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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS

LICENSE RENEWAL AND

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS

GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION

LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

+ + + + +

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

+ + + + +

City Hall Chambers

Port Gibson City Hall

1005 College Street

Port Gibson, Mississippi

+ + + + +

2:00 p.m.

+ + + + +

BEFORE: BILL MAIER, Facilitator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. MAIER: Good afternoon, everyone.
3 Thank you for coming to today's meeting and showing an
4 interest in what your government's business is as it
5 affects you and relates to the environment around the
6 Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant.

7 My name is Bill Maier, and I work in the
8 Nuclear Regulatory Commission's, or NRC's, regional
9 office in Arlington, Texas. It's my pleasure to serve
10 as the facilitator for this afternoon's meeting.

11 The purpose of this meeting is twofold:
12 First it is intended to provide information to you
13 about the process by which the NRC will review the
14 license renewal application of Entergy Operations for
15 the Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant to operate for an
16 additional 20 years.

17 During that first portion of the meeting,
18 the various NRC officials who will be reviewing that
19 application will provide information to you about the
20 process and the expected time line for the review.

21 After that presentation, we will provide
22 an opportunity for you to ask questions of the various
23 NRC presenters and officials present to clarify the
24 information they presented.

25 We hope that the folks present will be

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1 able to answer all the questions asked, but if they
2 can't, I will ensure that the question is captured,
3 and we'll get your contact information to get an
4 answer back to you.

5 And if you think of a question that you
6 would like to have answered but didn't get to the
7 microphone to ask it, the NRC staff will be remaining
8 behind after the meeting is over, to discuss any
9 questions you may have then.

10 The second and the most important part of
11 the meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for
12 you to give information and comments to the NRC about
13 what you want the NRC to consider during the review of
14 the potential environmental impacts of an additional
15 20 years of operation of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant.

16 Today's meeting is just one way of
17 providing that information. If you did not come
18 prepared to this meeting to provide comments and the
19 information provided by the NRC folks gives you ideas
20 later that you wish to provide to the NRC, there are
21 other methods available within the period specified
22 for providing comments, and the NRC presenters will go
23 into detail about how to do that.

24 There are also feedback forms
25 available -- and here's one of them (indicating) --

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1 for you to fill out, to tell the NRC about how the
2 meeting went and how it could be improved. The NRC is
3 always looking to improve its meeting, and your
4 feedback is important.

5 You can fill it out as the meeting is
6 going on or at the end and get it back to one of us,
7 who I'll introduce shortly, or you can take it home,
8 and you can fill it out and mail it back to the NRC.
9 Postage is prepaid. And I'll mention these again
10 before the meeting is adjourned.

11 At this point I'd like to provide some
12 brief introductions of some of the NRC staff who is
13 here and who would be glad to accept your completed
14 meeting feedback forms. I'll ask them to stand
15 briefly as I mention them.

16 There are two individuals here who are
17 going to do the lion's share of the meeting. Nate
18 Ferrer: Nate is the project manager coordinating the
19 NRC review of the safety aspects of the Grand Gulf
20 license renewal application; and David Drucker: David
21 is the project manager coordinating the NRC review of
22 the environmental aspects of the application.

23 Also representing the NRC are Dave Wrona;
24 Dave is the chief of the Environmental Projects Branch
25 in the NRC's Division of License Renewal at NRC

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1 headquarters; and Dennis Morey. Is Dennis here? He
2 stepped out. We'll identify Dennis later.

3 Dennis is the chief of the Safety
4 Projects Branch in that same division. Also here is
5 Laura Uselding. Laura is the public affairs officer
6 in the NRC's Region IV office in Arlington, Texas.
7 And the resident inspector, Blake Rice, is here, and
8 he is supporting this meeting.

9 We also -- you may have noticed that two
10 deputies are standing in the doorway. Deputies Smith
11 and Claiborne are here. They are here for your
12 protection. It makes good sense in a public meeting
13 such as this one to have someone to turn to if you get
14 into difficulty and need some help, so we welcome you
15 gentlemen for being here.

16 At this point I would like to introduce
17 two of the most important people here tonight. Mr.
18 Bob Smylie is working the sound system here. Bob,
19 would you raise your hand? And Ms. Penny Bynum is
20 transcribing the meeting to capture it into written
21 form, word for word, and enter it into the public
22 record.

23 This lets the NRC reviewers know what
24 comments were provided orally and lets the world know
25 that your comments were provided and that the NRC

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1 needs to consider them. Ms. Bynum is recording the
2 meeting from the microphones, and because of this,
3 there are certain rules that need to be followed:

4 First one is, only one person speaks at a
5 time. More than one person speaking at the same time
6 can result in important information being lost in the
7 transcription process. Second rule: Side
8 conversations, please take them outside the room.
9 They can also disrupt the recording process.

10 From this point on, all cell phones and
11 other devices that make audible alarms need to be
12 either turned off or set to vibrate. I'll be the
13 first one to start that.

14 Let me say that again: All cell phones
15 and other devices that make audible alarms need to be
16 set to vibrate or turned off.

17 And most importantly, any speaker who is
18 being recognized at the time must have me come to them
19 with the hand mike and speak into it. This is vitally
20 important to ensure that the most important
21 information that you have to provide is accurately
22 captured.

23 In order for persons who have comments to
24 provide to be properly recognized, the NRC has
25 provided these yellow cards that are filled out and

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1 given to me. So far we haven't gotten anybody to fill
2 out a yellow card, but I'm hoping that somebody will
3 fill out a yellow card and register.

4 But you're not required to fill out a
5 yellow card if you have comments later to make. We'll
6 recognize other folks that may not have filled out
7 yellow cards, but yellow cards for a large number of
8 comments will ensure that the folks that have come
9 prepared for comments will be able to get those
10 comments on the record.

11 If you need to get a card, I will be
12 bringing blank cards around during the presentations
13 and the question period, and wave to me if you need to
14 fill one out, if you would like to make a comment for
15 the NRC to consider in this review. I will call
16 people up in the order that I receive their yellow
17 cards.

18 It is very important that you fill out
19 the card clearly so that I don't mispronounce your
20 name and get it into the record wrongly. When I
21 recognize you by name, you can come up and make your
22 comment.

23 Based on how long this meeting is
24 expected to last and how many yellow cards I have
25 received so far, we don't anticipate that there will

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1 be a limit for comments, but if a lot of cards do get
2 filled out, then we may have to put a time limit on
3 the time for folks to make comments.

4 Okay. Now there's some logistical
5 information I'd like to make you aware of about the
6 room and the building that we're in. There are
7 restrooms at the bottom of the staircase here. They
8 are at the bottom of the staircase and behind it,
9 towards the back of the building.

10 There's a water fountain across from
11 those restrooms on the first floor. It's next to the
12 elevator. In the event of an emergency, you're asked
13 to go either down this staircase here outside this
14 door and out the door to the back of the building and
15 congregate in the parking lot, or there is also an
16 external staircase from the room that's across the
17 hall from us. There's a door that goes out to an
18 external staircase where we could leave the building
19 that way.

20 Are there any questions on what I've gone
21 over so far?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. MAIER: Okay. If there are no other
24 questions, please silence your cell phones, and we'll
25 begin the NRC presentation.

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1 MR. FERRER: Good afternoon, everyone.
2 My name is Nate Ferrer, and as Bill mentioned, I'm the
3 safety project manager at the NRC coordinating the
4 staff's review of the Grand Gulf license renewal
5 application.

6 I'd like to thank you all for coming to
7 the meeting this afternoon. Today we'll be providing
8 an overview of the license renewal review process,
9 which includes both a safety and an environmental
10 review.

11 We will describe ways in which the public
12 can participate in the renewal process, and I'd like
13 to reiterate what Bill said, about the most important
14 part of today's meeting being -- is that we'll be
15 receiving comments that you may have on the scope of
16 the environmental review. So I hope the information
17 we provide today will help you understand the license
18 renewal process and the roles that you can have in
19 that process.

20 And before I get into the discussion on
21 the license renewal, I'd like to take a minute to talk
22 about the NRC in terms of what we do and what our
23 mission is.

24 The NRC is a federal agency that
25 regulates the civilian use of nuclear material. The

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1 Atomic Energy Act authorizes the NRC to grant 40-year
2 operating licenses for nuclear power reactors.

3 I'd like to highlight that the 40-year
4 term was based primarily on economic considerations
5 and antitrust factors and not on safety or technical
6 limitations. The Atomic Energy Act also allows for
7 license renewal, which is what we're here to talk
8 about today.

9 The National Environmental Policy Act of
10 1969, or NEPA, established a national policy for
11 considering the impact of federal decision-making,
12 such as license renewal, on the human environment.
13 Dave Drucker will be discussing NEPA in greater detail
14 during his portion of the presentation.

15 The NRC's mission is to ensure adequate
16 protection of public health and safety, to promote the
17 common defense and security, and to protect the
18 environment, and we accomplish this mission through a
19 combination of regulatory programs and processes such
20 as establishing rules and regulations, conducting
21 inspections, issuing enforcement actions, and
22 assessing licensee performance. We also evaluate
23 operating experience from nuclear plants across the
24 country and internationally as well.

25 The NRC has resident inspectors at all

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1 operating nuclear power plants, and Bill introduced
2 Blake Rice, one of the resident inspectors here at
3 Grand Gulf. And these inspectors are considered the
4 eyes and ears of the NRC, that carry out our mission
5 on a daily basis, and they're on the front lines of
6 ensuring acceptable safety performance and compliance
7 with regulatory requirements.

8 I would like to mention a few very
9 important areas of NRC oversight that routinely come
10 up during our interactions with members of the public.
11 NRC staff address these areas of performance every day
12 as part of the ongoing regulatory oversight provided
13 for all operating power reactors.

14 They include current safety performance,
15 emergency planning, and security. For specific
16 information on current performance of Grand Gulf,
17 please use the link on the slide, which is also in
18 your handout.

19 The NRC monitors and provides regulatory
20 oversight of activities in these areas on an ongoing
21 basis under the current operating license; therefore,
22 we do not reevaluate them in the license renewal
23 process. And that's not to say they are not
24 important; we just don't duplicate the regulatory
25 process for license renewal.

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1 Another issue that is addressed under our
2 ongoing regulatory oversight is the NRC's response to
3 the accident at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi power plant in
4 Japan. Since the accident at Fukushima, the NRC has
5 taken multiple steps to ensure the safe operation of
6 nuclear power plants both now and in the future.

7 As part of its initial response to the
8 accident, the NRC inspected all of the nation's
9 nuclear power plants in order to assess disaster
10 readiness and compliance with current regulations.

11 The NRC then issued the Near-Term Task
12 Force Report, which provided near-term recommendations
13 and a suggested framework for us to move forward in
14 the longer term.

15 This report was issued on July 12, and
16 the results were discussed in a public meeting on July
17 28. As a result, the Near-Term Task Force presented
18 12 overarching recommendations for improvement, and
19 these recommendations are applicable to operating
20 reactors, regardless of their status in the license
21 renewal process.

22 The NRC has prioritized these
23 recommendations, and the Commission has recommended
24 staff to move forward on those that can be pursued
25 without delay, and the staff plans to issue related

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1 orders and demands for information by March of this
2 year. And it's important to note that to date, the
3 NRC has not identified any issues as part of these
4 activities that call into question the safety of any
5 nuclear facility.

6 I'll reemphasize also that this review
7 process is going on independent of license renewal,
8 and any changes that are identified as necessary will
9 be implemented for all licensees. More information on
10 the NRC's post-Fukushima activities can be found on
11 the NRC's website by clicking on the Japan Nuclear
12 Accident-NRC Actions link on the home page, or
13 directly through the web address on this slide.
14 There's also a limited number of copies of the Near-
15 Term Task Force Report available on the back table.

16 At this point I'll move on to Grand Gulf
17 and the license renewal process. The NRC received
18 Grand Gulf's application for license renewal on
19 November 1, 2011, requesting an additional 20 years of
20 operation.

21 The current operating license for Grand
22 Gulf expires in 2024, and I'll note that licensees can
23 submit an application for license renewal after they
24 have operated for 20 years. The NRC has determined
25 that 20 years of operation provides enough operating

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1 experience information for the staff to make an
2 informed decision on license renewal.

3 The first step of the license renewal
4 process is to perform an acceptance and sufficiency
5 review of the application. The purpose of this review
6 is to determine if the applicant has provided all of
7 the required information.

8 Required information includes things such
9 as technical information about plant structures and
10 components and how the applicant proposes to manage
11 the aging of these structures and components.

12 Technical specifications define the
13 operating parameters of the plant, and the application
14 indicates if any changes or additions to the technical
15 specifications are necessary to manage the effects of
16 aging.

17 The application also includes an
18 environmental report, which is the applicant's
19 assessment of the environmental impacts of continued
20 operation.

21 If the application has all of the
22 required information, then it is considered acceptable
23 and is put on the NRC's formal docket, and the staff
24 will perform a full review.

25 In terms of Grand Gulf, the license

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1 renewal application was formally accepted by the NRC
2 on December 16 of 2011.

3 This flow chart highlights that the
4 license renewal process involves two parallel reviews:
5 the safety review and the environmental review, and
6 they each evaluate separate aspects of the
7 application. This also shows all of the
8 considerations in the Commission's decision of whether
9 to renew an operating license.

10 I'll explain the dotted line, which shows
11 the hearing process. And this process may be
12 conducted if interested stakeholders submit concerns
13 or contentions, and their request for a hearing is
14 granted.

15 The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board,
16 which is an adjudicatory panel, will conduct the
17 hearings. The Commission considers the outcome of
18 these hearings in its decision on whether or not to
19 renew the license.

20 At this point I'll describe the safety
21 review in a little more detail. There are two main
22 principles that guide the license renewal safety
23 review. The first is that our current regulatory
24 process is adequate to ensure all operating plants
25 maintain an acceptable level of safety.

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1 The second principle is that the same
2 rules that apply under the current license will apply
3 during the additional 20 years of operation and, in
4 addition, a renewed license will include conditions
5 that must be met to ensure that applicants adequately
6 manage the effects of aging and maintain the same
7 acceptable level of safety for the additional 20 years
8 of operation or, in other words, what's being done
9 today will continue, plus a lot more, to ensure the
10 continued safe operation of the plant.

11 The safety review focuses on several
12 types of systems, structures, and components. We look
13 at safety-related systems, structures, and components,
14 and we also look at nonsafety-related equipment that
15 could affect safety-related systems, structures, and
16 components if they failed.

17 An additional category that we look at
18 are systems, structures, and components that are
19 relied upon for compliance with the regulations that
20 are listed on the slide.

21 The safety review focuses on the effects
22 of aging on all of these different types of systems,
23 structures, or components, and the staff's main
24 objective in this review is to determine if the
25 effects of aging will be adequately managed by the

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1 applicant.

2 Now that I've described what we are
3 reviewing during the process, I'll talk about how we
4 perform that review. The NRC has a team of
5 approximately 30 technical reviewers and contractors
6 that review the application and supporting
7 documentation from our headquarters in Washington, DC.

8 The staff also comes onsite for three
9 weeks to conduct audits in which we verify the
10 technical basis of the application and confirm the
11 applicant's programs and activities are consistent
12 with how they're described in the application.

13 In addition, a team of specialized
14 inspectors from our regional office in Texas travel to
15 the site to verify that the aging-management programs
16 are being implemented or planned consistent with the
17 application.

18 The staff documents the basis and
19 conclusion of its review in a safety evaluation
20 report. In a final step in the safety review process,
21 there's an independent review by the Advisory
22 Committee on Reactor Safeguards. This committee is a
23 group of scientists and nuclear safety experts who
24 serve as a consulting body to the Commission.

25 The committee performs an independent

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1 review of the license renewal application as well as
2 the staff's safety evaluation report and inspection
3 findings and makes a recommendation to the Commission
4 regarding license renewal.

5 This slide shows the important milestones
6 for the safety review process. It's important to note
7 that these dates are tentative, and if any significant
8 issues arise during the process, delays may result.

9 I'll also note that the safety evaluation
10 report, which is indicated as final SER on the slide,
11 is publicly available, and the Advisory Committee on
12 Reactor Safeguards meetings, or ACRS, as they're shown
13 on the slide, are open to the public, and they're held
14 at our headquarters in Washington, DC.

15 This concludes the description of the
16 safety review, and Dave Drucker will now discuss the
17 environmental review.

18 MR. DRUCKER: Thank you, Nate. And good
19 afternoon. My name is David Drucker, and my focus is
20 on the environmental review.

21 This review is performed in accordance
22 with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969,
23 commonly referred to as NEPA. NEPA established a
24 national policy for considering environmental impacts
25 and provides the basic architecture for federal

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1 environmental reviews.

2 All federal agencies must follow a
3 systematic approach in evaluation of potential impacts
4 of their significant actions and also assess
5 alternatives to those actions.

6 The NEPA process involves public
7 participation and public disclosure. The NRC's
8 environmental regulations implementing the
9 requirements of NEPA are contained in 10 CFR Part 51.
10 Our environmental review considers the impact of
11 license renewal and any mitigation for those impacts
12 considered significant.

13 We also consider the impacts of
14 alternatives to license renewal, including the impacts
15 of not issuing a renewed license. We document our
16 review in an Environmental Impact Statement which is
17 made publicly available.

18 Ultimately the purpose of the
19 environmental review is to determine whether the
20 environmental impacts of license renewal are
21 reasonable and, in combination with other reviews, to
22 make a recommendation to the Commission whether to
23 renew the license or not.

24 For a license renewal review, the NRC
25 environmental staff looks at a wide range of potential

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1 impacts. Additionally, we consult with various
2 federal, state, and local officials, as well as
3 leaders of Indian nations.

4 Examples include the US Fish & Wildlife
5 Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Louisiana
6 and Mississippi state historic preservation officers,
7 Louisiana and Mississippi tribal nations with historic
8 ties to the area around the plant. We gather
9 pertinent information from these sources and ensure it
10 is considered in our analysis.

11 The environmental review begins with the
12 scoping process, which is an assessment of the
13 specific impacts and significant issues that the staff
14 should consider in preparing the Grand Gulf
15 Environmental Impact Statement.

16 Currently this is where we are in the
17 process. Information that we gather from you today
18 and in the next few weeks will be considered and
19 included in the Environmental Impact Statement.

20 We've recognized that some impacts are
21 similar if not identical at all nuclear power plants,
22 so to improve efficiency, we developed a Generic
23 Environmental Impact Statement that addresses a number
24 of impacts common to all nuclear power plants. The
25 staff supplements that Generic Environmental Impact

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1 Statement with a site-specific Environmental Impact
2 Statement in which we address issues that are specific
3 to Grand Gulf.

4 The staff also reexamines the conclusions
5 reached in the Generic Environmental Impact Statement
6 to determine if there is any new and significant
7 information that would change those conclusions.

8 The scoping period started December 29,
9 2011, when the notice of intent to prepare an
10 Environmental Impact Statement and conduct scoping was
11 published in the Federal Register.

12 The NRC will accept comments on the scope
13 of the environmental review until February 27, 2012.
14 In general we are looking for information about the
15 environmental impacts from the continued operation of
16 Grand Gulf.

17 You can assist this process by telling
18 us, for example, what aspects of your local community
19 we should focus on; what local environmental, social,
20 and economic issues the NRC should examine during our
21 review, and what other major projects are in process
22 or planned in the area, and what reasonable
23 alternatives are most approximately for this region.

24 These are just some of the examples of
25 the input we seek through the environmental scoping

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1 process. We don't know your community as well as you
2 do, so your comments help to ensure a thorough review.

3 Public comments are a very important part
4 of the environmental review process, so how do we use
5 your comments? All of your comments to us, whether
6 provided verbally during this meeting or in a written
7 letter, fax, or email, are considered and addressed.
8 We respond to each comment as part of the
9 Environmental Impact Statement.

10 The Environmental Impact Statement is one
11 of the factors, as well as several others shown here
12 on this slide, that influences the Commission's
13 decision to review the license or not.

14 Now, in addition to providing verbal and
15 written comments at this meeting, there are other ways
16 that you can submit comments. You can submit comments
17 online using the federal rulemaking website at the
18 regulations.gov website. You just need to enter the
19 key word NRC-2011-0262, and this will bring you to a
20 list of Federal Register notices.

21 The top one will say, Entergy Operations,
22 Inc., Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental
23 Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process for Grand
24 Gulf Nuclear Station Unit 1.

25 Then there's an icon off to the right-

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1 hand side of that page that will enable you to submit
2 comments. If you have any problems with that, please
3 feel free to give me a call, and I can walk you
4 through it.

5 Also you can fax comments to the number
6 shown on the slide, and please reference Grand Gulf
7 License Renewal on the fax if you do so.

8 Please note that the comments will not be
9 edited to remove any identifying or contact
10 information, so please do not include any information
11 in comments that you do not want publicly disclosed.

12 And as I mentioned before, the deadline
13 for comments is February 27, 2012.

14 Also, written comments can be mailed to
15 the chief of our Rules, Announcements, and Directives
16 Branch at the address provided on the slide. And
17 finally, if you happen to be traveling to Washington,
18 DC, you can provide written comments in person during
19 business hours.

20 This slide shows important milestones.
21 As Nate said, these dates are subject to change based
22 on the progress of the review. The opportunities to
23 submit contentions for a hearing closes on February
24 27, 2012, and also the opportunity to submit
25 environmental comments closes on February 27, 2012.

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1 Please note that a draft Supplemental
2 Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be
3 issued for public comment in December of 2012, with an
4 associated public meeting to receive your comments on
5 this preliminary document.

6 And Nate and I are the primary points of
7 contact at the NRC for license renewal issues for
8 Grand Gulf. Our contact information is provided on
9 this slide, and it's also in the handout that was
10 available at the table when you first walked in.

11 A hard copy of the license renewal
12 application and the environmental report is currently
13 sitting on the table just outside of the back of the
14 room here. It also may be found at the library shown
15 on the slide. The draft Supplemental Environmental
16 Impact Statement will also be available at this
17 library when it is published for comment.

18 These documents will also be on the NRC's
19 website at the web address shown at the bottom of this
20 slide, which is also contained in your handout.

21 As you came in, you were asked to fill
22 out a registration card at the reception table. If
23 you've included your address on that card -- these are
24 the blue cards -- we will mail a CD copy of the draft
25 and the final EIS to you.

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1 This concludes my presentation, but
2 before we start the comment period, I just want to
3 make sure, if there's any questions on what I've
4 presented or what Nate presented, this is the
5 opportunity to talk about what we've presented, and
6 next we'll follow on with a comment period. Looking
7 for questions?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. DRUCKER: No, I don't see any. So at
10 this time I really would like to thank you all for
11 participating in today's meeting, and I want to turn
12 the mic back over to Bill Maier.

13 MR. MAIER: Thank you, David.

14 Before we get to any questions or
15 comments -- I guess David's already done the screening
16 for the questions, but David had talked about the
17 handout. Here's a copy of the handout that hopefully
18 you got a copy of.

19 It has a lot of those web links as well
20 as the addresses for getting comments in, and here's
21 an example of a blue card. And a lot of folks have
22 been asking me if copies of the slides are available,
23 and I know they will be available in a meeting
24 summary, and if folks fill out this blue card, will
25 they be able to get copies of that meeting summary and

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1 copies of the slides?

2 MR. FERRER: Yes. I'll send them all.

3 MR. MAIER: Okay. Are there any
4 questions for the NRC folks? Oh, before we do start,
5 I'd also like to take a moment for two more
6 introductions.

7 Dennis Morey: Dennis is the branch chief
8 of the Safety Branch; he wasn't here when I introduced
9 him earlier. Dennis, would you stand up for a second.

10 (Pause.)

11 MR. MAIER: Thank you.

12 And way in the back is Laura Uselding.
13 Laura is with the Office of Public Affairs, and she's
14 the public affairs officer at the regional office in
15 Arlington.

16 Are there any questions for the NRC
17 folks? Any at all? Any questions of any kind?

18 I have gotten no yellow cards, so there
19 is nobody who is really registered to provide comments
20 to the NRC. Is there anybody who, absent a yellow
21 card, would like to make a comment or would like to
22 step up and either read a comment or have me come
23 around with the hand mic?

24 I see a hand.

25 (Pause.)

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1 MS. HILLEGAS: I'll just ask a question
2 of the safety person. Do you consider it safe to have
3 an evacuation route that runs from -- past the
4 plant -- on the one road back past the plant to -- I
5 should have said perhaps beyond the -- if one travels
6 past the -- beyond the plant and then needs to
7 evacuate, that the route is back past the plant? Is
8 that a safe evacuation?

9 MR. FERRER: In terms of safe evacuation,
10 that falls in line with one of the issues that we
11 regulate on an ongoing basis, emergency planning, and
12 there's periodic evaluations of those types of things,
13 such as evacuation routes, that are done at the site.

14 And if there's ever any determination
15 that there needs to be improvements to those plans,
16 then those are made, as I said, on an ongoing basis.

17 Does that answer your question?

18 MS. HILLEGAS: Was that yes or a no?

19 MR. FERRER: That's a yes.

20 MS. HILLEGAS: That it is safe.

21 MR. FERRER: That's correct.

22 MR. MAIER: Any additional questions?
23 Any comments that you'd like the NRC to consider in
24 their environmental review? Anything that folks would
25 like to make sure is included in that?

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1 (Pause.)

2 MR. MAIER: I don't know what else we can
3 do today, gentlemen. I think we may be at the end of
4 the meeting. I'd like to thank the folks who came for
5 showing up for this. I hope that at least the portion
6 of the meeting where the NRC presented information was
7 helpful and informative.

8 And I see another question.

9 MS. HILLEGAS: Excuse me. I did remember
10 that I have one other kind of question, and I don't
11 know whether I have -- okay. I don't think I have the
12 information to ask the question well.

13 But I saw a very recent report that
14 discussed the -- a problem found -- was it by the NRC
15 or by some other body? -- with the boiling water
16 reactor of the same type that is used at Grand Gulf.

17 Would whoever knows how to respond to
18 that please describe what was found and what is being
19 done after that determination?

20 MR. MAIER: It's a question about the
21 type of reactor at Grand Gulf and a problem? Are you
22 aware of what that problem might be related to or --

23 MS. HILLEGAS: I don't remember precisely
24 how it was stated, and I just realized that I don't
25 have the right piece of paper with that information on

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1 it.

2 It's -- I found it on line, though,
3 looking up Grand Gulf. If anybody has a computer, I
4 could find it again in a minute. It's an article that
5 has been published in the past few weeks if not just
6 this month.

7 No one here has heard about any problem
8 that's been discovered about boiling water reactors?

9 MR. MAIER: Laura, are you clued in with
10 anything?

11 I think Laura will try to make herself
12 available to you afterwards and try to get your
13 information. If there's more information you wanted
14 to ask, maybe, Laura, you can give her your contact
15 information, and she can get a question to you
16 somehow.

17 MS. HILLEGAS: I'll be back.

18 MR. MAIER: Okay. Great. We'll see you
19 tonight, then.

20 Yes, that's an interesting and important
21 point. There will be a second meeting tonight. It
22 will begin at seven o'clock in the evening here in
23 this very room, and the NRC staff will make themselves
24 available in an open-house type format for an hour
25 before that meeting, so that will start at 6:00 p.m.

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1 If there are no other questions or no
2 other comments, I think we may be at the point of
3 ending this meeting. We would like to thank Mayor
4 Reeves and the staff here for providing the room and
5 the venue for conducting the meeting.

6 Thank you to Bob and thank you to Penny
7 for your services. Thank you to the deputies from the
8 Sheriff's office; appreciate you being here.

9 And is there anything else that anybody
10 would like to say before we close out?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. MAIER: Once again, as I mentioned in
13 the opening comments, the NRC will make themselves
14 available if anybody has comments or questions that
15 they'd like to -- well, questions that they'd like to
16 ask of the NRC staff. Maybe we can get some of those
17 questions answered.

18 If there's nothing else that anybody
19 would like to say, I'll go ahead and thank you for all
20 coming.

21 (Whereupon, at 2:40 p.m., the public
22 meeting was concluded.)

23
24
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