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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARDS AT
DECOMMISSIONING REACTORS

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MEETING NEAR OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
ON THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INNOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

ACT (NEIMA) SECTION 108

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THURSDAY,

OCTOBER 3, 2019

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MANAHAWKIN, NEW JERSEY

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The public meeting occurred at the
Holiday Inn Manahawkin/Long Beach Island, located at
151 Route 72 West, at 6:00 p.m., Brett Klukan, Meeting
Facilitator, presiding.

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NRC STAFF:

BRETT KLUKAN, Meeting Facilitator

ZAHIRA CRUZ, Reactor Decommissioning Project Manager

TED SMITH, Reactor Decommissioning Project Manager

BRUCE WATSON, Reactor Decommissioning Branch Chief

PATRICIA HOLAHAN, Division Director, Division of

Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste

Programs

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CONTENTS

NRC Staff Introductions.....	4
Presentation of NEIMA Section 108.....	5
Introduction of Facilitator Klukan and Meeting Instructions, Questions and Answers.....	17
Feedback from Community Officials.....	27
Feedback and Questions from the Public.....	32
Closing.....	141

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P R O C E E D I N G S

6:03 p.m.

MR. WATSON: Okay. Good evening. Thank you for coming out. It seems like every time we have a public meeting here, at least the couple I've been to, it rains. And the last time it was a big downpour and so hopefully we won't get flooded out by any means.

Again, thank you for coming out. This meeting is very important to the NRC. We are here at the request of the Congress, who set up the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act.

And under Section 108, which my group is responsible for, my name is Bruce Watson. I'm Chief of the Reactor Decommissioning Branch at the NRC in Washington, D.C. or Rockville, Maryland. So I'm from the headquarters organization.

I have with me tonight Ted Smith, who is a Reactor Decommissioning Project Manager. Ted is overseeing a number of decommissioning, Connecticut Yankee, a number of research reactors. And so there are very complex material sites, such as the AR site in Michigan.

Also with me who will be sitting up here is Zahira Cruz. She is the current Project Manager

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for the decommissioning of Oyster Creek. And Zahira also has a number of other sites, Dresden 1, Peach Bottom and right now is pinch hitting for San Onofre right now with Marlayna out.

Any other NRC introductions? Trish?

MR. KLUKAN: Just go ahead and do that.

MS. HOLAHAN: I'm Trish Holahan. I'm the Division Director of the Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery and Waste Programs. And I'm glad you could all come out and give us your thoughts and ideas. And so these folks all work with me. So thank you very much.

MR. WATSON: So, as I said, we're here to talk about NEIMA Section 108, which is the best practices for Community Advisory Boards at decommissioning nuclear power plants.

The law, which was enacted, requires us to hold a minimum of 10 public meetings. There are certain criteria for those, including they had to be near a decommissioning plant and also have a request to have the meeting, two principle reasons.

This is our 10th of 11 meetings. So we've been at this for the last couple months actually. So we were in New York last night at Indian Point. And so this is Meeting Number 10, and we're

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very happy to be here.

I understand there was an Oyster Creek stakeholder information forum meeting last week or so. And that's run by, I guess, now Holtec, who used to be -- Exelon used to run it.

This morning your governor formed the Oyster Creek Safety Advisory Panel. I saw the press release on that. And I guess the composition of the panel is mainly state officials. So with that, we'll go ahead to the first slide.

Meeting safety procedures, make sure if the fire alarm goes off, we all promptly exit and go outside. Okay? It's raining out there. That's a good thing. Other than that, I can't think of any other, unless an emergency comes up, a medical emergency, we have the local police department here to help us with any assist on that.

Introductions, we've done those already for the NRC people. Then we're going to go into a short NRC presentation. I'm going to turn the meeting over to Brett our facilitator. He'll be running the meeting from then, and we'll be back here writing notes on what we hear. And just the bottom line here is we have to produce this report for the Congress.

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And Brett will be handling the public comment section. We have to be done at 9:00. If we get done earlier, great. But we have to be out by 9:00, and we will be out by 9:00 so the hotel can go back to normal.

So with that, go to the next slide, please. I just want to make sure everybody understands. Decommissioning is not new at the NRC. Our regulations have been in place since about 1997. They are what we call risk-informed and performance based.

The NRC has extensive decommissioning experience and someone asked me what did that mean? Well, in the United States we've decommissioned more nuclear power plants than the entire rest of the world combined.

We have completed 10 nuclear power plant decommissionings in this country. There are going to be four more by probably the middle of next year. So next year we expect we will be terminating licenses at the Zion 1 and 2 plants, the La Crosse plant and Humboldt Bay. So we have a total of 14, which is two or three times more than the rest of the world has done in decommissioning.

Along with those 10, we've also done

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about 70 complex material sites, or complex sites, which includes 18 research reactors and the rest of them were complex material sites, where radioactive material was used from the manufacturing process.

The key thing I want to point out is that all of these sites were released for unrestrictive use, meaning the owner of the property can use them for any purpose so the land can be reused for any reason.

I do want to point out though that 7 of those 10 power plants that have been decommissioned still have a spent fuel facility on them. And, of course, it's the national policy people, who have to come up with a resolution of that issue for the high level waste.

But the NRC does not require Community Advisory Boards for sites that are going to be unrestricted to re-release because after the license is terminated, we have no authority over the site since all the radioactive material is gone. Okay?

Now the dry fuel storage facilities will be still under license and will continue to be inspected. But the rest of the site will be available for use by the owner as they see fit along with the state and local communities, whatever permits they

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allow or zoning required.

So for that reason we don't -- that one reason, and there's others, why we don't require a Community Advisory Board for plant decommissioning.

Our regulations are very specific that if a site is to be released with restrictions, meaning there's residual radioactivity in excess of our limits, then we required them to engage the public and have something similar to a Community Advisory Board. So if the site is going to be cleaned up and it's in all the documents that they're going to go to unrestricted release, we don't require a Community Advisory Board.

Next slide, please. I thought I would just mention that some of the decommissioning experience here in New Jersey. This is the Stepan site up in Maywood New Jersey. It was designated for cleanup by the U.S. Corps of Engineers under what's called the Formerly Utilized Site Remediation Action Program, or FUSRAP. Some of you may have heard that word.

The NRC issued an order in 2008 to suspend our license to allow the Army Corps to do the cleanup work. They did the remediation work with their contractors. And there were a number of radioactive

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materials that were buried there, and they were all removed. All the radioactive materials were removed.

And so after the Army Corps of Engineers removed all the radioactivity and the licensee was able to show us that they met the unrestricted release criteria, we terminated the license. And so this was done in 2016.

So I just wanted to give you an example of where we had worked in the state to oversee a decommissioning project.

Next slide, please. So let's go talk about the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act. It was issued in January of this year by the Congress. And it basically says under Section 108 that the Commission shall submit to the Congress, meaning the NRC will write this report, a report identifying the best practices with respect to the establishment and operation of a local Community Advisory Board, or CAB, to foster communication and information exchange between a licensee, planning for and involved in decommissioning activities and members of the community that the decommissioning activities may affect, including lessons learned from such a board.

Now this is our tenth meeting. At some

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of those meetings, we actually had some of the previous CAB members come and provide us with information. So some of those 10 plants that I talked about did have CABs or sometimes they go by different names, citizens advisory panels. Sometimes they're called citizens engagement panels. But they all have pretty much the same purpose, which is sharing information between the licensee doing the decommissioning or the company doing the decommissioning and the general public.

So with that, we had people from the Maine Yankee, Vermont Yankee. We had some people that were also involved in the Yankee Row Project that have come to our meetings and provide us with information.

I do want to point out that the first CAB was Maine Yankee. There was a report published by the Electric Power Research Institute. It's publicly available. You might want to take a look at it.

It describes the CAB practices that went on at Maine Yankee. It was sponsored by Maine Yankee, the licensee. And it's available. It was considered by EPRI and the industry as a good practice to have a CAB.

So the NRC has encouraged that the licensees do have some kind of public engagement,

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meaning we'd like for them to have a citizens advisory board where there's an interest. I can tell you that at some places there is no interest by the public in the decommissioning to be perfectly honest with you. Some people just don't seem to care about it so.

With that, we published a Federal Register notice. We expect all comments to be into us by November 15. So you still got plenty of time to think about it and write your comments down and send them to us.

And you can do that through three ways. We have a website, which we will give you more information on. You can send them to the regulations.gov website or by letter or by email.

So let's talk about the Community Advisory Boards on the next slide. What is it? Well, it's an organized group of citizens interested in safe decommissioning practices and spent fuel management at a decommissioning facility.

The sponsor is usually a local licensee or mandated by the state legislature. The third type I can tell you right now is the group that's been formed at Indian Point, which is formed by the local community and some of their elected officials.

The composition typically includes local

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community leaders and elected officials, some state representatives and members of the licensee staff. It can include a number of different technical people, too, environmentalists, et cetera. Most CABs have a governing charter to establish roles and responsibilities.

Next slide, please. And what do they do? Well, the typical responsibilities are they will review the licensee's plans for decommissioning. They provide insight into potential impact on the local community, the opportunity for public education on decommissioning.

They can make recommendations to state officials, provide input on site restoration, what the site will look like when the decommissioning is completed, plans for future reuse of the site and, of course, address issues of economic development.

Next slide, please. So what does our report to Congress is going to look like? Well, the contents is going to include a description of CAB discussion topics, the CAB recommendations to inform decision-making processes during the decommissioning, CAB interactions with the Commission and other federally regulated bodies to support the board's members overall understanding of the decommissioning

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process and promote dialogue between the affected stakeholders and the licensees involved in decommissioning activities.

So how well the community interfaces with the NRC and other regulators is important to the Congress to hear about that. Also, how a CAB offer opportunities for public engagement through all phases of the decommissioning process.

Next slide, please. The CAB best practices, this report will have the CAB membership composition, the selection process for members and their terms of service to that board.

When the CAB was established and the frequency of the CAB meetings, it will include specific logistics required to support the CAB activities and any other identified best practices or activities.

And these topics are captured in a questionnaire. We had the questionnaire up here for you to take with you and you can fill it out. And we'll talk about that again. But there's a questionnaire there with similar questions that will help us feed the information into that report.

Next slide, please. So public comments, we're going to hear your public comments tonight.

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They're being transcribed tonight by, I think it's Dylan, right?

COURT REPORTER: Yes, sir.

MR. WATSON: Dylan is transcribing the meeting. The transcription will be made publicly available on our website so you can go back and read what you said.

PARTICIPANT: Is it recorded or is it --

MR. WATSON: It's being transcribed.

PARTICIPANT: So that's a court reporter?

MR. WATSON: Yes, yes. Okay? So it's being transcribed. It will be made publicly available so you will be able to see what was said at any of the meetings, all 11 of them. Okay?

You can fill out our questionnaire. And you can do it online and here's the website for getting there. And also you can submit the comments electronically to the federal rulemaking website. That's here but you've got to make sure you put the NRC docket number in order to find it on that large website because it has all of the government regulations in it for all the agencies.

You can scan the completed questionnaires, and you can email them to neima108.resource@nrc.gov or you can mail them to one

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of my project managers, Kim Conway, at this address at our headquarters.

I want to point out that we'll leave this slide pretty much up, but we also have these little cards with the same information on it so you have a convenient way to hold onto it.

Next slide, please. One way to get to our website, and the easiest way I know to do it, is go to our NRC public website, www.nrc.gov. And if you look on the opening page there, we have what we call the spotlight section on the left-hand side.

And the circle there is where it says Community Advisory Boards. If you click on that link, it will take you right to our website so it's pretty easy to get there. Okay.

Next slide, please. If you have any further questions, you can call our Office of Public Affairs and talk to Dave McIntyre. His phone number is here and, of course, you can reach him by email at neima108.resource@nrc.gov also.

Next slide, please. So let's summarize why we're here tonight. We're here to hear your comments on Community Advisory Boards. What you think the best practices are, what the experiences are here at Oyster Creek to help us complete this

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report to the Congress.

And so we are due to have this report written by next July. So we'll be finishing up our public meetings here in a couple more weeks and then we will start to work on looking at all the information that we received and putting it into a report to go to the Congress.

I want to reiterate that's the reason we're here tonight. The sole reason we are here tonight. I know a lot of you are passionate about a lot of different issues. But we're only here to hear about these specific issues.

I know you have a lot of concerns and other issues associated with the upcoming decommissioning at Oyster Creek, but this is the reason we're here. And some of the other topics may be at another public meeting. But we're going to try and keep it on subject on the information we need for writing this report.

This is what the Congress has mandated we do so we're going to fulfill that mandate and do the best job we can. So with that, I will turn it over to Brett. And Brett, do you want this? You got --

MR. KLUKAN: No, I'll use this one.
Thank you, Bruce. So, again, everyone, my name is

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Brett Klukan. I'll be the facilitator for the meeting tonight. I work in Region I and am the regional counsel there. Region 1, for those of you who don't know, is Mid-Atlantic states and New England.

Bruce already went through a lot of the logistics. So I'm not going to, you know, repeat those. I would just add onto to what Bruce said is that if, you know, you're welcome to use cameras. You're welcome to film it. You're welcome to take photos. Just be judicious with flash. That's all. And if you would be so kind as to silence your cell phones at this point if you haven't already done so.

As Bruce mentioned, we are transcribing the meeting. You will notice there's a separate little microphone here. That one goes to the transcriptionist. What I would ask is when you come up to the podium to speak that you please state your name and then if you wouldn't mind spelling it even, that really helps out the transcriptionist so he doesn't have to then figure out later on, I'm not sure what the appropriate spelling name of is. It just helps him out and makes his job easier. Okay.

All right. The order of speakers, how many do we have right now? Twenty. We're going to

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go in order. Once we're through elected officials, I will figure out how much time we have left and divvy that up duly across everyone who signed up to speak this evening. It will probably be around four to five minutes. We'll see where we're at once we get to that point.

You'll see a little countdown clock here. That will count down from five to, well, zero. And then at that time I will ask you to conclude. Again, you know, I don't like cutting anyone off. But for the sake of making sure that everyone gets an opportunity to speak tonight before, as Bruce mentioned, we will turn into a pumpkin at 9 o'clock. That's why we do the time limit.

And, again, what I'm going to do because I'm going to try to give everyone who signed up to speak an opportunity to do so, I am going to achieve it. I'm not going to try. I'm just going to go through in order. So instead of pulling them randomly out of the bucket, we're just going to go 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Okay. You all have ticket numbers. You should know what number you are. We're just going to go in order. But I'll have the list with me just to help out. Okay?

All right. A couple ground rules. I

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don't have any expectation that I will need to employ these tonight. But as a facilitator, I have two basic aims. One, to protect your time at the microphone. You took time out of your, you know, daily life to come here tonight to participate in this process, to have your say, and I want to protect that.

And then the other thing is to make sure that coupled with that that you have that opportunity. So what I would say to you is this is that please respect each other's time at the microphone. Don't talk over each other. Don't make commentary while someone else is speaking just as you wouldn't want to be interrupted yourself.

And then, again, I don't have any expectation this will occur, well, let me make it clear to at this point under no circumstances will threatening gestures or statements be tolerated at all.

If you engage in such behaviors, you will be immediately ejected from the meeting by the local law enforcement agents we have present with us this evening. If you feel that you have been threatened in some way, please let me know or let another NRC staff member or let the local law enforcement agents

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know so that we can handle the situation appropriately.

Okay. All right. Again, I already spoke about how the meeting is being transcribed. We're going through in order. Just to echo what Bruce said about the purpose of the meeting tonight, so Congress, just to put it bluntly, asked the NRC to write a report about best practices about the CAB. And as part of that, they said, also NRC, we want you to collect public comments and go out to the public and solicit what they think are those best practices. So this is that opportunity, one of the opportunities.

Granted, you can only submit them written. This isn't like an exclusive means of doing it. But Congress asked us to go out and conduct these meetings as part of that effort to collect public comment.

So the real purpose of tonight is to collect from you and solicit from you your thoughts about what should be the scope of CABs, who should sit on CABs, if we should pay for the CAB or whatever. It's called different things in different places. But that's really why we're here tonight to find out from you what you think should be on it.

So because of that, we don't normally

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have the technical staff with us as we normally do, for example, at an annual assessment meeting. So we're not really in a position to answer a lot of technical questions. And as such, we're going to defer those questions until after the meeting.

To the extent they relate to the CAB, the decommissioning, we may try to address those as part of the meeting tonight. But I just want you to recognize that we don't have the NRC staff we normally do given the different purpose of this meeting, which is really to hear from you and not so much to hear from us.

Now with that, before I turn it over to elected officials, I just wanted to see, are there any questions about the NEIMA process, about why we're here tonight and what we're going to do with comments or anything like that?

PARTICIPANT: Am I to understand that we're only going to be talking about the Community Advisory Board not some of the issues that we have around Holtec and what they're planning to do?

MR. KLUKAN: So what I would say is this, is that your time at the microphone is your own. You can use it in whatever way you see fit. The purpose of this meeting and why we're here and the opportunity

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you have available to you is to provide comments to the NRC about CABS.

So that was the purpose of the public meeting tonight. That's what we have staff here prepared to talk about. Again, we can try to answer questions after the meeting regarding technical concerns.

Again, I'm not going to -- if you want to spend your time at the microphone talking about other issues, that's your right. I'm not going to stop you. But really what we're here after are comments on the CABS. All right?

PARTICIPANT: So the NRC is not getting involved in the issues around the decommissioning of this plant.

MR. KLUKAN: Let me be clear. All right. So this is not to say that we're not involved in decommissioning. This is not to say that we're not involved in the oversight of decommissioning or Holtec decommissioning of the site. That is not what we're saying.

We're just saying this meeting, why we're here tonight, is for this purpose relating to CABS. Now you can bring up whether Holtec should be on the CAB or who should pay for it, any of the content

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related to that.

Again, you're free to talk about whatever you want to talk about during your time at the microphone. Granted, we would like you to bring up comments on the CAB, but, you know, it is what it is. But that isn't to say we're not involved in those things or the NRC doesn't continue to have an oversight capacity over Holtec in its decommissioning of the facility.

PARTICIPANT: It does not have a role?

MR. KLUKAN: We do have a role. We absolutely have a role.

PARTICIPANT: So are you going to have another meeting on that role?

MR. KLUKAN: So I'm not in a position to authorize that. As a facilitator for the meeting, that is something that I would suggest you write a comment to the NRC or use your time at the microphone to suggest that the NRC have more meetings about -- if you don't believe that we've adequately explained that purpose, then I would suggest you use your comments for that end.

PARTICIPANT: That's fine. I don't need a microphone. I just hope that you don't have any side bar conversations with other people. Like, this

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lady, I don't know her role, but if she has some concerns as a citizen, I definitely want to hear her at the podium.

And I don't want to hear where I have to listen to the personal conversations. It's important to know what's going on. We are people who live near this plant.

MR. KLUKAN: So I am not -- let me take a step back. I am not trying to complicate this or shut them down or tell you what you can and can't talk about. I'm just telling you we don't have -- we have a limited number of staff here to answer your technical questions. That's really about it given the purpose of this meeting is related to CABS.

So if you want to ask your questions at the podium, please feel free to do so. I'm not going to push you away from the podium to do that. Does that make sense? Does that answer your question?

PARTICIPANT: Not satisfactorily.

MR. KLUKAN: Okay. All right. We're going to go on. Does anyone else have a question before we move on? In the meetings we've done so far maybe I'm just doing a really bad job tonight of explaining this and I apologize. All right. We're going to -- oh, sure.

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PARTICIPANT: Can I have a prop, like a white board and a marker? I just -- no?

MR. KLUKAN: If you want it written --

PARTICIPANT: Oh, you don't have it. I was just wondering. I just want to -- okay. Thank you.

MR. KLUKAN: All right. No, we don't normally provide you props. So with that said we're going to move on to elected -- yes.

PARTICIPANT: I think the confusion that you're running into is it was kind of advertised that last week was Holtec, and they were talking about transitioning to the shutdown of the plant. And then you guys were to come here and basically add to that. And that would --

MR. KLUKAN: Who told you that?

PARTICIPANT: Holtec.

MR. KLUKAN: Okay.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. KLUKAN: All right. So here is what I'm going to say. We will do our best to answer your questions. I'm going to phrase it that way. So I can't promise you all the staff here can answer your questions. If you have questions, ask them. We'll do what we can. All right? I'm not trying to cheat

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anybody out of information tonight. All right?

So with that, let's move on to elected officials so we can get to your questions as soon as possible.

So with that, first off, I'd like to recognize Ms. Helen Fairweather from Senator Cory Booker's office. And then we also have with us Ben Giovine from Congressman Andy Kim's office. And you would like to give a prepared statement.

MR. GIOVINE: Good evening. This is a little -- I guess I'm addressing you, but I'm also addressing everyone else. No, okay. There you go. All right. Fair enough.

I first just want to -- well, first off my name is Ben Giovine. I'm the District Director for Congressman, Andy Kim, who represents the Third District, which obviously has Oyster Creek, in our District.

A little bit about myself, I'm born and raised here in Ocean County, born and raised in Tom's River. So I am very familiar with the Oyster Creek issue through my lifetime and now as an office where we're familiarizing ourselves with the decommissioning process.

So I first just want to thank everyone

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for coming out this evening to discuss these critical issues relating to the decommissioning of Oyster Creek. This is a very important opportunity to ensure voices are heard and the decommissioning process is done with the best interest of the community in mind.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the representatives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for coming tonight to hold this important meeting on the best practices for the establishment of the Community Advisory Boards.

And ensuring that the decommissioning of Oyster Creek is done with the best interests of our community in mind is a top priority for our office and will remain to be a top priority for our office.

I know there's several real concerns about how this process is moving forward. And it's very important that your voice is heard. We were encouraged that Governor Murphy yesterday established the Safety Advisory Panel for Oyster Creek. This is a welcome staff in overseeing this process. However, our main goal continues to be ensuring that the community feels safe and heard.

This discussion on the establishment of the Community Advisory Boards will be helpful to

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understanding the role these boards might play in bringing together key stakeholders in our area and discuss and share our concerns.

Our office is committed to ensuring that both Holtec and the NRC are accountable and accessible during decommissioning.

We will continue to advocate on behalf of our community during this process. And while the Congressman is unfortunately not able to be here this evening, our office is following this issue closely, and we will continue to work with our neighbors to raise concerns and gather facts.

I do want to say and I have some business cards -- personal business cards from myself this evening. If anyone needs one, please come and see me. But I also have information -- we did set up an email address specifically for Oyster Creek through the Congressman's office.

So that will be monitored by Laura Weaver, who is a field representative here in Ocean County who has really kind of taken point out of our office for Ocean as well as Nate Riggins who is our legislative correspondent in Washington. He will be kind of handling it through the DC end. And then I will be kind of coordinating efforts with Laura and

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Nate.

So that email address is kimoystercreek@mail.house.gov. Again, if you didn't catch it, I have, like 250 cards with that information as well as our Tom's River office number and our Washington, D.C. number.

And I understand tonight is really to kind of go over the CAB process and what a CAB looks like. But I guess, also, if other questions do come up, we'll make sure that we're staying in touch with the NRC to try to make sure that those questions that are not answered, we'll try to work with the NRC, work with Holtec to try to get that facilitated and try to follow-up as best we can with those as well.

So we understand that a lot of folks are here to discuss one issue. I know the NRC, it is very important for them to get the feedback that they need for the CABs. But if you have issues that we need to also address, I'll be here until 9 o'clock and gathering that information as well. So thank you very much. Thank you for letting me have time to speak.

(Applause.)

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. Are there any other representatives from federal

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congressional offices? Okay. Are there any representatives from tribes, Native American tribes, who would like to be seen and recognized at this time?

Okay. Any state level congressional offices who would like to be recognized or give prepared remarks at this time? Any local? I know, I'm going down the list. But I just want to make sure everyone gets their opportunity.

All right. And with that said, we're now going to turn it over to public comments. So we have, I think 22, 23? Twenty-three. So I'm going to give everyone four minutes to speak, all right. I mean, try to stick to that time. The reason for that is we'll just go through the list but -- yes, so we're going to go in order. It makes it faster instead of trying to pull numbers out of a hat or the bucket. All right? Sure, please. All right. As an elected official, correct?

MR. SINGH: As a candidate.

MR. KLUKAN: Okay.

MR. SINGH: I just want to let everyone know. My name is Hirsh Singh. I'm the Republican U.S. Senate candidate from New Jersey in 2020. I'm from Atlantic County. I care very deeply about this issue.

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And so as we're going to hear what everyone else is going to say today, as issues move forward, I will always make myself available. So it's a pleasure to meet you all. And hopefully things are handled the right way. Thank you.

MR. KLUKAN: All right. Thank you. So first off we're going to have James Devita. James Devita. So I'm just going to shout. This is your mic. And then this clock will start counting down. But it's a lot faster than making them --

MR. DEVITA: Thank you, Brett. James Devita, D-E-V-I-T-A. My wife and I live in Forked River. My son with his wife and the most important member of our family, my only grandchild, live in Tom's River.

My concern has to do with safety in this entire process, safety of what happens to these rods, storage, casks, transportation eventually, I imagine. What is the NRC -- are there any plans to periodically inspect the safety issues as the plant gets decommissioned?

How often perhaps will inspections occur? Who does the inspections? What are the qualifications of the people that do such safety inspections? And I get concerned with what happens

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if there's an oops, we dropped something. And I'd be curious to hear what the NRC plans are in that regard.

MR. WATSON: This is Bruce Watson. In decommissioning, we have -- when the plant is in operation, we have what we call the reactor oversight process. Soon after the plant is de-fueled, we transfer that inspection process over to Inspection Manual 2561, which is the reactor decommissioning inspection manual.

And it has about 40 procedures in it. You can go to our website and you can type in section manual chapters and you can find 2561 there and see all the different processes we follow.

The amount of inspections we do are going to be commensurate with the activities. So when there's a lot of activities going on at the site, we will be there to observe those activities.

So we don't keep someone there full-time, but we do have people there frequently. It could be once or twice a month. It could be once a quarter. And if the plant were to go into SAFSTOR, we would be there at minimum at least once a year to make sure the plant stays safe.

Those people that inspect plant come from

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our Region I office. The same people that inspected the plant in King of Prussia. And it's the same inspection.

The inspection programs are run out of our regional offices. The regional office is in King of Prussia Pennsylvania. It's the same people that inspected the plant when the plant was in operation. They are basically health physicists and other scientists that will continue to inspect the plants during decommissioning.

Inspections will go on to the very end. At the very end of decommissioning when Holtec tells us that they have cleaned up the site, our inspectors will be verifying all of the areas that they have remediated and cleaned up and decontaminated to verify that they meet our requirements.

We also use an independent contractor. Right now our contractor Oak Ridge Associated Universities. They are specialists that do radiation measurements and do the confirmatory surveys to verify, independently verify for us with our inspectors that the site has been cleaned up.

I mentioned maybe earlier that we had four plants that will be completing decommissioning. In August, we were doing confirmatory surveys at

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Humboldt Bay, and they were planting grass on the field where the plant was.

I think we're -- I think next week we're going to be at La Crosse to do the same thing. And then a few weeks later we're going to be at Zion with Oak Ridge Associated Universities to do the confirmatory surveys there.

So I think we have a comprehensive program to ensure that Holtec, or whoever the licensee is at whatever site it is, is that they're meeting the requirements for the residual activity levels that we allow and so to make sure the site is cleaned up and meets our standards.

And then once the license is terminated, we turn it over to the owner, the lower licensee, to do what they need to do with the plant or the cycle.

MR. DEVITA: Just a final comment or another question, are the results of these inspections made public?

MR. WATSON: All of our inspection reports are publicly available unless they deal with security or safeguards information. But any of the other inspections, routine inspections or decommissioning inspections, are made publicly available on our website.

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I think there's something you can sign up with LISTSERV to get them electronically sent to you. There's a system called LISTSERV. We can probably find that information for you. But all of them will be publicly available unless they pertain to specific security or safeguard issues.

MR. DEVITA: Can you just define safeguards for me? Security or safeguards?

MR. WATSON: It has to do with the fuel, the spent fuel. But not the canisters. Yes. Secret stuff.

MR. DEVITA: Secret?

MR. WATSON: Yes, yes.

PARTICIPANT: More secrets?

MR. WATSON: No, no. That was in jest. Proprietary information that isn't public. Okay? So it's important to the security of the public facility.

MR. KLUKAN: It's a level of classified information that would not be appropriate in the public domain.

PARTICIPANT: We cannot hear what you're saying.

MR. KLUKAN: It's a level of -- think of it like classified information, a step down from that. Okay. It's not officially classified, but it's like

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classified such that it would pose a danger if let out to the public.

MR. DEVITA: So if there was a breach in the safety of the public --

MR. WATSON: It would be no.

MR. DEVITA: That's not a safeguard that's particular to --

MR. WATSON: No, no, no, no. You're talking about a safety event.

MR. DEVITA: Got you. Okay. Very good.

MR. WATSON: Okay.

MR. DEVITA: Thanks, guys.

MR. WATSON: Okay.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. Next up is number 2. We only have two microphones. So I'm just going to have to shout. Next we have Wayne McMullin.

MR. MCMULLIN: Close enough. Wayne McMullin, M-C-M-U-L-L-I-N. In the NRC's experiences, what are the key strengths and weaknesses associated with a CAB?

MR. WATSON: Well, I think what the law says is that they are there to foster information exchange between the licensee and the public. And I think that's the real strength of a citizen advisory

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panel.

I'm hearing what the plans are so they can provide some advice or comment on them. If there's something you don't like about them, you're allowed to voice that complaint.

So I think that the real issue is the free flow of information. What the plans are, the public concerns about those so that the licensee can address them.

I'll give you an example. At Connecticut Yankee, the public was really concerned about truck traffic. If you're familiar with Connecticut, it had a lot of small winding roads and the only way to get the material out of the site was through a small community that had, you know, 25 mile speed limits.

So they arranged it so that the local law enforcement were on that road frequently and anybody that went 26 miles an hour got a ticket, which included the truck traffic from the site. And they also made arrangements to do the truck traffic at different times rather than when, you know, school buses and other things were around so.

MR. MCMULLIN: So the community action -

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MR. WATSON: Yes.

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MR. MCMULLIN: -- panel participated in that?

MR. WATSON: Right.

MR. MCMULLIN: Excellent.

MR. WATSON: Okay?

MR. WATSON: Thank you.

MR. WATSON: Mm-hmm.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. Next we have Stuart Feldman, number 3. And then after that we'll Arthur Ricciardi -- all right. You know who you are, good.

MR. FELDMAN: Stuart Feldman, F-E-L-D-M-A-N. I live in Forked River. My question is given your experience with CABs, have citizens been able to get detailed, timely information on the physical decommissioning activities and their cost?

MR. WATSON: My answer to that would be yes. Typically, the CABs meet frequently with the licensee. The licensee generally takes them on tours to show exactly what's going on in the plant so they can see it for themselves and the issues that they're dealing with in dismantling certain parts of the plants or whatever. It gives them lots of tours of the facility to verify what they're doing.

So, yes, there's a lot of interaction

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between the CAB because they are the conduit to the rest of the public. And generally, they want them to see what their plans are and what's going on at the plant and so they can, as we say, lay eyes on it and see it for yourself that these things are being managed.

MR. FELDMAN: Okay. I have another question. It seems to me that the CABs are -- it's up to the licensee to decide whether there's going to be a CAB. Am I correct in that? It doesn't sound like -- it definitely doesn't sound like it's a mandatory activity.

MR. WATSON: It's definitely not mandatory. As I said in my opening remark, we don't require them as a matter of regulation, but we do encourage them.

And so many licensees will go ahead and sponsor a CAB. And I think they're really good for the company to do that personally. But some of them are state legislated. The one in Vermont and the one in Massachusetts were created by the state legislature. Your governor has --

MR. FELDMAN: Murphy.

MR. WATSON: Yes. Well, he basically made the announcement today that he's forming a safety

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oversight committee is the way I read the press release. Some states have those also for plants that are in operation. But they are going to be focused on decommissioning safety apparently from what I read.

MR. FELDMAN: I guess my concern is that Holtec doesn't seem to be very interested in forming a CAB. And I was wondering, you know, what leverage do citizens have, you know, to form that board if the licensee is adamant about not having it?

MR. WATSON: Well, you can always go the route of letting your public officials know that you would like to have one. Maybe the state legislature will create one. That's one avenue. I know that's what they did in Massachusetts.

So, I mean, it's really up to the licensee whether they want to sponsor a panel or a board and have a charter for it and, you know, define what they're going to do and it's fully up to them. If not, maybe the state will do it.

Like I said, there's one in New York where the local mayor has formed one near the plant. And so they've got a charter, and I think they have 18 members. And it's a lot of the local community people on the board. And so they'd like their licensee to

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come talk to them so.

MR. FELDMAN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. I have a quick comment on the microphone before we go there. Keep coming up. So that was a great segue to -- if you, as Bruce has said, under current NRC regulations, we can't require a CAB. Okay?

However, you could submit a comment via this process and tell Congress that you think CABs are absolutely required. So this is just plug. And I'll do this periodically throughout the night for why you should submit comments to the process. All right. Sorry about that.

MR. FELDMAN: Thank you.

MR. RICCIARDI: Arthur Ricciardi, R-I-C-C-I-A-R-D-I. I'm from Forked River. And my question basically dovetails back on Stu's. Is there any capacity for the community, which has been denied a CAB, to go back to the NRC and get information on what is going on in decommissioning as an alternate avenue?

MR. WATSON: Yes. I'm trying to think of what's on our public website. I know we have frequently asked questions on decommissioning. I'm trying to remember what we had on CABs there.

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I know you can ask the different CABs what their charters are and how to form your own.

MR. RICCIARDI: I'm sorry. I may have misstated. If we are unable to get a CAB formed because of Holtec's reluctance or outright disdain -

MR. WATSON: Yes.

MR. RICCIARDI: -- is there an ability for we as a community to find out what activities are taking place by coming to the NRC?

MR. WATSON: We'll have public information on what we call LISTSERV.

MR. RICCIARDI: So inspection reports, email exchanges between us and --

MR. WATSON: Yes. On LISTSERV when you sign up for --

MR. RICCIARDI: -- financial information.

MR. WATSON: It's an electronic system where you sign up for it and you get -- she's shaking her head. She must know about it. So you get emails with everything that is publicly available when they come out. And so you can keep up on what's going at a particular site by signing up for that particular licensee.

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MR. RICCIARDI: Okay. Thank you.

MR. WATSON: Mm-hmm.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. Next up we have Ron Martyn and then Paul Dressler. So Ron Martyn, you're 5 and Paul Dressler, you're 6.

MR. MARTYN: My name is Ron Martyn, M-A-R-T-Y-N. I live in Forked City. We used to call it a river, but it's growing by leaps and bounds.

Well, I got to tell you, it's progressing now. Listen to the town farthest. This is the greatest growing town in the county.

Let's talk about the CAB. It's supposed to be a Community Advisory Board. It's disappointing that the NRC does not mandate the decommissioning agent to have one.

We went through a meeting last week and the host was Holtec. And Holtec, when asked the question, and of course, they're being very transparent with us. Those of you who attend the meetings, you just know the transparency. Okay. It worked.

So what they said, in a very condescending, arrogant manner is that we don't need one and we don't want one. Now we, as the citizens, are saying tough tarts on you, pal. We don't know

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anything about Holtec. To our knowledge they've never been the prime contractor in decommissioning.

So all we're asking for through their associate partner, SNC, is that the critical path method charts that they are using be available to us so that we can communicate. That's another word. It's a big word, big word. It's like transparency. So we can communicate with our fellow citizens and let them know the progress.

Now there are a couple of things in here that are kind of cute. One is we have high schools all over the county. And in one of the parts of the high school, we talk about STEM, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Wouldn't it be great if we could construct a model to follow the plant decommissioning and all of the engineering and science that goes into it and make a game, somewhat of a game of it. We have people in our community that would be willing to do that.

But the first obstacle we have is that the arrogance of a company does not feel that we the citizens need insight or a voice. Now we don't pretend to be experts, but we've read a whole hell of a lot of regulations put out by your agency. And

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they're good. It's good reading. I do it about four hours a day.

So when they say that they don't need it, I look to you to say they must have it. That's not a prerogative on their part. They're in our backyard. And looking at their business plan, the first forecast we saw of expenses, when they calculated all of their expenses, it came up to about \$700 million.

When we look at the NDT, it's about a billion. That chunk in the middle is a nice piece of change. What happens to the town, that's a whole other story. But the emphasis is on having an advisory board to work in concert with them to communicate to the town the progress or their lack thereof so that everyone is on the same page and there is no mystery in the stuff called radioactivity. And there really isn't. There are safeguards. Is that my --

MR. WATSON: That's your beep, yes.

MR. MARTYN: Am I going to get hooked? I'm just getting warmed up. Can I come back?

PARTICIPANT: Finish your thoughts.

MR. KLUKAN: Finish your thought. I'm not going to kick you out.

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MR. MARTYN: Well, you just buzzed it out of me. So I'll have to start all over again. So the thing that we really want to have is the transparency that everyone talks about. Ad nauseam we heard we're transparent. We're transparent. Bologna. Look, they're not transparent.

They've got more damned walls around that place than in the whole process. The process is not secret. If we read enough of your manuals, we know what the hell is going on. But we want to know what is actually going on, forecast against budget, delta differences, where they are in relation to the plan.

Are they going to do it on time? They've collapsed the 40 to 60 year program into 10 years. Okay. That's fine. But let us know what's happening. And we need a voice in it. We need an eye in it.

And it's gone beyond from asking. It's to the point of where we the citizens are getting pretty damned tired of the arrogance of the particular corporation that's a newbie. That's the great question. So thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. Next up is Mr. Dressler.

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MR. WATSON: I was going to comment one thing.

MR. KLUKAN: Of course.

MR. WATSON: And that is all of the plants that have been decommissioned thus far, have decided they were going to decommission, have been done in 7 to 10 years. So that's a reasonable schedule, a safe schedule. Okay. So whatever their schedule is, if they're talking 8 to 10 years, that's a good schedule for a plant. Okay?

Let me answer this question. The rule in the NRC is they have to complete decommissioning within 60 years. So most plants can sit there for 50 years and allow the radioactive decay to happen, which means the radiation dose rates will be about 1 percent of what they were when the plant shut down. So the plant can sit there and a lot of the radiation will go away. Okay?

And then you have about 10 years after 50 years of that decay to decommission the plant. So that's the reason for 60 years. It makes it safer for the workers, not so much radiation work and lower doses so. So that's the reason.

So 60 years means you've got to complete it by then. But you can do it from the beginning and

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start from right to when the plant shuts down and do it in about 7 to 10.

PARTICIPANT: Is it safe for the workers?

MR. WATSON: It's safe for the workers. Yes. It is absolutely safe for the workers to decommission the plant right from the beginning.

PARTICIPANT: But you just said that --

MR. WATSON: It makes it, yes, I said it reduces the dose but not -- it's still safe.

PARTICIPANT: And how long ago were these done? A year ago, three years ago? So you don't know the effects.

MR. WATSON: You're talking about the effects of the radiation?

PARTICIPANT: The ones that have been decommissioned within 7 to 10 years.

MR. WATSON: Well, all 10 in the 1990s and also the four that are being completed this coming year have all been done in 7 to 10 years once they decide to do it. Okay?

MR. KLUKAN: Okay, Mr. Dressler.

MR. WATSON: Sorry, Mr. Dressler. Sorry.

MR. DRESSLER: Paul Dressler, D-R-E-S-S-L-E-R, Concerned Citizens of Lacey Coalition. I was

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going to talk about items that we've requested since last November and through January asking questions. But I'll just bypass that and just get the questions to Bruce when we're done and just talk about the CAB.

It sounds like in your presentation what you expect a CAB to be is what our concerned citizens want, basically the creation of a panel that will provide checks and balances through enhanced transparency in an otherwise decommissioned process that's controlled almost exclusively by the corporate owner, Holtec.

As you feel, we feel the panel will assist in the financial well-being, health and safety of families, the sensitivity to our ocean coastal environment and preserving the aesthetic appeal and character of our community in light of the decommissioning of Oyster Creek going on. The CAB further will allow for communication and public education in the community.

Secondly, in August of this year, the Office of the Inspector General did an audit of the NRC's transition process for decommissioning power reactors. And just some examples in there, they noted that the NRC process could be more efficient, resulting in less cost through the overall process.

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And also in a recent history section starting in 2003 to 2014, five power reactors permanently ceased operations. Four were unexpected and involved little preplanning. So that's a plus that probably needs to happen with this.

In a learned lesson report, it was noted that decommissioning guidance is outdated. And according to the NRC's office director, there's a talent crisis with the NRC officials retiring so something needs to be done here.

And the last of the recommendations, throughout the audit the orders considered the possibility of fraud, waste and abuse of the product. My question is, is this being used by the NRC and is anything being done by the decommissioning owners?

MR. WATSON: I was focusing on the first part of what you were talking about. Yes, we had an audit by the NRC's Office of the Inspector General. All government agencies have an Inspector General. You hear about them on the news all the time, right?

But we have our own, and they do audits of different areas. They chose to do an audit of our decommission transitioning, from when a plant shuts down until when it enters decommissioning.

So what they cite is that it could be

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more efficient. Okay? We put together some rulemaking to make it more efficient. We submitted that to the Commission in May of last year for their vote. We're still waiting on the Commission to act.

So the staff has put together all of the changes in the regulations to make it more efficient for a plant to go from operation to decommissioning with minimal requirements on us for them to submit amendments or exemptions to the staff to act on.

It's just an efficiency thing. It is not a safety issue. So they're saying it could be more efficient. We agree with them. I'm the one who chaired the lessons learned report at the NRC. And that report is fairly lengthy.

We examined all of the issues we had from the plants that shut down in 2013. The first one was Kewaunee. They announced that they were shutting down in, I believe, the winter, January of 2013 and they shut down in May. So there was no opportunity for any planning by anybody.

There were two other plants, three other plants, San Onofre 2 and 3 and Crystal River, which had engineering issues. San Onofre had issues with the steam generators. It's pretty well known. And Crystal River has a containment, which they damaged

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and they were trying to repair it for years. And then they came to the conclusion, never mind. We're just going to decommission it. So there was no planning involved in those.

So those were the key ones where there was very little planning done. But the other plants that have shut down since then, Fort Calhoun, Vermont Yankee, they were able to do some advanced licensing work to plan for the decommissioning. And so, yes, it could be much more efficient if we ever -- if the Commission will grant the rules that we recommended. So that's the IT report in a nutshell and the basis for it.

MR. DRESSLER: Okay. And last thing, again, it seems like you have or want a CAB to be -- our concerned citizens want and we've actually got a straw dog draft we'd like to submit --

MR. WATSON: Mm-hmm.

MR. DRESSLER: -- as far as stuff, just for you to consider.

MR. WATSON: Sure.

MR. DRESSLER: And it basically will talk about the wants of the public.

MR. WATSON: Okay.

MR. DRESSLER: All right.

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MR. WATSON: Yes, thank you.

MR. DRESSLER: Okay. Thanks for your time.

MR. KLUKAN: And we'll add that and post it online along with the transcript. All right? And whatever you submit to us will go up with the transcript. All right. Next up we have Mr. Philip San Filippo and then Ms. Madeline -- it's either Nato or Noto.

MS. NOTO: Noto.

MR. KLUKAN: Noto to follow.

MR. SAN FILIPPO: My name is Philip San Filippo, S-A-N capital F-I-L-I-P-P-O. I wanted to read something that I have here.

Public confidence was shaken at last week's community meeting hosted by Holtec International, Inc. when members of multiple unions charged that the company was hiring most lower skilled workers to save money.

When the Exelon deal to sell the closed plant to Holtec was first announced, there was a chorus of concern voiced by environmental and community groups. An area of trepidation was whether the company would cut safety corners in favor of a speedy decommissioning and cost savings.

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My question here is who oversees this? Would it be someone like OSHA or would it be the NRC?

MR. WATSON: The requirement from the NRC is that all the workers are trained and qualified to do the jobs. And that means mainly to work with radiation and radioactive materials.

As far as the actual skillsets that they have, it's to the company's advantage, I'll say, to hire people that are skilled to do the job because they're paying for them so. But we don't get involved in the labor issues. But the people who do the work have to be trained to perform the work safely.

Secondly, I'll say that the NRC has a memorandum of understanding with OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, for our inspectors. We'll look at safety issues. And if we feel that we need to have the experts come in, we will send them a consultation letter, and they are responsible to come and start inspecting the plant also.

MR. SAN FILIPPO: The point that the union members were making was that they had 15 to 25 years' experience. And these were laborers that were being trained that might only have one or two years' experience. So when they are decommissioning, how

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will that be inspected?

MR. WATSON: The actual workers, we will make sure they are trained to do the job. Okay? As far as the experience factor, we don't regulate that so.

MR. SAN FILIPPO: Lower skilled labor can now be added to the growing list of safety concerns that includes the long-term viability of thin wall Holtec casks, instrumentation to measure and monitor possible future radiation leaks, the company's complex limited liability structure where the casks are transportable and NRC citation concerning the company's casks at the San Onofre plant in California. Is that a true fact?

MR. WATSON: The casks are -- it's not my area of expertise so maybe I shouldn't answer it. But I will tell you that we did take enforcement action in San Onofre over some of the issues with the loading of the casks.

And so they are still safe, but we did take enforcement action to get the owner, Southern California Edison, to beef up their procedures and their surveillance of the loading of those casks.

MR. SAN FILIPPO: I just have one more question just to run through it. The NRC had cited

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the company for altering its cask design without notifying the agency.

Holtec reportedly was given a lessons learned assessment and not fined. The San Onofre Nuclear Plant, which closed in 2013, is owned by Southern California Edison, which contracted the decommissioning work out to Holtec.

In August 2018, a whistleblower publicly stated that a stainless steel cannister holding almost 50 pounds of highly radioactive spent fuel had been left dangling 18 feet above ground for almost an hour before operators noticed it had not been properly loaded into the cask. Is that a factual statement?

MR. WATSON: I don't know where you're reading from, but you can get our inspection reports and find out exactly what our inspectors observed and documented. There's been lots of different stories circulated around the internet and in the newspapers. And I think you really should go back and look at our inspection reports. They will be available on our website.

MR. SAN FILIPPO: Thank you.

MR. KLUKAN: Bruce, there was a request that you just hold the microphone a little closer.

MR. WATSON: Closer? You know, like last

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month. Okay.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much for your comments. Madeline Noto is next up and then she will be followed by Sally Gellert.

MS. NOTO: My name is Madeline Noto, N-O-T-O, and I live in Forked River. We're aware that there is a decommissioning trust fund. Does the NRC monitor the budget and time spent on the work that's being done there? Does anybody look at that? Does anybody pay attention to that so that we know where that trust fund is going? Does that information get disseminated to us at any point in time?

MR. WATSON: The answer is yes. As a matter of fact, once the plant is in decommissioning, the licensee is required to report to us annually by March of the following year what the status of the decommissioning fund is for the last calendar year.

So every year we get an updated decommissioning funding report where they have to tell us how much was in the fund, how much interest was made on it, how much was spent.

And then we take that information and assess the work that was done at the site. We have an inspection procedure in one of the inspection manual chapters in 2561 where the inspectors will

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take a look at that periodically.

We are revisiting that. I can tell you that right now. And Ted here is actually chairing a task force to look at how we conduct those inspections right now as a means to hopefully improve that process. But we do look at it every year.

MS. NOTO: Does any of it get made public? Like, can we see that as just regular citizens?

MR. WATSON: Yes. The annual reports are public information and our analysis. And if we have questions on it, those are public.

MS. NOTO: Okay. Thank you.

MR. WATSON: Thank you.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. Again next up is Ms. Gellert. She is being followed by Lynn Macoun, number 11. Okay.

MR. WATSON: Welcome back.

MS. GELLERT: Thank you. Okay. All the stuff I didn't get to say last night. Regarding that whistleblower situation, I have a video from a congressional debriefing -- Sally Gellert, G-E-L-L-E-R-T, of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

There was a decommissioning congressional briefing in May of last year. There is a video of

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about 13 minutes of Admiral Len Hering talking about that whistleblower situation at San Onofre and other stories of what goes wrong.

I'm a member of numerous groups, most relevant Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, United for Clean Energy, the Stony Point Convergence and the National Decommissioning Working Group, which sponsored that briefing I mentioned.

However, I'm speaking for myself alone, not for any group or organization. Regarding the questions that the NRC is considering, here are some thoughts.

We, and when I say we, I am reflecting the opinions of those who drafted decisions oversight board legislation that is either soon to be introduced or recently introduced in the New York legislature, which we hope will be a model for sites across the country.

We believe that the COB, the Citizens Oversight Board, should be created by the state legislature to represent the local community.

The enabling legislation establishes the criteria for membership, including union workers from the plant, representatives from environmental groups with 10 years' experience, residents within 25 miles

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of the facility, et cetera, excluding anyone with a financial and fiscal or other relationship with the licensee. It sets a budget for administrative work, including a website for public information and for consulting independent experts.

We do not support the use of decommissioning trust funds for the COB. We are concerned there will be sufficient funds to do the job properly. The funding for the COB should come from the federal or state government, not the communities who will continue to be burdened with radioactive waste for the foreseeable future.

Certainly, the COB should be informed of any abnormal events. Failing that, they are not a true partner in the process that so significantly affects their community.

As a partner, they should have access to site records. Why not unless the decommissioning company is hiding something? And sadly Holtec's record of honesty and transparency, as we have heard, is far from pristine between investigations by the EPA and our state into their decision to locate to Camden, the Canadian scandals with partner SNC-Lavalin. There's no reason to trust this company.

As Mary Ann Clemente said in a recent

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meeting here in the county, Holtec being completely in charge would be the fox guarding the hen house. And experience with the NRC's ruling by exemption does not leave us much more confident.

Although a COB would have limited authority, it has a vital role as a communicator both in monitoring and reporting ongoing process to the public and is an entity that can alert legislatures and others of concerns about abnormal events or potential corner cutting.

Every decision that's made has an effect that can't be reversed. So the community needs to be in on every decision that's made. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. KLUKAN: Again, next up we have number 11 and then number 12. Do we have number 12 here? Do you know who you are? All right. Great. Fantastic. All right. Please.

MS. MACOUN: Hi. My name is Lynn Macoun, M-A-C-O-U-N, and I live in Forked River. And my question pertains to the storage --

PARTICIPANT: Get closer to the microphone.

MS. MACOUN: Okay.

MR. KLUKAN: You can hold it, too, if you

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would like.

MS. MACOUN: Okay. My understanding is that they are going to have storage on six acres on the property that they're going to be storing the casks. And you had mentioned that on some of the sites that have already been decommissioned they are also storing it.

Do you have any ruling over those casks that are being stored on those properties or are you washing your hands of the whole affair once they have torn down the building and re-developed the property?

MR. WATSON: No. The actual footprint that's left behind --

MS. MACOUN: Mm-hmm.

MR. WATSON: -- where the spent fuel is stored is a very small percentage of the overall site. They're saying six acres. I don't know --

MS. MACOUN: Mm-hmm. That's what they said in the meeting last night.

MR. WATSON: That's probably reasonable because you've got to include the security around it and all that.

MS. MACOUN: Right.

MR. WATSON: But I really don't want to get into the security issues. But they are manned

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24/7 --

MS. MACOUN: Mm-hmm.

MR. WATSON: -- by a full-time security force. The NRC continues to inspect not only the casks and the facility but also the security program that's associated with protecting those and securing those casks.

I think the other thing I want to point out is the NRC licenses those casks to hold that material.

MS. MACOUN: Okay.

MR. WATSON: Okay? So there's certain design criteria they have to meet and, of course, they have to be loaded with approved procedures for loading the fuel into them.

And that includes welding the seal on them and all of that, inerting the insides of them, et cetera. So it's an elaborate process, but it is done in accordance with the license.

MS. MACOUN: Mm-hmm.

MR. WATSON: Sometimes we see it referred to as a Certificate of Compliance.

MS. MACOUN: Right.

MR. WATSON: COC is what it's commonly known as. But it is a license for the casks

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themselves, the design and how they're supposed to be used.

MS. MACOUN: Okay. Now they also said in the meeting last week is that this was temporary. How temporary is that? Is it typical, like the Garden State Parkway?

MR. WATSON: I was --

MS. MACOUN: It was temporary to have tolls when it was first built, you know?

MR. WATSON: I used to live here back in the day. I understand the argument on the Garden State Parkway, paying the tolls. And it used to be that every five miles you stop and had to put a quarter in or something, right?

MS. MACOUN: Yes.

MR. WATSON: Yes, it was a great system. But we really can't predict when the fuel is going to be removed. It's the responsibility of our national policymakers to solve the problem. They've been promising it for a long time.

MS. MACOUN: Mm-hmm.

MR. WATSON: So I would encourage your national policymakers to say we need this addressed and see what they can do about solving the problem.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you --

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(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. TUCKER: I wanted my white board. I wanted my white board. My name is Gary Tucker. I live in Port Republic now, but I grew up in Barnegat. I grew up there in the '60s. There was 300 people there when I grew up and Forked River was actually smaller than Barnegat. A lot smaller. That's why they put Oyster Creek there. There wasn't a lot of people there. Us Pineys, clam diggers -- that's all we were. So here we go.

My dad worked on the plant and he -- when he built -- when they built it. I worked in nuclear power for 27 years. I maintained Oyster Creek, Hope Creek, Salem One, Salem Unit Two, Three Mile Unit One and -- I forget which plant -- at Limerick. So that is my history in nuclear power. I've also been a member of Millwrights Local 715 for 46 years. So I have been trained to use micrometers, to use depth mics, to use plasma cutters, to use detensioning tools, tensioning tools for turbines, special rigging. All of these things are going to have to happen when they dismantle this plant. And if they're going to use heavy construction laborers, who goes down the road and sees guys holding shovels looking in the hole? You can see a construction site

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on the road -- that's who we're talking about is going to go into this plant. In fact, I know a young lady who is getting a job with 172 heavy construction laborers -- right now she's a bartender, all right? Kind of scares the hell out of me. Scares the hell out of me for them because they might get hurt industrially. And then they also might get -- if they're going into the --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. TUCKER: This is really contaminated, maybe. Bad news. And I don't want to see people get hurt. And it's bad for the public, too. It's bad for Holtec and it's bad for SNC-Lavalin. And Lavalin, believe it or not, has had a lot of experience in decommissioning. They've done the Magnox reactors in England. And right now, in Canada, the Candu reactors, they rebuilt them. They're not like us. They actually use the structures and -- and re-do these reactors. I think -- is that correct?

MR. WATSON: For the most part, yes. They just refurbish them.

MR. TUCKER: Yes.

MR. WATSON: But they do decommission them, though. Eventually.

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MR. TUCKER: Thank you. So I -- I follow the nuclear things around the world. I'm retired now, so I am still interested in the business. And I've learned a lot of things in the last year about nuclear power. In fact, nuclear power is the future. It is going to take some time. We'll probably be at the end of this, America, because the rest of the world is going to go to molten salt reactors. And they can put them -- they don't need water for them. So -- all right, let me get --

(Pause.)

MR. TUCKER: I guess is a passion for me about this, because I -- I worked there so many years, you know. I have 23 rem lifetime -- that's 23,000 millirem. And in the beginning, when I worked in the plant, it was extremely filthy. It was one of the most filthiest plants in the United States. It means -- that means the radiation levels were high, the contamination levels were very high. All right -- it's better now. The whole industry is better. I have seen it come from one point to a much better situation. But I guess at the end, the prep work is who's better at maintaining a plant for 60 years safely, are no longer any good. And I think it's because of the dollar situation. That's all it is.

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And that's a shame. I just hope nobody gets hurt. I hope they don't drop some -- like the journals for the turbines are 190 tons. You have to be specially trained to rig them out loose -- out of those saddles. So -- I don't know if they go in there with sledge hammers and shovels -- I don't know what they're doing. But -- and like Bruce was saying, we are specially trained. I know when I was doing primary work, which is a reactor work, you have to be specially trained. You do mockup training, especially on RCP seals, on recirculating pumps. I was also on an MOV type -- which is the valves for them -- the motorized valves on the valves. And you have to be trained for that stuff. And you've got to be specifically trained in the nuclear business. Not just -- you know, I had craft training for four years, and two years as a welder. But then when I went into the nuclear business, I got trained more. Years of training. And thank you so much for letting me talk.

(Applause.)

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you. Okay, next up we have number 13. And then number 14, Mr. Rone? Okay.

MS. HOULE: My name is Peg Houle. I am

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a Barnegat resident, 10 Rockland Street. But I am also a candidate for Barnegat Township Committee. I have several questions and a couple of statements. First of all, I find it appalling that not one local municipality official is here at this meeting. Barnegat has not shown up at any of the meetings held regarding Oyster Creek. We are 4.5 miles away from Oyster Creek, which puts us in the risk zone. You might say the high risk zone.

Also, I have a question for Mr. Watson. If Holtec will not sponsor a CAB, who absorbs the cost of that? Question number two, how can the CAB be assured if Holtec is not sponsoring them, that they will have access to Oyster Creek? Number three, who does the NRC report to? In other words, you said that we need to go to the decision makers in order to mandate a path. I have no doubt in my mind that a CAB should be mandated -- and frankly, I am kind of surprised that our government does not mandate one. Those are my questions. Thank you.

(Pause.)

MR. WATSON: Your first question, who covers the cost of a CAB? Most CABs are volunteers. There's -- the utility or the state absorbs the state for writing the reports, or providing reports -- or

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whatever they require. But I think maybe some of them may compensate some of their members for travel costs. Like in -- I think Massachusetts does, but that's about it. But the actual -- the actual administrative costs are -- are -- unless there's some report or something that the utility finds, they would -- would provide that.

MS. HOULE: At the last two meetings, Holtec made very clear that they were not going to spend any money for a CAB, which seemed to imply that there were costs associated with it beyond the volunteers. We know as community members, we will volunteer our time, right? To make sure this gets done properly. But, why was Holtec --

MR. WATSON: I -- I can't answer for them. I can't -- I can't answer for Holtec or any other licensee.

MS. HOULE: Okay.

MR. WATSON: I can only tell you that -- they are -- they are obviously spending the time, and which costs them some resources -- to have the -- what do they call it? Stakeholder engagement panel, or whatever they have. So it does cost them some -- some time and effort from -- for labor costs for their people to support that.

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(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. HOULE: Salaries for people to talk to us?

MR. WATSON: Yes, yes, yes. The other thing you said was, how do you have access? Obviously the -- the licensee would have to grant that access and allow you to go in and look at the plant. And then I guess, last would be who does the NRC work for? We're a executive branch agency. We report to the president. And -- obviously we work -- since we are a government agency, we work for the public. But -- yes.

MS. HOULE: So in addition to filling out the questionnaire, is there anybody else we should contact directly to ensure that mandated CAB gets --

MR. WATSON: You could talk to your elected officials, yes.

MS. HOULE: Okay.

MR. WATSON: Yes, I mean -- we -- it's one recommendation we're hearing, you know, but -- it will be --

MS. HOULE: Okay.

MR. WATSON: It will -- you know, we have to digest how we handle all the comments and what the recommendations we hear from the public are. That's

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why we have to go and collect all those data and put it together and put the report together.

MS. HOULE: The question regarding access, if Holtec is not a willing -- as a licensee, not a willing participant in the CAB process, how -- how are we going to get -- how are we going to get access?

PARTICIPANT: Are you responsible -- do we report that to you?

MR. WATSON: Please, we've got to speak into the microphone so it gets recorded.

MS. HOULE: So would you -- if the CAB is formed --

MR. WATSON: So, if there's certain security requirements to enter a -- and training requirements to enter into a radiological control area, such as a nuclear power plant.

MS. HOULE: Right.

MR. WATSON: They would have to provide that training and grant you access to come. They would have an established a need for you to be there. And just because you're a member of the public and want to be there -- or a CAB that's not recognized by them -- they don't have to let you in.

MS. HOULE: Oh my God.

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(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: They didn't -- with -- let me -- let me -- access to information, or access to physically go in to visit?

MS. HOULE: Both.

MR. WATSON: Okay, yes. To go visit, you'd have to get their permission. To get information, you may be able to get that from them. Yes.

MS. HOULE: Thank you.

PARTICIPANT: Even though you're funding the project?

MR. KLUKAN: Okay, so quick interjection. I will -- just give me one minute. Not even that. So again, at all the -- the ones that I've facilitated -- I've facilitated about half of them so far. San Onofre, the ones in New England, in Indian Point last night -- this issue has come up, about who funds it? Who pays for stuff? You know, again, I am going to point you back -- this is my second reminder -- if you think someone else should pay for something -- or some particular party should pay for something, submit a comment to the NRC to that effect.

All right, I just wanted to -- why I am really interjecting is we have two assembly persons

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with us who just joined us and I wanted to recognize their presence. We have Assemblyman Brian Rumpf of the 9th District of the New Jersey Legislature General Assembly. And then we have DiAnne Gove, Assemblywoman also of the 9th District of the New Jersey Legislature General Assembly. So thank you for attending.

(Applause.)

MR. RONE: All right, my name is Arthur Rone, R-O-N-E. I am a resident of Lacey. My experience is that I worked at Oyster Creek for over 30 years. I was vice president of Engineering for GP Nuclear. I was a licensed senior reactor operator -- involved in many of the engineering activities and detailed construction activities over the course of its lifetime. So I -- I come with a deep knowledge of the plant, its structures and some of the risks associated with decommissioning.

But having said all that, this whole decommissioning process is being treated as a black box -- or at least it appears that way to the residents of Ocean County, and particularly those in Lacey. We had originally wanted a public hearing on the transfer of the license. That never happened. We've asked Holtec -- I asked Holtec. I asked Jeff

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Dostal directly whether or not they would support a CAB. If all of the issues that they had identified were corrected, would they then support it? And his answer was no, Holtec would not.

So, being a trusting person, I wonder why can't I trust these people? If they're trying to hide something by not allowing us access to basic information, why not? We provide actually a resource for them to reduce costs because we've offered to be a conduit to communicate what's happening at the plant to the community. That's expenses that they don't have to undertake. So why is it that Holtec doesn't want us to do that? They don't want to have any part of the CAB.

So having said all that, we rely on independent inspectors and NRC Bureau of Nuclear Engineering. We know we can get access to the NRC reports, but I am not sure about the BNE reports. Bureau of Nuclear Engineering -- they have people on site. We've got a couple of the engineers here who were on site -- like Paul Schwartz. And there's another woman over on the side there.

MR. WATSON: I am not familiar with that.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. RONE: Okay well, nevertheless, they

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provide significant on-site observation of work activities, they write their own reports. And in addition to the NRC reports, we'd also like to have access to the state BNE reports. And if there's any other inspections that are done -- OSHA inspections -- we'd like to have those as well.

So, for the CAB to function, we need to have information about what's going to happen at the site. Holtec has said they're not intending to support the CAB, but you are able -- the NRC is able to get this information in order to do your regulatory duties. So could the NRC be a conduit of the planned activities -- before they occur -- to the CAB such that we know in advance, outside of Holtec providing information, what's likely to occur? Is that something that's -- that's feasible or reasonable?

(Pause.)

MR. WATSON: That's a -- I guess, a different request than I've heard. It's not our job to advertise what the licensee is going to do except for the planned activities that we might cover in an inspection report. They may tell us in the annual report that -- what their activities are planned for the following year -- maybe in the Decommissioning Trust Fund -- but most of the time they don't. But

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we do have frequent calls with them to make sure that we're -- what the activities are there so our inspectors can be there to inspect specific activities.

MR. RONE: Okay, so you have knowledge of that then, right?

MR. WATSON: Yes, but I am just saying, I don't know that we have -- we're just not geared for that type of public information.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. RONE: Well this -- this is fairly -

-

MR. WATSON: No, we've got to be careful here. We're -- we're -- we're the independent safety regulator. We're not, you know, the spokesperson for the utility. That's what we can't be, you know, so --

MR. RONE: We certainly wouldn't be asking you to do that -- to be spokesman for them.

MR. WATSON: I mean, it's an interesting question. So we're going to have to think about that, okay?

MR. RONE: Okay. Well, we -- how would we get the answer to that question?

(Laughter.)

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MR. KULAK: So what -- you treat this as a suggestion for as -- what I heard, and hopefully the transcriptionist is picking me up -- is we would treat this -- as the NRC acts as a conduit to the CAB. Meaning we have some kind of NRC person there. Some kind of liaison who would then act as a go-between, or some kind of member of the CAB to do various defined functions. What I would suggest -- is you take what you've said as a suggestion for how to raise a comment to the -- best practice. And so we'll incorporate that into out -- do you get what I am saying? The -- the report.

So we don't currently function in that role. We're not defined to function in that role. What I'm hearing is you're offering a suggestion for what you think the NRC should be doing. And is that -- we'll take that as a suggestion for what we submit to Congress. Does that make sense?

MR. RONE: Yes, absolutely. But we've -- you know, we've been through the discussion that the NRC doesn't have the authority to demand the CAB be formed. So -- although you -- you hold the only lever that really exists. You hold their license for the special nuclear material. So the -- the other side of the coin is, is that if you don't have the

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legal authority to force Holtec to do something, can we then use the NRC resources as a resource in order for us to understand what's planned at the site before it happens? Because the inspection reports, as you well know, in some cases take six months before they appear on the website. And, you know, that's ancient history by that time.

MR. WATSON: Yes, we'll take that back.

MR. RONE: Okay. Another -- another question. One of the lessons learned from Three Mile Island many, many years ago was that there wasn't sharing of operating experience among operating plants. In a similar way, is there a way to share decommissioning experience among the now several plants that are undergoing decommissioning for lessons learned such that an error at one plant, say Vermont Yankee, which is a similar-sized class boiling water reactor -- might not occur at Oyster Creek? And vice versa?

MR. WATSON: I would say that that role is at -- has been pretty much taken on by EPRI, and --

PARTICIPANT: By who?

MR. WATSON: EPRI -- Electric Power Research Institute. They're a -- the -- the

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industry's, I guess, research arm. And they do a lot of different topics. They've published a number of -- of decommissioning lesson's learned reports. Also, the -- NEI has a -- Nuclear Energy Institute -- has a decommissioning forum that all the licensees and -- participate in. As far as I know -- most of whom in decommissioning participate, where they share information for lessons learned.

MR. RONE: Okay, I have --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: We do collect information and put it on our website. But we're a little bit slow in putting that information up. We have to make sure it's totally through the process before we can publish it, though.

MR. RONE: Okay, thank you.

MR. WATSON: Okay?

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. All right, next we have --

(Applause.)

MR. KLUKAN: Number -- it looks like Nancy Cairra? Okay. And then Edith Ghbur. All right, so Nancy and then Edith.

MS. CAIRA: All right, Nancy Cairra, C-A-I-R-A, Waretown, New Jersey. First I would like to

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thank you for being patient and answering a lot of questions. I was also a little confused about the purpose of today's meeting. I -- as the gentleman said earlier, kind of thought -- at the Holtec meeting, they spoke about this as a follow-up. You know, ask at the NRC meeting next week. So -- apologize that we came with a lot of questions tonight. And I don't really have my -- my -- a statement well articulated, but I am glad to hear that you are taking public comments on the Community Advisory Board. And I would like to go on record in my public comment -- absolutely, they should be required, hands-down, all the way -- that should be mandated for any decommissioning project, especially now. I submitted the question on the required index cards -- because that was the way you did it, in the forum that they had -- you know, presented last week -- the question being, when will you be appointing a Community Advisory Board? And folks in the -- that are here today can remember the very arrogant response, Well, we're not -- was the response. And that's it. We were told that we were not the experts in the community -- that we don't have, you know, the degrees from MIT or whatever. But I will tell you what, we are the experts in our community.

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I live about a -- probably closer to the power plant than -- lots of Waretown residents probably live closer to the power plant than lots of residents in all of Lacey, actually. But you know what, I kind of look at us -- we're all one community. You know, what happens, economically, environmentally -- whatever -- to each one of our communities happens to the other. And this is pretty tragic. I really am concerned that if we are not part of this process -- I mean, long after Holtec is gone and done -- out of here, we're still going to be here. And I -- you know, I hope that we can get reports and, you know, get information from the NRC. But there's also a relationship that has to be built with Holtec. And the powers that be at Holtec right now have made it clear that they don't want that relationship. The arrogance, as the gentleman said earlier, is full on. And I don't know how that relationship gets built, but I don't know if it needs to be legislated -- legislated. It would be, you know, a shame if it has to go that route without building in the community. But -- as far as the public comments go, absolutely, it should be required. The Community Advisory Boards need to be mandated.

And, what I do not get is that, if this

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is best practices -- and that is what the NRC says are best practices -- why is Holtec saying we don't want to have best practices when we're decommissioning a site? That's ludicrous. So if shame is the only way to say, hey, Holtec, do you not want to follow best practices? So be it.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. KLUKAN: All right, next, again, we have Edith. And then Cathy Simms.

PARTICIPANT: Do we have a microphone for her?

MR. KLUKAN: Oh, of course. So -- for -- yes. When -- well, hopefully this will pick up. But we will try.

(Pause.)

MS. GHBUR: My name is Edith Gbur. And I am associated with Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch. And I am also a resident of Ocean County. And my concern is transparency. And my concern is getting citizens involved in everything that's going on. And it seems to me as though they are not. Initially, whenever committee was organized -- that committee should have regular meetings, and it should have a phone made available so that when someone calls up on the phone,

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they're answered.

Now, it seems to me that Holtec is not being monitored. That they're free to do as they please. And I don't like what -- I don't like what they're doing. They -- there was a near miss at San Onofre because they used people that -- that were not skilled. And I agree with the people that spoke here, that they should be people working for -- for Holtec, should be required to have certain skills -- number one. Number two -- I don't agree with their plans to manufacture modular nuclear plants. I don't agree with their plan to store nuclear waste at New Mexico. And most of the groups here are -- are -- do not like nuclear power to begin with -- do not go out to the waste -- to Yucca Mountain or anywhere else. And they -- they do not trust -- they do not trust Holtec. And I -- it's -- currently there are some bills being proposed to change some of the requirements. And I -- it's -- I -- and the story -- it might be legislation to do so. So I think that that should be done.

I don't think that -- that -- that the NRC should have agreed to license Holtec -- no kind of meeting in which the public was allowed. In addition to that -- and I have a question -- casks

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are being stored at Oyster Creek. Now who made those casks? And why aren't -- why isn't there the same people making those casks continuing to make them? And also, my understanding is that -- is that Holtec had approval for their dry casks. And -- because it had the generic design. However, speaking about history, they have a poor history of creating casks. So again, I go back to transparency and involving the public directly in what's going on, and making Holtec do what they should do for the safety of the public.

(Applause.)

MR. WATSON: As I said earlier, that the -- the actual spent fuel casks are licensed by the NRC. And the actual construction and manufacture of those are also inspected by the NRC. And they have to be loaded in accordance with strict procedures. And when we find them in violation for those, we take enforcement packaging. So the NRC is actually involved in the manufacture -- the design, the manufacture and the implementation of the spent fuel facilities and we continue to inspect those facilities throughout their life -- where they are at -- such as the ones that are here. So we will continue to be inspecting those as long as the casks are here. I tried to answer all the questions, but

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that's the best I could do with what I heard.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. SIMMS: My name is Cathy Simms.

MR. KLUKAN: Can I actually -- because the transcriptionist microphone is separate from that microphone. So could you actually go -- I don't think you're able. I am sorry.

MS. SIMMS: I am here as a citizen of New Jersey. I live in Southern Monmouth County. And I have been working with the Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch for, like, 18 years. And following -- I read quite a bit of what's been going on at the plant. I am concerned about what the possible plans are for the future of the property. Do you have any knowledge of what the possibilities are for the future?

MR. WATSON: That would be a decision by the owner, Holtec. But we have done -- the NRC's done a number of what we call partial site releases, where some of the outlying areas of land can be released from the license. We've done that in a number of facilities. The most recent one is GE Vallecitos out in California where they wanted to build a -- expand the highway out in front of the -- the facility. So that land was released from the license so that -- the -- Caltrans as they call it

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out there, could build the -- build the new highway. We've done them at -- at Zion, Humboldt Bay. We've done it at a number of sites. And it's a pretty common practice. So the extra -- extra land along the -- in the -- around the plant can be released from the license earlier than the decommissioning takes place.

MS. SIMMS: Okay, and --

MR. WATSON: And it has to be requested by the owner or the licensee.

MS. SIMMS: As a follow-up to Edith's question, are -- the older casks that have been on site for some time, are they leaking now? Or -- do they need to be replaced?

MR. WATSON: No, they're not leaking, and they're in basically the same condition they were when they were -- they were installed. I loaded the first casks in this country at Calvert Cliffs. They recently did a -- a big study on monitoring of those casks. And found that there's been little to no degradation in the casks at Calvert Cliffs. And I did that in the -- the 90s. So, yes. But there is a monitoring program we're working on to make it nationwide. And so -- to -- make sure the casks keep their integrity. There are none leaking and -- so

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we want to keep it that way.

MS. SIMMS: Right, so -- but you're going with the -- a new design that Holtec came up with instead of sticking with the one that seems to be working?

MR. WATSON: Well, it doesn't matter which casks they decide to use. It's their choice. They only have to choose from the ones that are licensed by the NRC and approved for use. So it's -- like going to the grocery store. There's certain things that are -- that are -- that are good and you pick from the right ones.

MS. SIMMS: A couple other questions --
(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. RONE: I think there is an issue between the casks. The transnuclear casks, which were the ones that were initially used for the storage facility, are not licensed for transport. They're licensed only for storage. So --

MR. WATSON: Okay.

MR. RONE: I haven't seen anything in the decommissioning plan that says they're going to re-package the fuel from trans-nuclear casks into Holtec casks, which are licensed for both storage and transport.

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MR. WATSON: So just for the record, I am going to repeat what you said. And that is that there's -- the transnuclear casks there that are not approved for transportation. So there is a question as to how that -- those -- those particular fuel bundles would be removed. Would they be repackaged? Or -- how are -- how are they going to remove them from site when it is time? Okay, did I get it right?

MR. RONE: Yes, and the only complication is, would they do that before the fuel pool is decommissioned?

MR. WATSON: Okay, yes, and the other question is, would they repackage those or get the approval for the transnuclear casks before they emptied the spent fuel pool and decommissioned that?

MS. SIMMS: Okay, and they're having some points made about the safety -- using unskilled workers and so forth. Is OSHA going to be involved in overseeing the safety of the workers that end up there?

MR. WATSON: No, the NRC has that responsibility in accordance with our memorandum of understanding with OSHA. If we start seeing issues that we think that they should become -- they should be involved in, then we will consult with them to

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come and start their inspections.

PARTICIPANT: Can you ask them one more question for me?

MS. SIMMS: Yes.

PARTICIPANT: Can you ask them one more question for me? Can you ask them how many units are licensed for the Oyster Creek site?

MS. SIMMS: How many units --

PARTICIPANT: Units are licensed for the Oyster Creek site -- Entergy and outside -- another group.

MS. SIMMS: How many units are licensed?

MR. WATSON: What units are they -- you talking about?

PARTICIPANT: Well, Forked Road number -
- Unit One was started in the back of the --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: Yes, the -- yes, the -- I believe --

PARTICIPANT: Are they still -- are they still available with these licenses?

MR. WATSON: Well, it was never fully licensed. It was just a construction permit, I believe. So it was -- and that stopped, too, because they canceled the project, right?

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PARTICIPANT: So it's not licensed over here?

MR. WATSON: It's not licensed -- no.

PARTICIPANT: Just one unit, and that's it --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: As far as I know -- as I recall. It may have been two units. I know they started construction on one and stopped.

PARTICIPANT: Right. Okay --

MR. WATSON: After the accident at Three Mile Island.

PARTICIPANT: Yes, I know.

MR. WATSON: Okay.

MS. SIMMS: My last question -- what happens if Holtec runs out of decommissioning funds long before the job is done? Who is going to come up with the funding?

(Pause.)

MR. WATSON: Well, as I mentioned before, we will do an annual review of the funds. They have a responsibility to -- a requirement to provide that -- that information to us. So we will be monitoring the funds very closely. The funds were also collected under the guise of -- under the permission

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of the Republic Utility Commission here in the state. I'm sure they will be interested in that. But the bottom line is the licensee, Holtec, is responsible for completing the job. That's one of the responsibilities they accepted when they took the license.

MS. SIMMS: Once they go bankrupt --

(Off-mic comments.)

MS. SIMMS: Can the -- the parent of Holtec -- if the other -- the Holtec that's running the decommissioning goes bankrupt because they're -- I guess a different subsidiary?

PARTICIPANT: CBR. CBR.

MS. SIMMS: Will the parent company be held responsible?

MR. WATSON: Yes they will be. Just because they're an LLC doesn't mean they're not reachable by the Department of Justice to enforce the law. It's called the common defense law and -- the clause in our -- our regulations.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. SIMMS: The parent company could go bankrupt as well, so -- I guess --

MR. WATSON: That's a possibility.

MS. SIMMS: Yes, it's all possible. The

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best outcome is to go with -- with real, renewable, clean energy like solar, and wind, geothermal, energy efficiency. So I don't think that more nuclear should be used until there's a real solution for the waste, which there doesn't seem to be. So.

MR. WATSON: Okay, thank you.

MR. KLUKAN: So there have been a lot of comments on OSHA. And I am wondering if -- so, I work --

PARTICIPANT: We can't hear you.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. KLUKAN: All right, let me go to a microphone. So just to -- just because this has come up multiple times, I am going to try to address this. Is it -- when we get -- let's say we get an allegation, all right? It comes from a worker at the plant. And they say they are putting up scaffolding incorrectly, or they're using unlicensed operators for some type of machinery, or that there's a slippery -- some kind of condition that causes an unsafe environment for people to walk around -- those aren't necessarily NRC concerns because we regulate radiological health and safety, all right? However, when we get those concerns into our allegation program, we then transfer them over to our OSHA counterparts. So we

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work hand-in-hand with each other on allegations we receive from people within the plant. So they are - - OSHA is involved. Granted, we have oversight over the decommissioning process. We have oversight over Holtec as an NRC licensee. But when we do get OSHA concerns, OSHA is brought -- involved. I mean, granted, it's ultimately up to them for how they disposition those concerns. But they are handed over directly to OSHA under our memorandum understanding. Okay, all right, I -- because I said something, I have a question and then we're going to go on to -- just so we can go next to Luane Acevedo and then Marianne Clemente. Oh -- because I -- there was a question in the back, we're going to answer it real quickly.

(Pause.)

MR. KUBI: Brian Kubi, I'm actually the president and business manager of Local 1289. I represent all the employees at Oyster Creek. And I understand what a lot of people are talking about. But my question to you is about OSHA. When it goes to OSHA -- when it's sent to -- when a complaint comes in, goes to OSHA, is it the local OSHA office out of Mount Arlington, the compliance office that takes care of it, or is it at the federal level? That's

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my questions.

MR. KLUKAN: Honestly, we -- I know we send it to -- I don't know if Craig is around to help me with this, but we send it to our counterpart there, who they then transfer it to -- to disposition it, I don't have any authority over. So I can't -- I can't be more help with that, sorry.

Okay, next up we have again number -- or, Luane Acevedo. And then she'll be followed by Marianne Clemente.

(Pause.)

MR. KLUKAN: You're fine, you're fine.

MS. ACEVEDO: No, I want to hold it so I can --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. KLUKAN: Okay, just stand close to this.

MS. ACEVEDO: Sure.

MR. KLUKAN: Oh, you want to hold it?

MS. ACEVEDO: Yes. My name is Luane Acevedo. We have been fighting Oyster Creek for probably a total of 30 to 40 years, we're tired. Okay. But I'm more concerned -- I'm a teacher. I'm more concerned about the future, okay? I don't know if you've ever heard of a gentleman by the name of

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Dr. Freeman, okay, he's a professor from MIT. And he's talking about the idea of us having small nuclear power plants -- about a thousand in the U.S.A. I have a strong concern for that. We just had a serious crisis where kids all over the world got together to protest what's happening to their planet. There are kids all over the world who do not go to school on Friday due to this fact. They say why bother? There won't be a future. There won't be a planet.

Another concern -- a lot of these plants use water. In 20 years, 20 countries will not have water. So my question is, with all the developing happening in Ocean County -- where we get our water -- okay? And I think you need to understand the cost facts that go along with a nuclear power plant. It says this Dr. Freeman estimates that there will be 8,000 nuclear reactors that will be needed to power the world in the future with so-called zero emissions. That makes for an expert \$8 trillion global investment. Now, I'm going to say some kind of silly things, because I'm speaking on behalf of kids. But there's a gentleman -- and you can look it up, it's on TED Talk. And he believes that we can use seaweed, put it at the bottom of the ocean, and we can save tons of carbon from the atmosphere and bring it down

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into the ocean -- instead of all the costs and the money and the buildings and the delays -- and all the health effects we're going to have in the future -- we can avoid that. Okay?

The other one that's very important -- and this is the crazy one, all right? But I tell you this because I want you to understand how important it is -- the idea of taking carbon out of the atmosphere. There's a gentleman that actually worked on a tree, and created a tree with 40 different fruits on it. He's an artist, but he created a tree with 40 different fruits, okay? And he was successful with it. And if you look it up in TED Talk, you can see it. And you know trees take carbon out of the atmosphere. He was told by the Department of Defense to go with this concept for the future in order to feed the planet.

All I am saying to you is, we're sitting here listening to what could happen in our future. And if we're ever going to have a decommissioning, I think it's very important -- we start going to the climate groups of students all over this world -- Green Peace, all different organizations -- and it's not against you -- and bring them to these advisory boards because it's their future and not ours. Thank

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you.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. Next we have Marianne Clemente. And then she will be followed by Stan Hales.

(Pause.)

MS. CLEMENTE: My name's Marianne Clemente, C-L-E-M-E-N-T-E. I have a couple questions. Regarding the bankruptcy -- if Holtec, Holtec and their parent goes bankrupt, what happens? Who takes over?

MR. WATSON: It -- it -- you know, you're talking about a big what-if that I really can't answer because I don't see that happening at any time in the near future. But --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: That's my -- that's my -- but that's my personal opinion, okay? But the point is that we're going to continue to monitor the -- the funds to make sure they're used properly. Make sure there are sufficient funds to complete the decommissioning. There's plenty of money in the decommissioning fund right now to do that. We expect that the decommissioning will be completed with -- with some funds probably left over.

MS. CLEMENTE: Do you audit the regular

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company -- the health of the company itself?

MR. WATSON: They have to maintain their qualifications to maintain the license. Which means -- includes the health of the -- of the company in order to be a licensee.

MS. CLEMENTE: You don't make sure they have sufficient capital to -- to run?

MR. WATSON: We don't do audits of the private companies all the time. It just -- they're -- have to maintain that they are qualified and financially capable to hold the license, which means they have to be able to buy the insurances and other things that companies are required to have to have a license.

MS. CLEMENTE: Okay. The decommissioning -- when -- I am happy to see Edith here. We've been involved with the closing of Oyster Creek for many, many, many years. And we always knew that the full -- for full decommissioning, it takes like 50 years. Now, we've put to Holtec, you know, what miracle has happened that you could do it in less time? Now you answered that partly by saying that there is some plant right now going through a shortened decommissioning. But you also said in the '90s there was some shortened periods of plants being

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decommissioned. Was that correct?

MR. WATSON: Let me be very clear what I said here. It takes about 7-10 years to decommission a nuclear power plant, which means we expect that Holtec will be completed in -- some time between 7 and 10 years once they get into op -- they start decommissioning the plant, which includes managing the fuel -- putting it in dry storage -- and then decommissioning the plant. They should be completed in about 10 years or less. The regulations require that they -- nuclear power plants complete decommissioning in 60 years.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. CLEMENTE: I understand that. Yes, I understand.

MR. WATSON: But, I am just saying that that is the normal time it takes to decommission a plant.

MS. CLEMENTE: But that's not been how it's been done before.

MR. WATSON: No, there's -- there's lots of plants in decommissioning. There's -- there's --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. CLEMENTE: In this short period of time?

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MR. WATSON: Yes.

MS. CLEMENTE: And how -- that's why I asked. In 1990s, you had mentioned there were plants that -- and you were involved with plants --

MR. WATSON: Right, and --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. CLEMENTE: -- and that got decommissioned --

MR. WATSON: Let me answer, okay?

MS. CLEMENTE: Okay.

MR. WATSON: There were 10 plants that had completed decommissioning. They were all decommissioned in about 10 years. In -- some were done sooner than that. I think some of them were done in 7 years. So -- the actual decommissioning takes 7 to 10 years. So, what their schedule shows right now is about 7 to 10 years, which is the normal amount of time that it takes to decommission a plant.

MS. CLEMENTE: So no plant has taken 40, 50 years to --

MR. WATSON: They can take up to 60 years.

MS. CLEMENTE: I know, but has a plant taken that long to decommission in the past?

MR. WATSON: Well, what is -- is they're

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in storage for 50 years and then they decommission those plants. There's numerous plants that are just in storage, waiting for either -- another nuclear power plant which is next door to them to shut down. We just left Indian Point last night. Indian Point has Unit One, it's been shut down for 30 years, I think. Twenty-four -- 30 years? The original plan for them is 50 -- decommission the plant when they decommission Units Two and Three. Well, Units Two and Three are shutting down early. They're going to, apparently, have to decommission Unit One and Unit Two and Unit Three. Apparently there's -- the announcement are that Holtec is planning to purchase those plants, and they plan to decommission them. So they will decommission all three in this -- in whatever schedule they have in series. So, yes, the -- Unit One could sit there for another 20 years or whatever it is, but it also has to be completed in 60 years. So.

MS. CLEMENTE: So Holtec is drawing more of these decommissioning --

MR. WATSON: That's been announced, but I can't say that -- we're not privy to that information.

MS. CLEMENTE: And they're the ones --

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they have no experience in decommissioning a plant. They've never done it before.

(Pause.)

MS. CLEMENTE: Is the CAB that you describe, is that kind of the same one that Governor Murphy is looking to set up? Would that be the C-A-B we would be talking about?

MR. WATSON: What we've given you is what we've seen as attributes of different CABs. There's a variety of different CABs. They go by various names, like I said in the beginning. Some are sponsored by the licensees. Some are mandated by the state. I think the one that the Safety Committee -- I forget what it is exactly called by the governor -- that he's going to appoint it -- is more of a safety oversight committee. But they will apparently interface with the -- with the community. And so, it -- I will give you an example. At Diablo Canyon, which is in California, they have a Citizens Advisory Panel, which is -- the utility sponsors with the local citizens. They also have a state-appointed Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee -- or Commission -- that oversees the -- that provides information to the state and the local community on the safe operation of the plant. So they're like two

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different entities. I don't know enough details on what the governor's plan is, but from what I read in the press release, it sounds like they're going to be -- basically be a watchdog organization, providing some kind of oversight of -- and verifying what -- that -- that Oyster Creek is being safely decommissioned, is the way I read it. So.

MS. CLEMENTE: So who actually picks the members of the CAB? And how do you -- you know --

MR. WATSON: It differs by the organization. So, in this case, the governor is making appointments, apparently -- in New Jersey.

MS. CLEMENTE: People with qualifications.

PARTICIPANT: You would only hope.

MS. CLEMENTE: I nominate Mr. Rone that spoke to be one of them.

(Laughter.)

PARTICIPANT: Second.

(Laughter.)

MS. CLEMENTE: I think I have one more. Oh -- the NRC -- somebody brought up before about being a conduit between Holtec and us. I think it's a wonderful idea -- I think I heard it -- to have an NRC person on this advisory board. Is that a

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possibility?

MR. WATSON: One of the reasons we don't -- are not typically -- we're not -- we're not members of the board, is we are an independent safety regulator. Therefore, we have to hear all opinions and be available to investigate any allegations of wrongdoing and other regulatory issues. So we will generally come in, observe the meetings -- our inspectors will come to the meetings and observe the CAB meetings and be available for people to talk to them --

MS. CLEMENTE: On a regular basis?

MR. WATSON: Well, it depends on the inspection schedule. But -- you know, the CABs meet at different times, too. And the other thing we have done is gone and been -- when invited, speak to the CAB about specific issues. For example, I've been to San Onofre and spoke about environmental reviews and decommissioning. I've been to there and talked about the decommissioning process. So we've been to the -- when invited, we try and make ourselves available to provide our perspective on different regulatory processes, because that's what we do, to the CAB.

MS. CLEMENTE: Well, just so you know,

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the -- we have the Pinelands Commission here in New Jersey. It's probably one of the first environmental protection commissions set up. And there is a member of the Department of the Interior as a sitting member of the -- it's 15 members of that commission. And that Department of Interior person is one of those 15 and has a voting position. So it sounds like it's kind of the same function as you. I would look into that. And -- and lastly, I think we need to have another NRC meeting where we can get the technical stuff that we're talking about -- the safety stuff, the stuff that we're really worried about, answered. Thank you.

MR. WATSON: Thank you for your comments.

(Applause.)

MR. KLUKAN: Okay, next up is Stan Hales, followed by Donato Santangelo.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. HALES: I am Stan Hales, I live in Galloway Township and I work in Tom's River. I drive by the plant twice a day. I have a couple of questions. First, when is the comment period up -- end for these hearings?

MR. WATSON: November 15th.

MR. HALES: November 15th.

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MR. WATSON: So you still have a couple months yet -- or, about a month and a half.

MR. HALES: That's great. I would like to extend a formal invitation to you, sir, or a designee to come under direction of the Barnegat Bay Partnership -- which is a federally funded national historic program. Our members include federal government, state, local, et cetera. All of our representatives are very interested in this issue and would like to hear more about decommissioning. You mentioned -- taking requests about COBs, CABs -- whatever you'd like to call them. Most of the issues pertain to in-state health or environmental issues with regard to that?

MR. WATSON: Well I -- I think everyone's concerned about protecting the environment and ensuring that the decommissioning is done safely for the workers, for the local residents, and also for the environment.

MR. HALES: Well, what about where the material is going to go?

MR. WATSON: All the materials that are radioactive go to a licensed radioactive disposal sites. So --

MR. HALES: And none of those have any

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environmental problems or issues --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: Well, they're licensed by the individuals states under NRC guidance for -- for the safety considerations of those facilities. So the waste from this facility will go to -- there's a facility in Texas. And there's one in --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: No, it will go -- to Utah. I don't think New Jersey is in -- is New Jersey in the --

MR. HALES: White Mesa?

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: Is the Barnwell in the South Carolina compact? It is, then it will go there. Okay. I forget which states are --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. HALES: I asked a leading question. My point is that they -- these are all over in different states, so --

MR. WATSON: Yes.

MR. HALES: -- we have things moving among different states and that's why the NRC might want to establish guidelines for a federally established COB. That's just --

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MR. WATSON: Yes, the transportation is done in accordance with the Department of Transportation rules. And for specific waste, be under NRC rules.

MR. HALES: And everybody has access to lots of information about people who have had complaints about where materials end up -- and health effects there?

MR. WATSON: I don't know about any allegations along that line.

MR. HALES: Okay.

MR. WATSON: Because there is a requirement from when a radioactive waste shipment is made, that it is tracked until it is disposed of, and it's verified by -- that it received by the disposal facility. So, it's whether by rail or by truck or whatever --

MR. HALES: There -- is it --

MR. WATSON: There's requirements on that.

MR. HALES: It's great to hear. You've got a lot of information at your fingertips. So I just encourage you to hear all that. And I want to thank all the elected officials who are here, who have been promoting that too. So we are watching.

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We appreciate your support. Thank you very much.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you. Okay, did Mr. Santangelo leave?

(Simultaneous speaking.)

PARTICIPANT: Yes, he left.

MR. KLUKAN: He said he was leaving? Okay, all right. Well -- next we have Regina Discenza. And then followed by Joseph Rullo.

(Pause.)

MS. DISCENZA: Hello, my name is Regina Discenza. I am a 20-year Lacey resident, and I live in the three-mile radius of the power plant. I have a question, and it's why is the fire brigade on the Oyster Creek premise now down to four people with all the spent fuel and radioactive waste still present? On September 23rd at the Lacey Middle School, this is what I believe I heard from Jeff Dostal during the Holtec information session. He said the fire brigade was 20 people. As a resident in the 3-mile radius, I am concerned since our township fire companies are all volunteer in Lacey. The local community advisory board should be able to comment on such matters, preferably before this situation occurred. I think we're a little late to the party here.

(Pause.)

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MS. DISCENZA: That's my comment. Something already that really -- if that's true, that there's only four people now on the fire brigade for the size of that property -- I think that's pitiful.

MR. WATSON: Yes, the fire brigades are reduced, commensurate with the hazards. Almost all the systems in the plant have been de-energized, or are being de-energized. The actual amount of flammable material has been removed. And so the actual fire risk is significantly lower. Until they actually get into doing the major dismantling work, which would include cutting, arc welding, and other things --

PARTICIPANT: Plasma cutting.

MR. WATSON: Yes, plasma cutting. There's no need for much more than a small fire brigade to respond. Because there's nothing that can -- there are very few things that can catch on fire.

MS. DISCENZA: And there's no fuel being handled at this time?

MR. WATSON: No, it's in the spent fuel pool.

MS. DISCENZA: Thank you.

MR. KLUKAN: Okay, thank you for your comments and questions. Next up is Joseph Rullo.

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MR. RULLO: I just want to thank the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for coming out. Like I said earlier, I think that there was a little bit of a misunderstanding in the community. I at least saw maybe three different articles where it -- people were, I guess, led to believe that you were going to be here discussing the transition from -- what was it? Last week with Holtec they talked about decommissioning, that they're the new company and that you guys were going to follow up and go into detail -- which you did. You answered a lot of questions.

I think -- you know, what I gather from this whole meeting is that, you know, there hasn't been any assault toward you at all. There's kind of like a trust. There's kind of like a, you know, you guys watch the fox house -- or whatever you want to say. They're a business. And that's the way -- you know, businesses cut corners. And I think a lot of people are trying to figure out, like, you know, why would Exelon leave and this company, Holtec, comes in? Where's the money at? How do you make your money? I think people are concerned that, you know, they don't understand pension funds. And I don't know if this is correct, but does the pensions fund

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transfer to Holtec from the other company? Do you know?

MR. WATSON: I have no idea.

MR. RULLO: But, I mean -- that's who I hear in the community. That people are -- you know, I guess they're just concerned that -- you know, why, when Exelon leaves, this Holtec comes in. They're not making money. It would be like, if you owned, you know -- I don't know, you cut lawns and you have lawns mowers and you go out of business and another company comes in and buys the lawn mowers, and they're all broke -- what are you going to do with it? Where is the project that Holtec is doing? And I understand they get money transferred to them. People don't understand, I think, the transition -- and why the transition was made.

But what I gather is that, you know, if you can be on that committee, I think that would be great. If you could have a representative on that committee. You know, there were some concerns that were brought up here that I think were definitely -- should be advised that there has been problems with some of the -- Holtec has some violations, and different things like that. And, you know, for example, I understand that you licensed those casks.

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But some of them have never been applied to practical use. But I think, you know, we have -- you know, ample representation here. We do have Assemblyman Rumpf here. Thank you for coming. And Assemblywoman Gove. And I think that people are just concerned, you know, that when you're not here -- that there can be an issue that will arise. And that, you can't catch every single problem. And you can't figure out anything other than if you get in front of it -- which, if you are on that commission, you're going to be really involved. For example, if you lived in Oyster Creek and you had children here, I am sure that you guys would insist to be on that commission. That's where I think we're at. I think people are concerned that in this county -- that -- this is what I want to ask. So when the -- at the end of this, they're actually going to take these casks, and they're going to bring them somewhere?

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. RULLO: At the end? Is that the end game? Like, in other words, hey, take some of the nuclear material and it goes on a truck and goes wherever? That's going to be occurring?

(Simultaneous speaking.)

PARTICIPANT: Theoretically.

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MR. WATSON: It's going to move -- it's supposed to move to a permanent repository, yes.

MR. RULLO: So when, around? Like, 7 to 10 years?

MR. WATSON: We have no idea when it --

MR. RULLO: Could it be all in between? Like, different --

MR. WATSON: We have no idea. There is -- there are applications in. There's two companies -- one of them is Holtec -- for what they call consolidated interim storage. Holtec has applied -- has an application in to license the facility in New Mexico. Northstar, which is the owner of the site in Texas, has a application to do the same -- consolidated spent fuel storage at their site in Texas. So that's a possibility. I have no idea on the time frame. They're -- probably in the middle of the licensing review right now. So I don't know when that may take place. And I don't really know all the details --

MR. RULLO: Could be three years, five years --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: Could be -- could be. Yes, I just don't know. So -- and then -- and then there's

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a -- somewhat of I'll say a -- probably there'll have to be agreements put into place to transfer the fuel. And DOE would be involved with that. And the NRC would be monitoring that.

MR. RULLO: And -- and that, I mean -- so let's go back to the other successful decommissioning. When that occurred, like, what would they do? Just shut down highways and, you know, not let -- make everyone aware of this happening? So God forbid, things happen, and something happens to that transporting --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. RULLO: That's what I am concerned about. Honestly --

MR. WATSON: Well, it's not going to be a public information -- when the fuel is moved.

MR. RULLO: Got you.

MR. WATSON: And it will be done with a tremendous amount of security. I can tell you that, having been involved in some spent fuel transfers. And there's a lot of law enforcement involved in it.

MR. RULLO: Will they be working with, like, legislators and the people that are in office --

MR. WATSON: If they have a need to know

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-- on a shipments, yes.

MR. RULLO: Police?

MR. WATSON: There's a process -- yes.

MR. RULLO: Got you.

MR. WATSON: Okay. So the safety people will be involved that need to know. But not everybody will know. So -- because there's a security issues, okay? I wanted to go back to one thing that you mentioned.

MR. RULLO: Sure.

MR. WATSON: And that was, if we're not there to witness some kind of safety issue, I want to point out that in the NRC regulations, there are requirements on reportability. And depending on the severity of the issue, the licensee has a certain amount of time to notify us. We have a -- what we call the Headquarters Operation Center, which is manned 24-7. And they're available to have calls from the licensees for immediate notification. There's other requirements -- within so many hours. And then, within 24 hours they're required to call us.

And I think one of the most serious issues we can have is for them to have an issue and not report it, because that just compounds the issue even

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more. So, there are requirements for them to report mishaps to us. And so they're required to do that. So --

MR. RULLO: I was aware of that. I guess what I meant -- thank you for clarifying that. But what I was really getting at is that -- so basically, if you're part of a team -- like, you guys are very knowledgeable. You answered a lot of questions here. I personally have been from the beginning to the end -- you know, pretty much when I first moved here, I was concerned about nuclear. There was a strontium-90 test. They tested baby teeth and there was no strontium-90. So that was pretty cool.

Then you guys have been on top of a lot of problems that have occurred here. What I am getting at is, like, if you are on that commission, or that committee, the benefits would be, you know, PR. It would be safety. It would be -- you -- and this is what I am getting at is you would be in front of it. So instead of having to worry about the mouse letting you know that they're doing something wrong, you're going to be at these meetings regularly and you're going to be talking to people that are -- you know, their kids live a block away from the plant.

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And -- you know, their waters and their roads that they live by -- they could be trapped if there's a problem -- whatever. All steps of the way -- I think it would be a much smoother transition. I think that that, to me -- if you ask me -- I think out of this whole meeting, I think that is the most productive thing that was today, is that if you can get somebody, you know, in your committee on that committee -- I personally don't trust Murphy. I don't trust him. And I personally don't think he knows anything about nuclear, and all of his appointees are going to be all appointed for that reason. I would like somebody who knows about nuclear to be on it. And with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, you have my trust. And I thank you. And I thank Hirsh Singh for coming here as well. He's running for U.S. Senate. And I think that it's great that he came here and that he wanted to learn with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Thank you and have a great day and a safe trip home.

MR. KLUKAN: All right everyone, let's go. Thank you for your comments. Has anyone ---

PARTICIPANT: I have a follow up to that.

MR. KLUKAN: Okay. Let's start first with, has anyone who has not yet spoken, would they

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like -- anyone who has not spoken? Now is your chance
-- who has not previously spoken ---

MR. PAWLOWSKI: I would like to recommend
that we have like a dual ---

PARTICIPANT: Could you state your name
please?

MR. PAWLOWSKI: John Pawlowski,
Waretown, P-A-W-L-O-W-S-K-I. I would like to
recommend that we have a dual technical meeting with
NRC and Holtec together in the same room so that we
don't have people saying, they said this, they said
that. Is that possible to do that?

MR. WATSON: We'll see. I can't -- I
can't guarantee anything, but we can look into it.

MR. PAWLOWSKI: All right, and by any
chance, there was a guy I wanted to speak to at Holtec
named Kevin, engineer. By any chance do you know of
his last name?

MR. WATSON: No, I don't know.

MR. PAWLOWSKI: All right. I just
thought I would ask.

MR. WATSON: I think you would have to
talk to the managers.

MR. PAWLOWSKI: Well, we're still looking
for Kevin. Yes, that was a little -- just, I don't

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know if you are aware of this, but that was the only thing that we did at the meeting which disturbed a lot of people, including me, was that they had this spokesman --- spokesman -- what's that guy's name?

PARTICIPANT: Jeff Dostal.

MR. PAWLOWSKI: -- he did all the speaking. When he said, we have a panel of experts over here, but you can't talk to them. He said, you can go talk to them after the meeting. And we were saying, well, you know, let's talk to them now, you are the experts in here. So that was a little disheartening, their approach to that.

And I had one other question, too, about a -- and this doesn't have to do with the CAB, but again, I didn't realize that was the whole purpose of the meeting. I did read that, but I thought it was, like a sidebar that, but not the main purpose of the meeting.

But, any of these other nuclear plants that have closed, you said you were involved with it, Mr. Watson, the transportation, how -- I mean, you can't get into the specifics for security issues but, there was actual stuff -- because that's -- our basic premise -- most people believe that that nuclear fuel is never going to leave, because nobody wants

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it. It is just probably going to sit there until we are all dead.

MR. WATSON: Yes, the Department of Energy actually took the fuel from the three plants that no longer have it. And they were decommissioned of -- the start -- they actually shut down a long time ago. One was the Pathfinder Plant, one was Saxton Plant, in Pennsylvania, and one at -- Fermi 1, yeah, which is up near Detroit.

So all of them -- the DOE took the fuel from those plants and then they realized that they didn't have the capacity to store all the nation's waste in Idaho. Because they also take care of the Navy's fuel from all of the nuclear reactor ships and submarines.

MR. PAWLOWSKI: And doesn't Idaho have a problem taking the fuel? They say ---

MR. WATSON: Ah -- Idaho only wants to do their fair share, so that is why they stopped taking all the fuel. So, they do still accept the defense waste, though.

MR. PAWLOWSKI: All right. Thank you.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. All right, anyone else who has not yet spoken this evening? Going once, going twice --- all right.

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People who have spoken, who would like to do some follow-ups -- you had your hands up first, so I'm going to go to you and then we'll go to you others, okay?

MS. CLEMENTE: Marianne Clemente, Barnegat. Thank you for allowing follow-up questions. It doesn't frequently happen at meetings -- sometimes it does.

My question really has to do with the gentleman that just spoke, in terms of how Holtec makes their money now. They are taking -- they get paid from the trust funds, the nuclear -- what did you call it? Did that happen from decommissioning?

MR. WATSON: Well, they make their money in a lot of different ways, but the purpose of decommissioning the plant here in Oyster Creek, is because the trust funding will pay for it.

MS. CLEMENTE: Right.

MR. WATSON: And so I would imagine they would have some profit margin in there.

MS. CLEMENTE: Right. So, Holtec -- and this is what -- you thought it was the fox house -- it is the hen house. This is where -- this is where Holtec is doing everything -- from soup to nuts. They are the ones taking down old stuff, storing old stuff,

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moving old stuff, building the casks, building the site in New Mexico. They are doing everything, so they have a huge profit motive here, and that is why I say, this is the fox guarding the hen house. And we are all concerned about that.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. So, I don't have an established order, so I think there was three other people who raised their hands, so whoever would like to go next. We will get to all of you. We have plenty of time.

MR. DRESSLER: Paul Dressler again. Just two things that Jeff also said at last week's meeting at Holtec that CABS do not work in other states. He mentioned California -- he said they have bad moderators, they don't give the information, that is the reason why they are not doing them.

So, that's not what you guys are promoting here as far as stuff like that asking us to say -- do you have any comments on that?

MR. WATSON: Well, we're here because the Congress asked us to right this report on best practices. So, we are going to collect the best practices from California and from around the country and put together the report.

I can tell you that the -- some of the

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comments we have received from the public may be contradictory to what Mr. Dostel said. They seem to be working pretty well to me. Especially even the Diablo Canyon one, which is not shutting down for, I think, four or five years now. But they're -- they have a CAB and their helping -- the community is involved in the planning and I think that is a really good thing.

The one that he is probably talking about is the Citizen's Engagement Panel at San Onofre. And there is a lot of people with a lot of diverse and very strong opinions about everything there. So, if the old adage, you can't please all the people all the time, really applies to that area. So, at least that specific group. So, there is a lot of -- a lot of strong opinions voiced.

But is it working? Yes. People are allowed to provide comments and they are allowed to -- they hear them, and they provide the comments and also communicate that to the CAB members to -- for the CAB to talk about when they meet.

MR. DRESSLER: And then last question. Same thing he talked about their convoluted LLC -- legal structure, as far as stuff like that -- and he said that the parent would be responsible. In an LLC

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there is no parent. And he -- but he did say that there is a document that is in the LTA that says that Holtec will pay it. I couldn't find it -- as far as stuff -- is there something in writing that Holtec is bound to this?

MR. WATSON: I really can't quote anything specific, but I can tell you just because it is an LLC, legally they can be held responsible for -- for everything.

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MR. WATSON: Just makes it a little bit difficult, but I'm not a lawyer, so I can't speak to all of the issues. But it makes it a little bit more difficult, but you can still go after them.

MR. DRESSLER: All right.

MR. WATSON: And that is why we have on one particular company -- but it is not a reactor, it is a private firm.

MR. DRESSLER: But there is nothing to what they are saying that there is something illegal?

MR. WATSON: I just can't answer the question because I'm not privy to all of the documents.

MR. DRESSLER: Okay. Thanks, you guys did a great job --

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MR. WATSON: Thank you.

MR. DRESSLER: -- conversely to what we heard about with what went on in Massachusetts -- what they wrote about you guys and stuff. You did a great job, thanks.

MR. KLUKAN: Okay. Anyway, next?

MR. MARTYN: Pardon my back. That's the way God made me, front -- back.

MR. WATSON: That's okay.

MR. MARTYN: I just want to talk to the audience.

MR. WATSON: Yes, go ahead.

MR. MARTYN: First of all, thank you for your attendance, thank you for your time. There are a lot of questions ---

MR. WATSON: Can you state your name again?

MR. MARTYN: -- oh, okay, my name is Ron Martyn, M-A-R-T-Y-N. I'm with Forked River and I chair the Concerned Citizens of Lacey Coalition.

So, there are a lot of questions that were asked that were beyond the scope of the agenda and we appreciate your indulgence. There are a couple of things -- one question was asked, what is the source of revenue for Holtec? They have three sources.

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One, they sell parts; two, they draw down from the National Decommissioning Trust and three there are storage fees.

The law was changed so that what is on-site, instead of coming to Lacey Township, goes to Holtec. And we calculate that to be about ten million dollars a year. So, you ask what is in it for Holtec? Twenty six plants, do your math -- if you put it in New Mexico all of the stored nuclear rods -- that would be about 15 billion dollars a year, so, they are not shy on money.

They are working with a company called Lehman Funds. For whatever initial cash they need they will get it from them. Who is Lehman? Former Secretary of the Navy, active in innovative solutions, if you will.

When I came here, listening to all kinds of questions, it became apparent to me that the issues are basically grind down to, we need a CAB. That law was passed at the beginning of the year, here we are in June.

There was an announcement that the results of best practices would be by the end of the year. We are starting. All of the work that has been done --where has been all of the data that each

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commissioning unit has gone through, put into a central location so that the next group that was going to decommission would have benefit of that information? That should be attended to.

The viability of a CAB is such, that when you look at the people who sit on the board, that one whole hell of a lot of skin in the game. They are called citizens. We live within a short range of the plant. We also come from varied backgrounds that can make contributions to the total effort. That tends to be over-looked.

I know in our group we have people with diverse backgrounds from every industry, pharmaceutical, credit, finance, major manufacturing, so when we talk about best practices, a lot of us went through ISO-9000 and ISO-9001. And that was a hell of a task.

PARTICIPANT: What's that?

MR. MARTYN: That's an industrial --

(Off-mic comments.)

MR. MARTYN: Okay, sorry, I should -- it's a way of classification so that there is standards. So that every process, every procedure -- why do you have this piece of paper? To whom do you give it? What do they do with it? Where do they

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file it? Why? For how long?

PARTICIPANT: Procedure manuals.

MR. MARTYN: Inter-relationships and inter-dependencies. What I heard about one of the concerns of CAPs is that the decommissioning company is working in asylum. They owe no one anything. We have the -- a great effort that came about in New Jersey, with this executive order that we would have this state thing. My only concern is, they were all government agencies involved.

You need civilians. Okay, we really do need civilians to make that happen. But if it weren't for the efforts of some people in this room, and their associates, people like Senator Connors, okay, we went to him with a problem. First thing he did was to invite Congressman Kim. This is a non-partisan issue. And the two of them teamed up and under the leadership of each of them, and their perspective organizations, were able to get at least an executive order. So, for that we are beholden.

And I see that there are a number of local people in here and their efforts are also recognized and appreciated. That was our only voice out of Lacey. There was no other world targeted. The local level people, they love Holtec, it is wonderful. The

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sun shines and the sun -- the sun descends on Holtec. They have a different appreciation, right?

We are not watchdogs, we are not anti-anything, we are pro-pro-safety. We are -- our five tenets are, concern about the environment, we've got a billion dollar tourist industry and a billion dollar fishing industry, we want to protect it. People's livelihoods depend on it. We want security and safety, within the plant and within our community for our families. We want to maintain the quality of life that we have. We don't want any impact to that. And lastly, we want financial accountability so that we the citizens can feel comfortable that the job is being done, done correctly and within budget.

As we look at the numbers today the initial PSDAR, that we saw, says that there will be 670 million dollars worth of expenses out of a one billion dollar MDT.

Now how much money is that left over? It is a big number. So to answer your question, what is in it for them? There is a lot in it for them. But more importantly there is more in it us.

We need to have a Community Advisory Board and we need to stop asking for it, we should start demanding it and I recognize -- I recognize it is not

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in your bailiwick, I'm not preaching to you, but through our elected officials, and Vince, here, and again, we appreciate your help with the guidance, through his office and through our District 9 office, that we will be able to realize that.

Because when I listen to all of you the concerns are basically the same -- I want my life to continue as it is without interruption. And in order to have that we need to understand what is going on. It is a very simple process. The process is called critical path method.

That is what they are using to manage this process. It tells you, day one I open the door, day two I dig a hole, day three I do this, and with that there is enough granularity that comes down to the shovel, the cost of the shovel, the kind of person who is going to use the shovel, the cost of that person to do that task so that you say, oh, I budgeted that job to be a hundred dollars, but I spent 150. Why?

It is the same with equipment. So it's not rocket science. It is a big map that is put out and that should be displayed on a weekly basis. What did you say you were going to accomplish? Did you accomplish it? Did you accomplish it within time and

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within budget, and if not, what is the delta?

We could have had a nor'easter, we could have had rain, we could have had snow. It could have been a legitimate concern as to why it didn't happen. So that -- that document that Holtec is sitting on -- that document is guiding the whole process of decommissioning -- is a document that we need to have and work with.

It is a simple request that is now turned, in my opinion, the support of everyone in here, to be a demand. So, again, thank you for your time, thank you for being patient and thank you for our officials for their support -- so we can just make this thing happen here.

MR. WATSON: Thank you.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you. Is there anyone else? Okay, Ms. Gellert.

MS. GELLERT: Sally Gellert, Woodcliff Lake. I note that the Holtec thin wall casks have been approved but they are not ASME certified. And of course, we heard about how decommissioning money -- companies make money when they have the CIS that they want to have, but they can charge rent for, you know, holding fuel forever.

The concern about Holtec sponsoring CAB --

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- may be in good shape that they don't want to because they would control it then, and you really need it more independent. I'd go with state legislature or federal funding for that.

We have submitted a draft legislation from the Indian Point proposal for a Citizen's Oversight Board. We'll forward it to the Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch email list if I haven't already.

The San Onofre situation in which the cask was left hanging was exposed by a whistleblower. It involved a team that was working with Shoal Port (phonetic), lift or crane or whatever the equipment was -- that was not chosen for the expertise on the equipment, but because they had lower radiation exposure. That is scary. That is not how you choose somebody to handle, you know, high tech equipment.

There is a Regional Decommissioning Forum in Montrose, New York next Thursday afternoon at one p.m. I know that is a bit of a hike. But there will be notes and if you can make it, should be a lot of good information there.

There is also a National Decommissioning Working Group email list which airs both advocacy across the country and lessons learned across the country and we'd love more folks to join that. Thank

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you.

MR. KLUKAN: Thank you very much. All right, anyone else like to make any -- of course, sorry.

MR. PAWLOWSKI: I'm sorry. One more quick question that popped into my head.

MR. KLUKAN: Sure, go for it.

MR. PAWLOWSKI: John Pawlowski again, Waretown. When you have inspections, do you have surprise, unannounced inspections, or are they scheduled?

MR. WATSON: Most of them are scheduled. But we can have unannounced inspections if we feel the need to. The reason most of them are announced is because we are there to see specific high-risk activities and we want to make sure we are there to see them. And so, we can do unannounced but they are really not as often as they have been in the past.

PARTICIPANT: You may want to consider that.

MR. TUCKER: I have one more question.

MR. KLUKAN: Sure. We've got time.

MR. TUCKER: Yes, I wanted a white board actually. That would have been good. I could have got one from the hotel folks if I wanted one.

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Gary Tucker, Port Republic, New Jersey.

A little pregnant pause, um -- when I worked in nuclear power we were under random drug screening. So, in other words, people who worked in the power plant were clean. If you weren't clean, you weren't working there.

I guess my question is, when the fuel leaves the reactor building and it becomes an industrial site -- the ISFSI pad is secured, everybody is happy, fuel is in its bed for the next, whatever -- will they still require random drug screening at the site?

(Pause.)

MR. TUCKER: Probably don't know.

MR. WATSON: No, I do know. That actually once they get in to decommissioning there is no real requirement from the NRC to continue with the drug testing. However, every company has continued the program. Now, on a voluntary basis, because they see the benefits -- the safety benefits of not having people working under the influence of drugs or alcohol. So, those programs continue. As a matter of a corporate policy, so, we have not seen one, that I know of, back off of that requirement, or that previous requirement.

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MS. MARTYN: Charlotte Martyn, M-A-R-T-Y-N. Forked River. I just have a question. Now, do you meet with Holtec? Will Holtec find out what we had to say about them? And how they were arrogant and everything else?

MR. WATSON: I am sure they are aware of it. I think there are some people here from Holtec.

MS. MARTYN: Oh, okay.

MR. WATSON: They just haven't identified themselves. And I don't want to point them out because they are here as a public citizen too. So, a ---

MS. MARTYN: Okay. Good. I just wanted to make sure.

MR. DRESSLER: Paul Dressler, Parker River. Just one last question. If there is something such as the evacuation plan that doesn't seem to be right, and set up and requested information and it still says Exelon on it. We understand the sirens are gone. You are going to be notified, either by telephone or on your phone. How do you know if you are going to be -- the right one.

The other issue is, what do you do if -- as Ron talked about -- this is a major, Barnegat Bay fishing industry. How do those people get notified?

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We are sort of stuck in limbo on this. If that is the case, is that something we report to the NRC? Who do we report this to?

MR. WATSON: I know we have approved all the changes to the emergency plan to date. The issue -- it really turns out if you have an offsite release which would cause an evacuation. And the answer is no. The fuels get cooled to a point where it can't have a -- what we call a zirconium fire -- and have an absolute release. So, as the risk is reduced, so is the emergency plan. So, it is as simple as that.

So, they aren't required to have a whole lot of notification, they are still required to have an emergency plan though and it mainly involves a lot of industrial concerns. Obviously fire protection, off-site security support -- they all continue.

MR. DRESSLER: Thanks for your great information.

MR. WATSON: Okay. Yes.

MR. KLUKAN: All right. Anyone else?

PARTICIPANT: One more. Just one more.

MR. KLUKAN: All right, one more.

MR. TUCKER: I've got to find out. I'll tell you, the best thing about Washington -- the best thing about Washington is that it has got stuff for

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SNL every Saturday night, right? It's the best thing about these, I love it, Saturday Night Live.

So, you were just saying zirconium fire? Is three years ample time to off load the fuel out of the fuel pool and not have that issue?

MR. WATSON: Actually it is about ten months for boiling water reactor.

MR. TUCKER: It is?

MR. WATSON: Yes. Fairly quick. Cools down pretty quick, yes.

MR. KLUKAN: Okay. So, thank all of you, for your participation tonight. One question, was this -- did people think this was ending at 8:00 or 9:00 o'clock?

PARTICIPANTS: 9:00

MR. KLUKAN: All right. So you all had 9:00 o'clock. We had one individual who indicated that she thought it ended at 8:00. Anyway, because it was -- what I am trying to get to is that I want to apologize to you personally about any confusion about the purpose and scope of the meeting.

We try to do our best. Again, we apologize if there was this confusion out there. We will work in the future to make sure this doesn't happen again. So, I thank you for indulging us in

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trying to work through it.

And I'd like to thank you for all of your comments. Again, you have until November 15th to submit written comments through either the mechanisms we have posted on the card, or we had up on the slide.

And with that, thank you again. Have a good night and I will turn it over to Bruce to end the meeting.

MR. WATSON: Well, thank you for coming out tonight. I know everyone is busy. I know you've had multiple meetings in the last two weeks, so I really appreciate you coming out.

It's very important for us to hear your feedback. And I thought I would just mention, also, I also apologize for the confusion on the meeting. However, we did multiple press releases, so the press should have got it right. We did a lot of social postings and media use tweets, etc., etc. We did multiple of those to make sure people got the information. And so, what the purpose of the meeting was and actually the schedule and everything else.

Obviously a lot of people knew about the meeting because they are here. So I will just say, again, thank you for coming.

PARTICIPANT: Are we going to get that

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joint meeting with you and --

MR. WATSON: Well, that is one of the things I was trying to summarize here, if you don't mind so that we can all go home.

The main thing I heard ---

(Pause.)

MR. WATSON: I want to make sure that a few things that I heard, so that you know we were listening. I think what I heard is Oyster Creek, the community here really needs a Citizen's Advisory Panel. I think they also -- you also believe that the -- this would allow some technical exchanges in communications with the local community and that Holtec should be a willing partner to that -- to provide information.

There is a -- somehow we should be evaluating where the NRC could act as a conduit for public information on decommissioning. And also I heard at one point, a couple of people said that the NRC should require CABs, or Citizen's Advisory Boards.

I heard concerns about the skill and training of the workers and their safety for doing the decommissioning. And that, I also heard one other thing that I thought was very good, local citizens have a diverse -- have diverse talents that could be

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a benefit to the community and Holtec in the decommissioning process, so.

I do have two take-aways for the NRC to look at. An action for one is that we should put how to join LISTSERV, so you get the information electronically on our website. We will do that on the NEIMA website -- how to join LISTSERV for Oyster Creek, and other -- if there's plants your are interested in. I guess you could sign up for those too. But it is just an electronic sign up and we will make that happen.

And then again, with the other thing I thought of -- evaluate whether we are authorized to actually be a conduit of information for the public on decommissioning. I know we collect data. We do lessons learned. We publish it on the website along with EPRI and others -- NEI. So, it is something for us to take a second look at, so I appreciate that comment too.

With that -- those are the big, big ticket items I heard. So, with that I will thank you again for coming out and we will close the meeting.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 8:57 p.m.)

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