

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Public Meeting RE License Renewal:
 Byron Nuclear Station
 Evening Session

Docket Number: 05000454 and 05000455

Location: Byron, Illinois

Date: Tuesday, August 20, 2013

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Pages 1-55

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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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3 BEFORE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

4 + + + + +

5 Before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board

6 + + + + +

7 NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY

8 BYRON NUCLEAR STATION

9 Regarding License Renewal Application,

10 NEPA Required Scoping Meeting

11 + + + + +

12 TUESDAY

13 AUGUST 20, 2013

14 7:00 p.m.

15 + + + + +

16 BYRON FOREST PRESERVE

17 7993 NORTH RIVER ROAD

18 BYRON, ILLINOIS

19 + + + + +

20 The above-entitled matter came up for
21 public meeting pursuant to notice before Cheryl Hausman,
22 Facilitator.

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PRESENT:

NRC STAFF:

Dennis Morey

Bruce Bartlett

John Daily

Stuart Sheldon

Tam Tran

Prema Chandrathil

Anita Ghosh

Lindsay Robinson

Elizabeth Pool

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:00 P.M.)

MS. HAUSMAN: I'm Cheryl Hausman. I'm going to be one of the facilitators for this evening's meeting. The other facilitator is Sheila Ray. And the role of the facilitator is just to ensure that the meeting goes smoothly, that we keep on track for time, and that everybody who would like to speak, as far the public, gets the chance to speak this evening. And before I get started, I'd like to let everybody know that this meeting is being transcribed.

So, if you could please keep any background noise to a minimum, it would help the transcriber catch all the information correctly. Also, at this time, if you have any electronic devices, please put them on mute or vibrate. And just a couple of ground rules. Just be respectful of when other people are speaking. Try and keep any background noise or any sidebar conversations to a minimum, so that the court reporter can accurately get all the information correct. There are two exits on the backside. The right side over here goes to the stairs. Left side over here, there's a ramp that goes outside. And also, the restrooms are to the left.

And the purpose of the meeting this evening is to discuss the license renewal process, to identify

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1 significant issues that are related to the proposed
2 license renewal activity for the Byron's Unit 1 and 2.
3 And to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in
4 the environmental impact statement. The agenda for this
5 evening includes a presentation by NRC staff to review
6 the license renewal process. And when the presentation
7 concludes, we'll have a quick Q&A session if there are
8 any questions that anybody has about the presentation.
9 And then we'll open it up to a public comment period.

10 When we get to the public comment period,
11 all speak a little bit more specifically to that. But,
12 just remind you that if you have a comment, there are some
13 yellow cards. If you have not filled one out, there's
14 some yellow cards on the back table. Please fill one out
15 and your name will be called, and you can come up and
16 address the audience, and make your comment.

17 We have a few introductions for the NRC
18 staff. I'd like to introduce, I'll start with Dennis.
19 Introduce yourself.

20 MR. MOREY: Okay, thank you. I'm Dennis
21 Morey. I'm the chief of the aging management of reactors
22 systems branch and the divisional license renewal at the
23 Nuclear Regulatory Commission. So, I want to welcome
24 you to our Byron kickoff meeting. My role here tonight
25 is to, you know, make sure the meeting go smoothly and

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1 to help answer questions and make sure you're able to make
2 your comments. And so, with that, I guess we'll get on
3 with the meeting then.

4 MS. HAUSMAN: Bruce.

5 MR. BARTLETT: My name is Bruce Bartlett.
6 I am the senior resident inspector for Region III
7 assigned to the Byron facility. There are two resident
8 inspectors at each of the nuclear power plants, and
9 myself and John Robbins are the two assigned to Byron.

10 MR. SHELDON: Hi. I'm Stuart Sheldon. I am
11 a senior inspector from our regional office, the NRC
12 regional office in Lisle, Illinois, and I will be the
13 person leading the inspections associated with the
14 safety review portion of the license renewal.

15 MR. DAILY: Good evening. My name is John
16 Daily. I'm the senior project manager in the division
17 of license renewal. I manage the safety review that we
18 are conducting for the application that Exelon has put
19 in for the Byron and Braidwood nuclear stations.

20 MR. TRAN: My name is Tam Tran. I'm an
21 environmental project manager. Lois James is the
22 project manager for Byron environmental review for
23 associate for license renewal for Byron. She's not here
24 today and, therefore, I'm standing in for her, basically.

25 MS. HAUSMAN: Prema.

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1 MS. CHANDRATHIL: Hi everyone. I'm Prema
2 Chandrathil. I'm the public affairs officer for the
3 Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I deal mainly with
4 members of the public and inquiries from reporters.
5 Thanks.

6 MS. HAUSMAN: And Lindsay.

7 MS. ROBINSON: Hi. I'm Lindsay Robinson.
8 I'm also from NRC. I am also a safety project manager,
9 and I'm also participating with John in the safety
10 evaluation for the license renewal.

11 MS. HAUSMAN: And we also have Elizabeth
12 Pool here from EPA.

13 MS. POOL: Hi. My name's Elizabeth Pool.
14 I'm from EPA in Chicago Region V. I'm in the NEPA
15 compliance division and the lead reviewer for the NEPA
16 review on behalf of the EPA.

17 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. We also have a
18 security officer here, Mr. Jeff Zelkowski, just to
19 oversee the meeting and for any kind of safety issues that
20 we may have. Okay, we're going to just please, we're
21 going to start the presentation. Please hold any
22 questions that you have related to the presentation until
23 the end. So Dennis, would you like to start the
24 presentation.

25 MR. MOREY: Start the presentation? I

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1 think that's John.

2 MS. HAUSMAN: John? John.

3 MR. DAILY: Thank you. Thank you, Cheryl.

4 As I said, my name is John Daily, senior project manager.
5 And this evening we're here to discuss a couple of points
6 in our presentation, basically to give you a brief of
7 the license renewal process. It's composed, as you're
8 going to see here in a few minutes of two tracks; a safety
9 review and an environmental review. Both of them are
10 represented here tonight.

11 And then following that, of course, we will
12 continue on with the comments that might be relevant to
13 the environmental impact scoping, and Tam is going to be
14 taking care of all the environmental issues and
15 discussion of that this evening. Next slide. The other
16 thing that I would mention here is the comments are,
17 obviously, we're here to solicit comments from the
18 public. We'd like to know those things that will, that
19 ought to be addressed, in your opinion, in the
20 environmental review. And that will be part of the part
21 that I spoke of here briefly. Next slide.

22 The NRC's mandate comes from public law,
23 from federal law, the Atomic Energy Act of 1951, as
24 amended. And then, the National Environmental Policy
25 Act of 1969, as amended. Basically, those two laws set

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1 up the charter and the framework for the licensing and
2 review of nuclear for commercial use. And, as our
3 agency, the NRC, we've been charged with that
4 responsibility.

5 In conjunction with that, we identified a
6 threefold mission that we have here outlined. First of
7 all, the first point is to protect public health and
8 safety. So we regulate and oversee the operation of
9 civilian use of nuclear radioactive isotopes for
10 commercial use. The second is to promote a common
11 defense and security for the country. And the third is
12 to protect the environment. To make sure that the
13 operations that are conducted under our oversight are not
14 harmful to the environment. Next slide.

15 So tonight, just as a brief introduction to
16 Byron station, itself, some of you may be familiar with
17 this information. But for the benefit of the others,
18 Byron was built and constructed as two units. They're
19 just right down the road a couple of miles. Unit 1 has
20 been given an operating license that expires in October
21 of 2024. Unit 2 has an operating license that expires
22 in November of 2026.

23 Now, a little bit earlier this year, Exelon
24 Generation LLC submitted an application to renew those
25 operating licenses, and that application was given to us

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1 at the end of May, May 29, 2013. That's what we're in
2 the process of reviewing and, of course, that's what has
3 come about with the meeting tonight and the activities
4 that we're doing. Next slide.

5 The application, itself, that Exelon
6 prepared, or that any applicant prepares when they
7 request a renewal of their operating license, is divided
8 into three parts. It's actually several volumes, thick,
9 take up a big space on your shelf in a library. The first
10 section is general information about the plant owner or
11 operator itself, corporate information, financial
12 fitness and so forth. Those things are in the first
13 section.

14 Then the second section covers technical
15 information about plant systems and structures and
16 components. There are literally hundreds of systems
17 that are involved, and thousands of components and each
18 one has their own analysis and their own programs to be
19 identified in order to make sure that they're being
20 managed adequately.

21 The final portion, which is just as
22 important, is the environmental report, where the
23 applicant has conducted their own environmental study of
24 the operation of the plant and its impact upon the
25 environment, whether it's air, water, ground,

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1 socioeconomic and so forth. And then they prepare that
2 as an input, as a portion of the application, as well.
3 And then, all of this, then, when it comes into us, at
4 the Agency, we then conduct several thousand man hours
5 of review. We have an extensive process that we're going
6 through. And, of course, that's what we're going to
7 review a little bit tonight by way of overview. Next
8 slide.

9 As you see here, the license renewal
10 process, basically, takes the form of two tracks. These
11 tracks run fairly much in parallel with each other. The
12 first track that we'll talk about is the safety review,
13 there across the top. And this is the technical review
14 of the plant and the systems and all the components that
15 are important to safety. And that, of course is
16 conducted. And then, in parallel, then, the
17 environmental review, along side where we are, once
18 again, examining for our own review and opinion, the
19 impact and the considerations of this plant and how it
20 might affect the environment that it's situated in.

21 Once the safety review, then, going back to
22 the top, once our safety review is completed, we develop
23 what's called a safety evaluation report. It's pretty
24 thick. But we submit that, then, to an independent
25 review panel. This review panel reports directly to the

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1 Commission. They don't work for any of the other parts
2 of the Agency. They report directly to the
3 commissioners, and they give their independent
4 assessment of the accuracy and the adequacy of the
5 programs and the evaluations that have been presented.
6 They provide their own opinion.

7 And that is also something that's needed
8 before the Agency would make its decision that that
9 opinion would be favorable. If either the safety review
10 or the environmental review has a party that comes
11 forward during a proceeding, as it is with any federal
12 action, they can petition for a hearing because they
13 believe that they might have an issue that needs to be
14 heard and needs to be tried. This then becomes,
15 basically, a legal proceeding, somewhat like a court
16 proceeding.

17 And that's the hearing portion that you see
18 here in the center. Any questions like that that are
19 accepted, we have a panel of administrative law judges
20 that will sit and will hear the evidence. That hearing,
21 and any issues that pertain to that, must also be
22 resolved, if it's there, before a final decision would
23 be made. Then once all of those avenues have been
24 satisfied and completed, the Agency can then make its
25 decision regarding the renewal of the operating license.

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1 And, if everything is favorable, and if
2 everything, you know, meets the regulations that we've
3 established, and we have reasonable assurance that the
4 environmental impact is not so great, and that the
5 applicant will operate it in accordance with the
6 regulations and maintain it then, at that point we could
7 decide to renew the license. It's a long process. It
8 generally takes a couple of years. It could take longer.
9 We're not really tied to a time line because the safety
10 is actually more important than the schedule. Next
11 slide.

12 I think I've covered most of the things on
13 this particular slide in the discussion. We talked
14 about that we're focusing on the safety side. We look
15 at the components that are important to safety, and we
16 look at the aging effects that are operating upon those
17 components. And we make sure that those effects have
18 been identified, and that they're adequately going to be
19 managed through formal programs that the applicant will
20 establish.

21 The environmental review then, let's see if
22 there's anything, we talked about how we're going to
23 analyze and disclose any environmental effects,
24 basically in accordance with the NEPA law. We take a
25 hard look at the operation to make sure that the

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1 environmental impacts will be such that it would be
2 acceptable, I guess, in order to license the facility for
3 further operation. Next slide.

4 In addition to the license renewal process,
5 as an Agency, we also have what we call ongoing regulatory
6 oversight. And that's where Bruce and his counterpart,
7 the other resident inspector down at Byron station, come
8 in. Because they are on duty, basically, every day of
9 the year. They're full-time assignment is here, and
10 they look at oversight on an ongoing basis through
11 inspections, through questioning, through reports, to
12 make sure that the day-to-day operations are still being
13 conducted in accordance with the regulations and the
14 safety rules that we've established.

15 We also have areas that look into, for
16 example, emergency planning. We have areas of the
17 Agency that look into the physical security of the
18 facilities, to make sure that the physical security is
19 adequately addressed and the people and the systems are
20 adequately protected from, you know, any concerns that
21 might pertain to that. We also publish current safety
22 performance on an ongoing basis.

23 I think it's either every quarter or every
24 year, and we have some websites where you can see, for
25 example, the current performance in a chart form. Where

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1 there's the different milestones and the different
2 aspects of plant operation, whether it's safety,
3 radiological health and so forth. Are these conditions
4 green or red or whatever. And you can actually see on
5 an ongoing basis our assessment of the operational health
6 and performance of the station. So, those are actually
7 a part of our website and you can actually go see those
8 at any time. Next slide.

9 So, just to kind of begin a wrap-up of this
10 portion, in license renewal, we have certain safety
11 principals that we base our license renewal process upon.
12 And one of them is that we have a robust and adequate
13 regulatory oversight process that continues. And that
14 process will continue throughout any renewed license
15 that might be granted. That's not going to change. And
16 the applicant or the licensee will be subject to, you
17 know, all the laws of, and regulations that the
18 Commission may put out from time to time. That's not
19 going to change. It's also not going to change
20 as far as the operating rules and regulations that apply
21 during the renewal term. Those are very much the same
22 ones that apply right now today. The only other thing
23 is that, in addition to that, we may have other additional
24 conditions that relate to aging management in order to
25 make sure that all of the systems will be kept up in an

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1 acceptable state of health, as it were, throughout that
2 period of extended operation. Next slide.

3 And so then, for the technical staff, as we
4 review the application, we not only review what's been
5 submitted, we actually also conduct onsite audits where
6 we go dig into the background information. And there's
7 several bookshelves of background information that, you
8 know, has been assembled. But even if, you know, even
9 if we find something in the, some of the plant history
10 or the operating experience on the database, we'll dig
11 down into that. All to make sure that everything is
12 adding up, and that we, you know, we really have some
13 adequacy of the programs that are being conducted.

14 We also will be performing inspections, as
15 Stu had mentioned, where they will come out and they will
16 actually look at the implementation of some of these
17 programs to make sure that, in real life, what's been said
18 programmatically is actually being handled and carried
19 out on a day-to-day basis. Then, finally, the
20 independent review by our advisory committee on reactor
21 safeguards. This is that panel that I mentioned
22 earlier. It's a bunch of top scientists and engineers
23 that are really sharp. And they have their own
24 questions, and they dig in with their own experience and
25 background, again, to make sure that no stone has been

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1 unturned, as it were, in looking at the adequacy of the
2 review and the application.

3 At this point, we'll turn it over, next
4 slide, environmental review, and we'll have Tam come up
5 and talk to you. Thank you.

6 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you, John.

7 MR. TRAN: Thank you, John. For the
8 environmental review, the staff will perform a
9 environmental review in accordance with the National
10 Environmental Policy Act or so-called NEPA. NEPA
11 provides the basic architecture for federal
12 environmental review requirements. It requires that
13 all federal agencies follow a systematic approach in
14 evaluating potential impacts associated with major
15 federal actions, and alternatives to those actions.

16 The NEPA process involves public
17 participation and public involvement, as well as public
18 disclosure. The NRC environmental regulations
19 contained in 10CFR, part 51, are largely based on other
20 implemented regulations for NEPA. The NRC
21 environmental reviews consider the impact associated
22 with the license renewal and any mitigation for those
23 impacts we consider to be significant. We also consider
24 impact of alternative to license renewal, including the
25 impact of not issuing the renewed license itself. Next

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1 slide.

2 In conducting the review, the NRC staff will
3 look at various impacts to the affected environment.
4 This review involves a wide range of expertise
5 illustrated on this slide. The experts will examine
6 environmental justice, ecology, land use, regulatory
7 compliance, climate change, et cetera, for the EIS for
8 the environmental impact statement. Next slide.

9 As illustrated on this slide, some of the
10 agencies that we work with include U.S. Fish and Wildlife
11 Service, Environmental Protection Agency, state
12 historical preservation offices, as well as many local
13 and state agencies, and any affected Indian tribes.
14 Next slide.

15 The NRC staff will also review cumulative
16 impacts associated with the continued operation of
17 Braidwood station. For cumulative impacts, the staff
18 will look at the effects on the environment from past,
19 present and reasonable foreseeable future of human
20 action. The cumulative impacts include both from the
21 Byron station operations and from other activity near
22 Byron. In other words, the cumulative impact analysis
23 considers potential impact to the end of the 20-year
24 renewal term.

25 For the time beyond the 20-year period of

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1 extended operations the NRC, with confidence, addresses
2 the environmental impact of the management of spent
3 nuclear fuel after the license life, including the
4 renewal term. Previous license renewal environmental
5 impact statements noted that the environmental impacts
6 of temporary storage of spent nuclear fuel for the period
7 following the reactor operating license term, were
8 addressed by the NRC Waste Confidence Rule.

9 The Waste Confidence environmental impact
10 statement is expected to be issued in 2014. In August,
11 2012, the Commission decided that the Agency would not
12 issue final licensing decisions for reactors, including
13 the license renewal, until the Waste Confidence
14 regulatory activities are completed. If, at that time,
15 any license renewal related site specific issues at the
16 Byron remain unresolved, they will be addressed
17 separately. Next slide.

18 The environmental review begins with the
19 scoping process, which is where we are today. The
20 purpose of the scoping process is to identify significant
21 issues that should be considered in the environmental
22 review. We are now gathering information that we will
23 use to prepare the environmental impact statement for the
24 Byron station license renewal. That is the
25 environmental impacts that are local to this area, and

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1 that are important to the staff to consider.

2 The staff as developed a generic
3 environmental impact statement that addresses a number
4 of issues common to all nuclear power plants. The staff
5 is supplementing that generic EIS with a site-specific
6 supplemental EIS for the Byron station. The staff will
7 also re-examine the conclusions reached in that generic
8 EIS to determine if there is any new and significant
9 information that would change the conclusion in the
10 generic EIS. The scoping period started July 31st, and
11 we will continue to take comments until September 27th.
12 Next slide.

13 In general, we are looking for information
14 about the environmental impacts from continued operation
15 of the Byron station during the extended period of
16 operations. You can assist us in that process by telling
17 us, for example, what aspect of your local community we
18 should focus on. What local environmental, social and
19 economic issues that the NRC staff should examine. And
20 what reasonable alternatives are most appropriate for
21 this region. Next.

22 This slide illustrates the NRC's various
23 considerations for deciding if the renewed operation
24 will be issued. It's a rigorous review involving the
25 EIS, the safety evaluation report, regional inspection

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1 and so on. But what's important to point out here is that
2 the public comments are an important part of the license
3 renewal process. We consider all comments that we
4 receive today and throughout the scoping period. And it
5 helps us to inform and to shape the supplemental
6 environmental impact statement. Next.

7 In addition to providing comment at today's
8 meeting, there are other ways that you can submit
9 comments on the environmental review. You can provide
10 written comments by mail to NRC chief of rules and
11 director branch at the address provided on this slide.
12 And there are copies of these slides for your use. Or
13 you can send your comment electronically by going to the
14 regulation.gov website. You can also make your comments
15 in person, if you happen to be in Rockville, Maryland.
16 We ask that you get in touch with the NRC project manager
17 beforehand so that we can set up the appropriate
18 arrangements. The comments should be submitted to us by
19 September 27th. Next.

20 This slide shows some important milestones
21 for the environmental review process. The petition to
22 request for hearing due on September 23, 2013. We plan
23 to issue the draft environmental impact statement in
24 2014. Once the draft is issued, there will be a comment
25 period where, again, there will be an opportunity for the

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1 public to read through the draft EIS, and to comment on
2 the draft. Next slide.

3 The point of contact for the environmental
4 review is Lois James. And the contact for the safety
5 review is John Daily, and their information is listed
6 here on this slide. The Byron library has agreed to make
7 the license renewal application available for public
8 review and, when it's published for comment, the draft
9 supplemental environmental impact statement will also be
10 available at the library. In addition, these documents
11 will be on the NRC website listed on this slide.

12 As you came in, you were asked to fill out
13 a registration card at the reception desk. If you have
14 include your address on that card, and indicated you
15 would like to be on the distribution list, we will send
16 a copy of the draft and the final EIS for your
17 information. If you didn't have an opportunity to fill
18 out the card, you know, please feel free to do that before
19 you leave, and add your address to it so that we know how
20 to get in touch with you. That concludes my
21 presentation, so I'm going to turn the meeting over to
22 the facilitator.

23 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you, John. Thank you,
24 Tam. Okay. Does anybody in the audience have any
25 questions and answers relating to the presentation that

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1 you've just seen? If so, I'd like to ask you to come up
2 the podium. Going once. Going twice. Okay, step up,
3 please, and state your name.

4 MR. STERLING: Do you want me here?

5 MS. HAUSMAN: Yes, that's fine.

6 MR. STERLING: My name is Ed Sterling. I'm
7 a neighbor of the plant. My question for you just simply
8 was if I want to make some suggestions or some input into
9 your EIS, how do I do that? Do you have a form I need
10 to fill out, or what?

11 MR. TRAN: As listed on our slide, if you
12 can go back, there are several ways for you to provide
13 us with comment. Of course, we collect comments today.
14 So, you can provide written comment or oral comments.
15 And with your oral comment, it will be captured with the
16 court reporter transcript, and we will use that to
17 develop our EIS. Also, you can also send in your comment
18 to the address, to the Chief of Rules at directed branch.

19 And, of course, we have the regulation.gov,
20 where you can electronically go in there and fill in
21 comments. And at the end of this meeting, the
22 facilitator will announce, you know, what will be the
23 next step for us, which is the scoping summary report,
24 for which all scoping participants will get a copy of that
25 report.

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1 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Any other
2 questions regarding the presentation? Okay, we'll now
3 move into the public comment section of the meeting. I
4 have cards here for some of the people who have already
5 filled it out, noting that they wanted to make a comment.
6 If there's anybody who has not filled out a yellow card,
7 please do so so that I can call your name and have you
8 make your comment. Okay, I'm going to call the names of
9 people whose cards I have, and please step up to the
10 podium, state your name and make your comment. First I
11 would like to invite Jarid Funderburg.

12 MR. FUNDERBURG: Good evening. My name is
13 Jarid Funderburg. I am the field representative for
14 Congressman Adam Kinzinger, Illinois 16th District. I
15 would like to read a letter on his behalf. Dear Nuclear
16 Regulatory Commissioners, I write to express my full
17 support for the renewal of the operating license of the
18 nuclear generating station at Byron, Illinois. This
19 facility provides lower energy costs for residents and
20 businesses, and supports hundreds of high-paying jobs in
21 Illinois, while helping to ensure statement compliance
22 with federal Clean Air Act regulations.

23 It will, undoubtedly, play an important
24 role in meeting the energy needs of Illinoisans well into
25 the future. Nuclear energy production plays a critical

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1 role in Illinois, where nuclear energy generates 48
2 percent of the state's electricity and employs nearly
3 5,000 skilled workers. Having visited the Byron
4 generating facility, I can attest to the value it has to
5 local residents and communities, which benefit through
6 reduced energy costs, high quality jobs, and significant
7 tax revenue.

8 While many areas of Illinois struggle to
9 meet clean air standards, the generating station at Byron
10 offers affordable abundant energy with a fraction of the
11 greenhouse gas emissions as other conventional energy
12 sources. As Americans' and Illinoisans' demand for
13 energy rises, nuclear generating stations like Byron
14 will be vital to meeting the energy needs of our citizens.
15 I fully support the operating license renewal for this
16 generating station, and I believe it will play a critical
17 role in making American and the State of Illinois more
18 energy secure. Sincerely, Adam Kinzinger, Member of
19 Congress. Thank you.

20 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I would like
21 to invite Tom Demmer, state representative.

22 MR. DEMMER: Thank you. I'd also like to
23 offer support for the license renewal application, and
24 I do so for a couple of reasons. First, I think that the
25 mark of a strong community is often the diversification

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1 that we see in industry. And around here, we have some
2 of the best agricultural industries in the state, and the
3 country, really. We have a long history of
4 manufacturing success, and we're seeing a resurgence in
5 that. And I would add to that a strength in the diversity
6 that we have for our local economy through the energy
7 industry.

8 As Congressman Kinzinger's letter said, we
9 see, through the Byron generating plant, quite a few
10 good-paying, long-term jobs. We see a lot of tax revenue
11 that supports buildings like this forest preserve
12 property, the schools in the area, the library, and many
13 of the public services that residents of Byron, and
14 really of all of northern Illinois enjoy.

15 We also see access to affordable, reliable
16 power, and that's a key component of building any modern,
17 efficient economy. And it provides incentive for
18 companies to locate around here that bring further job
19 and economic opportunities to this region. So, I think
20 we've seen some great examples of how Exelon and the staff
21 at the plant are good corporate citizens in the
22 community. Very active in participating and supporting
23 community endeavors. Bring to us a lot of stability in
24 the economy, a lot of job opportunities. And provide the
25 community with a significant asset.

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1 And it's for those reasons that I know
2 across my district, and really across northern Illinois,
3 there's widespread support for the Byron generating
4 plants, and that's why I support the license renewal
5 application. Thank you.

6 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I'd like to
7 invite Mr. Russ Kearney, site VP for Byron.

8 Mr. KEARNEY: Good evening, ladies and
9 gentlemen, officials of the State of Illinois, local law
10 enforcement, members of NRC EPA. My name is Russ
11 Kearney. I am the site vice president at the Byron
12 generating station. I have a little bit better than 30
13 years experience in the commercial nuclear power
14 industry. I started my career in nuclear power,
15 actually, in the United States Navy, where I served our
16 country onboard nuclear submarines for some six years.

17 And I began my commercial experience in 1982
18 at FirstEnergy's nuclear power station up in Perry, Ohio.
19 At Perry, I licensed as a senior reactor operator; held
20 that license for a little bit better than 15 years. I
21 joined Exelon in 2005, and I've held positions at the
22 Dresden station at the director level. And then I had
23 site vice president responsibilities at the Clinton
24 nuclear station which is in central Illinois, Limerick
25 generating station, and now the privilege of managing the

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1 Byron station through normal operations and into the
2 license renewal space.

3 I can tell you that myself and the employees
4 at the Byron generating station have a strong commitment
5 to safe and reliable operations of our station. That
6 includes the operation of the plant, and it also includes
7 our commitment to the environment. Each day we renew
8 that commitment to ourselves, to our industry and, as
9 well as to the community. You'll find that,
10 environmentally speaking, we have a very solid air
11 quality monitoring program locally at the station.

12 We monitor the quality of the ground water
13 around the station and on all our site property. WE have
14 some 15 monitoring wells that we're continuously
15 checking ground water quality for affects from our
16 nuclear operations. And then, lastly, in the local
17 area, some 10-mile radius around the station, we have 40
18 radiological monitoring stations that continuously
19 monitor the environment and then our technicians are
20 trained to go and retrieve that data, analyze it, and
21 compile reports for ourselves and also for other
22 government agencies.

23 Environmentally speaking, Byron is
24 certified to an ISO standard ISO 14001. In plain
25 language, that's an international standard for the

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1 environment. We're proud to be ISO 14001 holders.
2 Recently, within the past year, the Wildlife Habitat
3 Council awarded the employees at the Byron station for
4 their environmental stewardship, a Wildlife At-work
5 Certification. Now that certification represents,
6 clearly, the station's footprint that we have in the
7 local community, environmentally speaking. We use our
8 land, that is not used for production, to house and
9 provide a habitat for local species as food, and shelter
10 and water, et cetera. We're very proud of that
11 certification.

12 If I can, I'll shift just for a minute to
13 the plant. Exelon is committed to continue to make
14 capital improvements at the Byron station. Year over
15 year we make significant capital improvements, which go
16 towards renovation of equipment, replacement of
17 equipment. Some design modifications still, you know,
18 30 years into the station's life, we still modifying the
19 plant and modernizing the plant. Those capital
20 investments also serve to help our operations, make it
21 much more safe and much more efficient as we go.

22 Capital investment is one area, but we also
23 invest heavily in our employees. Since 2011, we've
24 hired over 200 employees at the station. We expect that
25 trend to continue for the next several years, as the first

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1 generation of nuclear completes their assignment at our
2 stations, and we onboard the next generation in nuclear.
3 Very active, very active bunch.

4 Lastly, I would tell you that our investment
5 in the community is an item that we wear very proudly.
6 Over the last year, we have monetarily contributed to the
7 community some \$300,000 to agencies in the local area,
8 principally through the United Way and their partnered
9 agencies. Money is one item, but you'll also find many
10 Byron employees out in the community, working arm in arm
11 with local food banks. They're in our schools, both
12 teaching and contributing and conducting blood drives,
13 donor drives, of the like. Byron employees have a great
14 heart for the people that are in this area.

15 We've completed better than 25 years of safe
16 and reliable power plant operations. That's, as I said
17 earlier, that's what we're committed to. We will
18 continue that commitment the first 40-year license that
19 we're currently licensed to, and then on into the renewal
20 period when that time period comes. I look forward to
21 being part of the Byron plant for a number of years to
22 go. And I thank you for the opportunity to comment this
23 evening.

24 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next, Mr. Mike
25 Gallagher, VP of license renewal for Exelon.

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1 MR. GALLAGHER: Okay, good evening. My
2 name is Mike Gallagher, and I'm the vice president of
3 license renewal for Exelon, and I have overall
4 responsibility for the Byron license renewal project.
5 So, first of all, I'd like to thank the NRC for this
6 opportunity to speak on behalf of Exelon. This is a very
7 important project for us, and I'm very glad to be here.

8 Exelon has a great deal of experience with
9 license renewal, as we have completed and obtained the
10 renewed licenses for our Dresden and Quad Cities plants
11 here in Illinois, and for three of our other facilities
12 in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. We also have an
13 application for our Limerick nuclear power plant in with
14 the NRC, and it's under NRC review.

15 So just a little bit, briefly, about myself.
16 I've been working in the nuclear power industry for 32
17 years. I was a licensed senior operator and plant
18 manager at the Limerick power plant in Pennsylvania.
19 And I've worked at two other nuclear plants and our
20 corporate office. So Mr. Kearney, the site vice
21 president for Byron, spoke to you about our rigorous
22 plant operations, and about the reasons for renewing the
23 license for Byron.

24 What I'd like to talk to you about is about
25 the process that we go through for preparing this license

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1 renewal application, and the amount of work and
2 engineering analysis that we put into preparing the
3 application. Because the Byron station can be operated
4 safely and reliably, Exelon decided to pursue license
5 renewal. Byron's safe, efficient operation promotes a
6 critical supply of carbon-free electricity for Illinois
7 and beyond. Byron produces enough clean power to supply
8 more than two million homes.

9 So, in 2011, we announced our intention to
10 seek license renewal for Byron, and a similar plant at
11 the Braidwood generating station down in Will County.
12 Later that year, we started the work necessary to prepare
13 the application and, after over two years of work, we've
14 submitted the application to the Nuclear Regulatory
15 Commission on May 29, 2013. Safe and reliable
16 operations has been a hallmark at Byron station since it
17 came online, and our goal, during the license renewal
18 process, to demonstrate to the NRC and to our neighbors
19 that we will continue this legacy in the additional
20 20-year operating period.

21 The application, when you print it out, it's
22 about 3,500 pages, and when you put it in binders, it fits
23 into about four large binders about this thick. It's a
24 huge amount of information. But that only represents a
25 small part of the work that was done for the engineering

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1 analysis to prepare the application. The total amount
2 of this engineering analysis, if we printed it all out,
3 would be about 400 binders of information.

4 We invested over 90,000 man hours of
5 engineering work. And, once we completed our work to
6 prepare the application, we brought in experts from
7 outside Exelon to review the application to ensure it was
8 complete, thorough and accurate. Our total cost to
9 prepare and get our application reviewed by the NRC for
10 both Byron and Braidwood will be approximately \$45
11 million.

12 There are two different parts to our
13 application; the safety review and the environmental
14 review. For the safety review, we took an in depth look
15 at the history and the condition of the safety equipment
16 in the plant. We did that to determine whether the
17 necessary maintenance was being performed on that
18 equipment, and to make sure that the equipment will be
19 able to operate as needed, not only today, but for an
20 additional 20 years of operation.

21 So, when you look back at Byron when it was
22 built, all the equipment was new, it was thoroughly
23 tested to make sure it would perform properly. But, like
24 anything else, equipment does age. And, therefore,
25 certain activities need to be performed. Sometimes we

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1 perform preventative maintenance. Sometimes the
2 equipment is refurbished. Some equipment may be
3 replaced. There may be modifications done to the plant
4 to upgrade the equipment, as Mr. Kearney had talked
5 about. In fact, Exelon has invested over \$220 million
6 in the last three years alone at Byron to improve and
7 modernize equipment, and enhance plant operations and
8 safety.

9 We also reviewed calculations that were
10 performed as part of the design of the plant that were
11 done to ensure the plant could operate of the original
12 40 years, and we analyzed those calculations, and were
13 able to confirm that the plant would be able to operate
14 safely for 60 years. So, overall, our conclusion from
15 our engineering review was that Byron could operate
16 safely for 60 years.

17 We also took a look at the environmental
18 impacts of continuing to operate Byron. We looked at all
19 the aspects of continued impact of the plant on the
20 environment. Our conclusion is that the impacts on the
21 environment are small. And I use the term small in the
22 sense that is defined in the regulation. And it's
23 defined as the environmental effects are not detectible
24 or are minor.

25 We also reviewed the alternatives if Byron

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1 would not have its license renewed, and another source
2 of electric generation would have to be installed either
3 here onsite or someplace else to generate the replacement
4 electricity. We concluded that any other means of
5 generation generating the replacement electricity would
6 have more of an impact on the environment than the
7 continued operation of Byron.

8 So, in conclusion, we operate Byron safely,
9 and we can continue to operate safely for an additional
10 20 years. Byron will provide approximately 2,340
11 megawatts of base load generation that's not only safe,
12 but it's clean, it's reliable, and economical.
13 Continued operation of Byron will benefit this
14 community, the State of Illinois and our nation. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Ron Colson from
17 Blackhawk Hills Regional Council. Okay. Doug O'Brien,
18 Illinois Clean Energy Coalition.

19 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you. My name is Doug
20 O'Brien. I am the executive director of the Illinois
21 Clean Energy Coalition. And our group is made up of
22 business, labor and policy leaders from across the State
23 of Illinois representing thousands of employees and
24 employers, small businesses and policy leaders
25 throughout the state. Our organization promotes the

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1 development and use of clean energy in a competitive
2 market that benefits both the environment and our
3 economy.

4 And we're hearing a lot about the positive
5 impacts that Byron has on surrounding communities, the
6 jobs, the economic activity that pumps billions into the
7 local economy. But the positive impacts reach much
8 further than the areas that benefit from the plant
9 operations. Nuclear power and the Byron generating
10 station significantly enhance the reliability of our
11 regional energy market.

12 Nuclear provides the backbone of baseline
13 power supply. Meaning employers that rely on
14 electricity, the manufacturers, information technology
15 firms, hospitals and retailers for whom electricity is
16 a major input, know that they can rely on an abundant
17 supply. Nuclear also brings broad benefits to Illinois
18 by helping maintain a competitive marketplace for
19 consumers.

20 And while many factors, obviously, play
21 into the rates that are paid by residential and
22 commercial customers, the existence of this reliable and
23 abundant baseline supply is a significant factor in
24 Illinois' lower energy costs; more than 10 percent lower
25 than the national average, 25 percent lower than in the

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1 State of Michigan, and over 40 percent lower than in the
2 State of New York, according to the U.S. Energy
3 Information Administration.

4 And the benefits derived from Byron and the
5 other nuclear plants in Illinois are not limited to the
6 economy. It is an enormous benefit that the generation
7 of 18 million megawatts of electricity at Byron last year
8 produced no carbon air emissions. Earlier this year,
9 NASA's Goddard Institute sought to quantify the real
10 impact of nuclear power's carbon-free emission
11 operations. The Goddard study found that replacing
12 nuclear power with fossil fuel generation would lead to
13 up to 76,000 thousand additional deaths per year
14 globally, primarily as a result of increased cardio and
15 pulmonary disease.

16 And this is even more important in the State
17 of Illinois. The Chicago metro area is designated as a
18 non-attainment area by the EPA due to air pollution. And
19 this situation would be greatly exacerbated without the
20 existence of Byron generating station which produces
21 energy, as we heard, to power up to two million homes
22 without adding to this existing environmental problem.
23 And for these reasons, the Illinois Clean Energy
24 Coalition urges the renewal of the operating license for
25 Byron station. Thank you very much.

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1 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you, and Ron Colson,
2 you just came in, from Blackhawk Hills Regional Council.

3 MR. COLSON: Is there a selected podium
4 here?

5 MS. HAUSMAN: Either one is fine.

6 MR. COLSON: Okay. I just came in the
7 door. I was signed up earlier, and missed the afternoon
8 session when they cut it short. I'm Ron Colson, the
9 president of Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, also the
10 Ogle County board representative of that group.
11 Blackhawk Hills Regional Council is an organization of
12 six northwest Illinois counties, Joe Davies, Carroll,
13 Stephenson, Ogle, Lee and Whiteside. And we have a
14 rather divergent task.

15 We were founded by both the counties and
16 their economic development efforts and the soil and water
17 conservation districts in those counties, in their
18 conservation efforts. So, we work in an area to find
19 that economic development and resource conservation are
20 not mutually exclusive terms. Certainly, clean energy
21 that we feel the Byron station represents is an important
22 part of both of those missions.

23 In our six-county area, there's, obviously
24 in Ogle County, the home to the plant, there is a
25 significant affect to the tax base on regional or local,

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1 between local, let's call it countywide recreational and
2 government services and educational services. So the
3 tax base factor is significant. That's the business
4 side. I know we're talking environmental here.

5 The jobs that this plant represents are
6 significant to our area just in the ability of people to
7 make a living. It represents a large number of the best
8 ongoing jobs in the area. Plus, the outside contractors
9 that come in for the outages represent significant
10 business to our hotels, restaurants, things of that
11 nature.

12 So these, after that, and we have found the
13 experience of several decades now that this, I can't
14 claim to be an expert on this, but I think it's the opinion
15 of most folks in this area that this is probably the best
16 run nuclear power station in the country, possibly in the
17 world, where we have that feeling of the plant and of the
18 employees that operate it. We're very proud of it. The
19 record is established, both for effective production of
20 electricity and for safe operation and for concern with
21 maintaining both of those very high standards.

22 So we are very much in support of the
23 re-licensing. We think it's a continued asset for our
24 area. And we hope that it will continue as an asset, and
25 it's certainly established itself very well in that

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1 regard. Thank you.

2 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Kim Gouker, Ogle
3 County board. Okay. Charles Medrano, engineer at
4 Byron station.

5 MR. MEDRANO: Good evening. I don't have
6 a prepared speech. I just wanted to speak to you, not
7 only as a design engineer who does the number crunching
8 and analyses at the plant, but more importantly as a
9 husband and a father and a brother to people who live in
10 Byron. And so as you can tell, I have, you know, a vested
11 interest in safe operation of the plant.

12 And, you know, I can, I know I speak for
13 myself and for a lot of the people at the plant that we
14 work very hard, day in, day out, to ensure that we put
15 safety first in everything we do, and technical rigor in
16 everything we do and we touch. And we strive to maintain
17 integrity with, you know, whether it's a calculation or
18 whether it's a study or review, you know, this is
19 something we take very seriously, especially, you know,
20 after learning and hearing about various events
21 throughout the world related to nuclear power. We take
22 these things very seriously. So, for what it's worth,
23 I just wanted to share my perspective as a voice within
24 the plant. So, thank you.

25 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Dan Westin,

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1 Rochelle Utilities.

2 MR. WESTIN: Dan West Rochelle
3 Municipality Utilities, RMU. RMU supports the license
4 renewal, specifically as to the Byron plant, it's
5 reliability to the generation of power in the region.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Ronald Bolin,
8 Exelon.

9 MR. BOLIN: Hello, I'm Ron Bolin. I'm a
10 system engineer at Byron. What I do is I am in charge
11 of maintaining the reliability of the diesel generators
12 at the station. I just wanted to give an example of like
13 when we talk about capital projects that we try to do to
14 keep the plant modernized and keep everything safe.

15 So we just recently approved adding a state
16 of the art monitoring system for the diesel generators.
17 What it does is it will allow us to trend and analyze using
18 computers and monitoring computer software, to make sure
19 that we can keep the diesels as safe and reliable as
20 possible. And this wasn't something that was required
21 by the NRC or anything like that. This was something
22 that the Byron station said that they wanted to be the
23 best in the fleet, and try to maintain the plant as safe
24 as it could.

25 And we decided to invest the money. And it

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1 wasn't required. It was, you know, good for safety and
2 good for the public. So, you know, we put our money where
3 our mouth was, and we did a good job. So I just wanted
4 to kind of share that story about how the plant tries to
5 keep the public safe and keep everything, thanks.

6 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Kim Gouker, Ogle
7 County board.

8 MR. GOUKER: Thank you. Tonight was our
9 county board meeting, which is one thing I cannot change.
10 I'm glad to be here tonight to speak on behalf of the
11 community of Byron and Ogle County, as well. I'm a
12 lifelong Byron resident, except for the three years that
13 I went to college. That's kind of the time that this
14 started.

15 The environment is what you're looking at,
16 but part of that environment needs to be the community.
17 And the people at the Byron station that work there, the
18 management, have become a very vital part of our
19 community. They live here. They work here. They
20 participate in civic organizations. And the plant,
21 themselves, they immerse themselves into our community.

22 I remember what it was like before the
23 nuclear plant, and I think our community is better today.
24 There was much concern about how it would change our
25 environment, and it really hasn't, other than it has

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1 improved the community tremendously. Just in closing,
2 I have a resolution that I had written, and asked the
3 county board to adopt, which my county board has adopted
4 it unanimously. And, basically, well, I'll read part of
5 it.

6 You know, whereas the electricity
7 generation is an important part of our state economy and
8 the economy of Ogle County. And whereas competitive,
9 abundant and reliable energy is a significant factor in
10 attracting and retaining jobs in Illinois, And whereas
11 since 1985 the Byron nuclear generating station has been
12 a major Ogle County employer, directly creating 850
13 full-time jobs, up to 2,500 part-time jobs during
14 refueling periods, and indirectly supporting thousands
15 more jobs throughout our county.

16 And whereas the Byron generating station
17 generates enough electricity to power over two million
18 homes without generating any air pollutants or
19 greenhouse gases. And whereas the Byron generating
20 station is the largest single-property taxpayer in Ogle
21 County and contributes directly to the community through
22 both financial and human investment and charitable and
23 community activities.

24 And whereas the Byron generating station
25 maintains the highest standards for safety and

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1 environmental protections and has built a strong,
2 cooperative relationship with the county's first
3 responders and emergency service agencies. And whereas
4 its parent company, Exelon Corporation, has filed an
5 application to the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission
6 for a 20-year renewal of its operating license at the
7 Byron nuclear generating station.

8 Therefore, be it resolved by the County
9 Board of Ogle County, State of Illinois on this 18th day
10 of June, 2013, that this body supports the renewal of the
11 operating license of the Byron nuclear generating
12 stations, and welcomes the Nuclear Regulatory
13 Commission's outreach to our communities to measure the
14 broad and strong support that exists for the license
15 renewal. Signed by myself and the Ogle County clerk, and
16 I've made several copies. That's really all I have.
17 Thank you very much.

18 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Brent Baker,
19 Byron Chamber and of the Byron Bank.

20 MR. BAKER: Good evening. Brent Baker.
21 I'm the president of our Byron Chamber and I also work
22 at the Byron Bank locally. I'm a parent of three boys
23 and a resident. So, we're going to take some assumptions
24 that Russ and his staff are doing a great job of keeping
25 us safe, as well as the environment. As it pertains to

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1 our local community, Mr. Gouker hit it on the head. The
2 employees wrap themselves around our community.

3 The benefits of having the tax dollars, my
4 kids now have probably the best library in the county to
5 go to. They have the best park district to go
6 participate at. The best golf course to play golf at.
7 If our house is on fire, they've got the best fire
8 department to put it out. So, that means a lot to a
9 resident, to a family man, husband, father.

10 As it pertains to business, Byron Bank, we
11 thrive on local tax dollars, as well. We thrive on the
12 employees, the loans, the giving back. You know, we
13 always think we're one of the better at sponsoring the
14 local kids' events. Well, you're not going to find a
15 better friend than in ComEd and their staff. As it
16 pertains to the Chamber, you also talked about the
17 businesses. The 850 employees, the 2,300 part-time, are
18 going to our grocery stores. Are going to our gas
19 stations. Are going to our restaurants, our bars, our
20 whatever it is.

21 And so, there's a lot of good, a lot of good
22 things going on in that regard. And so, from the
23 Chamber, as a resident, and from the Byron Bank, we are
24 in full support and look forward to a lot more years of
25 involvement from Exelon and their staff. Thank you.

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1 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Bruce
2 Drawbridge, CB&I.

3 MR. DRAWBRIDGE: Good evening. My name is
4 Bruce Drawbridge. I'm a vice president with CB&I,
5 Chicago Bridge and Iron. They recently acquired my past
6 former company by the name of Shaw Group. We provide
7 maintenance and modification and construction services
8 for the Exelon fleet, including Byron station. A little
9 bit about my background, heard a little bit about some
10 of the other people's backgrounds.

11 I did a little quick calculation. I've
12 spent 38 years in the nuclear business. I first started
13 off in the utilities side. I was a vice president of
14 operations for a nuclear utility in Massachusetts, and
15 then I was also responsible for the start-up and
16 operation for 10 years of the Seabrook nuclear power
17 plant in Seabrook, New Hampshire.

18 Since then, I've been on the service side
19 of the nuclear business. I've been 12 years working with
20 Exelon here at Byron station, and at their other
21 stations. I've also worked with other companies in the
22 nuclear industry. And I have to tell you that Exelon is
23 the model for rigorous implementation of work. I'm
24 going to give you a few statistics here specific to Byron
25 station. This is just from my company.

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1 I went back and took a look over the last
2 three-and-a-half years. Just so you know, our
3 maintenance modification work is, primarily, done during
4 refueling outages. We keep a small group of people
5 onsite, working with the in-house people, developing
6 work packages, developing our schedule for the refueling
7 outage.

8 And then, as the outage comes closer, we
9 bring in more people. We hire from the local community.
10 These are Union jobs. We hire from the local Unions.
11 Some of them come in from other areas as travelers. In
12 2010, we peaked at 969 people, and had almost, just over
13 \$13 million in payroll. In 2011, this was a dual outage
14 year, we peaked at over 1,000 people, 1,053 people, and
15 our payroll was just over \$36 million.

16 In 2012, we had 848 people as a peak, \$16
17 million. And then, so far this year, we've peaked at 838
18 people and, again, just over \$16 million in payroll.
19 These are good jobs that go back into the community. So,
20 over the past three-and-a-half years, we have performed
21 1.1 million person hours of work activity at the station,
22 helping the station maintain and improve their equipment
23 there at the station. I want to tell you we support the
24 re-licensing of these plants. Thank you.

25 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Dave Kraft,

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1 Nuclear Energy Info. Service.

2 MR. KRAFT: Thank you for the opportunity
3 to speak. I'm Dave Kraft, director of Nuclear Energy
4 Information Service based in Chicago. We're a 32-year
5 old environmental organization that's been watch dogging
6 the nuclear power industry in Illinois during that
7 period. I actually wasn't planning on making comments
8 tonight, but hearing your comments sort of triggered some
9 thoughts that I wanted to share, particularly to the
10 community members.

11 The first question, though, I have is will
12 the slides be made available on the NRC website for
13 review?

14 MS. HAUSMAN: Yes.

15 MR. KRAFT: Okay, that's good. So the
16 first comment is very brief, and it's directed to the NRC
17 that you've heard many very positive statements about
18 what a positive impact Byron has had on the community here
19 over the years. The investment of the company in the
20 community. The generosity and the charity that has been
21 done by the workers. I guess I would just point out,
22 though, that this is a meeting about the environmental
23 impact statement.

24 And, as commendable as all of the good works
25 have been, and all the benefits that the company has

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1 provided to the community, I would remind the NRC that
2 it's actually irrelevant to the determination of whether
3 the facility will pass the environmental muster on this
4 plant. I don't have a position one way or another yet,
5 because I haven't seen all the details of the
6 application. But I did want to at least hone in on that
7 point, because it's only natural, it's only human that
8 a community would embrace the positives. And we're not
9 saying that there aren't any. There certainly are,
10 especially in a rural community such as you have out here.

11 But hearing as many comments as I did, I'm
12 reminded of the old Aesop fable of the grasshopper and
13 the ant. Kind of a paraphrasing of that would be, you
14 know, that when things are going great, you know, the
15 grasshopper can sit around and extol all the positive
16 benefits. But it's the ants who plan ahead that are the
17 ones who will survive any unexpected and unforeseen
18 circumstances that can occur.

19 And I bring that up, in particular, in a
20 community that depends as heavily as yours does on the
21 nuclear power plant. It's, essentially, a company town
22 situation. You know, for better or for worse, it is what
23 it is. But that doesn't mean that a community can't plan
24 ahead for things going wrong. And, I guess the comment
25 I would make is you really ought to.

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1 I saw what happened to the community of Zion
2 in 1997 when, back then it was ComEd decided to pull the
3 plug on the plant. That community lost \$5.5 million of
4 its tax base overnight. So I ask you, members of the
5 Chamber, and the bankers and the others to take a look
6 at what that would mean for the community of Byron to lose
7 a sizeable portion of its tax base should some unforeseen
8 circumstance result in the closure of the plant, either
9 temporarily or permanently.

10 It's up to the company sometimes, but it's
11 up to the NRC other times. So it's something to really
12 consider. And back in the late '90's when that did
13 occur, I spoke with some of the local legislators up there
14 that, perhaps, what might be needed, moving forward in
15 these kinds of situations where you have a company town,
16 is some sort of an economic mitigation fund. An escrowed
17 fund that could be negotiated between the company and the
18 communities to prevent a sudden and abrupt drop in tax
19 base and loss of service should something go wrong with
20 the plant.

21 I think that's something that is a part of
22 prudent planning, and I would suggest that that be
23 examined, both by the business community, and also the
24 elected officials around here. Because some day this
25 plant is going to close. Now, that may be out of your

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1 lifetime, so maybe you don't care about that. But again,
2 prudent planning and defense of the community, I think,
3 argue for some sort of softening of that blow. And
4 working out some sort of a way to make sure that the
5 communities aren't totally devastated by the loss of the
6 operation of the plant.

7 Another example would be the Clinton
8 facility. This was before ComEd got involved with it.
9 I don't know if any of you have ever been downstate to
10 see downtown Clinton. But the last time I was there, it
11 was pretty much a ghost town because of the problem that
12 Illinois Power at the time, and then AmerGen were having
13 at that facility. This is something you need to pay
14 attention to as a community to protect yourself. So,
15 that's the first comment.

16 Second comment is, again, I think addressed
17 to the NRC. I want to mention I have met many nuclear
18 workers at a lot of plants. A lot of times we don't
19 agree; most of the times, as a matter of fact. But I was
20 impressed over and over with some of the people I have
21 met, even here at Byron. Last year, I was at the annual
22 review. I was really impressed with the tenacity of
23 Barry Quigley, a member of the Byron staff. Really
24 hammering on a safety point that he thought was
25 important.

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1 I would really like to see more of that in
2 the nuclear industry, but I don't. And when I have seen
3 it in the past, the individuals who, perhaps, were
4 asserting themselves a little too strongly, didn't
5 always end up with, you know, being treated well. So,
6 I wanted to put that in the context of the notion of safety
7 culture. That shouldn't be a term unfamiliar to most of
8 you in the audience, especially those of you working at
9 the plant.

10 But I'm bringing it up because I heard it
11 a lot last year from Chuck Castro, the former Region III
12 director of NRC who just left. And also, from Allison
13 MacFarlane when I met with her last September in
14 Washington. That the notion of instilling a safety
15 culture is important to the Agency. Well, one of the
16 things we want to point out to the Agency is that
17 standards that are promulgated in a safety culture should
18 be a floor, not a ceiling.

19 They shouldn't be just, you know, a bunch
20 of check boxes where, if you do this kind of performance,
21 that's adequate. You know, that may be necessary, but
22 it's really not sufficient. And I'm saying that because
23 of the definition that Chuck Castro used at the Palisades
24 plant last year to define a safety culture from an NRC
25 slide. It was going beyond the standards. It was going

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1 beyond the mere expectations.

2 So this is what we are going to be looking
3 for in this process, both the environmental side and the
4 generic application, which will be filed for both Byron
5 and for Braidwood. And we would expect that if the NRC
6 is serious about safety culture, that they will take that
7 attitude that the standards that are set are just the
8 basis that you should do, and you should always aspire
9 to do more than that. So thank you for the opportunity.
10 Good night.

11 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Does anybody
12 else have any cards that are filled out, or have a
13 comment? Okay. I would like to thank everybody for
14 coming to the meeting, for the participation, for the
15 comments. And, any comments that were made tonight will
16 be available in the scoping summary report which will be
17 available publicly on the licensing renewal website.
18 And the address for that website was on the handout, or
19 in the slides.

20 And, if you have any future comments, please
21 provide them either electronically or in writing. And,
22 in closing, the NRC is always looking to improve the
23 public meeting format and process. So there are public
24 format feedback forms in the, I think they're right
25 outside the room here. You can fill them out, and

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1 they're postage paid, and you can send them back in. And
2 we do take all comments under advisement. And, if
3 there's nothing else, I will adjourn. Yes.

4 MR. MOREY: I just wanted to say thank you
5 for coming this evening. And if you have any questions,
6 you know, maybe you didn't feel like asking a question
7 during the question period. If you have a question for
8 the staff, we're going to hang around for, you know, a
9 few minutes if you want to come up and talk to us. So
10 thank you.

11 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you everyone. The
12 meeting is now adjourned.

13 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.)
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