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License Renewal Scoping Public Meeting

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

PUBLIC METTING ON THE LICENSE RENEWAL

SCOPING MEETING

RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

TUESDAY

\$EPTEMBER 19, 2017

7:00 p.m.

The Public Meeting was convened at St.

Francisville Town Hall, Town Hall Meeting Room, 11936

Ferdinand Street, St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775.

PRESENT:

DANIEL C. MUSSATT, Facilitator

EMMANUEL SAYOC, Safety Project Manager

ROBERT HOFFMAN, Environmental Project Manager

GEORGE A. WILSON, Director of Division of License

Renewal

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PROCEEDINGS

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MR. MUSSATTI: Thank you, everybody, for coming out. My name is Dan Mussatti, and I'd like to welcome you and thank you for participating in the environmental scoping meeting to discuss the relicensing application for River Bend Station.

My job here as a facilitator is to help that today's is informative, ensure meeting productive, and ends on time. I don't think the last one's going to be a problem. Has everyone signed in that's in here? If you haven't, I would appreciate before you leave you sign up outside there. Grab any of the paperwork out there that you think might be informative to you. There's a CD out there that I especially like. It's the annual CD that the NRC puts out that tells you everything about all the nuclear power plants in the country and what they're doing and a little bit about what we're doing as an agency.

The agenda for today is pretty simple.

I'm going to make a couple of opening comments and then two members of the NRC staff that are here are going to talk for a few minutes, and then we're going to take public comments from anybody that really would like to speak. And that's what we're really here

for, is for your input into the relicensing process. 1 2 is a safety-oriented organization, NRC and so I think what I want to do is start out by 3 mentioning a few basic housekeeping safety issues. 5 If we have to exacuate from here for any reason, please don't go too far once you get outside so we 6 7 can do a nose count and make sure that everybody got out safely. I don't think we're going to have any 8 problems and it's pretty straightforward. 9 The restrooms, if you don't know where 10 11 they are, go out this door, make a right, make a right and it's down towards the end of the hallway. 12 is a men's and ladies restroom right in between a 13 fountain, which reminds me that there's not supposed 14 15 to be any food of drink in the room, so we want to stay away from that. 16 17 is what's called a category three This meeting, and it's to identify key environmental type 18 issues related to the license renewal of the River 19 This meeting lets NRC work 20 Bend Station Unit 1. directly with the public so that we can understand 21 22 key issues that the public sees that we may not see from where we are way over in Washington when we start 23 putting together the environmental impact statement 24

for this.

1 going to run this as a Town Hall 2 meeting, which is a little bit more informal than some that we have but today's feedback is considered 3 to be public comment, and we have a court reporter 5 with us is going to be transcribing everything that we that we say. Her name is Shara, and there'll be 6 7 some additional tips on how to speak here in just a minute. 8 ground rules for what we do. 9 Ιf

you've got anything in your pocket that buzzes, rings, beeps, or talks back to you, it would be appreciated if you would just turn that thing off entirely. If you have to leave it on because of the type of job you've got, then throw her on vibrate. And if you if you have to take a call for some reason, please don't start talking until you get out of the door so that we, you know, we don't distract anyone any more than we necessarily have to.

We want to make everything informal today so everyone's comfortable and feels like it's a friendly atmosphere, but that doesn't mean we can overlook some of the basic niceties of life. One person talks at a time. We want to try to limit everybody. We've only got two hours for this meeting, and if I divide it through here, I think I

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can give every one of you about 20 minutes to be able to speak, but normally we say three to five minutes per speaker and then give somebody else a chance to speak. Towards the end we can always come back and when everyone's had a chance you can have another chance to speak again.

If you walk out the door like I do after an argument and say, "I should've said that", you can always send the comments back into the NRC, and they will be added to the public record just as if you were here in this meeting. So you have unlimited ways of being able to participate in this -- until what is it October 23rd, is that the deadline?

MR. WILSON: Yes.

MR. MUSSATTI: October 23rd. That's when the public comment period ends. The speakers need to be able to be heard without any distractions, without any background clutter noise, so please keep, you know, side comments and sidebar discussions down to a minimum, and when you're at the microphone, you should speak as clearly and plainly as you possibly can. Start by giving your name. If it's a challenge to actually spell your name, you might actually help by spelling your last name. My name is spelled, Mussatti, so that way it'll help so

1	that we've got an accurate report of what's going on
2	here.
3	And one more thing: This is a public
4	meeting for your input. We don't have any hardly
5	anybody out there that's planning on speaking. I
6	would encourage you to take your First Amendment right
7	seriously and say something. It's important for us
8	to know what people in the public think.
9	Does anyone have any questions? Then
10	what I think I'm going to do is I'm going to turn the
11	meeting over to Manny I think you're speaking
12	first, and I'm going to go sit down.
13	MR. SAYOC: Okay. Good evening. My
14	name is Emmanuel Sayoc, I'm a Safety Project Manager
15	for the division of license renewal for the office of
16	nuclear regulation for the NRC. With me today is Mr.
17	George Wilson, the Division Director for the division
18	of license renewal and Robert Hoffman, Environmental
19	Project Manager. Our goal is to provide you with an
20	overview of the license renewal process for River
21	Bend, focusing on safety and environmental reviews.
22	Next slide.
23	The NRC is a federal agency that
24	regulates the civilian use of nuclear material. The
25	Atomic Energy Act authorizes the NRC to grant a 40

vear license for huclear power reactors. primarily year term was based on economic considerations and antitrust factors and mental safety through technical limitations. The Atomic Energy Act also allows for license renewal. NRC's mission is threefold: to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote common defense and security, and to protect environment. Next slide.

The NRC accomplishes its mission with a combination of regulatory programs and processes, establishing rules and regulations such as conducting oversight, which consists of conducting issuing enforcement inspections, actions assisting --- I'm sorry -- and assessing license and We also evaluate operating experience performance. for nuclear plants across the country and internationally as well.

The NRC has resident inspectors at all operating nuclear power plants. For River Bend, as you know, they're Jeffrey Sowa and Brian Parks. These inspectors are considered eyes and ears of the NRC. They carry out our safety mission on a daily basis, and are the front lines of ensuring acceptable safety performance and compliance with regulatory

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1 requirements. Next slide.

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The River Bend construction permit was issued by the NRC in March 1977. The operating license was issued in November 1985, and the plant began operations in June 1986. The River Bend operating license expires in August 2025 and the licensee submitted the license renewal application in May 2017 to seek operations through August 2045. Next slide.

slide illustrates This the overall regulatory process for safety during the license renewal period. The left side is the same as the slide we discussed earlier. The regulatory framework continues to be maintained to be effective during the River Bend license renewal period. The aging management box to the right represents the additional licensing base requirements for license renewal. Next slide.

The regulations of license renewal are described by two principles. To effectively communicate these principles, I need to describe the licensing basis concept. Licensing basis consists of design, operational requirements, and conditions that must be met for the plant to comply with its operating license. The primary focus of these

1 requirements is to maintain public health and safety. 2 They serve as a basis on which NRC originally licensed the plant. To continue to operate, that plant must 3 conform with this licensing basis. The first license renewal principle 5 is that the current regulatory process is adequate. The relationship between our 6 7 regulations, licensing, and oversight activities provides for adequate protection of public health and 8 safety at every point during the plant's life. 9 second license renewal 10 principle 11 describes maintaining the current license basis for the plant in the same manner and the same extent as 12 during the original licensing term. 13 This includes any additional regulatory changes or requirements 14 that were implemented based on operating experience. 15 The one change to the current license 16 basis is the inclusion of aging management activities 17 to comply with Part 54. Next slide. 18 highlights 19 flowchart that the license renewal involves two parallel reviews: 20 the safety review and the environmental review. 21 22 two reviews evaluate separate aspects of the license renewal application. It also features three other 23 considerations in the NRC decision on whether or not 24 to renew an operating license. 25

1	The dotted lines show that hearings may
2	be conducted if interested stakeholders submit
3	concerns or contentions and the request for a hearing
4	is granted. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board,
5	which is an independent body of judges, will conduct
6	these hearings. The Commission considers the outcome
7	of the hearing process and its decision on whether or
8	not to issue a remewed operating license.
9	As part of the environmental review, the
10	staff consults with local, state, federal, and tribal
11	officials and staff may hold public meetings to
12	receive comments of the drafted environment impact
13	statement.
14	Now, Robert Hoffman will continue with
15	the discussion on environmental review.
16	MR. HOFFMAN: Thanks, Manny. The
17	environmental reviewing is performed in accordance
18	with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969,
19	commonly referred to as NEPA. NEPA established a
20	national policy for considering environmental impacts
21	and provides the basic architecture for federal and
22	environmental reviews.
23	All federal agencies must follow a
24	systematic approach in evaluating potential impacts
25	of their actions, and also to assess alternatives to

1 those actions. The NEPA process allows both public 2 participation and public disclosure. The two primary parts of the process designed to allow public 3 4 participation are during the public scoping meeting 5 and during the public comment period. The public 6 scoping meeting is what we are participating in today. 7 Following publication of the draft supplemental EIS, or SEIS, 8 the NRC allows an opportunity to hold a second public meeting during 9 the public comment period on the draft SEIS. 10 Next 11 slide, please. 12 I'd ∐ike to discuss what we mean Scoping is the process used to determine 13 the range of issues and alternatives to be considered 14 15 in the EIS, and it is intended to ensure that concerns are identified early and properly evaluated. 16 slide. 17 18 Scoping is used to define a proposed 19 action. With regard to River Bend, the proposed action is to decide whether to renew the 20 River Bend Station's Unit 1 operating license for an 21 22 additional 20 years. Identifying significant issues. 23 Scoping inputs are also used to identify these significant issues. NRC prepared NUREG-1437, 24 Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License 25

1 Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants. This generic EIS, or GEIS, identified and evaluated 61 environmental 2 3 issues that are generic to all US nuclear power However, the GEIS also identified 5 environmental issues that require an additional sitespecific analysis, the results of which will be the 6 7 focus of the supplemental EIS now being prepared. 8 Scoping also is used to identify 9 consulting agencies, assemble NRC's interdisciplinary review team, and determine additional data that may 10 need to be collected or developed to support the 11 environmental analysis. Next slide. 12 The NRC issues the following documents in 13 association with the environmental scoping process. 14 The notice of intent to prepare the supplemental 15 environmental statement informs the public about the 16 The notice identifies the federal 17 scoping process. 18 action, the comment period, and methods by which 19 comments can be provided. NRC also issues scoping letters to federal, state, and tribal government 20 21 agencies and press releases and newspaper advisements 22 to announce the public meeting and scoping process. At the conclusion of the scoping process, 23 the NRC prepares and issues an environmental scoping 24 25 summary report that identifies comments received

1 during the scoping period, provides responses to the comments received, and identifies significant issues 2 identified as a result of the scoping process. 3 Next slide. 5 For the environmental review, NRC looks at a wide range of environmental issues and evaluates 6 7 the impacts of those issues with respect to license renewal as shown on this slide. The focus of this 8 review is on the 17 site-specific issues identified 9 in the GEIS, as Well as on any new and significant 10 11 information pertaining to the generic environmental The environmental 12 issues. review considers mitigation for those impacts considered significant. 13 The NRC also considers the impacts of 14 alternatives to license renewal including the impacts 15 of not issuing a renewed license. We document our 16 17 review supplemental environmental in а statement, which is made publicly available. 18 slide. 19 In conducting our environmental review, 20 we consult with various federal, state, and local 21 22 officials as well as tribal leaders and gather pertinent information from these sources to ensure it 23 is considered in our analysis. Examples of these 24

consultations include the Environmental Protection

1 the National Marine Fisheries Service, which 2 agency under the National Oceanic is Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, and the Fish and 3 4 Wildlife Service. 5 Ultimately, the purpose of the environmental review is to determine whether or not 6 the environmental impacts of license renewal could be 7 that license renewal would 8 so great become 9 unreasonable. The SEIS will be considered in conjunction with other safety-related reviews 10 recommending to the Commission whether to renew River 11 Bend's operating license. 12 I would now like to turn the presentation 13 back over to Manhy, who will discuss with you the 14 15 safety review component of license the 16 process. 17 MR. SAYOC: This flowchart highlights the license renewal safety review. 18 The purpose of the safety review is to verify that River Bend has fully 19 analyzed the management of aging effects to conclude 20 that the plant can be operated safely during the 21 22 period of extended operation. The license renewal application must contain technical information and 23 evaluations about the different types of plant aging 24 that might be encountered at the plant and how River 25

Bend will manage ϕ r mitigate those aging effects.

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After completion of the evaluation, the staff's review is documented in the safety evaluation In addition, a regional inspection report and a Regional Administrator's recommendation are issued to document the results of inspections conducted and the overall regional oversight. of these considerations is the independent review performed by the Advisory Committee for Reactor commonly referred Safequards, to as ACRS. Statutorily mandated by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, the ACRS is a group of independent scientists and nuclear safety experts who serve as a consulting body to the Commission. The ACRS reviews the license application, staff's renewal the NRC safetv evaluation, inspection findings. and The reports their findings and makes recommendations directly to the Commission.

Subsequently, the results of the evaluation are reviewed by the ACRS, and based on the review of the information presented, the ACRS issues a recommendation letter whether to grant the renewed license. This step is very valuable since it provides an independent third-party assessment of the information.

The dotted lines show that hearings may be conducted if interested stakeholders submit concerns or contentions and their request for a hearing is granted. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, which is an independent body of judges, will conduct these hearings. The Commission considers the outcome of the hearing process in its decision on whether or not to issue a renewed operating license. Next slide.

In summary, before deciding to issue a renewed operating license, the Commission considers various factors. They are namely the staff's safety review, which is documented in the safety evaluation sta**f**f's environmental review, report, the involves preparation of our environmental statement, the NRC inspection findings recommendations conclusions, from the Advisory Committee for Readtor Safequards, and if a hearing is conducted, the outcome of that process is considered as well.

It is the goal of the NRC staff to complete the license renewal review and issue a renewed operating license in 18 months from the time that application is accepted if a hearing is not involved. If contentions are proffered and admitted

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1	to hearing, then the schedule is typically extended
2	to 30 months to accommodate the hearing process.
3	That completes our presentation on the
4	license renewal review process. Next slide.
5	This slide shows important milestones for
6	the safety review process. It is important to know
7	that these dates are tentative. If any issues are
8	identified during the review, delays may result. If
9	significant issues are identified, the license
10	renewal review may be suspended indefinitely or
11	terminated. I'll note that the safety evaluation
12	report is a publicly available report that we will
13	issue documenting the results of our review and the
14	Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguard meetings are
15	open to the public. They are held at our headquarters
16	in Washington DC. We have now completed NRC's
17	presentation. Ill now turn it over to Mr. Daniel
18	Mussatti.
19	MR. MUSSATTI: Okay. As I mentioned
20	earlier, we didn't have anybody that actually signed
21	up so that they could speak, but we do have somebody
22	that's got a yellow card. Would you step up to the
23	microphone and introduce yourself, please.
24	MR. COUHIG: Thank you. My name is Kevin
25	Couhig. I'm the Parish President of West Feliciana

1 Parish, the parish that the nuclear facility resides 2 in. I want to start out by saying I was in 3 4 favor of the nuclear station here, and I am in favor 5 of the renewal, but I do want to speak to you tonight about a couple of concerns that I have. 6 job, 7 I'm the Chief Executive Officer of the county or parish, and as such I am 8 also the head of Homeland Security, and that means 9 that I have to work with our budget, our sheriff, our 10 11 first responders with the Entergy facility and so forth to do regular operations of tests and exercise 12 to be prepared in the event of nuclear emergencies. 13 Those don't come for free, and one of the 14 15 concerns that I want to express to you and to the owners of the nuclear facility is because of their 16 aggressive posture and abating taxes and avoiding 17 taxes in our partsh, it's become increasingly more 18 difficult for us to afford to perform the necessary 19 tasks that we are called upon to perform in terms of 20 21 -- providing those kinds of exercises and 22 services. 23 And would like to something see 24 addressed during this process of renewal, again, I'm in favor of, to address the fact that 25

although the facility continues to operate safely, it is an aging facility. In the environment that we're in today there are two substantive differences between the environment when the facility was first permitted. One, nuclear waste remains in our county or parish for the rest of time as far as we can tell. We'd like to know what the financial plan is for that nuclear waste.

Someone is going to be in my job 400 years from now, and that nuclear waste will still be radioactive 400 years from now. I'd like to know what the plans are in terms of post decommissioning, whether the renewal goes forward or not, how and who is going to be responsible for that because the community was promised by both regulators and the company that the waste would be transmitted out of our community to a central site in Nevada, and that's not occurred. So we'd like to know what's the plan?

The second thing is as I mentioned it's

becoming increasingly difficult for us to afford -we're a small rural parish -- to afford to support
the public safety needs that are generated by the
nuclear facility in our community, and we would like
to know what the plan is there because on the arc
that we're on now, sometime during the 20 year

1 extension that the company is asking for, they will 2 no longer pay any property tax. So those are the two things that we would ask that they address or that 3 the regulators make part of the regulatory hearing. I think that's it. 5 Thank you. 6 MR. MUSSATTI: Thank you very much. Is there anybody else that would like to speak? 7 I would like to identify Bill Maguire in the audience 8 9 here. He's the River Bend site VP, and he has graciously volunteered to answer any questions after 10 we get done here if somebody has a question that they 11 don't want to bring up in front of this forum but 12 would like to ask 13 Nobody's got the urge to fulfill their 14 15 rights to free speech? Does this mean that we're approaching the end of this meeting? Okay. Well, I 16 would like to thank you all for coming tonight. 17 Thank you for calling my attention to the slide 18 I would like to thank you all for coming here 19 Before we go, I'd like to remind everyone 20 toniaht. who hasn't signed in to please, if you would sign in 21 22 outside there and gather any of the material you want. but not least we're always looking 23 for important information to give us feedback on how 24 sorts of meetings, and there are 25 do in these

1 feedback forms that are out there for you. take one with you. 2 You can sign it now and fill it out now, or you can take it with you and take it home. 3 It's a two-sided form and if you fold it properly, 5 it's got a self-addressed stamped envelope on the outside of it so you don't have to even put a stamp 6 7 And if you don't want to even do that, you can go online to the NRC webpage, www.NRC.gov, upper 8 right-hand corner there's a search box. 9 Type in NRC 659 and a little screen will pop up that tells 10 11 you all of the places you can find that, and you'd be able to find a blank form right there that you can 12 fill out and send back in. 13 By mail, you can send in comments to the 14 15 Chief, Rules, Annbuncements, and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services. All those fancy 16 letters leads to the big building shaped like a 17 triangle not the bigger building that's shaped like 18 19 square, and that's the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's office in Washington DC. 20 Our Internet address for public comment is www.regulations.gov, 21 22 and you have to type in that docket ID that's down there on it. Your handouts have got this on there 23 as slide number 17. 24

So with that housekeeping, I think that

1	we're pretty much down with what we need to do, and
2	I think this meeting is officially adjourned.
3	(Whereupon, the proceedings went off the
4	record at 7:28 p.m.)
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