

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Victoria County Station Early Site Permit
Public Meeting: Afternoon Session

Docket Number: (n/a)

Location: Victoria, Texas

Date: Thursday, December 2, 2010

Work Order No.: NRC-581

Pages 1-71

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE VICTORIA COUNTY STATION
EARLY SITE PERMIT

+ + + + +
Thursday, December 2, 2010

+ + + + +
Auditorium
Victoria Community Center
2905 E. North Street
Victoria, Texas
1:00 p.m.

FRANCIS X. "CHIP" CAMERON, Facilitator

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. CAMERON: If we could have everybody
3 take a seat, we'll get started with today's meeting.
4 Before I get started with my remarks, my name is Chip
5 Cameron, and I'm going to be your facilitator today.
6 We do want to make sure that we get the information
7 clearly to everybody, so we do have two interpreters
8 here who will help people who might need some
9 assistance, and I'm going to have one of them, Sarita
10 Gomez-Mola, talk to you for a second.

11 (Ms. Gomez-Mola addressed the audience in
12 Spanish.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sarita.

14 Good afternoon, everyone and welcome to
15 the public meeting today. Our topic is going to be
16 the environmental review that the Nuclear Regulatory
17 Commission, or NRC, and the United States Army Corps
18 of Engineers, the environmental review that they're
19 going to do on an application that the NRC received
20 from Exelon Nuclear Texas Holding, which we'll be
21 referring to as Exelon, application for what's called
22 an early site permit, and the NRC staff will be
23 explaining in more detail what that is, but an early
24 site permit would be the first step in the possible
25 construction and operation of nuclear power plants

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1 here in Victoria.

2 And as I mentioned, my name is Chip
3 Cameron, and it's my pleasure to serve as your
4 facilitator for today's meeting. I'm going to be
5 assisted by Sara Mroz, who is right here, and Sara is
6 in the NRC facilitation training program and she's
7 going to be assisting me today, and we're both going
8 to try to assist you in having a productive meeting
9 this afternoon.

10 I just wanted to talk a little bit about
11 meeting process issues so that you know what to expect
12 to day and I'd like to tell you about the format for
13 the meeting, some simple ground rules that will allow
14 us to have a productive meeting, and to introduce the
15 NRC staff who will be speaking to you this afternoon.

16 In terms of the format for the meeting,
17 the meeting really has two components to it. The
18 first part of the meeting is to give you some
19 background on the NRC evaluation process for this
20 early site permit application, and we have two brief
21 NRC presentations to explain that to you. We have
22 some time for questions after those presentations to
23 make sure that the process is clear to you, so we'll
24 go out to you for some questions.

25 Then we're going to go to the second part of the

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1 meeting which is the primary part of the meeting, and
2 that's an opportunity for the NRC staff to hear your
3 advice, your recommendations, your comments on what
4 should be looked at in the NRC's environmental review
5 on this early site permit application. And we have
6 the yellow cards out there. If you want to speak,
7 please just fill one of these out so that we know how
8 many people want to talk this afternoon, and when we
9 get to that comment part of the meeting, we'll ask you
10 to come up here to the podium to address everybody.

11 And the NRC staff will tell you that
12 they're also taking written comments on these
13 environmental review issues, but I want to assure you
14 that anything you say today will have the same weight
15 as a written comment, and of course, you're free to
16 submit a written comment to us also even if you speak
17 this afternoon.

18 And in terms of ground rules for the
19 meeting, I would just first ask you to wait until both
20 of the NRC staff presentations are finished before you
21 ask questions, and then if you have a question, just
22 signal me and I'll bring this cordless microphone to
23 you and please introduce yourself to us. If we can't
24 get to all of your questions before we have to move on
25 to public comment, the NRC staff will be here after

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1 the meeting and will be glad to talk to you about any
2 questions that we couldn't answer or any subjects that
3 are on your mind.

4 And second ground rule is that I would ask
5 that only one person speak at a time. The most
6 important reason for that is so that we can give our
7 full attention to whomever has the floor at the
8 moment, but also so that we can get what I call a
9 clean transcript. We are taking a transcript. We
10 have a court reporter over here; it's Nancy King, who
11 is going to be taking a transcript of the meeting, and
12 that will be your record of the meeting and it will be
13 the NRC's record of the meeting.

14 The third ground rule, I would just ask
15 you to be brief in your comments so that we can make
16 sure that we get to everyone who wants to speak
17 tonight, and usually I ask people to follow a three-
18 to five-minute ground rule for their comments.

19 We do have several speakers for this
20 afternoon's meeting, but I don't think that we're
21 going to be really pressed for time. I would still
22 ask you to stay relatively within that five-minute
23 window, but if I have to ask you to sum up, I
24 apologize in advance because I know that you spent a
25 lot of time preparing your comments for us, and if I

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1 have to ask you to sum up when we get into that five-,
2 six-minute range, I'll probably come over to the
3 podium to ask you to do that.

4 The NRC staff is here to listen carefully
5 to your comments this afternoon. They won't be
6 responding to any comments that you make from the
7 podium or any questions that you ask from the podium,
8 but they will carefully consider and evaluate those
9 comments and questions when they prepare what's called
10 a scoping report that will be available to the public
11 that summarizes the meeting. And I would just thank
12 you all for being here today to help the NRC and the
13 Corps of Engineers with this decision, and I'd like to
14 introduce the speakers from the NRC staff.

15 First of all, we're going to go to Ryan
16 Whited, and Ryan is chief of the Environmental Review
17 Branch which is in the Division of Site and
18 Environmental Reviews in the Office of New Reactors at
19 the NRC, and his branch is conducting this review.
20 And Ryan has been with the NRC for about eight years.

21 He's been involved in the NRC's Low-Level Waste
22 Disposal Program; he's also been in the Executive
23 Director for Operations Office at the NRC addressing
24 agency budget issues. Before he came to the NRC, he
25 was with an environmental consulting firm. He has a

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1 bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the
2 University of West Virginia and he has a master's in
3 environmental engineering from Clemson University; he
4 also has a master's of business administration from
5 the University of Pennsylvania. Ryan will give you a
6 formal welcome and tell you a little bit about the NRC
7 responsibilities generally.

8 And then we're going to go the details of
9 the environmental review process, and to do that for
10 us we have Tomeka Terry who is here. She'll explain
11 that to you. And Tomeka has been with the NRC for
12 about eight years doing environmental review projects,
13 and she also has several degrees, a bachelor's degree
14 and a master's degree from North Carolina A&T State
15 University.

16 Just let me introduce a couple of other
17 people. We have Scott Flanders here. Scott is the
18 director of the Division of Site and Environmental
19 Review at the NRC in the Office of New Reactors, and
20 he's the senior agency official here today. We also
21 have Alicia Williamson, and she also has
22 responsibilities for the project management of the
23 environmental review on this early site permit. There
24 also is a safety review component to this evaluation,
25 and we have the project manager for the safety review

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1 here, and that's Janelle Jessie. She's right here.

2 We also brought a number of other NRC
3 staff with us to make sure that we can answer any
4 questions that you have either during the meeting or
5 after the meeting, and we have staff here from our
6 Public Affairs Office, from our regional NRC office
7 which is in Arlington, Texas. We have experts either
8 from the NRC staff or the consultants that help the
9 NRC staff in the areas of ecology, radiation,
10 protection, socioeconomics, and several other areas.

11 So with that, I think I just would turn it
12 over to Ryan Whited.

13 MR. WHITED: Thank you, Chip.

14 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Ryan
15 Whited. I'm the branch chief for the Victoria early
16 site permit environmental review. First I'd like to
17 thank all of you for coming out this afternoon. We
18 look forward to hearing your comments and we hope that
19 we can provide some useful information to you about
20 the NRC and our environmental review process for the
21 Victoria early site permit application.

22 The purposes of today's meeting are to
23 provide an overview of our review process and the
24 schedule for the environmental review, to describe how
25 you can provide comments on the scope of the

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1 environmental impact statement, or the EIS, that we'll
2 be preparing, and to listen to any comments that you'd
3 like to offer today.

4 Some of you may have attended one of the
5 public outreach meetings that we've held here in the
6 past to provide general information on the NRC's new
7 reactor licensing process. If you attended one or
8 more of those meetings, welcome back.

9 Today's meeting is a little bit different.

10 Now that we've initiated our environmental review and
11 are seeking your input into the scope of the EIS that
12 we're preparing, you have local knowledge of the area,
13 you know this area best and you may be aware of some
14 issues that are important for us to consider as we
15 conduct our review. Following my remarks, again,
16 Tomeka Terry, who is our project manager for the
17 review, is going to provide a little more detail on
18 our process for preparing the EIS, and at the end of
19 Tomeka's presentation she'll discuss further how you
20 can participate in our review process, and there are
21 several different ways you can do that, including
22 providing your comments to us today.

23 I want to take a minute to introduce you
24 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC's
25 mission is to protect public health and safety,

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1 promote common defense and security and to protect the
2 environment, and today we'll be focusing on that third
3 aspect of the NRC's mission.

4 We're an independent regulatory agency.
5 We license and inspect civilian uses of nuclear
6 materials, for example, at nuclear power facilities,
7 hospitals and universities. We're here today because
8 Exelon has applied for an early site permit, or an
9 ESP, to potentially construct and operate one or more
10 new nuclear units at the Victoria County Station site.

11 It's important to note that Exelon has not
12 filed an application to build a reactor at this stage.

13 What we're doing is evaluating the proposed Victoria
14 site to determine whether it would be suitable should
15 Exelon decide to construct. Exelon would need to file
16 a separate license application should they decide to
17 move forward in building one or more new nuclear
18 units.

19 So part of the NRC's licensing review
20 includes a environmental review under the National
21 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. An early site
22 permit from the NRC qualifies as a major federal
23 action that could significantly affect the
24 environment, and because it's a major federal action,
25 the NRC staff will prepare an environmental impact

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1 statement that analyzes in depth the environmental
2 impacts associated with the proposed Victoria County
3 Station site.

4 In conducting our review, we assemble a
5 team of technical experts, about 30 or so experts, in
6 areas such as hydrology, ecology, socioeconomics, to
7 analyze a broad range of issues such as impacts to
8 fish and wildlife, the effect of developing the
9 proposed site on traffic patterns, impacts on water
10 quality and water availability, and as Chip mentioned,
11 several of the individuals on the Victoria team are
12 here this afternoon and they'll be available after the
13 meeting to answer any questions you may have in a
14 specific area.

15 I did want to mention that the U.S. Army
16 Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, is our federal
17 partner in this review, and they will be what's called
18 a cooperating agency in preparing the environmental
19 impact statement. The goal of our partnership with
20 the Corps is for the EIS to support both the NRC's
21 licensing process and the Corps' permitting process
22 for the proposed Victoria County Station site, if and
23 when a permit application is submitted to the Corps.
24 We've been working with the Corps on several of our
25 environmental reviews for potential reactor sites and

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1 we've found the relationship very beneficial, given
2 the Corps' expertise in assessing impacts to water and
3 wetlands.

4 The project manager for the Corps, Mr.
5 Jayson Hudson, was not able to be here today, so I'm
6 going to take just a few minutes to discuss the Corps'
7 role and authority in the Victoria ESP review.

8 The U.S. Army Corps is the federal agency
9 responsible for administering Section 404 of the Clean
10 Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act
11 of 1899. The Corps regulates the discharge or dredged
12 or fill material into all jurisdictional waters of the
13 United States and construction excavation or
14 deposition of materials in or near such waters. The
15 Corps also regulates any work which would affect the
16 course, location, condition or capacity of navigable
17 waters of the U.S. And like the NRC's early site
18 permit process, U.S. Army Corps permit decisions are
19 federal actions that must comply with NEPA.

20 As a cooperating agency, the Corps will be
21 a member of the team that prepares the EIS for the
22 Victoria early site permit review. The final EIS will
23 serve as the primary environmental document on which
24 the U.S. Army Corps off-site alternatives analysis
25 will be based if and when an application is submitted

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1 for a Department of the Army permit. And again, at
2 this time Exelon has not submitted a permit
3 application to the Corps.

4 As I mentioned, the project manager for
5 the Corps is Mr. Jayson Hudson and I believe Jayson's
6 contact information will be on the final slide of this
7 presentation.

8 That concludes my remarks this afternoon.

9 Again, thanks very much for coming to the meeting
10 today and I'll now turn things over to Ms. Tomeka
11 Terry, who is the environmental project manager for
12 the review.

13 MS. TERRY: Thank you, Ryan. Also, I want
14 to thank you all for taking the time to be with us
15 today. My name is Tomeka Terry and I am an
16 environmental project manager at NRC. I am leading a
17 team of NRC experts and in partnership with the Corps
18 of Engineers. We will conduct an environmental review
19 on the Victoria County Station site permit application
20 considering developing any large industry projects and
21 its environmental effects involving any input. So
22 this is an important opportunity for you to share your
23 insight with us in the early permit process.

24 I will repeat the request because your
25 involvement is that important to us. We appreciate

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1 that so many of you have come to listen to us and we
2 look forward to your assistance by sharing your
3 concerns and identifying those issues that we should
4 consider in the scope of our environmental review.

5 As you have heard from Ryan, Exelon
6 Nuclear Texas Holdings, known as Exelon, submitted an
7 early site permit application to NRC on March 25,
8 2010. As an early site permit, or ESP, NRC can approve
9 a site that is suitable to host one or more nuclear
10 reactors. In making such decisions, we must consider
11 the site safety characteristics. For example, the
12 effect of hurricanes on the power plant, we need to
13 consider the ability to develop an emergency plan, and
14 we need to consider the potential environmental
15 impacts of building and operating a plant.

16 Today we want to hear from you, your
17 concerns. We've identified some resource areas that
18 will be considered in reviewing to help you focus your
19 attention on the environmental issues.

20 An early site permit is not authorization
21 to build and operate a plant. It is just a siting
22 decision that a particular location is suitable for
23 hosting a plant. An early site permit is an important
24 tool to assist energy planners, because it allows a
25 permit-holder to bank a site for up to 20 years and

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1 allowing them to decide when the time is right to
2 proceed on a decision of developing the site.

3 Building and operating any reactor at this
4 site will still require the ESP permit-holder to apply
5 for another approval from NRC. That license is called
6 the combined license. As part of NRC's license
7 framework there is a separate process in approval of
8 reactor design, independent of the site. That is
9 called a design certification.

10 So now you see how an early site permit
11 obtained in advance and a reactor design approved in
12 advance can work together when a combined license
13 application, actually requesting approval from NRC to
14 build and operate a nuclear power plant.

15 Next slide. That's okay. Let's just go
16 ahead. Sorry about that. As you have the
17 presentation in your hands, slide 9 which is a slide
18 that provides a high level overview of our
19 environmental review process. This is a step-wise
20 approach on how we meet our responsibility under the
21 National Environmental Policy Act, known as NEPA.

22 We started our environmental review of an
23 applicant's request with our notice of an intent to
24 prepare an EIS and to conduct scoping. A notice was
25 published in the Federal Register on November 2, 2010.

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1 The notice started the 60-day scoping period. The
2 scoping period provides an opportunity for you, the
3 public, to share your comments on environmental issues
4 relating to the early site permit request.

5 We have come here today to give you an
6 additional tool to share your comments with us. We
7 know that some of you are here just to gather
8 information before you provide us with your comments.

9 We will give you information at the end of this
10 presentation on how to submit those comments to us
11 before the end of the comment period. Whether you
12 provide them to us today or later, they will carry the
13 same weight.

14 After we consider your comments we will
15 continue to gather and analyze information regarding
16 our review, and then we will prepare a draft report of
17 our assessment of the impacts in the form of a draft
18 environmental impact statement, Draft EIS. When we do
19 complete the Draft EIS, we're required to file it with
20 the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington,
21 D.C. and with the Dallas regional office. At that
22 time both EPA and NRC will issue a notice of
23 availability of the Draft EIS. We expect to issue the
24 draft in August 2012. If you signed up and gave us
25 your contact information, then you will be on our list

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1 to receive an electronic or a hard copy version of the
2 Draft and the Final EIS.

3 When we issue the draft we will invite you
4 to offer your comments on the EIS. While it is a
5 draft, it is not incomplete. It is a draft because
6 the public did not get to comment on it. As part of
7 our process of obtaining your comments, we will come
8 back here and have another public meeting to share
9 your results on the environmental review and to accept
10 comments on the draft EIS.

11 While we're required to provide a 45-day
12 period, we have extended that to 75 days to give you
13 ample opportunity to develop your comments on the
14 draft EIS. Our public meeting will be at the midway
15 point of the comment period of the draft. Once the
16 comment period is over, we will consider all comments
17 that were received and decide on the changes that need
18 on our work to be made before we issue the final EIS.

19 The last step in our environmental review
20 process will be issuing the Final EIS filing and
21 publishing the notice of availability for the final.
22 The target date is August 2013.

23 As Ryan described earlier, the EIS is a
24 systematic approach and integrated review. This slide
25 illustrates some of the resource areas that will be

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1 addressed in our EIS, highlighting the environmental
2 aspects of our review. As an example the EIS has
3 included in our evaluation the socioeconomic impacts
4 that the proposed action will have on the community
5 surrounding the plant. This would include how the
6 project workforce would affect enrollment in schools,
7 the use of hospitals, the effect on other community
8 service and characteristics. We would need to
9 consider these issues such as taxes, traffic, and
10 noise.

11 Each of the resource areas has similar
12 detailed assessments and some of them have overlaps.
13 For example, water resource affects the aquatic
14 ecosystem. Aquatic ecology and terrestrial ecology
15 are related. Terrestrial issues affect land use which
16 in turn affect cultural resources, and so on. The
17 interrelationship among these will be considered by
18 the review team and will be included in our review.
19 Information you can share with us on these resource
20 areas will help us as we perform our review.

21 Next slide. Our first step in the
22 environmental review is to gather information
23 regarding these issues we should consider within the
24 scope of our review. We're looking for you to help us
25 become aware of the environmental issues that are

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1 important to consider before we begin on our
2 assessment of preparing an EIS. In addition to those
3 who are prepared to provide your comments to us today,
4 you still have an opportunity to comment and provide
5 additional information to us through the end of the
6 comment period on January 3, 2011.

7 When the comment period is closed, we will
8 compile all comments that were received and decide
9 which comments are within scope of the environmental
10 review and publish them in a scoping summary report.
11 We expect to issue the report in the summer next year
12 after we've taken the time to assess the comments
13 provided. Those comments applicable to environmental
14 review will be considered in the preparation of the
15 Draft EIS.

16 Next slide. We're having some technical
17 difficulties. Sorry about that.

18 On slide 12 if you look at your
19 presentation, this is a semi diagram that parallels
20 the safety and environmental review that was conducted
21 in the EIS request. The safety review followed the
22 top path shown on the slide. The safety review
23 considered the site safety and emergency planning.
24 The environmental review followed the bottom path.
25 Both of these reviews feed into the NRC hearing

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1 process which is shown in the middle path of the
2 slide.

3 The hearing process factors the results of
4 both safety and environmental review which we must
5 conduct before a final decision can be made on the ESP
6 request. The hearing is an important part of this
7 review process and is a different opportunity for the
8 public involvement. Because of that, I'm going to
9 spend a few moments on that.

10 On November 23 NRC published in the
11 Federal Register a notice of hearing opportunity to
12 intervene in a legal proceeding. Anyone who seeks to
13 intervene in a legal proceeding should carefully read
14 the hearing notice and follow the instruction because
15 of its prescriptive requirements.

16 In order to file a petition with NRC you
17 must obtain a digital certificate approval from NRC in
18 advance or you must seek a waiver for the digital
19 certificate requirement. It's important for you not
20 to wait until the last week to file, period, to
21 request a digital certificate because it could take up
22 to five to ten business days to receive it from NRC.

23 Specific instructions pertaining to the
24 digital certificate are in the hearing notice and on
25 this website page listed here. We brought extra

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1 copies of the notice of the 23rd. If you would like
2 one, they are available at the NRC registration table.

3 Just ask any one of the NRC staff members.

4 Next slide. Documents related to the
5 environmental review can be viewed on the internet.
6 We have created a specific website for the project and
7 it is listed on the slide. And additionally, you can
8 review this information in the local Victoria Public
9 Library. Liz Thompson and other librarians have been
10 kind enough to host a copy of the environmental report
11 that will be included in Exelon's application. We
12 will also send the library important environmental
13 documents that we create for our review of this
14 application.

15 Next slide, please. As we have indicated,
16 our primary purpose for this meeting is to listen and
17 gather your comments on the site as we begin our
18 environmental review. Many of you have already signed
19 up to speak today, however, if you are not comfortable
20 speaking or need to leave early, there's a table at
21 the back of the room with comment forms that you can
22 write your comments on one and mail them to us, or if
23 you choose you can hand them to an NRC staff member
24 and we will attach it to today's transcript.

25 If you would like to provide comments to

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1 us later, then there are several other ways to submit
2 your comments. You can e-mail them to
3 Victoria.ESPEIS@nrc.gov. You may mail them to this
4 address listed on the slide, or you may fax them to
5 301-492-3446. Please note there's a 60-day comment
6 period opened until January 3, 2011.

7 Next slide, please. Finally, we want to
8 leave information on how to contact us if you need to
9 reach us. In addition to my contact information, I
10 have provided a phone number and e-mail address for
11 Ms. Janelle Jessie, who is our lead safety project
12 manager, as well as Mr. Jayson Hudson from the Corps
13 of Engineers.

14 Now I will turn it back over to Chip in
15 case you have any questions about the process we have
16 described about the environmental review. That
17 completes my presentation, and I do want to thank you
18 for your attention and we're looking forward to your
19 comments. Thank you.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Tomeka.
21 Thank you, Ryan.

22 Before I go out to see if there's any
23 questions that we could answer, I should introduce
24 both of our interpreters. You've already met Sarita
25 Gomez-Mola. We also have Steve Mines back here. If

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1 there are any people in the community that you think
2 might not have come out today because they thought
3 this was going to be all in English, we are going to
4 be here tonight from 7:00 to 10:00, so if there's
5 anybody out there that you think might want to attend,
6 we will have our two interpreters here tonight so
7 please encourage them to come out.

8 How about questions? Are there any
9 questions we could answer for you about the NRC or the
10 Corps of Engineers review process today before we go
11 to public comment?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And as I said, the
14 staff will be here after the meeting to talk with
15 anybody who has concerns or questions. And with that,
16 we're going to go to the public comment, and I'd like
17 to ask Judge Donald Pozzi to come up and talk to us,
18 and then we're going to go to Mayor Will Armstrong.
19 And this is Judge Pozzi. They say never make a
20 mistake with a judge. I'm sorry, Judge.

21 JUDGE POZZI: No problem, Chip. Thank you.

22 I will be very brief this afternoon as
23 Chip has asked, primarily because of my voice;
24 otherwise, I may be here all day.

25 Let me first welcome all of our members

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1 with NRC that are here with us today. I know we have
2 probably 15 to 20 of them in town. You're certainly
3 welcome. Anything we can do for you, let us know.
4 And certainly we welcome members of the public that
5 are here today. Many of you have been to these
6 meetings before or meetings like this. This is, I
7 believe, the fourth time in the last four years,
8 probably, that we've had an opportunity for public
9 input at this kind of meeting, although as has been
10 described, this is a little different as your
11 testimony is being recorded.

12 Let me say that Exelon has been a friend
13 to Victoria County since the initial involvement
14 almost four years ago. We at this time have been
15 through many things, many different problems,
16 exercises, dealings with Exelon, and my initial
17 opinion with the Exelon Corporation has not changed.
18 They are a great company, they are open, they are
19 honest, they are transparent, and they're not going to
20 tell you anything -- at least it has been my
21 experience -- that is not so.

22 So the leadership in this community
23 certainly remains committed to Exelon Corporation and
24 this process with regard to the early site permit. We
25 believe that the vast majority of Victorians remain

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1 committed to that. We recognize there are naysayers.

2 We understand that, there have been from the
3 beginning and there will be to the end. That's fine
4 as long as those naysayers we hope understand what we
5 believe to be the entire process, and I am certainly
6 no expert in the field.

7 But I know there are many concerns about
8 water and I can assure you that Exelon and no other
9 nuclear generation company would be interested in
10 building a site here in Victoria or anywhere else if
11 water were not available. We have many sources of
12 water and you're going to hear probably some naysayers
13 this afternoon regarding that topic. When you
14 consider a 4,900-acre cooling pond, when you look at
15 the studies that have been done with regard to times
16 of drought, the use of those facilities, the low
17 amount of water that would be taken from the Guadalupe
18 River, I believe we have satisfied the water concern.

19 I believe we've satisfied the
20 environmental concern. We know there are a lot of
21 them out there. When the NRC looks at the
22 environmental process they look at much more than what
23 we would sometimes think is environmental. It goes
24 way beyond what a person may initially believe and it
25 goes to the makeup of the community itself and the

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1 effect of many, many things in the community.

2 You will hear some discussions this
3 afternoon primarily maybe about some wildlife. We
4 believe that those concerns have been satisfied. We
5 believe the safety issues have been satisfied. We
6 believe that Exelon has demonstrated over this last
7 four-year period, both with their initial combined
8 operating and license application, withdrawal of that
9 and now the application for the early site permit and
10 the studies that have been done in that regard have
11 satisfied all of these issues.

12 If you will look at the NRC's mission
13 statement that was presented here to you today, if you
14 go to Exelon's website and look at their goals and
15 look at their core values and look at their policy, it
16 will come as no surprise to you that they are
17 certainly in line with the mission of the NRC itself
18 to promote safety, defense, security, environment, the
19 three things that you saw up here on their mission
20 statement this afternoon.

21 So again, I want to thank you for being
22 here. Victoria County and its leadership remains
23 committed to this project. We appreciate your right
24 to dissent, we know there will be some. I had a lady
25 ask me earlier are we still going to be friends. Of

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1 course we are. That's not what this is about. I'm
2 not going to ruin any friendships over this nor am I
3 going to lose any, and I hope none of you do either.
4 This is about what we believe is best for Victoria
5 County, best for the State of Texas, and best for the
6 nation.

7 We know that nuclear power will be needed.

8 We submit that if there wasn't a problem with the
9 loan guarantee program, the economy wasn't in the
10 state it was, natural gas wasn't at the price it was,
11 we'd be looking at building this plant in the next
12 couple of years.

13 We will continue to remain committed
14 whether it takes the 20-year process or five or ten.
15 Someone will be here in my stead, of course. Most of
16 you would like to see that, or some of you certainly
17 would, but that's okay. I'll still be here, I'll
18 still be for this project, and I'll still be a
19 Victoria resident doing what I think is best for
20 Victoria. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Judge
23 Pozzi.

24 And now here's Mayor Armstrong.

25 MAYOR ARMSTRONG: I think I made a

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1 mistake. I said I would follow the judge. That's
2 kind of hard to follow. Good job, Your Honor.

3 My wife and I are parents of two children,
4 grandparents to four. I'm a local businessman and a
5 six-time elected city official. I consider myself an
6 environmentalist. My father grew up in Seadrift, he
7 grew up on San Antonio Bay and when he had a chance to
8 buy a business in Victoria or buy one in Corsicana for
9 the same price, he chose Victoria because he wanted to
10 get back near saltwater. He loved to fish and he
11 passed that on to all of our family. I'm not worried
12 about the health of the bay, the environment. I know
13 those situations will be taken care of properly.

14 Now that I've reached late middle age, I'm
15 a grandfather, a businessman, a local elected official
16 and a fellow that likes to fish, wearing all of those
17 hats that I mentioned, I support this endeavor, this
18 nuclear endeavor in our area.

19 Often when the environment is mentioned,
20 water is discussed, and I want to talk to you about
21 the water that we have for the citizens of Victoria,
22 our drinking water. I see Councilman Truman in the
23 audience and he's nodding his head. Thank you.

24 We have about 20,000 acre-feet of water,
25 surface water rights. We have a one-year supply, a

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1 reservoir that can supply us with water for one year.

2 We have ten deep wells, and these deep wells by
3 themselves could furnish us with the water that we
4 need. We're using right now about 12,000 acre-feet of
5 water a year and our surface rights are 20,000 acre-
6 feet. With the wells, our one-year supply, the city
7 administration, the city council, the experts that we
8 have feel like we are meeting our needs for the next
9 40 to 60 years with the growth that we anticipate.

10 In quoting a June 9, 2008 Fortune Magazine
11 article, "The Case for Nukes" subtitled "The solution
12 to nuclear energy has been under our nose for
13 decades." It goes on to say that the French generate
14 75 percent of their electricity nuclear, and they
15 should be given credit for that plus the wine and the
16 cheese -- let's not forget that.

17 Reading a letter that I wrote a while back
18 to the former secretary of Energy, Samuel W. Bodman,
19 it reads in part: Exelon Nuclear Texas Holdings
20 proposed new nuclear power generating facility enjoys
21 widespread support in Victoria County and the State of
22 Texas as evidenced by supporting resolutions passed by
23 the Victoria City Council, the Chamber of Commerce,
24 the African-American Chamber of Commerce, the Victoria
25 County Commissioners Court, and the Victoria Economic

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1 Development Corporation.

2 Now, there are those that are against
3 building a nuclear power plant in our county, and
4 you'll hear from them as the Judge says, but this is a
5 local issue and it's a not-in-my-backyard issue.
6 Well, it will be interesting to know how much money is
7 going to be spent, how much local oil and gas money is
8 going to be spent on big-time lawyers. This is a not-
9 in-my-backyard issue more than anything else.

10 Mark Twain said that predictions are
11 risky, especially if they involve the future, and I
12 say there isn't much risk in predicting that Victoria
13 will grow and need electricity. No one that I know of
14 could have guessed how computers and cell phones would
15 change our way of life, and none of this would have
16 been possible without electricity.

17 The Victoria Advocate front page, November
18 22, 2010, headlines: "Utilities Thrilled, Worried
19 About Electric Cars Power Usage." I'm going to leave
20 this paper to go on public record with you. It says
21 here in the first part of the article that an electric
22 car can use approximately the same amount of
23 electricity as a small home. We're going to need more
24 electricity.

25 In closing I want to quote Thomas

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1 Jefferson. Inside the Jefferson Memorial it is
2 written, in part: Laws and institutions must go hand
3 in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that
4 becomes more developed and enlightened, as new
5 discoveries are made, new truths are discovered and
6 manners and opinions change with the change of
7 circumstances, institutions must advance to keep pace
8 with time.

9 There will be a time for nuclear power and
10 I think this community will embrace that time when the
11 economic stars line up. Thank you.

12 I'd like to thank the Nuclear Regulatory
13 group and the Corps of Engineers and Exelon officials
14 that are all here, and I thank Dale Fowler, the head
15 of our Economic Development Corporation coined a
16 phrase, he called it Nuclear Tourism. You're
17 certainly always welcome in our town and we want you
18 to come back often. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, thank
21 you, Mayor.

22 Next we're going to hear from Marilyn
23 Kray, who is a vice president with Exelon, to tell us
24 a little bit about Exelon's vision for the project.
25 Marilyn. And then we're going to go to Donald Day.

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1 MS. KRAY: Thank you, Chip.

2 I thought it would be best to preface my
3 remarks by first giving you what I think Exelon owes
4 you and that is a description of what our strategy and
5 what our plans are.

6 If you recall, a few years there was a
7 sense of urgency where we were seeking a license from
8 the NRC to construct and operate a plant here at the
9 Victoria site, and what was alluded to before,
10 certainly the economic downturn has had a significant
11 impact on our strategy, specifically the demand for
12 electricity and also the price of natural gas. And if
13 you wonder why we're concerned about the price of
14 natural gas, overall that's a great thing for this
15 country to be more self-sufficient and independent
16 from an energy perspective. Natural gas, however,
17 sets the price essentially for electricity. That's
18 important to us because that price of electricity is
19 what we use to calculate what the revenue would be
20 associated with the plant that we were to build.

21 So it no longer became prudent for us to
22 pursue the immediate deployment of construction of a
23 plant here in Victoria. However -- and this is very
24 important -- we do see the long-term benefit of
25 nuclear power, we see the need to have a diverse fuel

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1 portfolio that is comprised not only of coal,
2 renewables and gas but also of nuclear, and also the
3 need for clean energy.

4 So with that, that is what caused us to
5 revise our strategy. We withdrew the application that
6 we had previously submitted to the NRC to construct
7 and operate a plant, but we replaced that with the
8 application to pursue the early site permit which is
9 why we're here today, and that permit allows us to do
10 the analysis to demonstrate, first to ourselves and
11 then to the NRC, the suitability of this particular
12 site here in Victoria. How that benefits us is that
13 should we later decide to pursue the license, we will
14 have saved a significant amount of energy and effort
15 whenever we go forward with that.

16 So again, for those of you that were
17 interested, whether you were in favor or opposed, I
18 thought you needed to again understand what our
19 strategy going forward is.

20 There's just three quick things that I
21 would like for you to know about Exelon if you don't
22 already, the first of which, safe operations, is the
23 cornerstone of our company, not just of the individual
24 plants, not just of the nuclear generation but of the
25 corporation. Nuclear operations are truly the

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1 backbone of our company and the safe operation is what
2 makes that successful.

3 Secondly, we're committed to the
4 environment. If you're interested I would encourage
5 you to Google Exelon 2020, and that sets forth what
6 our policy is looking to reduce greenhouse gas
7 emissions between now and the year 2020, and that's
8 just one example of the commitment the corporation
9 does have to the environment. And that commitment
10 essentially provided the context, the motivation that
11 we had whenever we went through the painstaking effort
12 that we did to prepare the analyses that we did that
13 are contained in the environmental report which was
14 part of our early site application.

15 And then lastly, we're committed to the
16 communities. There's a very measurable part about our
17 community commitment in the form of tax revenue, jobs,
18 and I can refer you to different studies whether you
19 want to look at the impact that plants have had,
20 whether they be Exelon plants or any other plants in
21 the United States

22 But the other one that doesn't get
23 probably as much attention is the social commitment
24 that we have. We operate 17 units that are located at
25 ten different plants in the United States. I live

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1 within six miles of one of them, my kids went to
2 school at schools that were in the emergency planning
3 zone, and all of our workers, we live and we work in
4 those communities. We go to the same schools, to the
5 same churches, to the same synagogues; we volunteer to
6 coach soccer and basketball and whatever else that it
7 is. So essentially we would become part of that
8 community.

9 And myself and the other Exelon colleagues
10 who have visited Victoria have all come back with the
11 same thing: one, we hate flying into Houston, but
12 two, we love it once we get into Victoria because this
13 community has truly embraced us and it is a wonderful
14 place to live and to raise a family and those are the
15 kind of neighbors that we would like to be and
16 certainly the neighbors we would like to have.

17 So I welcome your participation and thank
18 you for the opportunity.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Marilyn.

21 And this is Donald Day, and then we're
22 going to go to John Figer and Dr. Sheldon Landsberger.

23 MR. DAY: Good afternoon, ladies and
24 gentlemen. It's a pleasure to be here. I didn't know
25 that I was going to have to follow two famous

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1 politicians, not infamous but famous, and quite glib
2 too, but it is a pleasure to be here.

3 I stand in support of Exelon's plan to
4 eventually -- and I say eventually -- build a nuclear
5 generation site here in Victoria. I am a layman, I'm
6 a small business owner and I'm chairman of the
7 Victoria Economic Development Corporation, and I
8 certainly would not like any project that would come
9 to Victoria that would disturb the environment as I
10 know it, that would actually destroy the environment
11 of where I live, and I do that in recognition that
12 this plant would do a lot of good for the environment.

13 One of the things that I think the Mayor
14 mentioned about the number of electric cars that are
15 supposed to be online in the next few years, I think
16 it's 2020 they expect somewhere between 10- and 20
17 million electrical vehicles, not hybrids but
18 electrical vehicles. We do not have enough electrical
19 generation capacity to support that. We need a
20 generation plant.

21 Last May the EPA issued what is called a
22 Tailoring Rule to govern new power plants that emit
23 100,000 tons or more of carbon dioxide, methane,
24 nitrous oxide and some other emissions of greenhouse
25 gases. That will severely impact the majority of our

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1 coal plants, even out newest coal plant that is soon
2 to be under construction out here at Coletto Creek. We
3 are greatly limiting our infrastructure of generation
4 facilities.

5 So I am in support of it. It would make a
6 tremendous economic impact here in Victoria. Without
7 denying, it would help all businesses and I think help
8 all citizens by having jobs available. Our coal plant
9 that's going to be constructed just over the county
10 line will certainly bring about 2,000 construction
11 workers in the very near future. Our recently
12 announced Caterpillar production plant here is going
13 to bring a significant number of well-paying jobs to
14 the area. And this generation facility would just top
15 off that and be an outstanding for the citizens of
16 Victoria County and the region.

17 Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Donald.

20 And John Figer. You want to wait a little
21 bit? Okay, fine.

22 Dr. Landsberger, do you want to come up?
23 We're asking for people who do want to talk to come
24 and join us at the podium, if you wouldn't mind doing
25 that. Thank you.

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1 DR. LANDSBERGER: Good afternoon. It's
2 certainly a pleasure to be back here, I think for my
3 third or fourth time. My name is Dr. Sheldon
4 Landsberger. I'm the coordinator of the Nuclear and
5 Radiation Engineering program at the University of
6 Texas.

7 It would seem that the two other people
8 before me were going to talk about what I was going to
9 be talking about, electric cars. I have a family and
10 in my family are four people and four cars, and I can
11 tell you that hardly two weeks passes by when there
12 isn't some sort of emergency in one type of car or
13 another.

14 I've recently been thinking about buying a
15 car and instead of going hybrid I was going to go all
16 electric, and I immediately found out just within the
17 last two weeks just how much electricity is needed for
18 an electric car. It's been said that it may be even
19 as much as one small house.

20 And so I can tell you that the future is
21 going to be electric cars, it may not be next year or
22 within five or ten years but certainly within 30 or 40
23 years most of our cars are going to be some sort of
24 electrical-powered vehicles. And to that end, I'm
25 going to tell you that there's not many places that

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1 you're going to be able to get electricity at night.
2 It's not going to come from the sun and there's a lot
3 of wind which sort of dies down in the evening, and
4 thus, there are some real hard choices that have to be
5 made. At least in my case it would be a rather easy
6 choice that electricity which comes from nuclear power
7 plants will play a real integral role in trying to
8 reduce greenhouse emissions, particularly from all our
9 vehicles.

10 Having said that, I would like to say that
11 both the University of Texas and Texas A&M
12 University -- which has the largest nuclear
13 engineering program in the world -- now are very
14 committed to training our undergraduate students, as
15 well as our graduate students, in nuclear power and as
16 well as placing them into the nuclear industry as well
17 as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dr. Landsberger.

21 And I realize that we might have caught
22 some of you off guard with the arcane mechanics of the
23 public meeting structure. When we were here the last
24 time for public outreach, what's called a public
25 outreach meeting, it's all done with all of you in the

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1 audience. This meeting, as an official scoping
2 meeting where we get comments on the transcript, we
3 ask people to come up to the microphone to address us.

4 And with that, I'm going to ask John Figer to come up
5 to the podium. Thank you, John.

6 MR. FIGER: I wasn't expecting to come to
7 the podium but since I'm here, my name is John Figer.

8 I'm a resident at Paradise Ranch. I was formerly
9 affiliated with Texans for a Sound Energy Policy; I
10 have not been with them for a year now, so to make
11 sure that those comments that I heard earlier have not
12 generated any more.

13 The Mayor and County Judge had a really
14 good speech, and what really caught my ear was not-in-
15 my-backyard. Well, folks, this nuclear plant that is
16 proposed is in my backyard. I will be able to throw a
17 baseball from my front door and hit the pond.

18 I also have had a lot of concerns about
19 the proposed heavy haul road. The proposed heavy haul
20 road is also our ingress/egress to our property and
21 Exelon has not discussed any of those issues with us,
22 how we will continue to ingress/egress our property
23 while the heavy haul road is under construction.

24 So I guess with those comments I would
25 just like to throw a question out to NRC and the Army

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1 Corps of Engineers: Through this environmental impact
2 study, is my health, safety and welfare going to be
3 protected?

4 Thank you very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, John. And I know
7 that the NRC staff will probably want to talk to you
8 after the meeting and talk to you about that last
9 question that you asked.

10 We're now going to go to Dale Fowler, and
11 then to Connie McMaster and Dan McMaster.

12 MR. FOWLER: Good afternoon. I'm Dale
13 Fowler, president of the Victoria Economic Development
14 Corporation. I want to welcome all of you here, our
15 citizens certainly, our guests from out of town, NRC.

16 From an economic development perspective,
17 it's easy to get pretty excited about a project like
18 this. Dr. Ray Perryman, a well known Texas economist,
19 suggests that this project alone should increase the
20 overall economy of this region by over 11 percent, it
21 will create millions of dollars for the local taxing
22 entities in new tax revenues and thousands of jobs
23 around the region, 700 at least right at the nuclear
24 facility of permanent jobs and good incomes.

25 We're going to need the power in Texas.

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1 Our area needs these jobs, but we don't need them at
2 all costs and no one is really suggesting that that
3 I've heard here today.

4 To the NRC, you're our partners in this,
5 we're counting on your process to make sure that we
6 have one of the safest and most reliable nuclear
7 facilities on our planet. I believe that with your
8 help and your oversight, Exelon can build a facility
9 that will rival or surpass the safety record and the
10 reliability record that we've grown to expect in this
11 region form our neighbor in Matagorda County, the
12 South Texas Project, and we've all lived within 60
13 miles of that project for 30 years. We hope that
14 because of the factors through your investigation that
15 you will grant Exelon this early site permit.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dale.

19 Connie McMaster, and then we'll go to Dan
20 McMaster.

21 MS. McMASTER: Thank you. My name is
22 Connie McMaster. I live at Paradise Ranch, also at my
23 back door, like Mr. Figer. I don't speak for the
24 whole ranch but right now I'm president of the ranch
25 and we have around 2,400 acres totally out there and

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1 we have 20 owners, and some years ago this was
2 primarily a hunting ranch but it's becoming a home to
3 a lot more people now. We have at least five
4 residents that are out there full time.

5 When Exelon did start all of this and I
6 was talking with one of the representatives of Exelon,
7 they told me at that particular time Paradise Ranch
8 would not be involved at all. Well, we come to find
9 out four months later Paradise Ranch is definitely
10 involved. They want to put a heavy haul road right
11 through the middle of our property. That would cut
12 off, like Mr. Figer said, our ingress and egress to
13 our ranch; we would have no way to get in there.
14 They're asking for four years for this

15 Well, they were trying to lease or buy --
16 I guess lease a 60-acre tract which would be about 200
17 feet wide and they are saying they would have the
18 exclusive right to use that heavy haul road to get to
19 the barge canal across the Guadalupe, and that would,
20 like I say, cut off all access that we have at all.
21 So far I've not heard anything or anyone from Exelon
22 telling us how we're supposed to get in and out of our
23 subdivision which we are now a recorded subdivision.
24 We also have a public water system and if there's any
25 type of leakage whatsoever to go into that, that's

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1 going to affect the 20 owners.

2 Yes, it's in my backyard; yes, I don't
3 like it in my backyard. I moved there as retirement
4 and for hunting and for the peace and quiet which I
5 won't have now. I'll have the noise, the dust, the
6 lights and still the worry what's going to happen.

7 Also, the emergency information that was
8 gathered by Exelon before, we were never included in
9 that, your closest neighbor; we were never even
10 notified about it. We still have a question of how
11 we'd get out if there was an emergency. I understand
12 that in April 2009 Exelon had a leak that reached the
13 major underground aquifer that supplies much of
14 southern New Jersey. What if something like that
15 happened to our ranch, what if it got into the
16 Guadalupe, what if it affects the cows, the deer --
17 the hogs I'd just as soon it would affect -- but right
18 now I'd rather all the animals that we have out there.

19 Craig Nesbitt, vice president of
20 communications for Exelon, on May 7, 2008 was quoted
21 in the Victoria Advocate as saying the refusal for the
22 Paradise Ranch landowners to enter the proposed
23 agreement, refusal for them to enter the proposed
24 agreement won't stop the project of this size from
25 coming to fruition.

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1 I feel they can be careless real easy out
2 there. There again, how do I get out from across the
3 Guadalupe? I think that makes Victoria pretty much of
4 a target. I've not seen anything or heard anything
5 about what they plan to do. And safety is a main
6 concern.

7 I've heard you mention today about the
8 wildlife, the safety and the water. I've yet to hear
9 what will be done to fix that because from what I'm
10 seeing our wildlife will be totally cut off. We've
11 seen drought out there in the five years I've been
12 there.

13 And safety, when you talk about South
14 Texas Nuclear Plant, I retired from CenterPoint
15 Electric in Houston and South Texas was part of ours,
16 and I've heard from quite a few people down in
17 Matagorda that are not happy with it being in their
18 backyard.

19 So I thank you for listening and I hope
20 that some of these questions will be answered because
21 right now I definitely don't want it in my backyard.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Connie.

24 And Dan. This is Dan McMaster.

25 MR. McMASTER: Good afternoon. My name is

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1 Dan McMaster. I'm also from Paradise Ranch.

2 And they've covered pretty much everything
3 that needs to be covered. I just want to emphasize
4 the fact that Paradise Ranch is one of the most unique
5 ecosystems I have ever seen in my entire put-together.

6 It has every type of wildlife that's indigenous to
7 this part of the world. Not just Paradise Ranch but a
8 whole lot of the Guadalupe River bottom will be
9 affected. We're not the only ranch there. There are
10 two ranches adjacent to ours that will be affected in
11 the same manner: it's the Stubblefield Ranch and then
12 the John Gibbs Ranch which surrounds a lake that's
13 just below ours, Lynn Lake.

14 All of these properties include wildlife
15 that is going to be totally disoriented and disturbed
16 if we put a heavy haul road all the way from 77 down
17 to the turn that goes to our ranch and then across our
18 ranch to the Guadalupe and then to the barge canal.
19 This road will go through wetlands, high hardwood
20 forests, it will go across slews, bayous, creeks,
21 every type of wildlife habitat that you will see
22 anywhere will be found in this part of the world, and
23 the impact from this sort of thing I can't estimate
24 and I don't think anybody else can either until
25 perhaps some of the people from Exelon and the NRC

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1 come out and ride around this area and see what we
2 have to offer and what is going to be disturbed.

3 That's all I have to say.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dan.

6 And I'm going to turn this over to my
7 colleague, Sara Mroz, to lead us through the rest of
8 the speakers. Sara.

9 MS. MROZ: Thanks, Chip.

10 Next up we have Jeff Lyon, and then he'll
11 be followed by Janice Scott so if you want to get
12 ready for your comments.

13 MR. LYON: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Jeff Lyon. I'm here representing the Victoria Chamber
15 of Commerce.

16 Two years, as chairman of the board of
17 directors of the Chamber, our board gave unanimous
18 support of the location of Exelon's nuclear power
19 generation facility in Victoria County. Today, with
20 more facts and more information available to us, the
21 Victoria Chamber of Commerce position remains the
22 same.

23 Our Chamber of Commerce recognizes and
24 endorses the potential creation of 2,000 construction
25 jobs that will last for several years and the fact

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1 that the facility will create approximately 700
2 permanent jobs that will have an average salary of
3 \$70,000 annually which in turn will contribute greatly
4 to the area's economy in the form of local tax revenue
5 and a \$2.6 billion and potential additional revenues
6 based on economic multipliers. This, of course, does
7 not take into account the potential spinoff jobs that
8 will be created as well.

9 The Victoria Chamber of Commerce
10 additionally supports the data supplied for the
11 planned water usage that is deemed necessary for the
12 operation of this facility. The fact that the plant
13 would be designed to minimize water use is crucial to
14 this region. The Victoria Chamber of Commerce
15 supports the fact that nuclear energy reduces the
16 greenhouse gas effect since it does not burn anything
17 to generate electricity. And since it will be a
18 source of emission-free electricity, the Nuclear
19 Energy Institute projects that the volume of
20 greenhouse gas emissions prevented already at the
21 nation's 104 nuclear energy plants is equivalent to
22 taking nearly all passenger cars off America's
23 highways for one year. The Chamber of Commerce feels
24 it's important that the Victoria region play a vital
25 role in reducing an energy company's carbon footprint.

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1 The Victoria Chamber of Commerce further
2 supports the proposed plan by Exelon for emergency
3 preparedness. Exelon has made it a top priority and
4 combined with the oversight of the NRC and FEMA,
5 Exelon will become a partner in the safety of the
6 area's citizens. The Chamber further supports
7 Exelon's proposal of building a nuclear energy plant
8 that will be constructed with comprehensive modern
9 safety systems with every system having independent
10 backups.

11 In closing, the Victoria Chamber of
12 Commerce is convinced that the location of the
13 facility in Victoria County will create jobs, a better
14 quality of life, and contribute to the correction of
15 the world's energy problems.

16 Thank you for allowing me this time.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. MROZ: Next we have Janice Scott, and
19 then we'll have Elton Calhoun after that.

20 MS. SCOTT: Good afternoon. My name is
21 Jan Scott. I moved to Victoria about 30 years ago and
22 through that whole time, just like my jacket, I'm
23 green inside, however, I fully support Exelon coming
24 to this community, I fully support the construction of
25 the project. I am a member of the Victoria Economic

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1 Development Corporation. I also am an attorney and a
2 businessperson in private practice. For those of you
3 that know me, I'm very involved in the community

4 Before I moved to Victoria as a
5 businessperson, I did some post-graduate studies in
6 Galveston in the marine biology area. I had an
7 opportunity to work with the government services in
8 Galveston and I found the government scientists to be
9 extremely concise, careful, conscientious, and
10 oblivious to political influences. I have that same
11 faith in the scientists that will evaluate the
12 information that has been given and that will be given
13 in Exelon's environmental impact information that they
14 provide.

15 I also feel very comfortable that Exelon
16 will make ample preparation for itself, as any prudent
17 business would, as far as any types of water usage. I
18 don't think that a drought happens overnight, I think
19 that everybody can be aware when drought conditions
20 are occurring. Exelon is making ample opportunity to
21 have enough water to help them shut down in an orderly
22 fashion should there be a water shortage. We have
23 plant shutdowns in this area all the time and they're
24 not really anything of great consequence except to the
25 people involved in the plant, and I envision that

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1 should there be a water shortage we would have that
2 same situation with a responsible company such as
3 Exelon.

4 Thank you. I wholeheartedly support their
5 impact and everything they can do for our community.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. MROZ: Thank you for your comments.

8 Elton Calhoun, and then we'll have Carol
9 Garriott.

10 MR. CALHOUN: I'm sorry I didn't come
11 earlier. Jeff Lyon's comments was what I was going to
12 make; I think he copied what I was going to say. I'm
13 Elton Calhoun. I'm a business owner here in Victoria.

14 I'm a member of VEDC but today I'm representing the
15 Port of Victoria.

16 We endorsed the nuclear power plant two
17 years ago when it was started and we continue to
18 endorse the nuclear power plant. The things that
19 Mayor Armstrong, Judge Pozzi, Dale have said about
20 this, we all agree that this is a good project to have
21 here in Victoria.

22 When this project comes to Victoria, the
23 infrastructure that comes to the Port of Victoria will
24 enhance the port not only for Exelon but for many,
25 many future projects and bring many, many jobs to

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1 Victoria for other economic development.

2 The one point I want to make, you know,
3 I'm in the steel business and in the 20th Century I
4 watched the U.S. go from a number one steel supplier
5 to almost the last steel supplier with obsolete plants
6 before in the mid '80s they started building new
7 plants here in this country. My wife and I have had
8 extensive travels to other countries over the last ten
9 years and in most of these countries they have nuclear
10 power plants and they're safe and they're proud of
11 them, they're doing a good job for them. We're
12 falling behind. If we don't do something with nuclear
13 power, we're going to be behind the 8-ball when the
14 time comes to provide electrical power for this
15 country.

16 Thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. MROZ: After Ms. Garriott we'll have
19 David Huber.

20 MS. GARRIOTT: Hello, everyone. To my
21 friends and fans I'm known as C.J. Garriott, just to
22 keep things straight. I'm an author, a publisher, a
23 librarian, a member of the Seadrift Lions Club, an
24 environmentalist and a homeowner on San Antonio Bay,
25 not necessarily in that order.

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1 It has occurred to me sometime back
2 communities and counties on the lower end of a river
3 system are held hostage to the upriver usage of the
4 water in that river, quite often with no voice in how
5 the river water is used before it gets down to them.
6 I kind of feel like that's the situation here. The
7 plant seems to be good for jobs and economy and
8 prosperity for Victoria but no one seems to be
9 concerned about the agricultural farmers, fishermen,
10 shrimpers, oystermen, people that make their living on
11 the water, on the bays of San Antonio Bay.

12 If not enough freshwater comes down that
13 river in a dry year, damage is done to the whooping
14 cranes, witnessed the die-off of over 20 in the last
15 two years because of lack of freshwater coming down
16 the river. And that's the situation of the river
17 usage right now without the addition of a gigantic
18 plant.

19 One thing I'd like everyone to think about
20 in okaying this project would be the quality, the
21 consumption and the impact of withdrawing water from
22 that river for this plant. Additional withdrawals
23 seems to me at the very least ill-advised.

24 I thank you for letting me have this say.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MS. MROZ: I see Mr. Huber is making his
2 way up. After he's done we'll have Helen Knebel.

3 MR. HUBER: Good afternoon. My name is
4 David Huber. My family has been residents of this
5 area for a long period of time. My mother was
6 actually born and raised on what they call the
7 Paradise Ranch. My grandfather built the levee that's
8 going to be your heavy haul road, and I'm very
9 concerned about this plant in our community. It's not
10 so much not-in-my-backyard as why in my backyard.

11 I live seven miles from where the plant is
12 proposed to be. I'm on San Antonio River Road now. I
13 have land in the neighborhood of where this plant is
14 expected to be built, and I don't understand why we're
15 using a minimal water source which is pretty much
16 spoken for, such as the Guadalupe River, to supply a
17 nuclear plant that's going to deliver power to other
18 places. No one has said anything about the electric
19 power from this plant being for our area. My
20 understanding is that the plant is going to produce
21 electricity and by the use of eminent domain, whatever
22 is necessary, they're going to build transmission
23 lines and send this power to far-away places. So the
24 question is why in my backyard?

25 There again, I say I live on San Antonio

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1 River Road. Yesterday I noticed a rancher build a
2 fire down on San Antonio River Road farther on the
3 other end closer to Highway 77. They were burning off
4 unwanted grass. The some from the fire went up to
5 probably 8- or 10,000 feet and formed a cloud. When
6 the cloud drifted, it drifted to the northwest from
7 the ranch where it was burned.

8 I was in Victoria yesterday afternoon,
9 2:30 or 3:00 in the afternoon. I don't know if
10 anybody noticed all the haze and smoke in Victoria,
11 but that was a direct result of that fire. The
12 significance of that may not be important until you
13 realize that that is across the road from where this
14 plant is proposed to be built. If there were a
15 disaster there, Victoria would be in the direct line
16 of the travel of any fallout from that plant.

17 I've heard talk today about the benefits
18 to our community. No one has addressed the fact that
19 the school taxes from this plant will go to Refugio
20 County since the McFadden Independent School District
21 has opted to be part of Refugio County. I haven't
22 heard a word about the tax abatement will probably be
23 in the neighborhood of ten years which by then the
24 plant will be worth quite a bit less when it is taxed.

25 As far as environmental, there are a lot

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1 of species that enjoy that piece of property right
2 now. It's one of the prime quail hunting areas in our
3 neighborhood. There are guided hunts going on on that
4 place occasionally. I know of some people who have
5 hunted there and they say it's probably the best quail
6 hunting in Victoria and surrounding counties.

7 I have questions about the heat generated
8 by this plant. I've seen very small things affect our
9 weather in the area and we have a hot environment in
10 the summer to begin with. It takes a lot to cool a
11 plant of this size and the added heat, the fact that
12 it's going to go up, I expect has a potential of
13 affecting our weather.

14 I'm concerned about the blow-down, the
15 water they're going to put back into the Guadalupe
16 River every time they flush their plant. I'm
17 concerned about the casualty survey. I haven't seen
18 anything about what potentially could happen if there
19 was a disaster at the plant.

20 Nationally we have not done anything to
21 really solve the problem of waste disposal. When we
22 talk about clean electric cars, has anyone considered
23 the carbon footprint of nuclear power? What about the
24 mining, the milling, the processing, the
25 transportation? All of that is carbon-based, it's not

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1 something that has to do with running a nuclear plant
2 other than the supply is not as clean as you might
3 imagine.

4 I guess in concluding this I would say
5 that from what I've heard today I'm very concerned,
6 and the way it's being coated over, I'm really glad I
7 wore my boots to Victoria, Texas.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. MROZ: Okay. Next up we have Helen
11 Knebel, and then we'll have Harold Dolezal. I
12 apologize if mispronounce anyone's name.

13 MS. KNEBEL: I don't have a whole lot of
14 things to say. I am a neighbor of this -- will be a
15 neighbor of this plant. With my bad arm I could
16 probably throw a tennis ball into the water.

17 I just have some questions. I have a
18 right of way right now going to our ranch and will I
19 be able to maintain that right of way? It's just over
20 a railroad track. And if there's any prospects of
21 drilling for oil, gas or water, will that be possible
22 or will it hurt us? And hunting, that's one of our
23 big incomes and the story that's going around right
24 now is they're saying we will not be able to use guns
25 within five miles of this plant.

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1 Like I say, the pond will probably be -- well, it's
2 just over the railroad track, let's put it that way.

3 My last comment would be -- and I've said
4 this years ago -- put a desalination plant down by the
5 Gulf and you can ship water all over the place. I was
6 in Sweden, 1984, in the marketplace the fruit and
7 vegetables were beautiful. I said, Where in the world
8 do you get these fruits and vegetables? We get them
9 from Israel. I said, Well, how do they grow them?
10 Desalination of the sea. Why can't we do it here?

11 Same way with years ago sitting in the
12 café at McFadden, the engineers were planning building
13 this five-foot diameter pipeline. It goes right
14 through where this plant will be and it comes from
15 Lake Jackson. This is the Corpus Christi people. I
16 said, Why not build that desalination plant? You'll
17 be able to sell water to everybody, it will pay for
18 itself.

19 Well, that's all I have to say, but I'm
20 not against nuclear power. I came here from Atlanta,
21 Georgia, my husband was in the electrical business,
22 and early '70s our friends who were with Georgia
23 Power, Mississippi Power -- and it was conglomeration,
24 I can't remember what they called it, they owned all
25 those big power plants -- they were just so excited

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1 about building nuclear power plants. But Lord, I
2 never expected to have them in my back door.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. MROZ: After Mr. Dolezal we'll have
6 Tom Forbes.

7 MR. DOLEZAL: Thank you for letting me
8 speak. I'm a landowner in McFadden next to where the
9 nuclear plant is going to be built. This ranch is a
10 really pristine ranch, very unique in its wildlife and
11 stuff. When I bought my property I put a high fence
12 for deer and cattle operations. During the test wells
13 that you did for the soil sample, I had enormous
14 amounts of bobcats, coyotes, hogs, every animal came
15 to my place. I hope some of them go north of Victoria
16 when this gets built.

17 The factors I have against this are this
18 plant is going to be positioned between two major
19 waterways, the San Antonio River and the Guadalupe
20 River. You are going to use our water to supply this
21 plant. We'll have electricity but we won't have water
22 later probably, and we probably won't have any
23 whooping cranes.

24 It's close to you say a secure border. Is
25 it secure? We don't know. Terrorists could drive

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1 over here in the morning, terrorize it and be back
2 across the border by the afternoon. I mean, it's
3 something we have to look at. RPG from Highway 77
4 could do some damage.

5 There have been several oil wells that
6 have been drilled out there in the '50s, '60s and 2009
7 that have had blowout holes. There is one with a
8 derrick and all the Haliburton trucks and everything
9 in that hole on that ranch. Has the soil really been
10 tested? Is it safe?

11 City and county officials want the nuclear
12 plant for Victoria. Put it in your backyard north of
13 Victoria next to the mall. Victoria has Caterpillar
14 already which is an environmentally safe company. You
15 be the judge of this right now, 10 years from now, 20
16 years from now, especially when the plant will be
17 paying Refugio school taxes.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. MROZ: Thank you. Mr. Forbes, and
21 then we'll have Sue Gibbs come up.

22 MR. FORBES: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Tom Forbes. I'm a lawyer in Austin, Texas and
24 president of the Nuclear Energy for Texans.

25 NET is an organization made up of public

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1 officials, civic and business leaders, academics,
2 environmental groups, health organizations, chambers
3 of commerce, labor unions, trade organizations,
4 professional associations and others, all united in
5 support of the nuclear industry in Texas. We're in
6 support of this project. The reason NET was organized
7 was to voice that support for three reasons: one,
8 nuclear energy is safe, nuclear energy is clean,
9 nuclear energy is reliable

10 Currently used nuclear fuel which cannot
11 explode and cannot burn is safely stored onsite at all
12 104 commercial units in this country. Nuclear plants
13 are among the safest commercial installations in our
14 country. Containment structures where the reactors
15 are are strong enough to withstand enormous force
16 including direct aircraft impact.

17 Nuclear energy is clean. By way of
18 example, nuclear-generated electricity avoids almost
19 700 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, about 1
20 million tons of nitrogen oxide, and 3 million tons of
21 sulphur dioxide annually in the United States. The
22 South Texas Project and Comanche Peak which operate
23 here in Texas help Texas avoid emission of over 70,000
24 tons of sulphur dioxide, nearly 20,000 tons of
25 nitrogen oxide, nearly 29 million metric tons of

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1 carbon dioxide as of 2005. By way of example, 19,500
2 tons of nitrogen oxide is the same amount released in
3 one year by 1 million passenger cars. There are
4 nearly 9 million passenger cars in Texas.

5 Nuclear energy is reliable. The average
6 capacity factor for U.S. nuclear plants, that is how
7 much do they run 24 hours, seven days a week, nearly
8 90 percent in 2006 compared to a little over 70
9 percent for coal and 30 percent for wind and about 19
10 percent for solar. And although the oldest existing
11 U.S. commercial plant went online in 1969, there are
12 no old nuclear plants. They're constantly being
13 upgraded, replaced to ensure all plants operate with
14 the highest reliability.

15 Much has been said today about water.
16 Exelon has been clear that if the water isn't
17 available to build this plant, the plant won't be
18 built. So water is really not an issue regarding this
19 plant because if it's not available, the plant won't
20 be built. If it is built it will add immeasurably to
21 the economy of Texas and it will be operated safely,
22 cleanly and reliably.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. MROZ: Thank you, Mr. Forbes.

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1 Sue Gibbs, and then we'll have Rose
2 Yendrey.

3 MS. GIBBS: I'm Sue Gibbs, owner of the
4 ranch adjoining the proposed nuclear plant. I
5 probably could throw a ping pong ball across. I'm
6 right next to it.

7 I spoke at the last open meeting and I was
8 told today that the comments at that meeting were not
9 recorded in the paperwork that was handed out to
10 everyone so they would know the concerns, so I decided
11 I better speak again today so it will be recorded and
12 my concerns can be heard.

13 We've used, lived, owned this place.
14 We've used it for 40 years; we've owned it, scraping
15 our pennies together and buying it 20 years ago. I
16 realize a nuclear plant will benefit many people in
17 Victoria and have a lot of open jobs for people that
18 are homeless now and have no money and have no income,
19 but I have a lot of concerns.

20 Exelon has been touted as a good neighbor
21 and I hope they are, but that was my concern last time
22 when I spoke. Good neighbors don't take locked gates
23 off the hinges and break into your property. Good
24 neighbors do not destroy archaeological projects that
25 have been dug with brushes and toothbrushes and little

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1 tools for 20 and 30 years. Good neighbors do not take
2 backhoes and come in and destroy four archaeological
3 sites that have been used by archaeological people of
4 Victoria and many of the items have been displayed at
5 the Museum of the Coastal Bend. Good neighbors do not
6 do that. Our judge earlier said that Exelon was open,
7 honest and we could count on them.

8 I have a concern when we talk about
9 wildlife. I know a lot of people sneer, you know,
10 wildlife is not near as important as the water and the
11 nuclear power and the jobs, and that's partly true.
12 But we have watched the eagles build nests and live on
13 our ranch every year for the last 20 years. Right now
14 my husband could not be here, he's down with some
15 friends today, and he said, The pelicans are just
16 flying back and forth over us this morning. There's
17 probably, he said, a thousand, I said several hundred
18 because I tried to take pictures. I said, Take some
19 pictures quick. And he said, It's dark, you can't
20 take pictures in the dark. But there are pelicans,
21 geese, flamingo, all sorts of bird, turkey, islets,
22 cats, hogs, and of course the deer. I mean, it's just
23 full of wildlife

24 The other concern that I have besides
25 destroying the wildlife and good neighbors would be

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1 the fact of the water. All of the papers I've seen
2 draw a big picture of the water available and include
3 the water in what's called Lynn Lake which is a lake
4 that's on our property. I'm concerned about the water
5 that's going into the Guadalupe and the heat that that
6 will put into the water. Will it kill the fish?

7 These little minute portions of toxin that
8 go through that will flow through the river to the
9 Calhoun County area. Right now Calhoun County has a
10 high cancer rate. We talked with some people in the
11 eastern part of the United States who are near the
12 Exelon plants who have an increased cancer rate. And
13 as a person who has dealt with cancer, massive cancer
14 for the past 2-1/2 years, I certainly do not want to
15 see an increased cancer rate anywhere.

16 So I'm just worried about what's going to
17 happen to our water supplies. I know that they say
18 there's lots of water, and I know that GBRA often
19 inflates the saltwater barrier so that the river is
20 very high and people brag about how much water is in
21 the river, but I've also seen it when we could walk
22 across the river and it's been very dry.

23 As my husband said when we talk about the
24 water and the water going into the river and into the
25 wells, maybe it will be safe. If they will drink what

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1 they're putting in the river, then you're probably
2 okay. I'd like to see them drink it.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. MROZ: Next we'll have Rose Yendrey.

5 MS. YENDREY: As everyone is saying, I'm
6 concerned about the water table. For 30 years now our
7 water table has really dropped. I have two wells, and
8 I'm just afraid that they're going to put meters on
9 them, because our water table is dropping more than
10 any of you would know. So we're going to be limited
11 on how many cows we can have, and the farmers, our
12 land is not going to be any value because we're not
13 going to have any water. I do not really trust that
14 they're not going to take the water from under us.

15 I have a fish pond, as the crow flies,
16 about 2-1/2 miles and there's about nine ponds where
17 they're raising these farm fish. Our water table has
18 dropped from their use. And what I want to say is I
19 just feel like our property is going to go down.

20 And also if you check in Victoria County
21 how many cancer patients have come from that Wood Hi
22 area because we're going to be downwind. We're
23 already downwind from Formosa and Alcoa.

24 Thank you very much. I think we should
25 hang on to our water.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. MROZ: Thank you, Ms. Yendrey.

3 We don't have anyone else signed up to
4 give comments right now, but I wanted to see if there
5 was anyone in the audience who would like to share any
6 comments with us.

7 Would you like to come on up, sir? If you
8 could just share your name with us and your
9 organization, that would be great.

10 MR. GUISSSE: I'm a landowner. My name is
11 Paul Guisse.

12 The only thing that really concerns me is
13 everybody is talking about water. I'm on the fence on
14 this, because I am for nuclear energy, but the last
15 eight years we've seen these monster storms and the
16 tidal surge is something that I would be concerned
17 about. I was born and raised here in Victoria but
18 lived in Houston for a short spell and had property
19 there and when I believe it was one of the major
20 storms that was coming in, they said that the tidal
21 surge was going to go all the way to the Beltway.
22 That's like 25 miles from Galveston.

23 And I worked on the south Texas Project
24 back in the late '70s and there's containment ponds
25 that are cooled via turbine, so on and so forth. I'm

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1 not a scientist or anything, but what I would be
2 worried about is the water that's in those containment
3 ponds being caught in a tidal surge and brought right
4 into our backyard or front yard. This is something
5 that no one has brought up that I think that may be
6 something that needs to be addressed.

7 And another thing that I noticed that
8 hasn't been addressed is talk about the Guadalupe and
9 the San Antonio River, but what about Coletto? It's
10 the largest or one of the largest aquifers in the
11 State of Texas. And I have property over that aquifer
12 just in the vicinity and I have seen where the aquifer
13 comes right up to the surface, the water sand in the
14 summertime and it's wet there. So only a driller,
15 somebody that understands drilling would know that you
16 can hit water at eight feet just about anywhere up on
17 that aquifer. I realize it's higher above sea level
18 than Victoria, but still if that tidal surge on one of
19 these monster storms would push contaminated water
20 inland far enough, it would leach into that aquifer
21 because the water extends all the way to the surface.

22 And so that would be my concern.

23 And like I said, location, location,
24 location. My wife was riding on a jet plane with one
25 of the guys that came over here for environmental

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1 study and he said, Oh, it's a good place. But you
2 know, I think you need to review your statistics and
3 all of the things that you have on paper and check
4 some of this stuff out. I feel sorry for you.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. MROZ: Was there anyone else who
8 wanted to make any comments today?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. MROZ: I'm going to turn the meeting
11 over now to Scott Flanders, who is the senior official
12 here from the NRC, just to offer some closing remarks.

13 MR. FLANDERS: Thank you so much. I
14 really appreciate everyone taking the time to come out
15 and participate in the public meeting. The comments
16 that we receive are a very important part of our
17 process and are very valuable to us. It's one key
18 component in terms of determining the scope of our
19 environmental impact statement, as Ryan talked about
20 earlier.

21 There's three principal piece we use.
22 There's the information provided in the application by
23 the applicant. They're required to provide detailed
24 information according to our regulations, detailed
25 technical information that we look at.

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1 Certainly the comments that we receive
2 here and the other comments that can be received in
3 writing as a part of the public scoping process. Keep
4 in mind you have at last another month until January
5 to provide any additional comments. There may be
6 other information that you gather as you continue to
7 look at this issue, as you hear comments from others
8 either at this meeting or at this evening's meeting to
9 take in and factor and provide comments to us.

10 So we take that information as well as our
11 own experts collecting information, visiting the site,
12 going out and understanding the environment itself,
13 taking all that information, and we use all that
14 information we've gathered to determine the scope and
15 content of the environmental impact statement to allow
16 us to assess what impacts could happen if a nuclear
17 power plant was built on that site which helps us form
18 our decision as to whether or not to actually grant an
19 early site permit. And that's for our environmental
20 review.

21 Keep in mind and as you saw in your slide
22 package and Tomeka talked about in her presentation,
23 there's a parallel review that's also going on that's
24 also a safety review that also has to be conducted and
25 many of the issues that we heard today are issues that

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1 will be covered in the safety evaluation as well. So
2 it's important to understand that it's the NRC's
3 process as an independent regulator to ensure that we
4 have reasonable assurance that this facility could be
5 sited there, could be operated, constructed safely,
6 protect the environment, and that we have these two
7 processes where we require ourselves to go through and
8 analyze this information and make an informed
9 decision.

10 So the next step after today's meeting and
11 this evening's meeting, we'll go off and complete our
12 work, the information we received here, the
13 application, the information from our own site audits,
14 the investigation work, we'll go off and complete that
15 work and then we'll be back after we've completed the
16 draft environmental impact statement that will be out
17 for public review, give you an opportunity to look at
18 that, an opportunity to comment, and we'll come back
19 and share our views on the work that we've done there.

20 I'll stop here. I again want to thank you
21 for taking the time and hopefully we'll see you again
22 this evening.

23 (Whereupon, at 3:00 p.m., the meeting was
24 concluded.)

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