaluate the environmental impacts of those alternatives.

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1 And, finally, NEPA requires that we disclose all of this information to the public
2 and invite their participation to evaluate it.

3 The NRC has determined that it will prepare environmental
4 impact statements associated with license renewal at nuclear power plants.
5 Therefore, following the process required by NEPA, we're engaged in the
6 preparation of a draft environmental impact statement to describe the
7 environmental impacts of operation for an additional 20 years at Catawba. As
8 we noted in our Federal Register notice last month, we're conducting scoping
9 to determine what issues ought to be included in that environmental impact
10 statement, and this meeting tonight and one this afternoon are part of that
11 scoping process.

12 This slide describes the objective of our environmental
13 review. Simply put, we're trying to determine whether the renewal of the
14 Catawba license is acceptable from an environmental standpoint. Whether or
15 not that option is exercised, whether Duke ever really operates the plant for an
16 additional 20 years, is not up to NRC. That would be an economic decision
17 made by Duke Energy. What we're doing is determining whether this is a
18 viable option for them to consider. Next slide.

19 This slide shows in a little more detail the bottom line of one
20 of Rani's previous slides. It shows the environmental process. We received
21 the application from Duke in June. We issued a notice of intent in the Federal
22 Register, announcing that we were going to prepare an environmental impact
23 statement and conduct scoping. And we also invited, in that Federal Register
24 notice, public participation to provide comments on the scope of the
25 environmental impact statement.

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1 This is the second of two meetings we're having during the
2 scoping period which ends in November, November 22. Up until that time, you
3 can provide your comments in writing to us. You can also send them to an e-
4 mail address, which we'll provide you with, or you can give your comments
5 orally here tonight.

6 During the next couple of months, we're going to be
7 conducting the environmental review, and in the spring time frame, in the
8 May/June time frame, we'll be issuing a draft environmental impact statement
9 for comment, and then we'll be holding another series of public meetings here
10 in Rock Hill to get your comments on that document.

11 After we gather the comments on the draft, we'll consider the
12 comments that are offered up by the public and other agencies and make
13 appropriate revisions to the draft document and issue a final document, and
14 that will be in about January of 2003. Next slide.

15 Currently, we're in the middle of information gathering
16 process. During the preparation of our environmental impact statement, we
17 have been to the site with a team of individuals with scientific and technical
18 backgrounds in the disciplines necessary to prepare an environmental impact
19 statement. We're going to be meeting with local officials, we've been meeting
20 with state resource and permitting agencies to discuss the environmental
21 impact statement and get some information from them about things that should
22 be included. And we've been reviewing Duke's application. We've been
23 looking at almost 20 years of operating data collected by the plant since it was
24 constructed. And we're going to be considering all of these when we put our
25 environmental impact statement together. Next slide.

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1 As I indicated before, we have a team of about a dozen
2 scientists and engineers from four of our national laboratories that are going to
3 be helping us to prepare our draft environmental impact statement specific to
4 the Catawba site. This slide gives you an idea of the expertise and the
5 technical disciplines we're going to be evaluating. We're going to be looking
6 at ecology issues, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, looking at endangered
7 species, EMF field electric shock, public health issues involving radiation
8 exposure and thermophylic microorganisms, socioeconomic issues, and
9 environmental justice... Quite a number of different disciplines will be
10 evaluated in depth in the environmental impact statement.

11 This next slide shows that I'm the Agency point of contact for
12 this environmental review. You can contact me directly if you have questions
13 about the review. The application is available or will be available on the web
14 as soon as our web page goes back up. But there's a copy of the application
15 and related documents in the York Public Library next door. Next slide.

16 This last slide gives details on how to provide comments on
17 the scope of the environmental impact statement. You can give them at this
18 meeting today, you can provide them in writing to the address given before
19 November 22, or you can use the e-mail address, catawbaeis@nrc.gov, and
20 we'll get your comments that way. Are there any questions about the
21 environmental review?

22 MR. CAMERON: Questions from anybody? All right.

23 MS. OLSON: Mary Olson. You mentioned microbial review
24 in terms of radiation impact and what -- tell me a little bit more about that and
25 also how I could find out more beyond this meeting about that?

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1 MR. WILSON: The issue we're talking about here is
2 Naegleria fowleri, an organism that's sometimes found in cooling tower basins
3 that can be spread in an aerosol. Legionella is another organism that could
4 have an impact on the environment, on public health during the renewal period.
5 These are discussed at some length in the generic environmental impact
6 statement, but we'll be looking and checking with the State Health Department
7 to see if they have any indication that this would be a hazard around this
8 particular plant.

9 MS. OLSON: So it will be included in the supplemental.

10 MR. WILSON: We would address it in the supplement, right.

11 MS. OLSON: And I would contact you to get more specifics
12 about that?

13 MR. WILSON: Sure.

14 MS. OLSON: Okay.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions?
16 All right.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, I'd like to clarify something from
18 earlier today. The question was asked how many supplemental environmental
19 impact statements have been conducted and how many other plants have been
20 relicensed? Now, I only know of Calvert Cliffs and Oconee. Are there other
21 ones that have been completed?

22 MR. WILSON: Yes, there are. We've issued five
23 environmental impact statements to date. Calvert Cliffs and Oconee were the
24 first two. We also issued one for Arkansas Nuclear 1, near Russellville,
25 Arkansas and one for Hatch over at Baxley, Georgia. And the most recent is

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1 Turkey Point down south of Miami, in Dade County, Florida.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Those are all completed
3 environmental --

4 MR. WILSON: We've issued a draft on the Turkey Point
5 environmental impact statement, and we're preparing the final document to be
6 released early next year.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay.

8 MR. CAMERON: All right. Other questions on the
9 environmental review process? Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Jim. And,
10 again, I just want to remind the NRC staff that we have two, as far as I know,
11 issues that we're going to get some information on.

12 Now, we're going to start the second segment of our meeting,
13 and that's to hear from all of you, and we're going to go to the local government
14 official first. Then we're going to hear from two officials from Duke Energy
15 Corporation to give us some background on the license renewal application.
16 And then we're going to go out to others of you who have signed up to speak.
17 And our first speaker is going to be Mike Channell, and he's with York County
18 Office of Emergency Management. Mike?

19 MR. CHANNELL: Good evening. My name is Mike Channell.
20 I'm with the York County Office of Emergency Management. I'm the
21 Emergency Management Coordinator there and oversee the Public Safety
22 Division's program. The Public Safety Programs Division is responsible for
23 emergency planning, training and exercises, primarily dealing with Catawba
24 Nuclear Station.

25 Emergency Management here has worked with Duke Power,

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1 which I guess now we should say Duke Energy to be correct, and Catawba for
2 many, many years. I, myself, have worked with some of the departments there
3 since about 1993. And during that time, we have formed an excellent
4 relationship between the folks at Catawba and the folks in local government.
5 I would venture as far to say not only in relationship but some friendships there
6 as well.

7 I think that Catawba itself has proven to not only be an asset
8 to our community by generating power there, but I think they -- but also
9 because they are an active neighbor in our area. They're not just there as a
10 corporation, they're there as a neighbor as well.

11 I work primarily with the Emergency Planning Division there
12 and also with Rose and Glen and Eddie with Corporate Communications. We
13 all work very closely together dealing with plans and issues that deal with either
14 the site or concerns that citizens may have from York County. We also
15 conduct joint training for our EMS and hospital personnel to ensure quality
16 emergency response, and that's done on an annual basis there at Catawba.
17 And we're also in contact with EP and Corporate Communications almost on
18 a daily basis, and I can say that without hesitation that they're a very dedicated
19 team there. Any time that we call upon them, they never hesitate to answer
20 any questions that we have or never hesitate to offer to assist us in any way.

21 Along those lines, Catawba has not only offered us
22 assistance in planning for situations involving the site or involving emergencies
23 that occur there, they have also extended their expertise and services for
24 anything off-site dealing with radiological materials. We all know that they have
25 a lot more expertise and experience in dealing with radiological materials than

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1 we do in local government, and they have been more than courteous in
2 extending that to us.

3 We feel that Catawba and Duke Energy are just as
4 concerned about the citizens of York County as we are, as a local government.
5 And we're very confident that if an emergency situation should arise there, that
6 the emergency plans that are in place, both on-site and off-site and with the
7 coordinated efforts between local government and Catawba there, that we
8 would be able to provide our citizens with the utmost protection in that situation.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much, Mike. Next
11 we're going to go to some people from the Catawba Station. First of all, we're
12 going to hear from Gary Peterson, who's the Vice President at Catawba
13 Nuclear Station. Gary?

14 MR. PETERSON: Thank you very much. Good evening. My
15 name is Gary Peterson. I am the Site Vice President at Catawba Nuclear
16 Station. I've been in the nuclear power industry for nearly 31 years, the last six
17 of that at Catawba Station. My job each and every day is to ensure the safe
18 operation of that facility. Before I begin, though, I just want to take a moment
19 to thank the members of the community who have taken time out of their busy
20 schedules to come and speak on our behalf of this license renewal project.

21 Catawba Station is proud to be a part of York County
22 community, and I'm here today to provide information that is part of our license
23 renewal application. Following my comments, Margot Rhode, a scientist at
24 Catawba, will discuss some of our environmental programs.

25 Our presentation today consists of three parts: First, a short

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1 background on Catawba; two, a brief description of our license renewal project;
2 and third, a summary of the environmental report. I will go over the first of the
3 two areas, and Margot will provide specific information on the environment
4 section.

5 Catawba Station is located on Lake Wylie, which is part of the
6 Catawba River. It produces over 2,000 megawatts of electricity, which is
7 enough electricity to power two cities the size of Charlotte. Catawba was
8 designed, built and is operated by Duke Energy. Catawba has five co-owners,
9 including North and South Carolina co-ops and municipalities and, of course,
10 Duke Energy. Catawba has provided safe, reliable and economical electricity
11 for the Piedmont Carolinas since 1985.

12 And during the two decades that we have been a part of this
13 community, our employees have worked diligently to provide a safe, reliable
14 product, that is electricity, while protecting the environment. All of our
15 employees are committed to this mission, as well as to serving the community
16 that they call home.

17 As you can see from these slides, our employees are active
18 volunteers in the community. For example, for 11 years, we've hosted Boy
19 Scout encampments where our employees teach classes in electricity, crime
20 prevention, computers, energy, electronics and communications. Over 1,000
21 boys have attended these events at Catawba Station. Our employees are also
22 part of the Junior Achievement Program, partnering with local schools in the
23 area, teaching business skills, providing tutors and mentors.

24 And one thing I'm particularly proud of is that each year our
25 employees collect coats and blankets for area shelters and gather school

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1 supplies for area schools. They also volunteer hundreds of hours of their own
2 time each and every year to United Way agencies. Also we donated, as a
3 Station, well over \$100,000 a year to dozens of United Way agencies.

4 We're involved in blood drives and annually provide over 300
5 units of blood. And we have hosted the Women in the Outdoors and Jake's
6 Events and partnered with local schools to create backyard school habitats and
7 nature trails.

8 Our license renewal application was submitted on June 13 of
9 this year. The application is approximately 1,300 pages of technical and
10 environmental information supported by 500 engineering drawings. At
11 Catawba, we are continuously evaluating and renewing Station operations
12 through aggressive preventive and predictive maintenance programs and
13 equipment and technological upgrades. But our first priority is and always will
14 be operating the Station safely while maintaining a healthy environment. After
15 all, this is where we live and work too.

16 In May of 2000, Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station
17 became the second station in the United States to receive a renewed operating
18 license. And just as we did at Oconee, we've conducted a very careful and
19 thorough review of Catawba and its performance. This evaluation proved what
20 we already knew, that Catawba is a safe, reliable and economic source of
21 electricity. And based on the results of this evaluation, we know that license
22 renewal is the right decision for our neighbors, our customers, the environment,
23 Catawba's co-owners, as well as Duke Energy and our Duke Energy
24 shareholders.

25 The reasons for applying for license renewal at this time are

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1 straightforward. We filed a joint application with our sister station, McGuire,
2 which allowed us to make the best use of resources and take advantage of the
3 skills of the very experienced Oconee license renewal team. This process, the
4 license renewal process is very extensive. We gathered and reviewed a
5 tremendous amount of information. We will continue to work diligently with the
6 NRC, as they need to complete their review of our submittal over the next
7 several years.

8 We gave careful consideration to our decision whether or not
9 to apply for license renewal. As you know, Duke Energy has served its
10 customers well for almost 100 years. We're always looking at new alternatives
11 to better serve our customers. During this license renewal application process,
12 we did look at many alternatives for generating the large amount of baseload
13 electricity that Catawba provides. We looked at conventional fossil generation,
14 wind, solar and photocells. But when compared to the amount of electricity
15 generated by Catawba, these alternatives were not selected because of
16 environmental impacts, land use requirements, inadequate electricity output
17 and cost. Using existing data and input from a variety of subject matter
18 experts, we have concluded that there would be no significant environmental
19 impact as a result of renewing Catawba's license.

20 As I close, I just want to thank the community for the support
21 we've received for the last 15 years of operation -- 16 years, and we look
22 forward to many more years. Thank you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Next we will hear from Margot Rott, who is
24 a scientist at the Catawba Nuclear Station. Margot?

25 MS. ROTT: Thanks. Good evening. My name is Margot

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1 Rott, and like he said, I'm a scientist at Catawba Nuclear Station. I have a
2 degree in biology, and I've been at Catawba for a little over 20 years. I've
3 worked in the areas of chemistry, technical training and environmental.

4 More than 75 years ago, Duke Power became one of the
5 nation's first electric generating facilities to establish its own environmental
6 program. Today, we have over 150 scientists, engineers, biologists and
7 technicians, and it's our job to monitor and protect the environment.

8 The initial environmental review for Catawba was completed
9 over 25 years ago. This review established the ground work for continuous
10 environmental monitoring, which is performed at the Station every day. As part
11 of this license renewal process, we reviewed environmental monitoring data
12 collected over Catawba's entire operating history. We consulted with
13 environmental regulatory and resource agencies to make sure we fully
14 considered relevant issues.

15 As part of our environmental report, we've reviewed 13 major
16 environmental areas, which are grouped into four categories: water, plants and
17 animals, air quality and people. We'll take a look at these areas individually
18 starting with water. Duke Energy has conducted water testing on Lake Wylie
19 since the early 1970s. The areas we study include water quality, water flow at
20 Catawba's intake and discharge structures and aquatic ecology.

21 Our evaluation of historical data indicates no changes to Lake
22 Wylie's aquatic resources as a result of Catawba's operation. Using scientific
23 data, we concluded that our continued operation would not have an adverse
24 effect on the Lake or River.

25 The second category we evaluated is plants and animals. As

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1 part of our study, Duke Energy worked with Dr. L.L. Gaddy, a well-known
2 environmental scientist, to perform a study of threatened and endangered
3 species at the Catawba site. Results of the study indicate that there were no
4 state or federally recognized threatened or endangered species identified; in
5 fact, Catawba has a thriving population of quail, beaver, bobcats, Canada
6 geese, osprey, deer and many other wildlife species.

7 Catawba has many ongoing environmental initiatives
8 managed in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Natural
9 Resources, the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and the Wild Turkey
10 Federation. The Catawba site is in the final stages of becoming WAIT-certified
11 by the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, and WAIT, W-A-I-T, stands for
12 Wildlife and Industry Together. Catawba hosts a butterfly garden and various
13 other wildlife areas.

14 Based on our review of operating history and a look at our
15 continued operation, we conclude that license renewal will not adversely impact
16 plants and animals.

17 The third environmental category we studied is air quality.
18 Nuclear power provides about 50 percent of Duke Energy's electric generation
19 needs in the Piedmont Carolinas. By design, nuclear power is clean air energy
20 source. Data shows Catawba's operation has not adversely impacted the
21 region's air quality, and there are no plans associated with license renewal that
22 would alter the air quality.

23 And I'll conclude tonight by discussing the people who live in
24 the communities around our Station. Catawba has a national reputation as a
25 well-run Station. We are committed every day to protecting the health and

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1 safety of the public and our employees. This commitment will continue for as
2 long as we're a part of this community.

3 In addition to being safely operated, Catawba has provided
4 many benefits for the community. For example, Duke Energy has contributed
5 millions of dollars in property taxes to York County. We have over 1,100
6 employees helping to maintain a strong economy in this area. Our annual
7 payroll of over \$70 million helps support local businesses and industry. And as
8 Gary mentioned earlier, our employees spend hundreds of hours each year
9 volunteering for community, school, civic and church programs.

10 And on a personal note, my husband and I live in the Lake
11 Wylie area. We're about two miles from the Station. We love this area. We
12 swim and boat in Lake Wylie, we enjoy bicycling all over this area. We
13 consider it home, which is why I have a personal interest in this project, as well
14 as a professional one. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much, Margot. Our
16 next three speakers are going to Angela Viney, Glen Jocoy, and, Glen, I hope
17 I --

18 MR. JOCOY: Gregg. That's fine.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And Janet Zeller. And I guess I'd
20 like Angela Viney from South Carolina Wildlife Federation to come up.

21 MS. VINEY: Thank you. Good evening, everyone. My name
22 is Angela Viney. I'm the Executive Director of the South Carolina Wildlife
23 Federation. I came to this position in July of 1997 and have been working with
24 different units of Duke Power -- Duke Energy since that time in conservation,
25 natural resources and environmental education projects.

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1 The South Carolina Wildlife Federation has as its mission to
2 advocate environmental stewardship by promoting wildlife habitat enhancement
3 and natural resources conservation for today and tomorrow. We work with
4 many partners in this effort, and one of the primary ways in which we fulfill our
5 mission is through education.

6 This evening, I would like to share with you my knowledge of
7 the environmental stewardship of the Catawba Nuclear Station by way of their
8 partnership with the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and our educational
9 programs.

10 The South Carolina Wildlife Federation is the state affiliate of
11 the National Wildlife Federation and therefore works with our national office in
12 promoting many programs. One of those is the Backyard Wildlife Habitat
13 Program. We are proud of the fact that South Carolina has more certified
14 backyard wildlife habitats than any other state in the country.

15 Since we're the leaders in this Program, we were asked by
16 our National Wildlife Federation office to pilot a new program in South Carolina,
17 the Habitat Steward Training Program. The Program allows us to train
18 interested individuals to prepare them to be mentors in their community in
19 creating wildlife habitats. Through this Program, we've been able to place
20 mentors at schools to assist in creating schoolyard wildlife habitats -- outdoor
21 classrooms used in different curriculum area.

22 One of the other offshoots of the Backyard Wildlife Habitat
23 Program is the WAIT Program that Margot mentioned. And, in fact, Duke
24 Power is one of the founding partners. Having worked to protect and enhance
25 wildlife habitat at the World of Energy in Seneca in 1996, the South Carolina

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1 Wildlife Federation, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and
2 the National Wild Turkey Federation worked with Duke Power at that site and
3 was so impressed with the outcome that this new wildlife habitat education
4 program was created.

5 WAIT is designed to encourage corporate landowners to
6 integrate wildlife habitat needs into corporate land management decisions.
7 There are now 20 industrial sites in South Carolina certified as WAIT sites and
8 another 30 plus working on their certification. The certification requires a three-
9 to five-year plan, a community partner and an educational component.

10 The Catawba Nuclear Station is our most recent WAIT site,
11 and they've gone over and above the standard requirements in creating their
12 WAIT site. They've hosted one of our habitat steward classes in 2000 at
13 Energy Quest. In addition, they initiated partnerships with three schools in the
14 area. York Junior High School, Goldhill Elementary, and Goldhill Middle School
15 are being assisted in the creation of their schoolyard habitats, their outdoor
16 classrooms, by the staff of Catawba Nuclear Station.

17 There are numerous wildlife habitat management and
18 protection initiatives at Catawba Nuclear Station to include osprey towers. To
19 date, four have been installed to encourage an osprey nest on-site. Wood
20 duck boxes have been installed in the standby nuclear service water pond.
21 Wildlife food plots have been planted, wetlands within the site boundary have
22 been identified and signs posted.

23 Selective mowing is in place to provide meadows for wildlife
24 habitat. Educational brochures are available at the visitors center with
25 information on butterfly gardens and native wild flowers. An educational nature

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1 trail is available with a brochure to identify plants, trees and vines on the trail.

2 In addition to the invaluable work on the protection and
3 enhancement of wildlife habitat, the Catawba Nuclear Station also works to
4 enhance the environment through such efforts as utilizing a Reduce, Reuse,
5 Recycle Program to reduce the amount of waste generated and then to reuse,
6 when possible, or recycle, as necessary.

7 A waste minimization program is in place, which has changed
8 the site from a large quantity generator to a small quantity generator of
9 hazardous waste. An extensive chemical evaluation and approval process
10 exists to ensure the most environmentally friendly products are selected for
11 use.

12 In conjunction with Catawba Nuclear Station efforts to partner
13 with schools, they have a program underway to supply every elementary and
14 middle school near Catawba Nuclear Site, within a ten-mile radius, with
15 environmental workshop backpacks that will include kits for environmental and
16 wildlife monitoring.

17 In all of these conversation education programs, the Catawba
18 Nuclear Station has developed and sustained partnerships with the South
19 Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the South Carolina Wildlife
20 Federation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Stowe Botanical Garden,
21 the Piedmont Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the schools in the
22 area, specifically the ones I mentioned earlier.

23 The Catawba Nuclear Station is taking an active role in
24 teaching and advocating land management practices, which enhance habitats
25 and sustain wildlife in their corner of the world. They are also setting the

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1 example for others to follow. And we at South Carolina Wildlife Federation are
2 proud to be partners with them in these efforts and applaud them. Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Angela. Let's go to Gregg
4 Jocoy.

5 MR. JOCOY: Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: You're welcome.

7 MR. JOCOY: I trust you'll make me aware of my five-minute
8 time frame.

9 MR. CAMERON: I'll do that.

10 MR. JOCOY: Great. Thank you very much.

11 MR. CAMERON: I'll do that. And it's, you know --

12 MR. JOCOY: So if you just laugh at me.

13 MR. CAMERON: We won't -- we won't do that.

14 MR. JOCOY: I want to start off by saying I have absolutely
15 nothing written, so I don't have an opportunity to give you a canned speech.
16 All I can do is try my best to speak from the heart, okay?

17 If you go up to Winston-Salem, the folks up there will tell you
18 that the tobacco industry is a great corporate citizen, okay? So why are we
19 surprised that Duke Power stands here today and says, "We're a great
20 corporate citizen," okay? If you go to a community that has a hazardous waste
21 dump, I can assure you that the people who run that hazardous waste dump
22 have got people involved in Boy Scout and Girl Scouts and other activities of
23 this sort. They do so specifically to persuade the general public that they are
24 good corporate citizens. But none of this is relevant.

25 The question that we have to ask the NRC to address is what

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1 are the environmental impacts of extending this license? The question of
2 whether or not the Boy Scouts will have leadership from Duke Energy is
3 irrelevant; it does not matter. The question of whether there will be more ducks
4 on that pond may have -- that may have some relevance, but Duke Energy is
5 no more responsible for those ducks being there than I am. God put those
6 ducks there; Duke Power did not.

7 The questions that we have to ask are what is the
8 environmental impact of keeping that Plant open for 20 more years? Now,
9 truth of the matter is I'm not a scientist. I graduated from high school. I flunked
10 out of college. I don't have the kind of background that would allow me to
11 stand up here and tell you what the environmental impacts of extending this
12 license would be. There are other people better than I who can give you that
13 information. Some of them are here. Some of them support Duke Energy,
14 some of them oppose this license extension. I would encourage you to listen
15 with an open mind to those people who have a position different than Duke
16 Energy's.

17 Now, I realize that there is a subject that none of us really
18 care to address, but it must be addressed. All right. Well, first of all, let me say
19 this: I'm glad you're a neighbor. I live in Fort Mill, I live close to that power
20 plant, but I got to tell you, telling me, "I live there, why would I want to poop in
21 my own backyard," cuts no mustard with me.

22 Once again, I've heard that argument every time I've ever
23 been to a hearing or discussion about these kinds of things. Yes, it's true we
24 run a plant out here like the plant that burned hazardous waste out in the
25 countryside in Rock Hill, and the people who ran that plant said, "Hey, we live

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1 in this neighborhood too," but the paint was peeling off a church across the
2 street from the doggone thing. So that, once again, me, personally, that cuts
3 no mustard.

4 The question that, as I say, is kind of an undercurrent, and
5 I wish it were not something that we have to even consider, is the question of
6 a terrorist threat to that power plant and the impact that would come from an
7 accident or an attack on that power plant, and before you tell me that that is
8 totally unreasonable, won't happen and so on like that, remember that Anwar
9 Sadat was murdered by his own staff as he stood in front of an audience. They
10 drove by in the truck and gunned him down. An Air Egypt airline pilot crashed
11 his airplane, a trained airline pilot crashed his airplane. Timothy McVeigh
12 worked for the U.S. military. Thank God he didn't have access to or use the
13 military weaponry that he had available to him when he was in the military or
14 things might have been much worse than they were.

15 Even if you could document to your own satisfaction that no
16 accident and no terrorist act at the Catawba Power Plant could possibly release
17 nuclear material from that plant, you couldn't satisfy me. Thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Gregg.
19 Next we're going to go to Janet Zeller, who is the Executive Director of the Blue
20 Ridge Environmental Defense League. Janet?

21 MS. ZELLER: Thank you, Chip. I'd like to express
22 appreciation to the NRC for holding this hearing, and I'm very glad to be here
23 today. I bring you greetings from Katherine Mitchell who heads our Charlotte
24 office. She's ill and could not attend, but we do have members in York and
25 Mecklenburg County and in the surrounding counties and transport corridor

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1 counties and offices -- five offices, actually. The nearest is Charlotte, and we
2 have an office in Aiken, South Carolina.

3 Because the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission web site
4 is down and because there are significant documents that we are unable to
5 access at this time, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League requests
6 an extension of the comment period for our written comments and elongation
7 as is paralleled by the lack of information, available information for the entire
8 process.

9 My favorite American poet, Theodore Redkey, wrote, "In a
10 dark time, the eye begins to see." And in this dark time, Americans are much
11 more aware of not only the possibility but the inevitability of terrorist assaults.
12 And I agree with Mr. Jocoy that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission can't
13 simply go on with business as usual as if the terrorist attacks on September 11
14 and the subsequent attacks are not occurring.

15 Typically, the NRC evaluates terrorist attacks as improbable,
16 unlikely, perhaps possible, but the inevitability of a terrorist attack on a nuclear
17 power station or a nuclear shipment must be factored to any environmental
18 impact statement that comes out of this license extension process.

19 Our organization in the fall of 1994 and the fall of 1995
20 successfully tracked shipments of high-level nuclear research reactor waste
21 coming from European countries, across the Atlantic, into the Sunny Point
22 military ocean terminal in eastern North Carolina and all the way across South
23 Carolina to Aiken -- or to the Savannah River site. It took a \$100 used, very
24 good, telescope. It took a \$100 airplane that we hired.

25 And so our purposes were not terrorism-related. Our

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1 purposes were to prove that if a grassroots environmental organization can
2 track nuclear waste shipments, that sophisticated or even less sophisticated
3 terrorists than we've seen operating lately can do the same. Our second
4 purpose was to alert people living along the transport routes that the shipments
5 were coming through, so that they could evacuate, because these were coming
6 through on the train, and people were living right there near the shipments.

7 So it is a new world now, and NRC cannot simply blow this
8 off and indicate that there is an improbability of terrorist attack A or terrorist
9 attack B.

10 Our written comments and other speakers from our
11 organization tonight will be discussing some of the other issues. Some of our
12 major concerns include the partitioning and the fragmentation of this process,
13 which we believe is unlawful, that it is a violation of the National Environmental
14 Policy Act. We also believe that energy alternatives have not been adequately
15 addressed by the Duke license extension application. And the NRC must do
16 a much better job than Duke did of evaluating realistic alternatives to a 19-year
17 license extension of the Catawba and McGuire reactors.

18 We are also wanting the NRC to evaluate some liability
19 issues. Thanks to our friend, Mary Olson, from Nuclear Information and
20 Resource Service, we were alerted that Duke recently filed with the Federal
21 Energy Regulatory Commission to set up a limited liability corporation, thereby
22 relieving them from the day-to-day operations liability at their nuclear power
23 stations. We want the socioeconomic impacts of the potential for this new
24 limited liability corporation to be factored into a complete EIS.

25 And I will stop there, and thank you very much.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Janet. Our next three
2 speakers are going to be Dr. Lewis Patrie, Mary Olson and Lou Zeller. And I'd
3 like to ask Dr. Patrie, who is with the Western North Carolina Physicians for
4 Social Responsibility.

5 DR. PATRIE: Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: You're welcome.

7 DR. PATRIE: Thank you very much. Consideration of the
8 use of MOX, that is fuel which contains plutonium derived from dismantled
9 nuclear weapons, should be an integral part of any consideration about license
10 extensions. With the projected use of MOX on a trial basis within the next two
11 years and regular use by 2007, it is an important factor which should have been
12 identified in the license renewal applications.

13 The characteristics of MOX are significantly different from
14 that of currently used uranium fuel. These characteristics should be taken into
15 consideration along with the age of reactors and the reactors' unique features.
16 Some include these reactors' limited shielding, the unique characteristics of
17 these reactors' cooling systems and the management of hydrogen gas
18 released during operations.

19 But even more important and urgent at this time is the issue
20 of security, which has become much more obvious since the terrorist attacks
21 last month. It is apparent that our nation's 100 plus nuclear reactors are
22 vulnerable to attack, which could come by way of air, land or water or even
23 within the facilities themselves. The results of such an attack at Catawba could
24 create a disaster of unimaginable magnitude, far greater than that experienced
25 September 11 in the Washington, D.C. area and New York.

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1 There would be immediate deaths and so many seriously
2 injured and burned people that even our nation's entire medical facilities could
3 not cope with the casualties. We could anticipate that a breach of the core of
4 either Catawba reactor would result in Charlotte and its vicinity for many square
5 miles becoming uninhabitable for many years.

6 People would be evacuating the area in panic, seeking safety.
7 Winds would determine the disposition of radioactive fallout, which would
8 extend the uninhabitable areas. There would be major increases in cancers
9 and birth defects, which would continue over several decades. Needless to
10 say, the economy and our way of life would be devastated.

11 Taking the possibility of future terrorism into consideration,
12 it should be recognized that nuclear power reactors pose an unacceptable
13 threat to the security of the United States. Recent tests have shown
14 commercial reactors to be extremely vulnerable to attack by even single
15 terrorists. Reactors are not designed to withstand penetration by large aircraft,
16 truck bombs or water-borne attack. And no testing has been conducted for
17 such events.

18 As part of licensing renewals, Duke Energy should be
19 required to demonstrate changes in design in such a manner as to protect
20 Catawba's structures against foreseeable terrorist threats that might result in
21 a breach of reactor containment, core damage and/or damage to irradiated
22 nuclear fuel. Enhanced physical security features and increased security force
23 capabilities would appear to be mandatory. Furthermore, all permanent and
24 temporary radioactive storage, disposal treatment and transfer sites should
25 meet strengthened standards to protect against attacks that could have

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1 disastrous consequences.

2 Potassium iodide should be stockpiled and made available
3 for children and pregnant women residing within a minimum of 50 miles around
4 nuclear reactors. While it only protects against one form of cancer, the Nuclear
5 Regulatory Commission has approved, with conditions, this as a preventive
6 measure to be used following radiation exposure. In the Chernobyl-affected
7 areas, it appears that thousands of children were spared thyroid cancer in
8 Poland where potassium iodide was available following that 1986 reactor
9 explosion and fire, compared with large numbers of children who developed
10 those diseases in the Ukraine, in Belaruse and Western Russia where
11 potassium iodide was not available.

12 Evacuation plans for affected communities should be carried
13 out to reflect the actual conditions which might follow a terrorist attack at either
14 Catawba facility, and plans for relocating large numbers of refugees would also
15 need to be incorporated into such planning. Although I understand there may
16 be reluctance to consider the uncertainty of terrorism in the scoping hearing,
17 Physicians for Social Responsibility of Western North Carolina points out the
18 economy of prevention of adversity as compared with the extravagance of
19 treatment or containment after an adverse situation arises. In the instance of
20 terrorism, the absence of prevention may well lead to disaster.

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Dr. Patrie. I'd like Mary
22 Olson from Nuclear Information and Resource Service Southeast to come up.
23 Mary?

24 MS. OLSON: Thank you. Thank you to the NRC for holding
25 this meeting tonight. I am Mary Olson with Nuclear Information and Resource

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1 Service. We have a southeastern office, which is based in Asheville, North
2 Carolina. I've been there about a year, and I'm very pleased to be here in
3 North Carolina.

4 We, as mentioned earlier, have filed a motion to intervene on
5 the licensing process of both Catawba and McGuire reactors. And if anybody's
6 interested in that, I have copies of the petition, because I'm not going to
7 particularly go into that tonight. I will be filing written scoping comments, and
8 I'd like to support Janet Zeller's call for an extension on the comment period for
9 precisely the same reason. I'm very dependent on the data and documents on
10 the web site. They're not available, and the ways in which we have to get those
11 documents are a burden that will not fit in the current time frames allowed.

12 I want to briefly mention that our concerns encompass issues
13 like the aging of these reactors, impacts on the Catawba River, impacts on
14 endangered species and microbial impacts. But the main reason that we joined
15 this intervention was to make it clear that it's completely inappropriate for Duke
16 to pursue a license renewal on these reactors, which are under contract with
17 the Department of Energy, to use plutonium fuel. Indeed, the contract says
18 that they will close the reactors as the only way out of being a mission facility,
19 and I would love it if somebody would provide me with documentation that that's
20 wrong.

21 So, therefore, it's either going to be MOX in these reactors
22 or there's no need to extend the license on a closed facility. Therefore, why are
23 we not talking about the impact of plutonium fuel during the license renewal
24 period? It changes everything from stem to stern, and you know it. You know
25 it, you know it, you know it, we know it. Why are we not talking about it? Why

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1 are we going to waste all our time either allowing you to foreclose issues before
2 plutonium is a consideration or forcing us to bring them all back up again?
3 Litigation twice is definitely a violation of NEPA.

4 So all of those issues cut to the question of acceptable risk,
5 the types of concerns I raised in terms of aging. And I'd like to, first, before I
6 go on, thank the people who work for Duke Power, because I acknowledge that
7 you do your jobs, and that's important. We'd have a real mess on our hands
8 if you didn't do your jobs. However, the world has changed forever, I believe.
9 The world is a different world than when you were hired into these jobs. And
10 that can't be overlooked. The previous speakers have touched on this issue.
11 I can't go home tonight without bringing it up too.

12 This renewal process should be on hold. There should be no
13 further action. The web site is down for a reason, a real reason. Why are
14 these processes not on hold? There's been a directive that all of the license
15 bases will have to be examined in the light of September 11, 2001. If that is the
16 case, then why is this process not on hold?

17 The International Atomic Energy Agency has acknowledged
18 that no reactor in the world could withstand a jumbo jet direct hit. How many
19 times have I come into the Charlotte Airport on, I think it's U.S. Air that comes
20 out of Augusta, uses McGuire as a siting to the damned airport. How many
21 times I have said to them, "Do you know we just went over a reactor. I could
22 tell the makes of the cars." And they smile. It's okay until now. We're in a new
23 world. It's not okay.

24 So as it's not okay, we have to also factor the MOX issue into
25 how not okay it is. We're talking about putting weapons-grade plutonium in a

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1 form that can be easily recovered in a chemical process on the road to these
2 facilities, stored at these facilities. We're talking about doubling, doubling if it's
3 a full core, and I've heard you guys talk about a full core, so we'll talk about 40
4 percent, if you want to talk about 40 percent. But, whatever, that percentage
5 of the core doubles the health impacts. These are my tax dollars, these are my
6 neighbors, these are my friends. Why are we talking about doubling the
7 possible impacts of an attack on these sites or an accident at these sites with
8 our tax dollars?

9 Duke, wake up, get it straight, be a good neighbor, cancel
10 MOX. Thankfully, thankfully, how I can say anything thankful about those
11 damn people flying those damn planes into that damn building. But, thankfully,
12 they didn't pick Indian Point, because you could multiply the casualties by a
13 thousand or more if they had. Three reactors right across the River on the
14 Hudson. Okay.

15 Table all that for a minute, go back to the world as we think
16 we want it to be, just plain old humdrum license renewal. Well, even the NRC
17 admits that with no accident, no problem, just plain old routine activities, 12
18 access deaths will occur from 20 years of reactor operation at any reactor in
19 the United States, which is a ludicrous proposition to suggest that such a thing
20 is totally linear and totally quantifiable.

21 But I'll take the bait. Okay, 12 deaths from extending
22 Catawba's license. Well, guess what? There's 100 reactors looking for license
23 extensions. That's 1,200 deaths from license extension, according to NRC.
24 Not me. I'd multiply it by at least ten. If I had a little more time and an
25 assistant, I'd back that multiplication up with numbers for you. I could probably

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1 hire someone if I had a little more money.

2 Okay. So that takes us back to what I started with:
3 acceptable end risk. NRC knows that Mary Olson has never accepted the
4 same definition as acceptable. I can't get up before you without reminding you
5 that you should be regulating to protect children. The standard man who has
6 a certain age, a certain height, a certain weight -- I married one; he's pretty
7 good -- that's five minutes, I'll wrap it up pretty quick here -- that standard man,
8 he can't reproduce. How are you going to have your future generations of Boy
9 Scouts to have your little backyard eco-habitats with if you don't regulate to
10 protect children? So that 1,200 deaths, that's standard men, okay? How many
11 is it really?

12 And then when we come to risk, I think if you go home and
13 you really look at your kids and your grandkids and you pay attention to the
14 news and you put the dots together, you have to understand that the question
15 of risk has irrevocably changed, irrevocably. France is putting anti-aircraft
16 missiles, whatever you call them, guns, near some of their nuclear facilities.
17 French people who are touted as the number one nuclear nation in the world
18 are out in the streets in thousands protesting nuclear facilities. The world has
19 changed.

20 So what are the alternatives? There are alternatives. Get it
21 straight, guys. There are alternatives, because we're not talking about today's
22 jobs. We're talking about jobs that start, what, 20 years from now? Right.
23 Well, guess what? All of the alternatives have jobs too. And guess what?
24 Duke could provide them. So get it straight. Offshore wind is a great potential.
25 If there's a single order for 500 megawatts of solar, it will be down below

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1 natural gas in its kilowatt hour charge. Just make one big order for solar, and
2 it's going to be affordable.

3 Methane, global warming, you know about global warming;
4 you've got that wrapped down. Well, go to all those municipal sewage facilities
5 are start making power with that methane. Fuel cells, all kinds of off-grid
6 alternatives. You all are installing diesel generators all over the place.

7 So the last point I want to make is that in this EIS, you've got
8 to look ahead, and you've got to figure that sometime in the next 20 years we're
9 not going to have a regulated energy market in the Southeast. And you've got
10 to look at Duke Power's behavior in the West, and you've got to ask yourself
11 what's going to happen to the municipalities and the co-ops when Duke is
12 unregulated, and they have to sell at their bond rate? And you've got to look
13 at what kind of a white elephant Catawba's going to be for those communities.
14 And you've got to put that in there, because otherwise you're fooling yourself.
15 So if you want to talk about a terrorist attack, just look at that one. Okay.

16 So back to the acceptable and the risk. One thousand two
17 hundred NRC-approved deaths is too many, and one Chernobyl is too many.
18 The question is are we enough to make some new decisions.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Mary. Lou, you're next
20 up. Do you want to go from over there and use this microphone or are you
21 going to bring it up? This is Lou Zeller, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense
22 League.

23 MR. ZELLER: Thank you, Chip. I'd like to comment here
24 tonight on the lack or the inadequate analysis done by Duke Energy in its
25 submission for the license renewal at Catawba, the inadequate job done in

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1 analyzing alternative sources which could be used to generate the power,
2 which is now provided by the Catawba Nuclear Station. I brought this map here
3 because we are engaged in our wind energy education project, which we are
4 initiating in western North Carolina.

5 From our initial investigations into the potential for just one
6 alternative source of energy, and that would be wind power, we have found the
7 following: That the United States Department of Energy has targeted electric
8 generation use by -- generated by wind by the year 2020 to total five percent
9 of U.S. electric use by that year. They have also targeted to increase the
10 number of states generating more than 20 megawatts of wind powered electric
11 power from eight states to 16 states by the year 2005.

12 Now, worldwide, in 1999 data, there were 10,000 megawatts
13 of wind power around the world. Two thousand five hundred megawatts of that
14 was generated in the United States. In the single year of 1999, there were 700
15 megawatts of electric generation by wind added to the total in the United States
16 alone. Now, the 2,500 megawatts in that year of wind power represents only
17 0.1 percent, one-tenth of one percent, of electric use in the United States, so
18 to get to five percent, we would increase that by about a factor of 50, bringing
19 us up to around 125,000 megawatts of electricity by that year.

20 A five percent total sounds rather meager compared to
21 Denmark, which generates ten percent of its electricity presently with wind
22 power. But even with the five percent goal by 2020, we would be generating
23 125,000 megawatts of electricity, which would take a huge chunk out of the
24 current generation of electricity by all 103 nuclear power plants in the United
25 States.

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1 What would this mean to the economy of the United States?

2 It would mean \$60 billion of new investment, which would be \$8 billion per year
3 by the year 2020. It would mean \$1.2 billion income to farmers and rural
4 citizens with land holdings who would be receiving rent from the placement of
5 large wind generators, such as the one in Iowa, located in the upper right-hand
6 corner, and the generator right here in Northeastern -- or southwestern
7 Pennsylvania in the Northeastern part of the United States.

8 It would also have other benefits. The carbon savings in
9 metric tons would amount to 35 million tons per year by the close of the second
10 decade of the 21st century. It would also result in 80,000 permanent jobs
11 across the United States from five percent wind power electric generation.

12 Now, wind energy resource atlas shows that we could
13 generate enough wind electricity to exceed the current electric consumption in
14 the United States. This map -- this wind map, which is here, was generated in
15 1981. Certainly, that map should be a part of the factoring that Duke Energy
16 should be doing before it completes the submissions on its application for the
17 Catawba Nuclear Reactor.

18 The electric power which is generated is competitive currently
19 with fossil fuel at around four to six cents per kilowatt hour. And the experts
20 estimate that by the year 2020, with improvements in generating capacity and
21 generators, that this will drop to two cents per kilowatt hour. Those of you who
22 have noticed the map here, it shows that the white area is relatively low in
23 potential for wind energy generation.

24 We might notice that in the State of Nebraska there is
25 relatively high generation. It's fair to point out that the State of Nebraska

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1 imports most of its electricity from out of state, from coal-fired generating units.
2 This is a trend which could be reversed so that Nebraska, at least, would be
3 generating its own power through the use of wind, reserving the existing coal
4 power or other sorts of renewable energies generated outside of that state so
5 that Nebraska would no longer have to import power.

6 Also, please note that here along the coastline some of the
7 most fruitful areas for wind energy development are along the coastlines or
8 even off the coast. Scandinavian countries have done this and are doing it now
9 at a cost-competitive basis around the five to six percent per kilowatt hour
10 range, and this obviates some of the impacts which some people might point
11 out, who wants to have a wind generator in the Blue Ridge Mountains? But we
12 think that some people would think that they are quite beautiful. But in any
13 case, the State of South Carolina has a huge wind potential located offshore,
14 out of sight of some of the beautiful beaches. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Lou. Our next three
16 speakers are going to be Glenn Carroll, Don Moniak and Sherry Lorenz. No?
17 Okay. Well, you can decide when we're done with Don Moniak, because we're
18 going to go to Glenn Carroll first, Georgians Against Nuclear Energy. Glenn?

19 MS. CARROLL: Thank you, Chip. And my name is Glenn
20 Carroll, and I'm Coordinator of Georgians Against Nuclear Energy. We're
21 conducting an intervention now before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
22 about the fuel factory, the MOX fuel factory that's been proposed for Savannah
23 River Site.

24 I've been pretty buried in that, and I came out tonight,
25 because when you consider MOX it inevitably does lead to Catawba and

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1 McGuire, and I've been alarmed at what I've learned about the facilities, only
2 really because of our interest in MOX and our concern about plutonium
3 traveling through Georgia and a very, very messy process right next to the river
4 that makes the border between South Carolina and Georgia.

5 There are some things about Catawba and McGuire that are
6 pretty obvious. The containment system, the freeze-thaw cycle from the ice
7 condenser technology, which is used is causing warpage so that doors and
8 valves do not open properly, which creates safety conditions. Because of the
9 September 11 events, this has had a direct effect on the way we consider the
10 MOX fuel factory, and we did analysis two weeks ago about how thick the walls
11 would need to be on the factory, on the fuel factory, to withstand a fully fueled
12 jetliner impact. And the figure would have to be greater than four and a half
13 feet, which is the penetrating power of a jetliner.

14 Unfortunately, what we have here, considering relicensing,
15 we don't have the luxury of altering the design of these facilities to the extent
16 that we would be able to change the containment. It is at least 18 inches too
17 thin to withstand a jetliner impact.

18 Now, I've been buried in this intervention. You would not
19 believe how stressful, how strenuous it is to litigate. I am an artist. I've been
20 a volunteer for 15 years. Fortunately, my group did raise money and is paying
21 me to lead our intervention. Now, I'm a layperson. My question was how can
22 this relicensing -- I felt like this relicensing was premature, because the license
23 expires in, what, 13 years? So it seems premature. Let's see a little bit more
24 successful operating before we talk about extending it, so that from now the
25 Plant would operate longer than it's already operated. That seems ridiculous

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1 to me.

2 And I thought how can we evaluate MOX issues in this
3 facility, because we haven't even finished looking at MOX. We haven't even
4 gotten started with MOX. And now I find out, I did not know until tonight, that
5 we're not even considering putting MOX in this. Now, that's why I'm here,
6 because I was concerned about putting MOX in these particular reactors, of all
7 the reactors in the country to put this plutonium fuel.

8 I'm an artist, an even I understand that the reactivity of
9 plutonium fuel is vastly different than the reactivity of uranium fuel, that the
10 reaction time is seriously, seriously less, very much less than the reaction time
11 we have with uranium fuel. And it was that lack of reaction time with uranium
12 fuel that caused Chernobyl. And we're talking about operating with, I seem to
13 recall a figure of three percent of the reaction time that we're used to having.

14 But we're not even considering that. You all? And I'm sorry,
15 I'm fairly cynical. I know what we're here for. We're doing scoping for an EIS
16 hearing. Well, we've already done that with MOX. You know what? We
17 shouldn't even be in a MOX licensing proceeding, because the rules say that
18 you do your EIS -- the rules say -- I'm sorry, I get confused. Anyway, drop that
19 point. That's just wrong.

20 I learned today that the airport in Charlotte is near the
21 McGuire Plant. So how are they going to know when the plane is acting funny?
22 They won't have time to deal with it. Are there residents of Rock Hill here
23 tonight that don't work for Duke and don't work for the NRC? Because what I
24 thought is, okay, I don't really -- the EIS hearing -- the scoping for the EIS for
25 MOX fuel looks pretty pre-set. It doesn't really respond. I went to all the

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1 hearings, and I heard all the comments. I didn't respond to them.

2 So I thought what I'd like to say tonight, more than hold out
3 the hope after 15 years of doing this, that the EIS will actually respond to the
4 things I will say tonight, because I thought I'd like to talk to the people that are
5 involved and to contemplate what would make us hooked on Catawba? What
6 would make Catawba attractive? And I come down to the financial impact it
7 has on individuals who are employed.

8 This is a prosperous town, and I think that Duke Power's
9 presence here has fostered that. I've enjoyed prospering from being an
10 environmentalist this year, and we've run out of money, and so I know how
11 hard that is to face not being able to pay the bills when you've been able to for
12 a while.

13 And I thought that even if the community who has so far been
14 comfortable with Catawba and McGuire, has felt like they've prospered, maybe
15 they started to think that September 11 changed things and it was too hard to
16 think about. And it really is creepy. I mean we have a terrorism contention in
17 already about the MOX fuel factory, and it is creepy. You get dirty, you feel
18 dirty when you think what would a terrorist do, what would a terrorist think? I
19 mean we're normal, healthy people. We don't want to think thoughts like that.
20 You don't want to think about what serial killers think before they start their
21 thing. So maybe you don't think about it. Or maybe you start to and you just
22 don't see what you can do.

23 And so I offer that there's a transmission grids, that there are
24 technologies that are benign that are ready to go, and that then the activity the
25 employees for Duke, the employees for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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1 they begin to think how do we take care of it? There's all this fuel here. How
2 do we take care of it? How do we protect it? And all the energy goes into
3 there, and there are jobs. But how do we get, and this I can't answer, how do
4 we get our society to say, "We'll pay you to do this. We'll pay you to handle the
5 waste, we'll pay you to handle the security."

6 We have another economic problem, and maybe the EIS
7 surprises me. Analyze it. Because there's a requirement to do cost/benefit
8 analysis and comparison. Surprise me. Put in the alternative energies. I know
9 one of the complicating factors is we don't know what to do about free fuel. It
10 does not -- our economic model cannot handle free fuel. Duke is in the fuel
11 business. It was a scandal, Duke's face in the fuel business in the California
12 energy crisis. Who's on your Board, who's on Duke's Board? Are they with
13 Exxon? Are they with United Enrichment Services? I bet you.

14 So I think all our science, all our technology needs to go to
15 dealing with the materials. They're there, they're a hazard, they're vulnerable.
16 They're in water that if we lose the water, we're sunk. They're in fragile
17 containment domes. If we lose the containment, we're sunk. It needs to be all
18 hands on deck to deal with it. Thank you. God help us all. We've been lucky.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Glenn. Next we're going to
20 hear Don Moniak, from Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League.

21 MR. MONIAK: Hello. My name is Don Moniak. I'm the
22 Community Organizer at Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. I work
23 in the Aiken, South Carolina office. We're about 25 miles -- actually, 20 miles
24 from downtown Savannah River Site where the F&H Canyons are and this 36
25 million gallons of highly, intensely radioactive liquid waste that was supposed

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1 to be solidified by about this year, and they solidified about eight percent of it
2 so far. But they're getting there.

3 Here's a quote: "Iodine 131, 132, 134, 135 will be found after
4 reactor accidents and following the destruction of a nuclear reactor by hostile
5 forces. Radioactive iodine is a normal fission product found in reactor fuel
6 rods. It is released by rupturing the reactor core and its containment vessels.
7 Primary toxicity is to the thyroid gland." And this is from the first edition of
8 "Medical Management of Radiological Casualties," which I've been handing out
9 to emergency responders, stopping at emergency rooms at hospitals. I've
10 handed out about 95 of these now, and I just ordered another 100. It's from the
11 Military Medical Operations Office, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research
12 Institute, Bethesda, Maryland. Anybody wants the web address to order some,
13 I'll give it to you afterwards. First edition, December 1999.

14 Now, these people don't fool around. These are people who
15 have to make sure the troops can get up and fight after they've been dosed.
16 And they admit that the psychological impacts of high doses of radiation or
17 even moderate doses is really extreme, even on a hardened force of troops.

18 So this has to -- the consequences have to be addressed.
19 If the Pentagon considers it to be a possibility, primarily overseas but also here,
20 if it's a possibility, it has to be addressed. The consequences have to be
21 addressed so that we know what the consequences are. It's that simple. And
22 that has to be addressed as part of the generic environmental impact statement
23 possibly because it wasn't. So there's Item Number 93 for the list.

24 Okay. As far as alternatives go, we heard earlier from Duke
25 Energy that they evaluated other sources of energy. However, what they didn't

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1 tell you is that in the Nuclear Regulatory Guide 1437, Volume 1, Section 0.81,
2 the NRC has determined that a reasonable set of alternatives should be limited
3 to analysis of single, discrete electric generation sources and only electric
4 generation sources that are technically feasible and commercially viable.

5 So the alternatives that were not considered as reasonable
6 power, some of which Duke Energy earlier claimed twice today, twice at
7 McGuire that they did analyze and never really did, is wind, photovoltaic cells,
8 solar thermal power, hydroelectric generation, geothermal, wood waste,
9 municipal solid waste, energy crops, delayed retirement of non-nuclear units,
10 imported power, conservation and combination of alternatives.

11 The only thing they did analyze was for replacement power
12 alternatives is your basic centralized plants, such as conventional coal-fired, oil-
13 and gas-fired, gas-fired only, combined cycle, advanced light water nuclear
14 reactor, even though that's not necessarily technically feasible at this time.
15 That remains to be seen. I would wager that the advances that have occurred
16 in wind energy, although this isn't the best part of the world for it.

17 But remember we are one country united, at least that's what
18 I hear lately, except when you come to one of these meetings and the people
19 in the area make snide little remarks that it's a bunch of visitors from outside
20 the area who don't understand Duke.

21 Or that down in Augusta, the Mayor of Augusta said that I
22 was a plant, that I was planted there in Aiken, South Carolina to fight the
23 plutonium fuel factory, and I did move there, but I didn't have to live in Aiken.
24 I could have lived anywhere in South Carolina. I had my choices. Aiken's a
25 nice town. It was a real nice town too long before SRS ever showed up.

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1 Today, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League filed
2 a motion to dismiss this proceeding, at least for a few years. It makes perfect
3 sense. For starters, it appears that Duke Energy is really pushing the
4 boundaries of the National Environmental Policy Act, which, of course, they're
5 entitled to do. Any corporation is entitled to push the boundaries of any law.
6 But the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is bound by a higher standard.

7 That's our government agency. And they should have just
8 laughed at Duke and said, "We are going to analyze the impacts using
9 plutonium fuel in your reactors starting in 2007, because that will be the
10 licensing basis that you are proposing. The current licensing basis is low-
11 enriched uranium fuel." And under this action, they are assuming that
12 throughout the license activities now conducted, it will continue to be conducted
13 in accordance with the use of low-enriched uranium fuel.

14 But that's not true, because Duke wrote one little paragraph
15 about the use of MOX plutonium. They wrote they're currently evaluating and
16 planning for the use of MOX fuel in batch quantities up to 40 percent in
17 McGuire and Catawba, planning to submit later this year a license amendment
18 request to allow a limited number of MOX fuel assemblies. Use of those
19 assemblies to begin no earlier than 2003.

20 The schedule calls for the submittal in late 2003 or early
21 2004. Right about the time they're going to decide on whether they should get
22 relicensed for low-enriched uranium, then they're going to -- I'll bet you anything
23 if they get relicensed January 2004, they submit the amendment in February
24 of 2004. You know, that's what I would recommend if I was your advisor to be
25 totally legal. And then that way the NRC doesn't get sued as bad either.

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1 So this process completely circumvents the National
2 Environmental Policy Act, and I would implore the people doing this, other
3 contractors back there from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Lawrence
4 Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory Argonne
5 National Laboratory, they're the ones doing the environmental impact
6 statement, by the way, because they've been contracted by the NRC, which is
7 supposed to be independent from the Department of Energy, but it all depends
8 on what day of the week it is, I guess.

9 You have to read what the National Environmental Policy Act
10 says, not what the regulations say first but read the Act. It's one of the most
11 stirring pieces of legislative literature I've ever encountered. And that was
12 during the Nixon Administration, and he signed it. He's not known as a rabid
13 environmentalist.

14 And the primary purpose of this relicensing is to analyze the
15 aging impacts, the impacts of operation on aging of chief components. It isn't
16 just plutonium fuel, of which these are the only four reactors that are being
17 considered right now. In 1996 there were 17 utilities that controlled 38 reactors
18 that were interested, and they slowly lost interest, because the Department of
19 Energy is not known as a reliable and trusted partner. They generally don't get
20 things done. It's unfortunate, but they generally don't get things done.

21 On October 8, 1999, the NRC granted the licensee, Duke
22 Energy, an exemption that would allow them to apply early, to allow them to
23 apply before their 20 years of operation is up. Since that time, though -- and
24 that was based on one -- one of the basis of that was a statement by Duke that
25 said, "A regular and systematic exchange of information of plant-specific

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1 operating experience among all three Duke Nuclear Stations takes place."

2 About a year later, and shortly after the Oconee Plant was
3 relicensed, they found these initiation and growth of significant cracks in PWR
4 Alloy 600 weldments, apparently at growth rates that are faster than previously
5 modeled. So this represents what Dave Lockbaum, who's a nuclear scientist,
6 nuclear engineer with the Union of Concerned Scientists, said that the aging
7 failures that have occurred in the last few years indicate beyond a reasonable
8 doubt that the aging management programs in support of relicensing are
9 inadequate because they are not preventing equipment failures, such as the
10 VC summer hot leg nozzle to pipe weld crack that had some potential generic
11 issues, such as they found that they were due to extensive weld repairs during
12 construction occurred on those areas. It added stress to those.

13 So let's look at all the major components out there, the
14 reactors, Catawba and McGuire, and see where they were doing work out in
15 the field that normally would have been done in the shop or where they've had
16 maintenance problems. Because the one Duke hasn't done well in previous
17 analyses, the one thing they've always had a little bit of trouble with -- they're
18 not the worst but neither are they the best; they're kind of like right in the
19 middle, they're a model of mediocrity. They have had maintenance problems,
20 and that's documented. And when you have maintenance problems, things
21 break down quicker.

22 Here's another one. This one is very interesting, because this
23 one just happened this year. But in a letter of last year, last July 20, 2000,
24 Duke submitted for an exemption. It's called a request for relief. Apparently,
25 Duke put in, in Catawba 1 and McGuire 1, replacement steam generators. The

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1 pre-service examinations were not performed during manufacturing or prior to
2 installation. Instead the licensee performed on-site pre-service exam after
3 installation and under the provisions of another code, and they violated ASME,
4 Association -- America Society of Mechanical Engineers, thank you.

5 MR. CAMERON: Don, could I ask you to --

6 MR. MONIAK: And those people don't fool around. I'm just
7 about --

8 MR. CAMERON: Could I ask you to wrap up?

9 MR. MONIAK: Yes. They don't fool around with their rules
10 and we know that. They're only able to cover 50 to 75, 83 percent at the most,
11 of some major important welds on their steam generators, which are brand
12 new. That's not good business. And the NRC couldn't do anything about it,
13 because they were hot by then, and they had to say, "Well, I guess we've got
14 to give it to you."

15 So we've heard enough about security tonight. I would also
16 like to add, though, that the State of Nevada has filed a petition for changing.
17 Congress has filed legislation to change security requirements. It's time to
18 dismiss this, because three years from now it may just be that nuclear power
19 is just a lot more expensive than Duke is willing to admit and that Duke's willing
20 to take. And, personally -- this is not the opinion of Blue Ridge -- but,
21 personally, I think the utilities ought to be given a subsidy just the airliners to
22 help convert away from it. But if they have no desire to convert, we'll fight them
23 tooth and nail and try to stop them. Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Don. Yes, I do. You're
25 Edmund Fitzgerald? If, Sherry, you're done? Okay. Good. Please, come on

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1 up.

2 MR. FITZGERALD: I am Ed Fitzgerald, and I am a bona fide
3 resident of Rock Hill, South Carolina. I've lived here for over 22 years, so I
4 guess I've passed one of the tests of longevity. But I also am the Chair of the
5 South Carolina Sierra Club, which represents -- and I represent tonight the
6 5,000 members throughout the State of South Carolina who are members of
7 the Sierra Club, a long-standing environmental organization, national in scope.
8 I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening.

9 The South Carolina chapter of the Sierra Club has been
10 following this licensing renewal process for Duke Energy for some time.
11 Leading up to these hearings an integral component of Duke's activities has
12 been a public relations effort to educate the public on its plans to very shortly
13 introduce MOX as a fuel in the Catawba Station.

14 This MOX is to be fabricated from weapons-grade plutonium
15 that is to be shipped to South Carolina's Savannah River Site. The Governor
16 of South Carolina is opposed to these shipments unless the Department of
17 Energy agrees to a clear exit strategy. At this time, no agreement has been
18 reached.

19 Duke Energy, in its public relations efforts to embrace MOX
20 as an alternate fuel source, places heavy emphasis on the cost effectiveness
21 of MOX and on reducing the inventory of weapons-grade material. If the long-
22 range strategy is to introduce MOX as a fuel, the South Carolina Sierra Club
23 finds it strange that the license renewal does not state that the Plant will use
24 MOX as a fuel source during the operating life of the request.

25 On Saturday, October 20, the South Carolina Sierra Club

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1 unanimously passed Resolution Number 01-05, titled, "Plutonium Disposition
2 as Mixed Oxide Reactor Fuel." I will not read you the entire resolution but will
3 only cite those sections that refer to MOX and the Catawba Nuclear Station.
4 A copy of the complete resolution is attached to my remarks, which I will give
5 to Jim Wilson, hopefully for insertion into the record of this meeting.

6 The South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club expresses its
7 support, that's very key, it expresses its support for Governor Hodges' call for
8 the restoration of funding for plutonium immobilization. Let me repeat that: We
9 support Governor Hodges' call to restore funding for plutonium immobilization.
10 Plutonium is a key component of nuclear weapons and also can be a deadly
11 component of irradiation dispersal weapon. Consequently, plutonium is an
12 attractive object for theft by terrorists and rogue governments, as such poses
13 a critical risk at all vulnerable points in transportation and in handling.

14 The use of MOX fuel instead of traditional uranium fuel in the
15 Catawba Nuclear Station could increase greatly the number of cancer deaths
16 in a core melt accident due to the presence of greater quantities of high
17 radiotoxic elements. Use of MOX fuels in these reactors, for which they were
18 not designed, may pose additional and yet unknown, unknown, operating risks.

19 The Catawba Plant is one of the thin-walled, ice condenser
20 designs and is more vulnerable to a catastrophic early containment failure that
21 would release radioactive materials into the environment. The use of irradiated
22 MOX will still contain plutonium after burning and will remain stored on the Site
23 and may never exit South Carolina.

24 Regarding today's proceedings, the South Carolina Chapter
25 of the Sierra Club unanimously opposes the shipment of plutonium by the

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1 Department of Energy to South Carolina's Savannah River Site for fabrication
2 as MOX and the shipment, use and storage of MOX fuel at the Catawba
3 Nuclear Station.

4 Furthermore, in that the application for license renewal under
5 scoping review today does not indicate that the Catawba Nuclear Station will
6 utilize MOX as part of its fuel component, the South Carolina Sierra Club views
7 this application as incomplete and seriously flawed. The Club recommends
8 that NRC immediately instruct Duke Energy to withdraw its application and that
9 this process be terminated. Thank you very much.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr. Fitzgerald. Our
11 last speaker for tonight is Trey Eubanks, and Mr. Eubanks is the City Manager,
12 I believe, of York; is that correct?

13 MR. EUBANKS: That's correct. Thank you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. You're welcome.

15 MR. EUBANKS: Good evening. It's a pleasure for me to
16 represent the city of York in support of Catawba Nuclear's license renewal. My
17 name is Trey Eubanks. I'm the York City Manager. I've been a resident of the
18 community and a satisfied Duke Power customer for the past four and a half
19 years. I'm glad to endorse Catawba's petition tonight. Duke Energy's been a
20 valued corporate citizen for many years. Its employees are hardworking
21 members of surrounding communities, active in our schools, churches and civic
22 organizations. In addition to the obvious asset of generating safe, reliable
23 energy for our homes and businesses, Duke Energy participates in the
24 activities of our area, annually supporting the efforts of the United Way, the
25 Red Cross, Adopt-a-Highway Programs and other civic activities.

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1 The City of York confidentially relies on Duke Energy to
2 power our water treatment facility serving the city and the surrounding
3 community within our service territory. Our bonds are further strengthened by
4 a franchise agreement that the City of York renewed a few years ago with Duke
5 Power. We are confident that Duke Energy Corporation employs responsible,
6 dedicated workers who take pride in the first class service that they provide to
7 our community. And on behalf of Mayor Roddy Connelly and myself, we whole-
8 heartedly support Catawba's request for the license renewal.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Eubanks. I wanted
10 to thank all of you tonight for your attention and for your specific comments,
11 and I would just note that we have heard two requests for an extension of the
12 comment period that the NRC will consider. We have a form up here, and it's
13 out on the desk. It's a questionnaire, a short questionnaire that helps us to
14 evaluate how we can improve public meetings. So if you could, give that a little
15 bit of attention. And, Mary, you have a question?

16 MS. OLSON: I went to the trouble to copy some articles that
17 have been out recently on some of the issues talked about tonight, and they're
18 in a table next door, along with NRC literature, and I'm sure there's Duke
19 literature there as well. But, anyway, I wanted to bring that to people's
20 attention.

21 MR. CAMERON: Yes. And just let me add that various
22 organizations have material next door, and also the NRC staff and the
23 scientists from the National Labs that are helping us to evaluate the
24 environmental impacts are here tonight. So please feel free to have informal
25 discussions with them. Any questions that you would like to ask, the staff will

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1 be here. And I would just thank you all for coming out tonight and sharing your
2 thoughts with us. Good night.

3 (Whereupon, the Public Meeting was concluded.)
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11 Written Material Provided at October 23, 2001

12 Scoping Meeting:
13

- 14 1. Letter from the Sierra Club, dated October 23, 2001, with attached
15 Resolution #01-05, "Plutonium Disposition As Mixed Oxide (MOX)
16 Reactor Fuel."
17
18
19

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