

Attachment 2

Official Transcript of Proceedings

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Public Scoping Meeting for License Renewal
Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3

Evening Session

Delta, PA

November 7-8, 2001

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Public Meeting to Discuss Environmental Scoping Process for Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station Units 2 and 3 License Renewal Application: AFTERNOON SESSION

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Pages 1-50

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR
PEACH BOTTOM ATOMIC POWER STATION
UNITS 2 AND 3
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

+ + + + +
AFTERNOON SESSION

+ + + + +
WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 7, 2001

+ + + + +
DELTA, PENNSYLVANIA

+ + + + +
The Public ~~Hearing~~ Meeting was held at the Peach
Bottom Inn, 6085 Delta Road, Delta, Pennsylvania, at
1:30 p.m., Chip Cameron, Facilitator.

PRESENT:

FRANCIS "Chip" CAMERON

RAJ ANAND

LOUIS "Duke" WHEELER

I-N-D-E-X

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

(1:30 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone. I
4 would like to welcome you to the NRC's public scoping
5 meeting on the environmental review for the
6 applications that the NRC has received from the
7 Excelon Company to renew the licenses for Units 2 and
8 3 at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station.

9 And my name is Chip Cameron. I am the
10 special counsel for public liaison in the Office of
11 General Counsel at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
12 And it's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for
13 today's meeting.

14 And before we get into the substance of
15 the meeting, what I would like to do is just cover
16 three items briefly on meeting process. And I would
17 like to talk to you first, objectives of the meeting;
18 secondly, tell you a little bit about the format and
19 ground rules that we are going to use for today's
20 meeting, and third, give you an agenda overview so
21 that you know what to expect today.

22 In terms of objectives of the meeting, the
23 first one is for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
24 the NRC, to tell you about the license renewal process
25 at the NRC, and specifically to tell you about the

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1 environmental review part of the NRC license renewal
2 process.

3 And this meeting is called a scoping
4 meeting, and scoping is a term that is used in
5 connection with the development of an environmental
6 impact statement by federal agencies. You are going
7 to hear the term EIS this afternoon, which is
8 shorthand for environmental impact statement.

9 But what scoping is, is it's a process
10 where the NRC goes out and asks, in this case, the
11 members of the community what their recommendations
12 are in terms of what information should be explored in
13 the environmental impact statement, what impacts
14 should be looked at, what types of alternatives should
15 be looked at in the environmental impact statement,
16 what methodologies should be used.

17 So in other words, it really helps the NRC
18 to determine what the scope of the environmental
19 impact statement should be. And the environmental
20 impact statement is a fundamental document that
21 assists the NRC in making a decision on whether the
22 license application to renew the licenses at Peach
23 Bottom should be granted.

24 And that second objective leads me into
25 the format for tonight's -- or for today's meeting.

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1 And keep in mind that the NRC is accepting written
2 comments on the scoping issues. And they will tell
3 you in a little bit about how that is to be done.

4 But we wanted to be here with you in
5 person this afternoon and to listen to your comments.
6 You may hear comments this afternoon that will give
7 you information and help you in preparing written
8 comments if you choose to do so.

9 But I just want to assure you that
10 anything that you say this afternoon is going to be
11 given the same weight as any written comments that are
12 submitted to the NRC.

13 In terms of format, we are going to have
14 two brief NRC presentations to give you some
15 background on license renewal. The first presentation
16 is going to be on the license renewal process
17 generally. Then we will go to you for any questions
18 that you may have about that process to make sure that
19 everything is clear.

20 The second NRC presentation is going to be
21 on the environmental review process and again we will
22 go out to you for questions. That will bring us to
23 the second segment of today's meeting, which is a
24 chance to hear from you, to hear some formal comments
25 from those of you in the community who wish to do so

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1 on information that the NRC should look at in
2 preparing the environmental impact statement.

3 And there are some sign-up cards if you
4 want to talk today, and it is not too late to sign up
5 to speak. And I want to make sure that everybody gets
6 a chance to talk who wants to this afternoon.

7 And I would just ask you to try to be
8 concise in your questions and comments and just as a
9 general ground rule I would ask you that you keep your
10 comments to approximately five minutes to make sure
11 that we have time for everyone today.

12 And when you do ask a question or when you
13 come up to make your comments, please give us your
14 name and your affiliation, if appropriate. We are
15 taking a transcript of the meeting today and that will
16 allow the stenographer to get a clear idea and give us
17 a clear idea of who you are today.

18 In terms of the agenda, as I mentioned, we
19 are going to start with two NRC presentations. And
20 the first presentation is going to be by an NRC staff
21 person, Raj Anand, who is right over here -- Raj.

22 And Raj is the project manager for the
23 safety evaluation on the Peach Bottom license
24 applications. And Raj is a mechanical engineer and he
25 has been with the NRC for approximately 21 years in

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1 the area of the licensing of nuclear power reactors.

2 Our second presentation is going to be by
3 Mr. Duke Wheeler, who is right down here. And Duke is
4 the environmental project manager for the license
5 renewal at Peach Bottom. Both Duke and Raj are in the
6 NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

7 Duke has an engineering degree also from
8 the West Point Military Academy. He is qualified as
9 a navy nuclear power plant operator and he has been
10 with the NRC for approximately 20 years on not only
11 the licensing of nuclear power plants, but also in the
12 NRC inspection program of nuclear power plants.

13 And I just want to thank you all for
14 taking the time to be with us here today. The NRC has
15 an important decision to make on whether to renew the
16 licenses at Peach Bottom. And we appreciate the
17 information that you may give us today that will help
18 us with that decision.

19 One final note is that the NRC, with the
20 objective of trying to improve upon how we do public
21 meetings, there is a form on the desk out there. It
22 is a public meeting feedback form.

23 If you have any suggestions on how we did
24 or how we could do better, comments on how we have
25 done, please fill this out and either leave it here or

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1 take it home and it is already stamped, so to speak.
2 And it has Duke's address on it and it will get to him
3 and we will put that into our process.

4 And with that, what I would like to do is
5 to go to Raj Anand to give us a perspective on license
6 renewal generally. Raj.

7 MR. ANAND: Thank you, Chip.

8 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. As
9 Chip mentioned, I am Raj Anand. I'm the project
10 manager for the safety review of the application for
11 license renewal for the Peach Bottom Atomic Power
12 Station, Units 2 and 3.

13 Slide 3, please.

14 As you know, on July 2, 2001, Excelon
15 submitted a license renewal application for Peach
16 Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3.

17 The operating licenses for Peach Bottom Unit 2 and
18 Unit 3 currently expire in 2013 and 2014. And the
19 license renewal process that I want to overview with
20 you, is essentially the same as the original licensing
21 process when these plants were first constructed.

22 The Atomic Energy Act and NEPA provide
23 that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible
24 for public health and safety, protection of
25 the environment, and a common defense and security. It

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1 also provided that each power reactor would have a 40-
2 year license term.

3 But the Atomic Energy Act went on to say
4 that those licenses could be renewed. The original 40-
5 year license term was based primarily on the
6 anti-trust and economic factors, not on technical
7 limitation of the plant design.

8 However, having established a 40-year
9 license term, the Commission realized in the early
10 1980s that we would have to establish a process
11 in order to make license renewal decisions. So the
12 NRC set forth requirements for license renewal in Part
13 54 to Title 10, which you may hear us refer to
14 periodically throughout this briefing presentation as
15 10 CFR Part 54.

16 There is a companion regulation that
17 provides the scope of the environmental review, and it
18 is provided in Part 51, also known as 10 CFR Part 51.

19 Applications for license renewal are
20 submitted years in advance for several reasons. If a
21 utility decides to replace a nuclear power plant, it
22 could take up to 10 years to plan and construct new
23 generating capacity to replace that nuclear power
24 plant. In addition, plans to replace or recondition
25 major components are early considerations for license

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1 renewal.

2 Licensees are currently looking at license
3 renewal in order to understand what the expectations
4 are regarding the plant inspections and
5 maintenance practices for the period of extended
6 operation, in order to make these decisions about
7 whether or not it is cost effective to continue plant
8 operation, or to decommission it, or to extend the
9 licenses.

10 Slide 4, please.

11 The process that the NRC provides for, as
12 Chip mentioned, essentially runs in two parallel
13 paths. There is a safety review that looks at the
14 scope of license renewal issues. And that scope is
15 focused on the aging management programs for passive
16 long-lived structures and components.

17 The reason that the Commission felt that
18 could be the focus of these regulations is because
19 there are ongoing regulatory process
20 that monitor the maintenance of the current licensing
21 basis and the provisions for things like emergency
22 planning and security plans.

23 There are things that need to be
24 constantly attended to. However, those processes do
25 not explicitly look at the plant's design capability

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1 to cope with long-term degradation of equipment due to
2 aging effects.

3 So the license renewal application focuses
4 on those inspection programs and maintenance practices
5 that are used to maintain the margins of
6 safety in the plant safety equipment. Similarly, we
7 conduct an environmental review, which Mr. Duke
8 Wheeler is going to address that in more detail.

9 Slide 5, please.

10 The two principal products from the NRC
11 staff are a Safety Evaluation Report, and an
12 Environmental Impact Statement. Those are taken
13 together with two other pieces.

14 One is an independent review of the safety
15 issues by the Commission's Advisory Committee on
16 Reactor Safeguards. That is an independent body of
17 experts from the industry and academia, who have
18 particular expertise on safety issues, and they look
19 at the quality of the staff's safety findings.

20 There is also an independent inspection
21 program that verifies certain key elements of the
22 staff's safety findings. And so, collectively, the
23 Commission's decision on this license renewal
24 application will rely on a Safety Evaluation Report,
25 an Environmental Impact Statement that developed with

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1 public participation, an ACRS report, and an
2 Inspection Report.

3 And those are the four principal products.
4 The schedule for this activity is about 25 months,
5 because for this application we have had no petitions
6 to intervene for a hearing. Had there been a petition
7 submitted and granted, then the schedule would have
8 been 30 months to get through the whole process.

9 I will be available after the meeting if
10 there are any questions that you have about the aging
11 management program review, or the specifics of
12 the safety review process, and the ultimate contents
13 of the safety evaluation report. But unless there are
14 any particular questions you have about the overall
15 process, I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Duke Wheeler
16 to go through the environmental review for this
17 licensing action.

18 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for
19 hearing me.

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Raj. Let's see if
21 there's anybody that has any questions about the
22 overall license renewal process before we go to Duke.

23 Are there any questions about schedule or
24 what NRC's responsibilities are in terms of license
25 renewal?

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1 (No response).

2 MR. CAMERON: All right. Well, let's go
3 to Duke, who is going to talk about the environmental
4 review process on license renewal.

5 Duke Wheeler.

6 MR. WHEELER: Thank you, Chip and Raj.

7 Good afternoon. And thank you for taking
8 of your time this afternoon to join us and participate
9 in our meeting. I am Duke Wheeler and I am the
10 environmental project manager. On our team we have
11 members of the NRC staff and we also have several
12 experts from national laboratories to bring their
13 expertise into the Peach Bottom environmental review.

14 The National Environmental Policy Act, or
15 NEPA, was enacted in 1969 and it requires us to
16 implement a systematic approach to evaluating
17 environmental impacts. Our focus here is on the
18 environmental impacts of a 20-year renewal of the
19 Peach Bottom operating license which has been
20 requested by the licensee, Excelon Generation Company.

21 We will also consider environmental
22 impacts of any alternatives to the proposed action
23 which may be available, and that would include a
24 no-action alternative: in other words, simply not
25 approving the request for license renewal.

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1 The NEPA process is basically a disclosure
2 tool. The intent is for us to provide information to
3 the public and also to gather information from the
4 public that may be helpful to us in reaching our
5 decision.

6 We consider license renewal to be a major
7 federal action. And what that means in the context of
8 the work we are doing here is that we will prepare an
9 environmental impact statement, which is a more
10 detailed document than we might otherwise prepare for
11 a less significant licensing action which would not be
12 considered a major federal action.

13 We are in the process at this point of
14 gathering in the information we need to prepare that
15 document. In particular at this stage we are
16 performing, as you have heard, what we call scoping.

17 We are having this meeting this afternoon
18 as a part of our scoping process for the purpose of
19 providing you, the public, and other government
20 agencies with an opportunity to participate in our
21 process by sharing with us any information which you
22 may believe would have some bearing on our
23 environmental evaluation.

24 In particular, we are looking for
25 information that may not be readily available or

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1 concerns that members of the public may have which may
2 not have been addressed by the licensee in their
3 environmental report, which ~~wasn't~~ was included as a
4 part of their license renewal application to us.

5 We want to take a look at those interests
6 and see if they warrant further evaluation by us for
7 the development of a draft environmental impact
8 statement.

9 This slide provides what we call our
10 decision standard. It states what it is we are trying
11 to do, the decision we are trying to reach, which is
12 basically whether or not the environmental impacts of
13 the proposed license renewal are so great as to
14 preclude license renewal as a reasonable alternative.

15 I would like to emphasize that if we were
16 to decide in the end that license renewal is
17 acceptable from an environmental perspective, all that
18 means is that it will be okay for the licensee to
19 operate for the additional 20 years.

20 We don't determine whether they actually
21 will operate for those additional 20 years. Those
22 decisions are made elsewhere, in particular by the
23 licensees themselves and also by state regulators. It
24 is possible that a licensee could determine after all
25 of this that it is not economically feasible to

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1 continue operating the plant.

2 That is their decision. We are simply
3 determining whether continued operation through the
4 license renewal period is acceptable environmentally.
5 This slide gives a little more detail on the
6 environmental portion of our license renewal process.

7 The licensee's application was received by
8 us on July 2nd of this year. On September 24th, we
9 issued a notice of our intent to perform scoping,
10 which we are doing now, and our intent to develop an
11 environmental impact statement for the proposed
12 action.

13 The scoping phase of our environmental
14 review will end on November 26th. After that, we will
15 complete the development of a draft environmental
16 impact statement and we expect to issue that draft for
17 public comment in early July of next year.

18 We will also come back here toward the end
19 of July for another public meeting such as this one
20 with you to focus on the draft environmental impact
21 statement and give you an opportunity to provide us
22 any comments you may have.

23 After receiving and evaluating those
24 comments, we will then develop the final environmental
25 impact statement, which we expect to issue in February

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1 of 2003. We gather the information for our evaluation
2 from a number of different sources, including the
3 documents sent to us by Excelon.

4 We also meet and correspond with federal,
5 state and local government officials and interested
6 people from the local community who may have
7 information that will help us in our environmental
8 evaluation.

9 We also go to the site, which is another
10 part of what we are doing here this week -- getting
11 familiar with the lay of the land, examining features
12 of particular environmental interest, and observing
13 first-hand how the site interacts with the
14 environment.

15 Our team focuses on several environmental
16 interests. This slide shows the sort of areas that we
17 are looking at -- everything from the air to the water
18 to under the ground. We also look at things like
19 socioeconomics, which is: How does the plant affect
20 people's lives economically?

21 And as a related interest, we are
22 considering environmental justice, which focuses our
23 attention on the question of whether there are any
24 minority or low-income population groups that may be
25 disproportionately impacted by the proposed license

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1 renewal.

2 Just listing a few dates, key dates from
3 an earlier slide, here is our schedule of major
4 milestones. We are going to complete the scoping
5 process by November 26th. That is when the public
6 comment period ends.

7 And after that, as I indicated, we will
8 issue our draft environmental impact statement in
9 July. And we expect to issue a final document
10 February of 2003.

11 I am the agency's primary point of contact
12 for the environmental review. Note that the slide
13 includes my phone number. However, I will still need
14 to get your input in some form that we can use, either
15 in writing or as Chip indicated, verbal comments given
16 here at this meeting, which is being transcribed.

17 And the transcription of this meeting will
18 become the written record of your comments.
19 Arrangements have been made for documents associated
20 with license renewal environmental review to be
21 located -- to be made available to you locally.

22 The Collinsville Community Library in
23 Brogue has been kind enough to make some shelf space
24 available for documents related to our environmental
25 review. Ask For Martha Gunder or Essie Day and they

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1 will be happy to help you.

2 In Maryland, the Whiteford branch of the
3 Harford County Public Library system has also offered
4 to provide space on their shelves related to this
5 environmental review. Look for Mr. George ~~Mine~~ **Meyn**
6 or any member of his staff and he will be happy to
7 help you.

8 And both libraries will continue to
9 receive documents that are generated in the course of
10 our environmental review. Also, documents will be
11 available in our document management system, which can
12 be accessed on our Internet web page.

13 If you would like to submit comments to us
14 other than the transcribed verbal comments today, we
15 have established several options. You can write us a
16 letter, and this slide shows the address that we would
17 ask that you use.

18 You can certainly stop by in person if you
19 happen to be in the Rockville, Maryland area. And
20 that is not as farfetched as it sounds, since my
21 office is just a little over an hour and a half, two-
22 hour drive from here.

23 We have also set up a special e-mail box
24 for the Peach Bottom environmental review. So if you
25 prefer using e-mail, that is another method that you

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1 can use to give us your comments.

2 That basically concludes my presentation.
3 If anybody has any specific questions for me
4 concerning the environmental review process, we can
5 take those now. Otherwise, I thank you for your time,
6 and thank you again for being here.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Duke.

8 You have heard the safety side of license
9 renewal from Raj Anand. You heard the environmental
10 aspects of it. Both of those come together and are
11 evaluated by the NRC staff in making a decision on
12 license renewal.

13 Do we have comments -- or questions,
14 rather -- on Duke Wheeler's presentation on the
15 environmental review?

16 (No response).

17 MR. CAMERON: I guess I should add -- and
18 I think I'm going to put a little burden on you with
19 this, Duke. The NRC's web site has been down for
20 evaluation because of the security considerations
21 flowing out of the September 11th event.

22 Usually, you could go to the web site and
23 you could find the documents on license renewal for
24 Peach Bottom. That portion of the web site is
25 supposed to be up in approximately a month and I am

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1 going to ask Duke perhaps to talk a little bit about
2 that.

3 But if you need information, if you have
4 questions, I think you can feel free to call or to e-
5 mail Duke on that.

6 MR. WHEELER: Right. Yes, Chip is right.
7 Since, of course, September 11th, everybody has taken
8 a long, hard look at information that is available out
9 there to the public.

10 And we have decided to pull back a lot of
11 things, take a second look at it, and then replace
12 information on our public web site step by step as we
13 confirm that that is indeed acceptable from a safety
14 perspective. And so, since things are changing on
15 almost a daily basis, I can't tell you exactly what is
16 available today.

17 But I can tell you that if on any given
18 day in the future -- next week, next month, three
19 months from now -- if there is something you are
20 looking for and cannot find, give me a call at the
21 number that you have on your handout -- my slide -- my
22 phone number on your slide -- and we will work through
23 it.

24 And if you can at least identify to me
25 what you are looking for, I can take that. We'll hang

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1 up the phone. I will run down exactly how that can be
2 made available to you and get back to you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Duke.

4 Let's go to the most important part of the
5 meeting today, which is to hear from all of you. And
6 I want to start with local government officials. And
7 then we are going to hear from Peach Bottom and
8 Excelon personnel with background on their license
9 renewal application.

10 And then we will go out to other
11 interested members of the community. And I would like
12 to start with Mr. Christopher Reilly, who is president
13 of the York County Commissioners.

14 And, Chris, if you would like to come up
15 here, that may be the best place.

16 MR. REILLY: Thank you, Chip, and good
17 afternoon, everyone. It is a pleasure to be here and
18 I want to welcome the members of the NRC Safety
19 Committee to York County, the land of high-fat snack
20 foods and low taxes. We're glad to have you here.

21 I got to meet with several of the NRC
22 management team prior to the meeting and they are
23 really a bunch of nice guys for nuclear scientists,
24 I'll tell you. My name is Chris Reilly and I am
25 president of the York County Board of Commissioners.

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1 I am also a resident of York County, of course. I
2 live in York Township, which is in central York
3 County, about 25 miles from where we are today.

4 On behalf of the York County Board of
5 Commissioners, including my colleagues, vice president
6 Commissioner Donahue and also Commissioner Glass, I
7 respectfully urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to
8 approve a 20-year license extension to Peach Bottom
9 Atomic Power Station.

10 In the aftermath of the events that
11 occurred on September 11th and the subsequent war on
12 terrorism now being waged in the Middle East, it is
13 critical that we focus on domestic energy production
14 and limit America's reliance on foreign oil.

15 The continued operation of quality nuclear
16 facilities -- and I do mean quality -- such as Peach
17 Bottom will ensure that we have the clean energy
18 necessary to power our homes and businesses, even
19 during times of national and international
20 uncertainty.

21 Just as critical, however, is the
22 importance of Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station to
23 York County. The plant provides hundreds of local and
24 regional residents with
25 good-paying jobs. But more importantly, Peach Bottom

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1 is an outstanding corporate citizen and neighbor.

2 Excelon has contributed generously to many
3 worthy projects and causes in Delta Borough and Peach
4 Bottom Township. For example, the county-affiliated
5 Delta Senior Center has received thousands of dollars
6 in money and
7 equipment from Excelon during my tenure as
8 commissioner.

9 The county, school district and host
10 municipality also derive significant tax revenue from
11 the plant. Open communication, accountability and
12 accessibility are also hallmarks of York County's
13 relationship with Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station.

14 I have toured the plant on several
15 occasions and attend periodic informational and
16 outreach forums at the
17 plant as well as the annual Community and Employee
18 Open House. I know many Excelon executives,
19 supervisors and managers on first-name basis.

20 The plant also sends a representative to
21 our weekly county commissioner's meetings. That's 52
22 times a year that a representative from Peach Bottom
23 is in attendance, hearing about and commenting on not
24 only what is taking place at the plant but what is
25 taking place at the county level.

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1 Peach Bottom has an exemplary record of
2 safety, is a vital component of the local economy and
3 deeply
4 cares about our community. By extending Peach Bottom
5 Atomic Power Station's operating license, the NRC will
6 help ensure at least two more decades of growth,
7 opportunity and prosperity in York County.

8 Thank you for allowing me the opportunity
9 to express our support -- the Board of Commissioners'
10 support -- for our friends at Peach Bottom.

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,
12 Mr. Reilly.

13 Next we are going to go to Kay Carman, who
14 is the coordinator of emergency operations for the
15 York County Department of Emergency Services.

16 Whichever you are most comfortable with,
17 Kay. You can come right up here, if you would like.

18 MS. CARMAN: From the emergency management
19 standpoint, I, too, would like to echo what
20 Commissioner Reilly said about the NRC taking a look
21 at renewing the license for Units 2 and 3 for Peach
22 Bottom.

23 What has happened with the nuclear
24 industry being resident in York County is, it has made
25 our jobs as emergency management persons easier. They

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1 work with us on planning issues and on training
2 issues.

3 So when we think back to those horrible
4 times, to September 11th, York County is rather well
5 prepared because of the nuclear industry. Peach
6 Bottom has been a viable partner in that. So from
7 that standpoint, we would again like the NRC to take
8 a look at renewing that license and keeping Peach
9 Bottom here.

10 We kind of like them. They are a good neighbor.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,
12 Kay.

13 Next we are going to hear from officials
14 from not only the Peach Bottom station but also the
15 Excelon Company about the application to renew the
16 license. And I would like to ask Jay Doering, who is
17 the vice president at the Peach Bottom station, to
18 come up and address us.

19 MR. DOERING: Good afternoon. As Chip
20 mentioned, I am Jay Doering. I am the site vice
21 president responsible for the operation of Peach
22 Bottom. And I would like to thank all of you for
23 coming today -- the public officials, the number of
24 people from the business community and private
25 citizens -- to show their support.

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1 It is a privilege for me to be here and
2 talk about this good news. And it is good news that
3 we are applying for a renewal of our license. It is
4 environmentally good news, as you have already heard.
5 It is also economically good news, not only for the
6 community, which we heard about, but also for
7 consumers.

8 I am going to tell you a little bit about
9 myself, not because I want to talk about myself, but
10 just to give you a flavor of the type of folks that
11 are running the power plant. And then I am going to
12 talk to you about why it is possible that we can
13 extend the life of this plant and why it's a good
14 thing for the community.

15 I have over 30 years in this business. I
16 have spent them first at Peach Bottom and then during
17 the start-up of Peach Bottom I was the start-up
18 engineer here. Then after a while I left and I went
19 to the Limerick nuclear generating station to start up
20 the nuclear generating station.

21 I was licensed, a licensed reactor
22 operator, senior licensed reactor operator at both of
23 those facilities. Then I got out of the power plants,
24 per se, and I went off into oversight, going and
25 judging the operation, not only at Peach Bottom and

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1 Limerick, but several other nuclear power plants, too,
2 which brought me invaluable experience in my own
3 career development.

4 Then I left the nuclear business for three
5 years, still with our company, and was responsible for
6 the operation of our fossil and hydro facilities. So
7 I am very familiar with Conowingo Dam, very familiar
8 with Muddy Run as part of that job.

9 Then in 1998, it was like a reunion. I
10 came back to Peach Bottom after being away for 20
11 years and took over the job of vice president at Peach
12 Bottom. I have a home at three miles from Limerick
13 generating station.

14 I still have that home. That is where I
15 raised my family, three miles from Limerick generating
16 station. But I also now have a home down here along
17 the river in Airville, R.D. Airville. And that also
18 is about three miles as the crow flies from Peach
19 Bottom. I enjoy living near nuclear power plants
20 because it makes for a shorter drive to work.

21 Peach Bottom is a very special place to
22 work, I'll tell you that. The reason it's a special
23 place to work -- very special people at Peach Bottom.
24 I get to know a lot of people just through public
25 contact and that sort of thing. But at Peach Bottom

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1 you find very, very dedicated workers, very dedicated
2 work force, a lot of teamwork, very focused on the
3 quality of operation.

4 That's why this 27-year-old power plant
5 can continue to operate so exceptionally well, setting
6 records year after year. This past year we generated
7 over 18 million megawatt hours of electricity. That
8 was a record for us. That is enough to supply the
9 power supplies of three million homes. That's a lot.

10 The reliability of our plant last year,
11 over 94 percent. That means we took Peach Bottom and
12 were able to run it full power all the time and not
13 even have to refuel it. If you looked at it that way
14 and then said, "Okay, what percent of all that energy
15 did we get out of the plant?" we get over 94 percent,
16 or did last year out of that plant.

17 We have been over five million man-hours
18 without a lost-time accident down at Peach Bottom.
19 That's a longtime. It has been years since we have
20 had somebody miss work because of an injury.

21 We are cost competitive. Peach Bottom
22 generates electricity at a cost that is cheaper than
23 any fossil competition. And there isn't any kind of
24 fossil plant -- coal, oil, or gas -- that can generate
25 electricity cheaper than Peach Bottom.

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1 So we work hard at finding ways to run our
2 plant safer, more economic, just to continue to
3 increase the quality of the plant. It is judged
4 periodically not only by the NRC but also by the
5 Institute of Nuclear Power Operations.

6 That is our watchdog organization out of
7 Atlanta. And they come around once every two years
8 and do a very thorough evaluation to the plant. Two
9 years ago we were evaluated and we got the highest
10 rating that they have -- excellent -- in the NRC that
11 continuously evaluates us and in general evaluates us
12 very well with all categories.

13 So in preparing for our license renewal
14 application, the project team's ultimate goal was to
15 provide the nuclear with document facing on how we
16 have the right programs in place. We have the right
17 people in place and we have the right design in place
18 that makes an extension of our license, a renewal of
19 our license a very sound decision.

20 It means environmentally-friendly power
21 for the community for another 20 years. It means jobs
22 for approximately 1,000 people over that period of
23 time. It means a positive impact on the local
24 economy, as covered by Chris: taxes and services,
25 plant employees and their families living in the area.

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1 It means support of the community. We get
2 very much involved in community activities around the
3 plant. Mason-Dixon Business Association, the Delta
4 Peach Bottom Elementary School. We have a program
5 going there called School Buddies where employees from
6 the power plant team up with the teachers at the
7 school and visit the school on a regular basis to talk
8 to the students -- a very successful program not only
9 for the students but I would say for the employees
10 also. It really builds morale.

11 Thousands of dollars are contributed to
12 the United Way by our employees at Peach Bottom.
13 Hundreds of pints of blood go to the American Red
14 Cross each year. There's little league coaches.
15 There's PTA presidents. There's a lot of volunteer
16 firemen. There's a lot of church leaders, all coming
17 out of Peach Bottom. And that's an impact that we
18 have on the plan.

19 And I would like to stop here, but
20 unfortunately because of the events of September 11th,
21 I really can't. I have to say a little bit about
22 security. We have a very, very good security program
23 at Peach Bottom and we have been improving it. It has
24 been getting better and better and better over the
25 years. We have been very successful in tests and

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1 drills that we run with our security program.

2 Now, after September 11th we have expanded
3 that security in cooperation with the State of
4 Pennsylvania. We have expanded the security program
5 around the power plant. We certainly can't talk about
6 it too much for obvious reasons. But I can tell you
7 that it is a major focus in the power plant right now
8 and we feel that we are adequately protecting the
9 power plant, protecting employees of the power plant,
10 and of course protecting the public around the power
11 plant.

12 So re-licensing Peach Bottom is a sound
13 decision. It's a sound business decision. It's a
14 sound environmental decision. And it's also a sound
15 community decision.

16 So thank you all today for being here and
17 for you support. And thank you for the team from the
18 NRC and the national labs for everything you are doing
19 for us today.

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Jay.

21 We are going to continue with the Peach
22 Bottom perspective and we are going to ask Mr. Fred
23 ~~Pulaski~~ Polaski to come up and talk. And Fred is the
24 manager of license renewal for Excelon.

25 Fred.

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1 MR. ~~PULASKI~~ POLASKI: Thank you, Chip, and
2 thank everyone for being here today.

3 As Chip said, I am Excelon's manager for
4 licensure and I have responsibility for the license
5 renewal project at Peach Bottom, a project we have
6 going on for two of our plants in Illinois and any
7 future ones that we will renew our licenses on.

8 And Excelon is so confident about the safe
9 operation of our nuclear power plants that our long-
10 term plans are to renew the licenses on all of our
11 plants. I haven't made that decision or announced any
12 specifics, but that is where we believe we are going
13 in the future.

14 Specifically, on the Peach Bottom project,
15 PECO, before we merged with the Unicom, the utility
16 from Illinois, and made a decision in 1998 to renew
17 the license on Peach Bottom Atomic Power station, we
18 began the project in 1999 and prepared an application
19 which we submitted 2nd July of this year.

20 There was a lot of time, effort, hard
21 work, and a lot of good technical engineering
22 expertise put into the preparation of that
23 application. We prepared two parts to it. One is the
24 part 54, safety evaluation. The other is the part 51,
25 environmental application.

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1 Both of those were very extensive review.
2 As Jay mentioned, we had to review it to make sure
3 that we have got programs in place to adequately
4 manage aging. And we did that and it was an extensive
5 engineering effort. While I was sitting there, I just
6 did a quick back-of-the-envelope calculation.

7 We have probably put about 100 man-years
8 of effort into the preparation of those two
9 applications and making them ready for NRC review.
10 One together to mention is, we did a thorough review
11 of the plant from a safety viewpoint and one of the
12 questions that always gets asked is: Well, are you
13 doing new things now that you need to do? Because you
14 want to run it for another 20 years.

15 And as we did that review, we only
16 determined that there were two very small additional
17 programs that needed to be instituted at Peach Bottom
18 to meet the regulations required by Part 54.

19 All of the programs we've got in place
20 now, we've had them in place since we started to
21 operate the plant have been designed to manage aging
22 in that plant to make sure that it will meet its
23 safety functions and that those programs we have in
24 place will continue to do that when we run this plant
25 for an additional 20 years.

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1 In addition to our own in-house expertise
2 -- and we had a group of about nine people in-house
3 working on the project -- whose experience in nuclear
4 business ranged anywhere from 20 to 30 years, we had
5 outside expertise help us prepare both the
6 environmental and the safety applications, all of whom
7 have extensive amounts of expertise in this area.

8 And the conclusion that everyone reached
9 is that Peach Bottom can operate safely for another 20
10 years. And from the environmental side, we can do
11 that with insignificant impact on the environment.

12 I guess what I would like to do is to try
13 to convey that we believe that Peach Bottom has
14 operated safely since 1973, will continue to operate
15 safely. And if the NRC grants us the additional 20
16 years, we will continue to operate for another 20
17 years and will be able to generate over 2,300
18 megawatts of clean, reliable, safe, environmentally
19 benign electricity that all of us will benefit from.

20 And it's the right thing to do from our
21 viewpoint, both for the company and the community and
22 the country to continue to operate this plant for
23 another 20 years. Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Fred.

25 We are going to go to other interested

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1 members of the community now. And just to give you a
2 preview we are going to start with Salvatore Ferranti,
3 then go to Bill Dorward and then John Tucker. And I
4 would ask Mr. Ferranti, who is a local business
5 person, to come up and talk to us.

6 MR. FERRANTI: Good afternoon, everybody.
7 And what I would like to do first is, I would like to
8 introduce myself. My name is Sal Ferranti and I have
9 lived in this community for 18 years. As a matter of
10 fact, I live only one mile away from the nuclear power
11 plant.

12 I obtained a bachelor of science degree in
13 mechanical engineering from the University of
14 Pennsylvania and I currently own Delta Pizza in Delta.
15 And about seven years ago we expanded that facility
16 into Ferranti's Fine Dining Restaurant. And about
17 three years ago we expanded that and we opened a new
18 location in Whiteford. And just recently we opened
19 another location in York.

20 So we are very successful. And one of the
21 reasons that my business is so successful is because
22 of the business that Excelon or PECO brings into our
23 community. Throughout the years, PECO has created a
24 significant growth for my business because we cater
25 their seminars, their training classes, their

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1 meetings.

2 And most of all, directly into this
3 community PECO is creating an influx of people into
4 the area from subcontractors, and there are even their
5 own employees. And these people spend in the
6 community.

7 Just like my business, I'm sure that other
8 businesses, from local supermarkets and gas stations
9 and other businesses in the community live in a great
10 deal because of PECO. I would also like to remind you
11 that the way that this community came to be was
12 because of the local quarries which were into this
13 area.

14 Those quarries came to be and gave also a
15 lot of business to the community. They supported a
16 local rail system. They also supported many
17 businesses. They hired a lot of people. And
18 unfortunately, those quarries' days are gone.

19 When those quarries were gone, they took
20 a lot of people with them. A lot of people left this
21 area. A lot of businesses were shut down: hotels,
22 restaurants, bowling alleys. We cannot afford that
23 today. We cannot afford a big company like PECO to
24 leave our community. We cannot relive this history.

25 The other issue that comes to mind when I

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1 live beside a nuclear power plant is safety. The
2 degree which I obtained in engineering has taught me
3 that these structures are extremely strong. I feel
4 very, very comfortable to live beside a nuclear power
5 plant.

6 And what happened with the September 11th
7 attacks, I know it has raised a lot of questions and
8 a lot of people into our community. But let me tell
9 you, these are terrorist attacks and these people
10 could act as they acted into our mail system.

11 Do we stop using the mail? We can't do
12 that. They could act into our water system. Do we
13 stop drinking the water that we drink? We can't do
14 that. Do we stop using electricity that we use? We
15 can't do that.

16 We cannot change our way of life. And
17 that's why we are in a war with terrorism and not in
18 a war with nuclear power plants. And third of all,
19 PECO has also maintained great parks into our
20 community. It donates to our fire department. It
21 also donates to our local ambulance groups.

22 Just about three weeks ago, I was into
23 Heritage Festival. We were raising money for our
24 community. And I seen Jay at the festival, the vice
25 president, taking part into community organizations.

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1 For this reason, I believe that PECO is a safe
2 establishment. I feel comfortable living beside PECO
3 and working into this community.

4 I am proud of this community and I realize
5 that PECO is probably one of the economic hearts of
6 our community. It's an asset to our community. And
7 for this reason I urge Chip and the rest of the NRC
8 and whoever makes the decisions. I also urge
9 community leaders and community members and residents
10 to consider carefully and support the renewal license
11 for PECO.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,
14 Mr. Ferranti.

15 Next let's hear from Mr. Bill Dorward.
16 And he is the business agent for the Sheet Metal
17 Workers Local 19.

18 MR. DORWARD: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Bill Dorward and I'm a business agent for the Sheet
20 Metal Workers Local 19 here in the immediate area and
21 I represent the 371 sheet metal workers who over the
22 years of this plant's existence have worked in the
23 construction and the maintenance of this facility.

24 Most of the 371 members I have spoken
25 about live in the York and Lancaster areas, more

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1 importantly depend on the safe and good-paying jobs
2 that support their families and this community. But
3 I would like to take a moment to talk about something
4 probably of primary importance to this local union.
5 And that is job safety.

6 Very simply, I have never had the pleasure
7 of referring sheet metal workers to a job site with
8 such an impeccable -- impeccable -- safety rating that
9 this facility has. Listen, with the rise of deaths
10 and injuries to construction workers, slight rise in
11 the United States, I can only tell you and wish that
12 all the jobs that my members go to, I wish that their
13 employers had that kind of commitment.

14 I wish the community had that kind of
15 commitment that I think Excelon does at this facility.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much,
18 Mr. Dorward.

19 Let's hear next from Mr. John Tucker.

20 MR. TUCKER: Hi. Good afternoon. And
21 like everybody else said, "I am John Tucker." Both my
22 friends call me Jack. I bring a little different
23 viewpoint. I started working at Peach Bottom in 1963
24 and came through the process of building a plant,
25 going through the growing pains, seeing a new plant

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1 come up and seeing the quality of the people who
2 worked there carry over into the new plant, into the
3 operation of the plant and safety of the plant.

4 I had an opportunity to get out of the
5 plant and go over to the information center, which is
6 part of our education program, to try to involve the
7 public, educate the public on nuclear power, how safe
8 it was, how economical it was, and that type of thing.

9 So that was a real plus. And we had some
10 real good comments from the school children, the
11 public in general when they would come in there. Then
12 I had the opportunity to get back in the plant again.
13 And I worked in emergency preparedness and I was
14 responsible for the emergency plan.

15 I have a pretty close affinity for safety
16 and the emergency processes they go through in the
17 plant. When we talk about safety and we talk about
18 quality, and it's all there. All the people who come
19 out of that place, they stand out because of their
20 quality and their dedication. And they bring this
21 into the public, they bring this into a lot of areas
22 in our life.

23 One of the biggest things that we talked
24 about in ourselves is that one of the first things we
25 are responsible for is protecting the public. And we

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1 always felt that if we could protect ourselves and
2 we're safe in the plant, the public didn't have
3 anything to worry about. And we operated the plant
4 safely and did a good job.

5 Thanks.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,
7 Mr. Tucker.

8 Our next three speakers are -- we are
9 going to go to Mr. Sam McConnell, then to Terry Peck,
10 and then I believe Mr. William Faraly Farally, Jr.

11 Could we have Mr. McConnell?

12 MR. McCONNELL: If I could, I would like
13 to defer to this evening's meeting. I've got some
14 information.

15 MR. CAMERON: That is perfectly fine, sir,
16 if you want to join us this evening. We will have you
17 on the agenda.

18 MR. McCONNELL: (Off microphone).

19 MR. CAMERON: All right. We didn't catch
20 any of that on the transcript, but I think we will
21 hear from you tonight and we will get it all on the
22 record, okay?

23 Thank you.

24 How about Mr. Peck? And Mr. Peck is a
25 business agent for Plumbers and Pipefitters Union

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1 Local 520.

2 MR. PECK: My name again is Terry Peck,
3 business agent, United Association of Plumbers and
4 Pipefitters, Local Union 520.

5 I would like to thank the NRC and Exelon
6 Energy and all concerned citizens for allowing this
7 input and testimony for the future consideration of
8 the operating license. The Peach Bottom Power Station
9 has a quality record for providing safe, clean and
10 efficient electricity for the future and security of
11 our nation.

12 Here are our views of the Peach Bottom
13 Power Station. As trained plumbers and pipefitters,
14 we will not comment on the actual mechanics of
15 operation, for there are agencies much more
16 qualified than ourselves to review this portion.

17 We will, however, comment on the positive
18 effects of this facility for the tradesmen and
19 citizens in the local area.

20 The Peach Bottom Power Plant has been a
21 good economic factor with regard to construction and
22 maintenance. The owners of Peach Bottom have proven
23 to be good managers and operators of said plant. We,
24 in the construction trades, have seen the reduction of
25 radiation exposure and a record of one million man-

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1 hours without a lost-time accident.

2 These two items are of paramount
3 importance to the work force on such a project.

4 This type of improvement shows a progressive and
5 positive style of management by the Excelon Peach
6 Bottom site management, a very positive step forward
7 toward the future.

8 The other matters of importance are the
9 availability of domestic uranium to fuel such a
10 facility. In order to keep the United States
11 dependency on foreign energy supplies to a minimum,
12 the nuclear option must be kept intact, and expanded,
13 for part of this would be to license existing nuclear
14 facilities.

15 For the future of electrical generation as
16 the need for power climbs, the value of Peach Bottom
17 as an electricity supplier shall rise proportionately.

18 It is our belief as citizens and tradesmen
19 who worked on the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station,
20 with a history from day one to the last refueling
21 outage, that clean, safe and efficient electrical
22 generation is what is needed to move forward into the
23 21st Century.

24 It is our position that Peach Bottom
25 should be permitted the license extension as requested

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1 by Excelon Generation. Thank you for your
2 consideration.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Peck.

4 Next we are going to go to
5 Mr. William ~~Faraly~~ Farally, Jr. And you have a
6 comment for us? Go ahead.

7 MR. FARALY FARALLY: Good afternoon. My
8 name is William ~~Faraly~~ Farally, Jr. I am the chief
9 international representative for the Sheetmetal
10 Workers International Association, which is our
11 national union. My home local is Local 19. Bill
12 Dorward and I are colleagues.

13 Presently I work out of the Washington,
14 D.C. office, but my home is still in Media,
15 Pennsylvania. That is where my residence is. I
16 serviced the Limerick Power Plant as a business agent
17 from 1976 until 1997. And we had intermittent trips
18 between here and -- between that site and also Peach
19 Bottom.

20 There's 371 people that worked here, as
21 Bill referred to. One of them was my dad on the
22 original construction. And my brothers also worked on
23 the maintenance. I think maybe for the people in the
24 area to really witness this, as far as my research
25 with the Nuclear Energy Institute I know some of the

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1 bases for relicenses in some of the previous stations
2 have taken place has been based heavily on the
3 environmental impact and also the safety situation of
4 the plant.

5 And I think that foremost has been
6 presented on record by PECO energy. This is how far
7 I go back: Philadelphia Electric, PECO Energy, and
8 Excelon. But as my participation in the Limerick
9 facility and with Peach Bottom being the sister plant
10 that we looked at, depending on who you called the
11 sister plant from what location, I also was the labor
12 chairman during construction and also maintenance.

13 The refinement of the safety is
14 unbelievable when you go into these facilities. And
15 when we went around to public hearings and public
16 meetings even to keep Limerick alive at that time, 20
17 years ago, it was the fact that, you know, the most
18 important situation we were concerned about, the
19 safetiness of our people and the safetiness of the
20 community.

21 I mean, if we didn't have safety, then it
22 wasn't worth one job if those two areas were in
23 jeopardy. And without a doubt we were proven over the
24 years and just our experience, and when we refined
25 these things with PECO, and we basically -- you know,

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1 they have always been a product of the community,
2 Excelon and the history of the company.

3 Wherever you go throughout this state or
4 throughout the region, that this corporation has been
5 -- they have always been based in the community, have
6 helped the community, and they have always been
7 support of the community and in essence part of the
8 community. And although there are certain corporate
9 profits that you go after because of being a business,
10 you know, you can't take a side of those other aspects
11 where they have been involved in the community.

12 And what will happen over the years, the
13 tripart situation of contractors and more than that,
14 probably the extension of the community, the
15 contractors, the utility and the building trades
16 unions for the most part, what we have done is, we
17 refined over the years where these outages used to be
18 between work outage used to run anywhere from 90 days
19 to plus -- some went as far as 120 days, depending
20 what part of the country.

21 These outages are down to 20-plus days and
22 some world records have even went into the teens. And
23 what has been the main concern of all the unions and
24 the building trades as we accelerate these schedules
25 that the areas are safe and the same thing with the

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1 community that we live in.

2 So all this type of work, and what
3 contribute as a team, working together, was that you
4 brought a dramatic cost decrease in nuclear power over
5 those years, I mean, to where it is probably the most
6 efficient of cost of energy cost today as compared to
7 a lot of the other -- the other uses that we may take
8 place.

9 So I think that is important to realize,
10 that that teamwork, the safety, the consciousness of,
11 and our people as far as training working in these
12 facilities. My own trade alone, we have 168 training
13 centers throughout the country. Local 19 has two main
14 training centers.

15 Especially in this area, of when you are
16 talking to the building trades unions in Pennsylvania,
17 they probably have some of the best training centers
18 in the country. And it wasn't uncommon for us to be
19 trade-specific as far as certification, one process,
20 if something had to take place at the plant.

21 If you needed more welders we would go
22 right into our schools and take those guidelines,
23 those standards, and make sure that we had the right
24 people. We have the advantage of reaching across the
25 country also.

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1 Terry Peck mentioned the situation as far
2 as the energy policy of this country. And I think it
3 is dramatic that nuclear energy is an important -- and
4 let me repeat that -- an important ingredient of the
5 national energy policy as we go forward.

6 It has been -- it's safe. The
7 environmental impact is controlled, and as far as the
8 safety of the plants and the workers. And when you
9 talk about the efficiency standpoint, I think these
10 are the wise choices that we extend the license of
11 this plant and other plants that meet those conditions
12 of safety and the environmental impact.

13 So as the Sheetmetal Workers International
14 Union, we would just go on record with the NRC panel
15 that we endorse the extension of the license of Peach
16 Bottom and that we can move forward, you know, with
17 other safe facilities also because I think it is
18 important for our nation.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,
21 Mr. ~~Faraly~~ Farally.

22 And Mr. ~~Faraly~~ Farally was our last
23 speaker for today's session. As was mentioned
24 earlier, there are a number of NRC staff people here
25 from various offices, including our residents who are

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1 at Peach Bottom. There are people here from the
2 national labs who are our expert consultants on the
3 environmental review as well as people from Peach
4 Bottom and Excelon.

5 I would just encourage you, since we are
6 going to end a little bit early with this session to,
7 if you need information or have questions, please take
8 the opportunity after we adjourn this afternoon to
9 talk to those people. And I would just thank you all
10 for being here and for the comments.

11 We do have another session tonight that
12 starts at 7 o'clock. There is an informal open house
13 connected to that that starts at 6:00. And I know
14 that we at least have one speaker, Mr. McConnell, who
15 will be back with us tonight.

16 So we are adjourned for this afternoon,
17 and thank you.

18 (Whereupon, at 2:35 p.m., the meeting was
19 concluded).

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