1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
2	*** ROUNDTABLE PUBLIC MEETING ON THE REVISED REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS
4	Arbor Manor Motel 1617 Central Avenue
5	Auburn, Nebraska Tuesday, November 30, 1999
6	The above-entitled meeting commenced, pursuant to notice, at 7:00 p.m.
7	PARTICIPANTS: ANNIE THOMAS
8	BOB HUTTON LONNIE SWANSON
9	ROGER GOOS
10	T.O. DAVISON CHARLES MARSCHALL
11	LARRY WASKOWIAK KRIS ROGGE
12	AUGUST SPECTOR RICH HENDERSON
13	ALAN MADISON, NRC JEFF CLARK, NRC
14	PARTICIPANTS: [Continued] DAVID LOVELESS, NRC
15	TROY PREWITT, NRC
16	PROCEEDINGS [7:00 p.m.]
	MR. SPECTOR: Why don't we get started?
17 18	First of all, let me introduce myself. My name is August Spector and I am with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington, and some of you I might have contacted. I know there are people sitting
19	at the table and I will tell you why they are at the table, et cetera, in a second.
20	Is there anybody else that I had contacted here on the phone or sent a letter to? well, she can come up to the table.
21	Let me introduce Al Madison who will kick off the meeting for tonight. Al?
22	MR. MADISON: Thank you. I am Alan Madison. I am what is
	called the Transition Task Force Leader for the Revised Reactor Oversight Process. It's a large title. It means I am the fellow that
23	has been responsible, to date anyway, for helping develop and try to implement pilot, test out the new process that the agency has decided or
24	is practicing with as far as the oversight of nuclear power plants in the United States. August, if you would go ahead and flip to the next
	slide.
25	We are going to cover a lot of different things upfront actually, go to the next one, if you would, please.
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25	We're going to talk about, first of all, who we are, who the ANN NRC is, talk a little bit about that. This is based on a lessons
25	AMN NRC is, talk a little bit about that. This is based on a lessons RILEYearned we have had with other public meetings to try to explain a
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invited to participate in this have been provided with some additional information. Hopefully you have read as much as you could but we will provide a brief overview, just talk a little bit about it to give you some background, and then we are going to get into the meat or the purpose, the reason why we are here -- the roundtable discussion.

We have invited and targeted certain what we would consider interested members of the public to participate in a roundtable discussion. They have been provided some information in advance on the program and on the pilot study that is underway, and we are going to ask them to answer and discuss -- I don't know how many question, August? Ten questions?

MR. SPECTOR: Nine.

MR. MADISON: Nine questions we have provided in advance. That is the real purpose for the meeting today.

We have noted as far as developing the process and in considering the process that there's a group of what we are calling stakeholders, and those are folks that we consider have a stake in the regulation, in the operation of a nuclear power plant. They are obviously the regulator, Congress, the licensee, the operator of the facility, but also the public, and there's various members of the public, obviously members of the press. There are special interest groups, intervenor groups that are what would be considered stakeholders in the process.

Today we are trying to focus on those people that are close to the plant -- the public, the interested public close to the plant, and try to gauge the impressions, the feelings, the understanding and acceptance of the process, the revised process that we are expecting to implement nationwide in April of 2000.

After that roundtable discussion we will allow for input and solicit input from the rest of the audience but we do want to focus on the folks that are sitting around the table that have been provided the information in advance. Next slide, please.

To get right to who we are, the slide says that we are a federal Government agency with a mission of ensuring the adequate protection of the public health and safety as it relates to the peaceful use of nuclear materials in the United States and specifically what we are going to focus on tonight is the operation of commercial nuclear power plants.

To kind of kick this off, I would like the folks that are from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission who are here tonight to stand up and introduce themselves and specifically tell how you are associated with the Cooper Nuclear Station. Charlie?

MR. MARSCHALL: I am Charles Marschall. I work out of Region IV in Arlington, Texas. My title is Project Branch Chief. We have resident inspectors who work here on the site and they work for me and my job is to administer the inspection program for Cooper and Fort Calhoun up in the Omaha area.

MR. MADISON: Jeff?

MR. CLARK: I am Jeff Clark. I am the Senior Resident
Inspector at Cooper. I live here in the area, just south of Nebraska
City. I am involved in the day-to-day business of the inspection
process at the plant. We are going through the pilot inspection process
N as you know right now and it is a learning process for us as well as the
LECcoper plant to go through that process --

& MR. LOVELESS: I am David Loveless. I work with Charlie ASSOMErschall. My job is to coordinate and support the activities of the ATES Resident Inspectors and the branch.

MR. MADISON: Jeff, did you want to mention yourself --Troy, I mean. MR. PREWITT: I am Troy Prewitt. MR. MADISON: I'm sorry -- you're not catching that? 3 THE REPORTER: No. MR. MADISON: It's Troy Prewitt. He is the Senior Resident 4 from River Bend. He is on an inspection, basically inspection visit at Cooper Nuclear Station. MR. SPECTOR: I would just like to mention in addition to Jeff we also have another Resident Inspector that lives here in the 6 general area and works full time at Cooper. His name is Mike Hay. MR. MADISON: Next slide. This slide outlines the issues, the major issues that we try to get involved with, our activities at the site, ensuring the plants 8 are designed and constructed, obviously the first phase. We issue licenses at the power plant. The licensee has a 9 That is why we call him the licensee. license. We then through inspection ensure the licensee has used the 10 nuclear materials and operates the plant safely and are prepared to respond to emergencies and we're challenged to ensure that research 11 provides the technical base for sound rules and regulations in the event that we add to the body of regulations that are already in existence. 12 Next slide, please. The NRC measures what we call -- these are NRC outcome 13 measures. We are trying to measure the performance of the NRC against these measures, how we maintain safety, how we enhance public 14 confidence, how we go about the business of improving our effectiveness and efficiency and the realism of the processes that we implement and we 15 install and how we can go about reducing unnecessary regulatory burden. Go ahead and leave that up there for a second. 16 If you look at the second bullet, this is part of why we are here tonight, enhancing public confidence. That is one of the questions 17 we are going to discuss tonight is does the process enhance public confidence, does it provide more information, better information, the 18 confidence in the process, in the NRC process and in the operation of the facility. Next slide. 19 Our current program is really not one program. It is a collection of processes. We really focus on doing inspection activities 20 at the plant. It is based upon compliance with the body of regulations and the basis of the license, which is encompassed in the technical 21 specifications of the plant. Enforcement, here on the slide, becomes a major input to 22 assessment and determination of how we view the licensee's performance. Next slide. 23 We have received an awful lot of criticism in years past for having a lack of consistent application. We have received criticism for 24 not being very objective in our methods, for not having consistent criteria and not following criteria. What we have attempted to do in 25 the new process is develop a single process providing a logical framework focusing on key areas. We hope that it provides objective standards for performance and provides for a collection of basically clear criteria where we can hold ourselves to these standards and become AN a little bit more objective, actually a little bit more predictable in LEYour performance and the performance of the plant. Next slide, please. We want to make sure that folks do understand that the A\$SOContinued emphasis is on safety. We think the new process actually EShelps us focus more on the safety aspects of the plant, and less on what

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we would consider the unimportant aspects of the general operation of the plant.

We still maintain the strict standards. We still are going to have the Resident Inspectors onsite, and also Visiting Inspectors from Headquarters as well as the region, but by having clear and consistent objectives focused on safety and monitoring these results we believe that we will continue the emphasis on safety.

The last bullet here is just a kind of a program note that enforcement is actually no longer an input to the process. It is becoming more of an output of the process. The focus is not as much on enforcement as it is on safe operation of the plant. Next slide, please.

Some of the key aspects of the program. I mentioned that the current program or the old program has a large, strong basis of inspection. The inspection is based upon a body of regulations and compliance to those regulations and that is kind of what we call a deterministic type of inspection. We have determined that if the plant operates according to these regulations that they will be safe, so we inspect to make sure that they comply with those regulations.

The inspection program then was based upon finding out why they didn't comply -- if they didn't comply with the regulations why they didn't comply, doing more of a diagnostic type of evaluation. The new program, the inspection program, is more of an indicative program in looking for indications of problems in the plant so that once we can find that there are problems we can focus on the problems, not on everyday operation of the plant.

We have developed with the program or instituted with the program performance indicators. These are mathematical, quantitative measures or indicators of performance in key areas that kind of support and supplement the inspection program.

Along with both the inspection program and the performance indicator program we have established thresholds, what we are calling thresholds for action that have established clear criteria then of where we consider the plant to be in a problem area. We stated with those thresholds where we intend to engage and how we intend to engage.

We have developed an action matrix which gives clear measures and clear criteria based upon inputs both from the performance indicator program and the inspection program what the resultant actions of the agency are going to be, and again, program note, enforcement is no longer an imput to the program. We are not necessarily focusing on the enforcement aspect. We are focusing on the safety aspects so enforcement becomes and outcome of the process. Next slide, please.

This is a simple outline of what the program is. We measure performance indicators. We monitor the performance indicators that the licensee reports to the agency. We do inspection in areas that the performance indicators don't adequately cover or don't cover at all. We also do inspection to ensure that the performance indicators are reported accurately. All of that goes into an action matrix and out of that comes the inpact on the licensee that says what the agency is going to do. Also, out of the inspection findings comes enforcement. Next slide.

The purpose of this slide is to give you kind of a pictorial ANN view of the action levels that we have established. This applies to RILEBoth inspection outcome as well as performance indicators. We have a identified what we call the utility response band. This is an area ASSOWhere -- and let me digress a little bit. Operating a nuclear power ATESplant is much like operating any industrial operation. It is not a zero LTD.

defect. There are going to be problems. There are going to be mistakes happening. People operating machinery produce mistakes. What we are trying to measure within the utility response band is that the safety significance of the mistakes being identified are at such a level that the utility in their corrective action program and their response has an adequate program to take care of these problems and resolve these problems in a timely manner.

There is what some folks would call risk associated with operation of this band but it is an acceptable risk. It is a risk that we have said is within the band that they can control.

We then establish four levels or three levels below that of regulator response. The first band is more of an early warning band where we said that that is where we are going to start getting involved to make sure that their corrective action program, the programs that they have established to identify and correct their own problems is still healthy and is still doing the job it is supposed to do.

The yellow band is more what we consider the licensee's corrective action program. They have problems. We are going to do more of a diagnostic look. We are going to fall back on more of the compliance orientation and find out why their corrective action program may be having problems and verify that the corrective action program then is being improved and that the actions taken are going to correct the problems that have been identified.

Finally, we have identified an unacceptable performance area. In this area generally licensed operation would be halted until the problems would be corrected. Next slide.

This slide again goes over kind of that area. We have established the green, white and yellow bands. We have established a cornerstone diagram -- if you go to the next -- I don't have the cornerstone diagram, do I? We will get to it.

We have established what we consider the cornerstones of safety and we did this from a top-down review -- that's fine -- the three areas we said that met the objective, the original objective that I pointed out in front was to protect the public health and safety from operation of the power plant, ensure safe operation of the power plant. t.

We broke it into three areas -- the reactor safety area, radiation safety area, and safeguards. We established under that cornerstones, areas that we felt were important to ensure that we would maintain safety in these three strategic areas, and then we established performance indicators and inspection activities to ensure that we meet the objectives of these cornerstones. Go back to the other slide -- the one before that -- sorry -- go green, white, yellow. Here you go. Now that makes more sense.

This is the first time we have done this presentation, this roundtable meeting, so we are adjusting as we go.

The cornerstone objectives are fully met when the operation is within the utility response band, the green band. That means that we area satisfied by inspection, by performance indicators that the licensee is identifying, correcting their problems. Their corrective action program is helping and is doing the job that it is supposed to do and they are operating satisfactorily.

ANN In the white the cornerstone objectives are still met. As I LEYsaid before, this doesn't mean that they are operating unsafely. This just means that there is some minimal reduction in the safety margin. A\$SOME need to verify that their corrective action program is still healthy. ATES, We'll do checks and make sure, follow up what their corrective action LTD.

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program is doing for these identified problems but we are not assuming that the corrective action program at the facility is broken or that there are significant problems. There is a minimal reduction.

In the yellow, the cornerstone objectives, we still feel that they are met -- in other words there's still safe operation of the plant but there appears to be significant reduction in the safety margin. It appears that their corrective action program may not be healthy. It may not be identifying and correcting the problems in a timely manner and we need to go out and find out why.

As the NRC part of our follow-up action would be to come out and do a diagnostic type of inspection, to do a measure of their corrective action program, to do a root cause evaluation of the problems and verify and validate that corrective actions that they intend to take are going to correct the problems.

Finally the red -- plant performance is significantly outside the design basis. There are significant problems at the plant. We would expect those problems to be corrected prior to continued operation.

What is the public going to see as part of this process? Remember, I said one of the reason why we are here tonight is to focus on that second outcome measure, the enhancing public confidence.

We have gone out and done some public meetings in advance, and I don't know how many of the folks here came to that first public meeting for the pilot program, to talk about and provide some direct information and opportunity for the public to provide input. Again, we feel that the public and especially the public right around the power plants are an important stakeholder in the process, and we are soliciting input from that stakeholder.

As part of the normal process, and some of you folks that are even around the table may not be aware of it, we have issued a Federal Register notice that has all the elements or most of the elements of the revised process that we are proposing we implement in April. We are soliciting input formally by that Federal Register notice and it doesn't close until the end of this month -- the end of next month, beg your pardon -- 12-31-99.

You can actually submit formal input on that Federal Register notice. If anybody has any questions about that, see us after the meeting and we will try to get you some information on that.

The performance indicator data is available and has been available for the pilot study on our public website. If you go into NRC, and August can show you how to do that, our NRC public website -you got that up there? There you go -- access to our public website -you can find out all there is to know about the revised reactor oversight process.

We have a lot of documentation, a lot of what we have provided the folks around the table, the background information on the process, a lot of the procedures of the process, descriptions of that, on this website as well as we provided the -- go to what you are going to show now -- there you go -- a diagram that sort of looks like this. It actually has a little more information on it.

What this shows is the 19 performance indicators and you will notice they are aligned underneath each of the cornerstones. Below AND that you would also see information related to inspection findings for LEf Each of those cornerstones. At a glance you can look at the color associated with those performance indicators and with those inspection SOCIndings and you can come to your own conclusions about the operation of ESthat facility.

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This is kind of a mock-up of how it would look.

If you go to the website currently, the nine pilot plants are on that website and the performance indicators and the inspection data with them. You can point and click on any of those blocks. What it will do is take you to the actual drawing or the -- do you want to show them one of those? -- the actual diagram of what that performance indicator looks like, which would look like a drawing something like that. There may be a little more activity on some of them.

You have got to remember this is a pilot program that has been in operation since June of this year, so we don't have a tremendous amount of background data on the website yet, but it might look more like that in some of the performance indicators.

If you click on that you will actually get the background data, the raw data that goes into making up that performance indicator. We don't have that. If you go to the blocks that are associated with the inspection findings, you will get to what we call, first of all, the plant issues matrix, which is a description of what that inspection finding is and the significance of that inspection finding, and if you want to go further you can get to the actual report that was issued that has that inspection finding in it.

What we are trying to do and what we hope we are doing is providing more information, more understandable information, easier to kind of digest and interpret and it is more readily available. The performance indicator information is updated -- in the routine program will be updated on a quarterly basis, as will the inspection finding information. It will be updated on the web on a quarterly basis, so every three months you will have new information to look at about the plant that you live near.

Inspections are going to continue. We still have a Resident Inspectors out at the site. The baseline inspections will provide for continued monitoring as performance indicators and the baseline inspection activities identify. Supplemental inspections then will be used to diagnose specific concerns, targeted concerns.

We may still need special inspection teams. There are always going to be what we call generic issues that we identify through other types of work through research work where we have specific concerns in certain targeted areas where we may need to do special inspections at all facilities in the nation. We will still continue to do that. As events happen, we may also have a need -- and this is the theory of "bad things happen to good people" -- every once in awhile God gives a lightning strike out in the switchyard. We think as the agency charged with protecting the public health and safety we should respond to that event. It may not mean that the licensee has done anything wrong, but we are still going to respond to that event and provide a presence out here to verify that the licensee is taking the correct actions.

Inspection reports are going to be readily available through the website and if you don't have access to the website even through your public library, you can get access to the hard copies in the Public Document Room.

I mentioned already we started a six-month pilot program at the end of May, first of June. The objective was to kind of exercise ANN the program and the process as part of what we called at that time full RILEYmplementation. We are calling it now initial implementation -- we have got to change that slide.

ASSOCI We selected nine sites on a national basis. The original ATES selection criteria had two sites per region. The reason we ended up LTD.

with nine is one of the sites, Salem and Hope Creek in Region I -- excuse me -- they are owned by the same operator. They requested participation as one site and Region I also tries to treat them as one facility so we ended up with nine instead of eight.

We established some criteria in advance to determine the success of the pilot program, trying to exercise the entire program, not necessarily at each site but at least in each region exercise the entire program, and we have established also as part of that a pilot, what we are calling Pilot Program Evaluation Panel. This has members from industry. It has members from the NRC. David Lochbaum from the Union of Concerned Scientists is on this panel. We have a representative from the state of Illinois who is on this panel. They have solicited input from all the states involved in the pilot program as well as Mr. Riccio from Public Citizen, thank you -- lost it for a second there, as well as others have participated in providing input to this panel and this panel will provide an independent report, an independent evaluation of the pilot program at the close of it.

As I mentioned earlier, we are soliciting public comment formally from the Federal Register notice. We have solicited public comment through the website. You can call, write, e-mail OPA or myself and provide input to the process.

This next slide talks about a variety of public meetings we have held. We have held several public workshops to describe the process. We're holding the initial public meetings we have talked about and then these roundtable meetings. This is the first roundtable meeting, by the way, so if we stumble a little bit on the way in trying to develop the concept here, bear with us. August has got a good concept and we hope it provides some good input and some good feedback to the folks in the area.

We hold biweekly public working meetings with the process and we have done that for the last year, year and a half. We have been holding a meeting every two weeks with the Nuclear Energy Institute and members of the public and working and sharing draft materials and developing this process in a public format.

Of course obviously the Commission meetings are open to the public as well as the PBEP meetings.

I think I said enough on that.

Some of the future things we are working on -- we are going to do an internal survey to the agency to solicit input from our own staff. We are holding a lessons learned workshop, a public workshop, the second week of January, and that will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. -- it is the week of January 10th. It is an open meeting. Members of the public are invited to participate. We will be collecting and trying to resolve some lessons learned, some issues that have been identified during the pilot program -- more public meetings.

We will have a Commission briefing of the formal paper issued probably towards the end of February and a Commission meeting to describe the pilot program and the improvements we have implemented at the end of February and then initial implementation is scheduled for April 1 of the year 2000. We say initial implementation because one of the things we have learned during the pilot program is we still have a N lot to learn and there's going to be lessons learned during initial LEYmplementation.

There is going to be some new information that we will gain. A SOCThere's going to be some learning process that has to go on, not only A ES with the licensee but with ourselves as far as how the program is going

to work and how we are going to implement it during the initial phases of full implementation, so that we intend to get back to the Commission one year later and report on how it has gone during the first year of implementation, because one of the questions we have to answer to the Commission long term is has the process helped us to maintain safety. We still think that is our key question and our key outcome measure is the maintenance of safety.

At this point if there aren't any general questions, real general questions, I would like to turn it over to August Spector and we will start with the roundtable portion of the meeting. Thank you.

MR. SPECTOR: All right, any questions, general questions on

this?

I had a prepared statement that I was going to make. I am not going to read this. Instead we'll talk a little bit about this.

You all have a handout and I have some more on the back ledge -- these questions that we asked.

What we are going to try to do is make this roundtable discussion kind of informal if we can. What we have done is we have invited people from the community. We received names from David Lochbaum. We have received names from our own public affairs people, looked through the telephone book and found people, and we asked them to come down.

Our objective, as Al was saying, is to gain some insight from you and also to get some feedback. We have asked the people sitting at the table and some of your also have received information related to the WEB SITE, and on the WEB SITE we have all of the information which Al talked about a little while ago so we are making an assumption that people are cognizant to some extent with some of the information.

We are going to focus on the revised Reactor Oversight Program. I know that there are other issues that people might have interest in related to the plant, but we are going to concentrate on this Reactor Oversight Program. If you have other kinds of issues at the end we can talk about them. We have some other people from the NRC who might be able to answer them or we will try to get back to you. Our concentration is going to be on this program.

We are going to have a moderated discussion and I am going to try to be the moderator and try to speak as little as possible and get you all to speak.

First we will start with the people at the table and we will show the questions on the screen and I think most of you already have them. We have these nine questions and these are basically the same questions that are in the Federal Register notice. They are the same questions that we are asking the industry for the most part to answer as well as other interest groups around the country, so we will start off with somebody here. We have somebody who is a volunteer? I volunteered Kris a little while ago. She will start off, just to get the ball rolling, and as we said earlier, this is an opportunity for anybody to contribute so after we finish our dialogue at the table here we will go to anybody else who has anything to say.

Again, we're going to try to be as informal as possible. Do you have any questions at all or comments?

AIN I'll just pull the first one up. Okay. The first question RILEYs basically do you, meaning you personally and as a group, believe that the new oversight process is going to provide some kind of adequate ASOGEsurance that plants are being operated safely, and I guess that is the ATES key question for the whole evening, and I will just open it up. Does LTD.

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anybody -- Kris, do you have any comments?

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We have a Court Reporter here. I guess this is something that they do in Washington, you know, they have Court Reporters, so what we will do is if you want to speak, kind of put your card like this, at least in the beginning so you don't have to keep raising your hand all the time.

I think the Court Reporter knows everybody? Okay, great, thank you. Kris?

MS. ROGGE: I think I am lacking some of the substance that some of the others here may have had access to but I don't see anything wrong with the process per se. I guess I am a little bit short on content.

So a little point of clarification -- just exactly how you think this is an improvement, how you can get the same information and guarantee the same level of safety with this slightly more relaxed approach?

I applaud the more relaxed approach. That isn't my problem. I just am not sure that you will get the same desired results.

MR. SPECTOR: Alan? I think Al is the --

MR. WASKOWIAK: I've got one -- why are you doing this? It's apparently worked in the past. Why are we going to this other approach?

MR. MADISON: I gave you the 50,000 foot view of the process in my overview -- primarily because we came out the first time, we went into a lot of that type of information during that public interaction and that was also one of the reasons why we wanted to get that information at least in your hands before coming to this meeting.

There are a lot of reasons why. The current process, the old process did the job of actually helping drive improvement in the industry, but the industry has matured and we see through other performance measures that the industry's performance has risen to a level of safe operation, where we feel that now that we are no longer trying to drive improvement, we are trying to maintain safety, so it is kind of like a new startup on a process. We have got, we feel the operation of the power plants has risen to a level where it is safe, where the operation is much better, it is much improved, and we are no longer in an improvement mode. We are more in a maintenance mode, so we need to back off a bit and focus not on everything at the plant.

The old process would be more like a bottom-up approach. What is everything we can look at? What are all the regulations, the body of regulations that we need to ensure compliance with, and inspect everything. Now we are trying to focus on what is important, what is risk, what is safety significant out at that plant that we need to focus on and that is where we need to put our time.

The plants that are operating well, where their corrective action programs are doing the job, that is what we wanted, so now we need to back off and let them do their job.

MS. ROGGE: I think that speaks to another question I have. I don't know if this is the appropriate time or to get to it later -MR. MADISON: That's fine.

MS. ROGGE: Delayed gratification is fine too.

The threshold between NRC interest and NRC action, how do ANN you determine that? I mean you don't have to get terribly technical. I RILEYM just curious. I am an old evaluator --

MR. MADISON: No, it's a fair question. Put up the slide on ASSOCE preen and white -- the green, white and yellow, red bands. I'd ask ATES your question as kind of why -- that is kind of the driving reason, and LTD.

the real answer is it was the right thing to do now based upon we have a need to make more efficient and effective use of our people and we want to focus more on the safety areas than just in broad general areas so it was the right thing to do to get better with our own processes.

We tried to establish an area, just kind of a band, to say with the process that there is a band up here where the utility has a right to operate their power plant in that band. That is the utility's response band. Their corrective action program is working well. The risk associated, the safety issues -- yes, they are having some minor problems but they are okay.

Down here, in that area down in there, that is the unsafe area. That is where we don't want to get. We defined that, by saying "we" -- the task group that I am with -- defined that by based on a goal that the NRC has that we will not have an event of 10 to the minus 3 magnitude. Now that is a numerical number -- let me throw it out. It is just basically a measure of merit that says that is a very unsafe thing to happen. We don't want anything like that happening.

We looked mathematically at a lot of different actions that happen out at the plant and we have a model that we call the PRA, a short term, and we can measure some of the reactor activities on that and then we use that model to judge the activities out at the plant and we can also back off mathematically some of the performance indicators using that same model, and not to get into the real descriptions but we use, we back those off then several of what we call decades, orders of magnitude, saying all right, if we don't ever want to get there and we want to back off at least one order of magnitude and say that is unacceptable, you can't ever do that -- if you get to that point, you must stop and fix it -- and then we backed it off a couple of decades each time to say that is how we are going to then engage, so that we engage early enough to prevent -- we should be able to engage early enough that they are never going to get into the red now, but they are absolutely never going to get to the unsafe condition. Ann?

MS. THOMAS: Well, I think partially this is going to be better where you guys have been watching it all along, you are watching it pretty good, now that it is on the WEB SITE, I think it is going to be much better and we are going to have a better -- the whole public is going to have a better idea.

I pulled up Cooper today and saw in the third quarter they had four greens, I think, and knew exactly what they were talking about because you had given me information, so I think the public is going to be much more aware of it as soon as they are able to use the WEB SITE and get familiar with it and comfortable with it, so I think, no, I think it is a good process as long as the information is true, as long as the information is current, and there's not maybe somebody whitewashing it someplace.

 $\,$ MR. SPECTOR: Any comments related to that on the WEB SITE? That is a later on question though.

MS. THOMAS: I think that's great. I think that's really good.

MR. SPECTOR: You found that good?

MR. WASKOWIAK: Could you put that WEB SITE up one more

time? I think I have got it but I wanted to --

MR. SPECTOR: Oh, the web address -- I'm sorry. MR. WASKOWIAK: I think I have got it correct.

RILEY MR. WASKOWIAK: I think I have got it correct.

& MR. SPECTOR: This web address will get you into a menu and ASSOChen from that menu you go to some sub-menus, which will direct you to ATES exactly -- on the menu we have official documents of the Nuclear

ATES exactly -- on the menu we have official documents of the Nuclear LTD.

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Regulatory Commission. We have information supplied by our public affairs department. We have the performance indicators, inspection reports, everything. You know, we are laying it all out.

We even have some of our draft materials up there that we're working on. We have the meetings that we are holding in Washington, some of the official public meetings. We have the transcripts of those meetings available for you to read, et cetera, so the WEB SITE is updated periodically right now. That is what we have available.

MR. MADISON: During the pilot program the performance indicators and inspection data is updated monthly and so for the last seven months you would be seeing that data. The next one will go up --we will receive information from the licensees on December 14th and the WEB SITE will be updated within a week after that with that new information.

MR. SPECTOR: One of the other questions, Question Number 2, for example, we are talking about some of the key areas that we are interested in. Do you feel that we are providing sufficient regulatory attention to various utilities? Of course we have the Cooper Station here. Tomorrow night we are going down to the Fort Calhoun area and we will be going to other areas of the United States.

We want to get an idea, do you feel that this program is going to be providing the kind of attention that you would expect?

MS. THOMAS: I guess in a way maybe I don't know how much regulatory attention has been given previously. If this is a great deal more -- I mean I just don't know. I think because we were not privy to maybe some of the attention that was given before to the nuclear sites or to the utility sites are there going to be more people watching or is it going to be an inhouse type thing more?

MR. MADISON: We are still trying to determine the actual level of effort as far as the number of people and the number of hours spent on the site that it takes to do the program.

The focus is not necessarily not on reducing the effort. It is getting more efficient and effective in the use of the people that we do put out at the site and the inspectors that do come to the site.

We do expect however that at a site that is performing well that their inspection effort will be less than a site that is having problems. With the current program, that is not always true. In the current program there is a certain amount of what is called regional initiative and activities that are just required to be done at the site regardless of their performance. This is what we mean by trying to get a little more effective, a little more efficient with the way we are doing business. We want to stop doing those things and focus on the safety areas.

If a plant is performing well and a plant down the river is performing worse, we want to move people over there. We want to move activity and focus it on the plant that is having problems, and that is what we are hoping this process does for us. Yes, Roger?

MR. GOOS: I was asked a question earlier this evening about the NRC. They said do they have a calendar of inspection dates that is given to the plant? Do they make any surprise visits to the plant? You know, how do we -- how do they monitor their inspections?

MR. MARSCHALL: That is a big part of my job actually, and ANN the answer is yes, there is an inspection schedule. We put it out twice RILEY year actually. We publish it in a letter to the licensee and that letter is available in your local public document room, typically a ASSOGUBLIC library, and --

ATES, MR. MADISON: It would also be available on this WEB SITE.

13 MR. MARSCHALL: It is available through the WEB SITE. It is available through our headquarters public document room so there are a number of ways that you could get to see it if you were interested. As far as unannounced inspections, we introduced earlier Jeff Clark and we have another Resident Inspector here, Mike Hay. Those folks are here. Their full-time job is to be here at this plant and we have a requirement for them to spend 50 hours a year at the plant at night, on weekends, on holidays so we do have them go to the plant unannounced and see what kinds of things are going on. MR. MADISON: And when they are at the plant they have full access to anywhere in the plant. The program gives them guidance on the types of things they should be looking at while they are out there, but they are not restricted on a daily basis. MR. GOOS: Do they take a history of the plant's operation? Do they look at points that have been in question prior to that inspection? MR. MADISON: Yes, that is part of the process is to focus on that and look at the risk-significant aspects of those things first. MR. MARSCHALL: In addition to that there is an annual problem identification and resolution inspection. It is a team inspection, which means they have a number of people on the inspection. We did it here at Cooper during this pilot program and we had about half a dozen people here for two weeks and their entire job during that period was to look at plant performance and look for trends of problem performance that weren't being appropriately addressed, to look at Cooper's corrective action program to see that it is effectively addressing, identifying and addressing problems so we do have a special inspection that looks at that aspect of performance as well.

MR. MADISON: Bob?

MR. HUTTON: When they inspect that and they find something wrong, do you shut it down right now or how do they handle that?

MR. MARSCHALL: Well, it's conceivable that that could happen if it was something sufficiently significant but what commonly happens -- first of all, most of what we find because of the fact that, as Alan said, over the years performance has improved in nuclear power plants, most of what we find doesn't impose that great a safety question that there is a requirement to shut the plant down.

However, if we were to find something like that, what we do with that is turn it over to the people that operate the plant and in every case that I can think of in recent history they recognized what the right thing to do is from a safety standpoint and from the standpoint of what the regulations requirement them to do and they take the right action.

In a few rare cases in the past -- and it happened more frequently in past years than it has happened in recent years, licensees have been taking the correct action. In our senior management that is why we have Jeff Clark and folks like him here to watch what goes on. If they don't take the correct action they are in communication with me, with my senior managers and we will make phone calls and we will have some discussions and hopefully get them to change their minds but that kind of thing happens very, very rarely.

ANN MR. MADISON: That is part of this process though too is to LEYgive them a measure, criteria of what is significant. Is it significant enough to tell them that they have to shut down or that we need to take SOGDme extraordinary action? Do you want to put that action matrix up? ATES, LTD. MR. SPECTOR: Well, the action --

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AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: It may not be obvious to everyone here that Cooper has a license to operate the plant and that license tells them under certain criteria if they don't have certain safety systems available that they themselves have to shut that plant down, which they do. We ensure that they follow that license, so hopefully -- or in all cases they are taking those actions when necessary before we have to intervene.

MR. SPECTOR: I don't have a slide for this. We can make copies. This is also available on the WEB SITE. It is part of the process.

This is what I was referring to earlier, when you take the inputs from the inspection, as well as inputs from the performance indicators, if you have one or two of those in the white area, it lists the actions we're going to take. That's how we're going to handle it.

If you get to the point of the far right, overall unacceptable performance, and that's more in the area of -- we've defined that in more qualitative terms, but that's overall unacceptable, we will order the plant to shut down.

But even before you've reached there, you've got what we're calling repetitive degrading. You've got one red input, and it's possible that all it will take, and we're issuing demands for information, we're issuing what we call confirmatory action letters that says they're confirming if the actions you're going to take are appropriate.

We may be issuing orders or sending out large team inspections to find out why the problems at the plant are there and what the licensee is doing about it. So we're taking some significant action even before they get to the point of overall unacceptable.

MR. SPECTOR: This action leads us to Question Number 3, which is the question related to predictability, confidence by increasing predictability, consistency, clarity, and objectivity in the way we're doing business or will be doing business in the future all over the country.

Any comments on that at all? Yes, sir?

MR. DAVISON: Well, I think that the whole system in Question 1, you know, everything we went through so far, Questions 1, 2, and 3, basically from the public's standpoint, at least my perspective on it, is that I'm not overly educated in the nuclear industry, so a lot of it, I have to take with faith that you folks are going to do a good job. And it's the same thing with the plant.

And you really couldn't bring -- I read through quite a number of things, but you really can't come up to the level of understanding in a short period of time. I mean you guys spend all the time in the world doing this. That's your job.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MR}}.$ MADISON: I have been doing it for three years, just doing this part.

MR. DAVISON: But at any rate, to try to enhance the public confidence and so forth, it is kind of an education process I think, and I don't think you can educate people to the level that they are terribly knowledgeable but you have to bring them to the level of some sort of understanding and be upfront with people on what is going on and ANN continue to involve the public sector.

RILEY Like I said, basically you could say white is good and red & is bad and we'll kind of have to agree with you because -- you know, ASSOCHILL we get a degree in Nuclear Reactivity we are just not going to be ATESable to get there.

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                   MR. HENDERSON: May I ask a question?
                   MR. MADISON: Yes, sure.
                   MR. HENDERSON: Do things like plant tours and WEB SITEs and
       things like that help?
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                   MR. DAVISON: I think they really would.
                   MR. HENDERSON: Have you been on the plant tour?
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                   MR. DAVISON: No, I haven't.
                   MR. MADISON: Do you want to introduce yourself?
                   MR. HENDERSON: I am Rick Henderson. I am an NRC public
       affairs officer and I am just interested in things that make the public
       feel more comfortable about all this because I get a lot of questions
       from phone calls and I had a gal call me the other day who was worried
       that there might be some nuclear electricity coming into her house.
                   [Laughter.]
                   MR. HENDERSON: I had to explain to her that whether it is
       generated by a coal plant or a fossil or a nuclear plant it is all the
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       same kind of electrons -- so you know that is a severe case of education
       there, but, you know, I think that you are on the right track.
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       familiar you make yourself with it, the more time you look at the WEB
       SITE or go on the plant tour and Paul here can give you a plant tour --
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       and that helps.
                   MR. DAVISON: I think that's a lot of it is people need to
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       understand what is there. You know, one of the other concerns that I
       have in the whole process and I am sure you guys have probably thought
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       about it is most of, well, all of the nuclear plants -- there's no new
       ones -- are aging, and as things age they need more care and upkeep and
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       maintenance and there's more things to really be concerned about, and do
       you guys -- how do you take that into -- I'm sure there's ways of doing
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       it, but how do you take that into consideration?
                   MR. MADISON: One of the areas that we have been focusing on
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       in recent years as an agency before the development of this process or
       the implementation of this process was what was called the maintenance
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       rule. In response to that concern, the aging of the plant, what do you
       do for aging plants, you maintain them.
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                   MR. DAVISON:
                                Right.
                   MR. MADISON: So we issued a maintenance rule to kind of
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       establish some criteria, some guidelines as to how we thought the plants
       could maintain their equipment in an acceptable manner.
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                   All plants have met that rule. We have been monitoring
       their progress and what they are doing in that area and that is a key
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       component of the baseline inspection program in this process.
                   MR. MARSCHALL: If I could elaborate on that just a little
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       bit --
                   MR. DAVISON: I knew somebody would have the formula for
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       that.
                   [Laughter.]
                                  Actually, it is not a formula. It's just a
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                   MR. MARSCHALL:
       diagram that tells you something that folks have learned through
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       experience. It is actually called the "bathtub curve" because it looks
       like a bathtub, and this is increasing number of failures go in this way
       and this is time going this way and this is something we all know from
       experience with stuff that we have in our homes. When you first buy it,
  AND first 90 days, the reason you get a 90-day warranty is because the
    LEYreatest likelihood that it is going to fail in the short term is in the
       first 90 days. If you get through the first 90 days then you go a long
    SOGNETION OF time with a low number of failures and eventually when the
    EScomponent gets to the end of its useful life, you start seeing -- if you
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have got a lot of them, you start seeing failures again.

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This is the point that you want to try to avoid. What this maintenance rule does -- it's based on this basically -- and it also incorporates from our point of view what we are interested in is the equipment in a plant that ensures that you folks that are living in the area are not going to be harmed by the operation of the nuclear aspects of the plant, so we are mostly interested in those components but what it says is we require licensees to monitor their equipment and when they start seeing failures, they need to take some action -- not only that but they need to trend it long-term so that over time they can learn from the failures that they have seen and they can start replacing components before they get to the point where it fails. That is what the maintenance rule does.

MR. SPECTOR: Roger, did you have a comment?

MR. GOOS: I just want to relate to some of the comments that he had and I want to agree that the public sure is way, way antiquated in their thought process of nuclear plants. You still hear probably 50 or 60 percent of the people -- uneducated people think that if something happens at a plant there is going to be an explosion. That is their thought process goes back to the old civil defense days. Everything is going to blow up.

You try to explain to them that that will never happen unless a 747 goes in -- the plane is going to blow up, the plant isn't going to blow up.

Cooper does in my opinion an excellent job of trying to get the public aware of how they are operating, what their status is. They utilize a lot of the media locally and otherwise to try to educate the people, so you just don't reach them all and it is the few that cause concerns for the many.

You know, is there a way that you can educate them all? I doubt it. Some don't pay that much attention. But like I said, Cooper doesn't an excellent job of getting that information out

Also, anybody that wants to set up a tour if they want to contact my office, Emergency Management, here in Auburn, I can work through these guys and set up tours too.

MR. SPECTOR: Lonnie, did you want to say something on that?
MR. SWANSON: I guess I am fortunate over in Johnson because
I work at Cooper and I have another board member who works at Cooper so
we are kind of -- what do I want to say? -- we know and we can tell the
people in Johnson, you know, if there is a concern, really if there is a
concern and if there isn't by working there.

This new program, you know, I feel that it is going to give the utility more flexibility on how they do business, but yet they are providing enough information to the NRC that they can still do their job to ensure the health and safety of the public.

MR. SPECTOR: Bob?

MR. HUTTON: When will their time be up to be relicensed again down there? Do you know what year that will be in?

MR. SPECTOR: 2013.

MS. THOMAS: I do think that public relations with Cooper and the surrounding communities has become much better. I think they've worked at it. I think they have been very involved, at least I know N that in Auburn, the people are really good about getting involved in our LEYouth programs, our church programs.

So I think that helps a lot if we see that the families, ASSOCheir families are going to mix in with our families. I think it helps ATES with making the plant safe. That's good, you know.

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I think those are good points, and I do commend then for
       working with the public relations, really better in the last few years,
       better than they used to be. There was maybe a line drawn that it was
       maybe not as compatible, but I think it's much better now, and I
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       appreciate that.
                   MR. MADISON: That's good news for the Cooper folks.
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       about the NRC folks?
                   I guess the question is really that we know a licensee in
       most areas has spent an awful lot of time and money trying to get the
       message out about the operation of their facility.
                   But we're trying to also get the message out about how we
       oversee the facility, what our oversight is, and what our perception of
       the operation of the facility is.
                   And I guess the question is, are we doing -- does this seem
       to you that we would do a better job with this process than we've done
       in times past?
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                   MR. DAVISON: I think you're being proactive now instead of
                  Before, you were kind of in a reactive state. Now, you went
       reactive.
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       out and looked for something that basically you could find problems
       with, and now you're going out in a little more systematic manner.
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                   MR. SPECTOR: Are there other things that we could do? I
       mean, we've had some public meetings, this one, and we had the previous
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       one, and we'll be having others in the future.
                   And we have the WEB SITE, some Public Affairs information
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       and booklets that have been distributed. Are there other things that we
       could do as a Government agency?
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                   MS. THOMAS: The press. I think really getting it more into
       the press, and not just a little bleep someplace. I think that if you
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       could work with local papers and actually get a feature story, you know,
       what this process is, how they can access it on the Web, so people can
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       really learn more.
                   I think what T.O. said earlier, a lot of us are happy with
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       the plant and everything, but still we don't actually understand the
       processes, what's going on right now with the oversight and everything.
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                   I think it just needs to be told, and make people more aware
       of it, more educated.
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                   MR. WASKOWIAK: Does the WEB SITE have an e-mail address
       where we can respond?
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                   MR. SPECTOR: Yes, there are several. They'll say e-mail.
       One of the e-mails is out, but you don't know that, but that's what
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       happens to it, and we have another one that goes to me.
                   And we just last week set up a new code internally where
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       we're going to try to filter all the e-mails into one site, so many
       people in the office can actually see them. We do have that.
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                   MR. MADISON: There are also e-mail at OPA, the Office of
       Public Affairs.
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                   MR. SPECTOR: And Public Affairs has a direct e-mail link.
                   MR. WASKOWIAK: Do you target the children in the schools?
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       That's our future.
                   MR. SPECTOR: Yes.
                   MR. WASKOWIAK: They're right there in the schools, and
       these kids are very knowledgeable on this stuff, more so than we are.
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                   MR. SPECTOR: I think you might want to mention that.
                   {\tt MR.\ HENDERSON:} There's a whole section on the WEB SITE
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    LEY
      that's aimed at education for our kids, and also one for teachers, so
    SOChat you can go to that button on our WEB SITE and get a whole bunch of
    ESreally nicely done educational material at a real simple, elementary
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school level.

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MR. MADISON: You might want to check that out, and see if that's what you're trying to get at.

 $\,$ MR. SPECTOR: Are the teachers in the school aware of this? And do they utilize it?

MR. HENDERSON: It's going to take awhile, I'm sure.

MR. WASKOWIAK: Have you noticed that teachers go to the WEB SITE and check this out?

MR. SPECTOR: Every time I get a chance, I do. But I'm sure if it hasn't, we could probably make more effort to.

 $\mbox{MR. HENDERSON:} \mbox{ We've had that up for about six months now.}$

MR. SPECTOR: Not much more than that.

MR. HENDERSON: And you know, it's simple. I went to it myself, so I could understand what was going on, and it's in simple terms, and it's available to the public on the -- if you go to the nuclear reactor, the NRC home page, nrc.gov, you'll see one that says student groups or something of that sort, so it's under Public Affairs Section. And it will have an explanation of how these reactors work.

MS. ROGGE: Is there information there about the safety measurements? For example, I guess where I'm coming from is that is it when something sets off alarm bells in the plant, it doesn't mean that there's a public safety hazard, it means, you know, that the thresholds are sufficiently low that it doesn't necessarily mean that it's any sort of threat?

MR. DAVISON: Just fix it.

MS. ROGGE: Yes, exactly.

MR. HENDERSON: Well, when we have an event like that, and we just had one this weekend at the plant down here in New Orleans, where their primary coolant system, they were shutting down and they were going to do some maintenance.

They opened the valve and some water from the primary system went into a tank, but they didn't expect that to happen. So right away, they said, oh, my god, and they went to another system and then they realized that it was just going through a tank and that when they shut the right valve, it all stopped. So they didn't really come close to damage of anything, but it was a condition that they didn't understand, so they went to alert status.1

Well, they called us at the Region, we man our instant response center, and then I come in and send out a press release. We had television stations, we had Associated Press and we had the local talk radio show who called me and asked just those questions that you asked.

You know, basically they're saying is this serious enough that we should all run for our lives? And I say, no, it's -- we've started the process early, and we want to get public officials involved, at an early level so that if anything should happen, they're all aware of what's going on so we don't surprise anybody.

And, you know, we go through that whole thing. We make sure that we practice these drills, too, in an imaginary way, where you go to the plant and we notify the people. They go to the simulator, actually, and they simulate having a real serious problem where there is radiation out there.

AMN And we go through all the various levels of notifying people RILE and making sure that all those systems work so that everybody involved & knows what's happening and what a -- it gives you a flavor for what a ASSOCE problem would feel like.

ATES, And we have a system and we activate it and it works, and we LTD.

get the word out to people and we do the best we can. MR. MARSCHALL: Let me just expand on that a little bit. was just touching on a process that every plant has because they are required to have it by law, whereby if something happened at a plant that really had the potential for threatening the health and safety of the public, we would get the word -- actually the plants would get the word to the public to tell them to take shelter or tell them to evacuate in a timeframe that was sufficient to make sure that we minimized any risk to them. Now, at plants like Waterford, the one that Brett was 6 talking about, we get to a point where we get the people in place at the plants well in advance so that if they need to, they can take action. But just because of the fact that we staff up their emergency response organizations, doesn't mean that actually the health 8 and safety of the public has actually been threatened in any way. But the point here is that reason that they have emergency 9 response organizations and you have people here in this room that are involved in that, the reason that the plant staffs and members of the 10 public are involved in those kinds of things is so that we can let people in the public know if they need to take some action to protect 11 themselves. And so if there are routine things that go on at the plant 12 and you don't hear about it, then that's a good sign, because you would hear about it if you had to get in your car and take off because there 13 was some danger of a spread of radioactivity. MR. MADISON: I'm not sure we're answering your question, 14 though. MS. ROGGE: Well, I was sort of coming at it from two 15 16

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directions. Part of -- as a member of the hugely paranoid public, it's a simple matter of trust, you know. And, in fact, you know, when you say there's no danger, is there none? And that's just -- that comes back to the education issue.

MR. MARSCHALL: Yes, it is an education issue.

MS. ROGGE: That's really why I asked the question.

MR. MADISON: Let's put the colored bar back up there for a second please.

MS. ROGGE: Is thee someplace that one could go and read and say, you know, this level of radiation is in the air, and it's not going to do anything to anybody, but we consider it unacceptable, however, this level is --

MR. MADISON: There is, but you probably have to dig through a body of --

MR. MARSCHALL: Actually, it's not that hard. It's in the technical specifications for the plant. There are limits for releases of radioactivity, and those are actually way, way down below the point where you need to worry about your health being threatened.

But they're at a point where if that level of radioactivity gets released, the plant is required by their license to do something about, and it may be shut the plant down.

MS. ROGGE: I think now I'm getting finally to my question. I wasn't exactly quite sure how to ask it.

It seems to me that that kind of information would be ANN helpful, just as a public information kind of thing, not highly LEXechnical stuff, but that when major action has to be taken, is required to be taken at the plant, that it is.

MR. MADISON: The fact that we have limits that are legally A#ESimposed on the plant, and when they get to those limits --LTD.

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MS. ROGGE: They're so much lower than any potential threat level, that action can -- I'm really talking less about the action than I am about the exposure threat, I guess.

MR. MARSCHALL: In a way, that's what this is all about on the chart.

MS. ROGGE: That's why I wanted to know.

MR. MARSCHALL: What we're talking about, as we go from green to red, is less equipment, less processes, less people between safe plant operation and unsafe plant operation, which is when we get to unsafe plant operation, we're at a point where we're concerned about you folks that live around the plant, okay?

And what we're saying with this band of colors that's up here -- and this is actually been based on plant designs and the theorized problems that could occur in a plant that ultimately, if they weren't dealt with appropriately, would affect the health and safety of the public.

When we're up in green, we've got lots of equipment between safe plant operation and a situation where the public is threatened, and we have lots of operator action that can be taken, and lots of margin, basically, between the plant operating safely and the public being threatened.

And as we move further down into white and yellow and red, we have less equipment that's available to protect the public, and less operator action that's available to protect the public.

And some of that is based on performance history that we've seen repetitive things that make us more concerned about the margin of safety that we have in plant operation. That's exactly what this concept is meant to capture.

MR. SPECTOR: Again, you mentioned the webpage. If you were to go into the web page, and if you were to click on one of these boxes, these are the indicators.

This is what he was just talking about. It will give you a definition of what those indicators are. And I think you'll be able to understand them, once you go into the page.

Has anybody gone to the page yet?

MS. THOMAS: Yes, I have gone in on the page, and that's where I found out some of the information on Cooper, and some of other things.

And it explains the -- I was telling the City Hall today, if nothing else, I've learned green, white, yellow, red. I really know what they all stand for, pretty much.

But I think I had gone into it earlier. I don't even -before I even got this information, for some reason, somebody had told me to go into the site, and I had found it otherwise. So when I got this, I was a little bit familiar with what to do.

And, no, I think it's a great tool. I just think people don't know about it.

> MR. SPECTOR: Well, it's new.

MR. MADISON: Has anybody else gone onto the WEB SITE yet? MR. SPECTOR: Another area -- I think we're going to skip a

couple of questions. I think we've kind of answered them. But we have another area related to the resources. One of AN the things that we're concerned in in our total plan is agency

 ${\sf LEY}$ esources, and that's what this question is dealing with, both the agency resources and those issues which are most -- are you getting any SO@Ind of reaction to that issue of resources?

ES, MS. ROGGE: I know that program evaluation is enormously L D.

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expensive, especially when you have teams of people going out and
       spending lots of time. They're generally pretty expensive people in the
       first place, and it seems like any situation where you can have more
       baseline data that's collected there, and paid attention to there, the
       better it is.
                   And I think the last discussion has shown me that there are
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       very careful decision points along the way to determine when it is
       appropriate for you to come in.
                   MR. SPECTOR: When it's appropriate to use more resources.
                   Annie?
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                   MS. THOMAS: Yes, I agree that it is better, and I want to
       ask a question. And I think probably a few -- while I was going over
       the WEB SITE -- can you give me a good definition of a SCRAM?
                   MR. MARSCHALL: Yes. It's an old -- a SCRAM is actually a
       term that applies to BWR. There is some history, as I understand it,
       that goes back to the first atomic pile in the Chicago Project.
 9
                   And the nuclear reaction is controlled by materials with
       physical properties that absorb neutrons. Neutrons are important to a
10
       fission reaction.
                   And there are a couple of ways of doing that, but in the
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       original atomic pile in boiling water -- actually in any commercial
       reactor, there are control rods. They're called control rods because
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       they're made of a material that absorbs neutrons.
                   In order to have the fission reaction going on, you have to
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       pull these rods out of the core so that they stop absorbing neutrons.
                   And what a SCRAM is, is when these rods -- in a BWR, they go
14
       in from the bottom and in a PWR, they go in from the top, and when they
       go into the core, they absorb neutrons and the fission process stops.
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                   SCRAM comes from, as I said, from the first atomic pile in
       the Chicago Project, and the rods, as I understand it, were actually
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       held up by ropes that were on a pulley, and there was a man called the
       Safety Control Rod Ax Man, SCRAM.
                   And his job, if situations got a little dangerous, was to
       take the ax and cut the ropes so that the rods would drop into the core
18
       and stop the reaction, but that's what -- it's called a SCRAM to this
       day in boiling water reactors such as Cooper, and it's called a TRIP in
19
       reactors such as a pressurized water reactors such as Ft. Calhoun.
                   MS. THOMAS: Thank you.
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                   MR. MARSCHALL:
                                  You're welcome.
                   MS. THOMAS: That was very interesting.
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                                Lonnie?
                   MR. SPECTOR:
                   MR. SWANSON: Well, as far as it affecting us at the NRC, I
       think people knew what the process was, like the SALP process, how much
       time the NRC spent with that, versus the new process, where they will
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       focus on the ones that are on the lower part of that curve, you know,
       that it is definitely an improvement.
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                   MR. SPECTOR:
                                The new process?
                   MR. SWANSON:
                                 Yes.
25
                   MS. ROGGE: I would imagine they would serve as performance
       incentives for the plants themselves, because the better they perform,
       the less they have you all coming into what --
                   MR. SPECTOR: That is partially true.
  ANN
                   How about other people in the audience? Any comments? And
    LE¥f you want to speak, could you go to the mike, just so that she can
      pick you up on the tape recorder. Does anybody have any comments yet?
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ASSOCI [No response.]
ATES, MR. SPECTOR: I see some smiles out there.
LTD.

Any other comments on the resources?
[No response.]
MR SPECTOR: So basically vou've

MR. SPECTOR: So, basically, you've said so far, related to resources, that it might be more efficient than the current process, the SALP process, and you indicated that there might be less burden for the licensee, is that the way I was reading that?

MS. ROGGE: No, actually, on the NRC's budget.

MR. SPECTOR: On the NRC budget.

 $\,$ MS. ROGGE: Yes. It's just a hugely expensive process to organize the teams and spend all the time.

MR. SPECTOR: So the inspections would be more meaningful? MS. ROGGE: Yes.

MR. DAVISON: It could be more critical aspect of work instead of this just going to a plant and, you know, regulating and checking everything, you have safety.

MR. SPECTOR: Larry, did you want to say something?

MR. WASKOWIAK: I can see where this is going to probably hopefully even reduce some manpower at the sites that we don't have to -- the NRC does not have. You're basically going to a self-check program. That's the way I see it. Is this correct?

MR. MADISON: I'm not saying that we're going to -- you know, we've always had a self-check program, they have license, as Charlie has mentioned. They have a requirement as part of that license to do self-checks. And if they find themselves outside of the boundaries, to get back in the boundaries, to take the corrective actions.

We have done more of a cross-check, an oversight of their corrective action program, and we've done some independent checks of our own as the NRC, going in and looking at activities.

What we're trying to do with this process is control the amount of independent work that we do, to look more at the oversight of looking at the corrective action program and to focus the work in more safety-significant areas.

So, yes, in some ways we're looking at their taking more control of their activities, but we've already had some assurance that they're doing a good job at that activity; that they have a good corrective action program before we step back and let them do their work.

And we're still there to watch. We're still there to monitor. We're still there. It's cross-checking. We have -- on an annual basis, we look at their corrective action program.

Actually, as part of every activity that's done out at the site, there's a certain portion of that that is a check of the corrective action program at the licensee's facility. We think that is a very key aspect of any safety program at the power plant.

MS. THOMAS: Does the NRC frequently, seldom, however, find problems within their own self-regulation of the plant? Are plants really -- I hate to say being truthful in their reporting, but is that an easy thing to do? Is it an easy thing to mess up with the reports, or is that something that the NRC find that maybe someone's reporting is not completely truthful?

MR. MADISON: It's been a very, very rare occurrence, and I AIN can't even think of any issues that were in a reactor operation RILEYacility. Now, in some of the small, what have been the licensees that & handle the small, like the well drillers and the radiographers. There ASSOCHEVE been some problem, periodically, with those folks. But with the ATES operators of the nuclear power plant, I can't -- LTD.

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1 MR. MARSCHALL: Actually, the only thing that even comes to mind with commercial nuclear power plant operation hasn't been something that we've been concerned with with the operators of the plants. But they don't manufacture the parts for their equipment, 3 and there have been problems with people who are also governed by our regulations that manufacture the parts for the safety equipment that didn't manufacture parts to the standards that were required, and furnished these parts with a documentation that allegedly would lead you to believe that they were the proper parts made to the right specifications. And actually it was the licensees that found the problems with these parts. They put them and they tested them and they failed. And they began to wonder, because of the regulations that we have, the self-checking regulations, they looked at them to try to figure out what was wrong. And they're the ones that discovered that there were 9 manufacturers out there that were manufacturing poor quality parts. MR. MADISON: Part of the process -- and we're in a 10 trust-but-verify mode, even with the Performance Indicators. The licensee reports those numbers to us. They're a 11 licensee, they collect the information, they report that information to us in the Performance Indicators. 12 But as a part of the inspection program, we go out and verify, on a spot-check basis, that the information is accurate. 13 We're not expecting to find a lie. We have found during the pilot program, that there had been some misunderstandings as far as the 14 guidelines, which has helped us improve those guidelines. And that's part of the learning process we've gone through in the pilot program and we expect to see that continue during the 15 initial implementation. 16 With all the aspects of the program, with inspection activities, you know, we still accept anonymous allegations from anybody out at the plant. 17 All the people operating out at the plant, my personal 18 opinion is that it is very difficult to lie in this business and get away with it. 19 MR. WASKOWIAK: Do you inspect the suppliers? If you have a contract with a gentleman or a company that makes valves? 20 MR. MARSCHALL: We do some of that, yes, but the lion's share of the inspection of suppliers is done by licensees. 21 The licensees have the license to operate the plant, they have the responsibility to make sure that the parts are manufactured to certain standards. And they have the responsibility for ensuring that people 23 that supply those parts to them, supply quality parts. So, although we do occasionally do some inspection, I think in recent years, it's 2.4 probably been more in response to some kind of an identified concern. But those concerns are largely identified by folks like the 25 folks that work here at Cooper that go out to the location where the manufacturers have parts. I mean, the manufacturer is required to have a self-checking program of his own, and they go out there to make sure that the manufacturer's self-checking program is up to the regulatory AMN standards. R And they look at the process and make sure that it's

& following the process. So, the licensees really do most of that, and we ASOGD some spot-checking of it.
ATES, MS. ROGGE: What's the relationship between the resident LTD.

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       inspectors and the licensee, the plant, or the plant management?
                   MR. MARSCHALL: I'm not sure what you're asking.
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       like -- they're like quality inspectors, they're like policemen, in a
       sense.
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                   Their job is, in certain aspects, to enforce the law.
                   MS. ROGGE: But they're just onsite monitoring?
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                   MR. MARSCHALL: They're onsite, they're paid by the
                   They're really completely independent.
       Government.
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                   MS. ROGGE: But they're there all the time?
                   MR. MARSCHALL: They're there all the time.
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                   MS. ROGGE: Okay.
                   MR. MADISON: They're rotated periodically to make sure
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       there's no loss of objectivity. They're monitored by the part of the --
       part of Charlie's job is to monitor his resident inspectors and to make
 8
       sure that they're objectivity levels are still where he wants them to
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                   It's a very -- I was a senior resident on the site, at a
       couple of sites, and it's not an easy job.
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                   MS. ROGGE: There's tension there.
                   MR. MADISON: There's a healthy tension out there.
                   MR. SPECTOR: How about some others from the audience?
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       there any comments from anybody? Questions from anybody?
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                   I think we've gone through the questions. I think Question
       Number 9 was covered earlier.
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                   What I'd like to do is ask this question a little
       differently. Is there anything related to this program that you would
14
       like to make sure that we take back to Washington, not to the President,
       but to our office in Washington?
15
                   Yes, Annie?
                   MS. THOMAS:
                               I think educating the public to where they can
16
       find out the information, where they can find out the information, make
       it on layman's terms as much as possible. I realize that's pretty hard
17
       to do in a nuclear industry, but I think that's what it needs to be so
       that the common person can understand it, know where to find the
18
       information.
                   I think the WEB SITE is absolutely fantastic, and I think
19
       something like that.
                   MR. SPECTOR:
                                We have copies of this booklet.
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                   MR. MADISON: This is what we call NUREG 1649, and it's a
       new NRC Reactor Inspection and Oversight Program, so it's a plain
21
       English description of the process. It needs a little work to be
       updated, which is -- the Office of Public Affairs has been charged with
22
       trying to update this in the very near future, but it's still a very
       good description of the basics of the program. I
23
                   MS. THOMAS: I think it's good, but I still think that until
       they were sent to us, we didn't know that they existed. So that's what
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       I mean when I say it's got to be out where the public gets it.
                   Get it to the library, get a news article, get a radio
25
       interview with somebody. Get it out.
                   MR. DAVISON:
                                The same thing with schools. You know, it
       would be real easy just to send something out and invite teachers to
       utilize the WEB SITE.
                   MR. MADISON: All right, have teachers utilize the WEB SITE.
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  R
    LEY
                   Roger?
   &
                   MR. GOOS: I think that unfortunately, in my opinion, we're
  A.
     SOCErying to compare -- ask people to compare a new car to one they've
    ESnever driven.
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They don't know what the old process is, and you're asking them to compare it to a new process. It's just like jumping int the middle of a river, and the people on the bank over there are going, how did you guys get over there?

And it just hasn't been publicized enough. It should have been started years and years ago, and have been ongoing. Just like Andy says, you know, the public almost has to be force-fed some of this stuff, because some of them don't want to know what it's about, but yet they'll turn right around and say, well, how come they don't tell us what it's about?

And it's really, really a difficult process for these guys, let alone you guys, because how many people even know what NRC stands for?

And until they understand what you guys are, you can maybe compare it to the health inspector in a restaurant. When the restaurant is due, they come in and make sure everything is in place, make sure they're going to operate properly.

Once they approve them on the fact that they can operate properly, they back off and have periodic inspections with a walk-in once in awhile.

That's how I relate to you guys. Am I right or wrong?
MR. HENDERSON: I think you're right, but working in public affairs and trying to get people to come, you know we put out press releases to try to get people to come to the old SALP meetings, and we pretty much never got anybody to come.

So we started holding them during the day when people couldn't come, and, you know, it just got to be a thing between the licensee and the NRC.

MR. GOOS: And I think that's when you use more media. You've got to get it -- you've almost got to force-feed the public, and have it someplace using all the media to where they're going to read something.

MR. HENDERSON: Yes, but the other point I had to make though is that, you know, when everything is going along pretty good, and there's no accidents happening, and it's not affecting people's lives that much in an adverse way, there's no fear involved -- you know, the media likes to take bad news.

If it's not bad news, it's not interesting, and so from my point of view, if it's not in the news, that's pretty good, because that means we haven't had any bad news lately.

And it's difficult to sell a good news story. Your ideas about having the reporters come and do a feature story about the plant and maybe an outage that's gone real well. I know Jason Gertson at the Omaha World Herald has done things about coming for relicensing and plant shutdown or planned decommissionings and so forth.

And he does -- periodically they get a new reporter up there, and the guy gets interested and comes and does a story every couple of years, and then it kind of goes away.

And it's -- but, you know, from our perspective, I mean, if things are running well, if everything is safe, if there's no bad news, then it's hard to sell that story all the time on a repeated basis.

So it's kind of good news-bad news. You know it's good that ANN you're not in the paper, but it's bad because people don't hear about it RILEMAND don't get interested, and these features aren't making it a topic for discussion.

ASSOCI MR. MARSCHALL: Bert's got some good points there, but your ATES point is well taken, and we'll take that point back. And it seems to me LTD.

that maybe the press is not the right answer, but it seems to me that there have to be things that we can do to scratch the itch that you're talking about.

MR. GOOS: Well, I'm kind of in the same boat, because I'm an insurance policy for the County, and as long as nothing happens, the question is whether I'm even -- why am I there? That's until something happens.

And that's kind of like you guys. As you long as you do your job and everybody does their job well, why are they there for? What do they do? Who are they? That's until something happens.

We hope that never happens. So you're really in a Catch-22 kind of situation, and it is hard to get the information out to the public, because they figure, well, there's nothing going to happen. Why should we be alert to a situation and nothing is going to happen?

So they just ignore it. So I don't know what the vehicle is, but what we have here basically is the media.

 $$\operatorname{MR}.\ \operatorname{SPECTOR}\colon$\ I$ have two people so far. I have Annie and Larry, so we'll go for Annie first.

MS. THOMAS: Okay, the only thing I want to say is I don't necessarily mean a story on the plant, because the plant does have good PR. And I don't necessarily mean that.

What I mean is there needs to be education out to the people that the WEB SITE is there so that somebody is really interested in it.

I don't mean a feature story on Cooper or a feature story on Ft. Calhoun or any of the others. What I mean is people who really are curious about what's going on need to be made aware that there is, yes, there is a WEB SITE, yes, there is a booklet, and you can get some information.

That's what I think people need to know.

MR. MADISON: We do need educate people more on what the Agency, we, the Agency, does and what are processes are, and how we are trying to do the job of protecting the public health and safety.

We've got to be careful, as you know, that we're not necessarily doing the public relations job that the licensee should be doing for themselves, but we should be talking about what our activities are, and what we're doing for you, because you're our employer.

MR. SPECTOR: Larry?

MR. WASKOWIAK: Do you have a presentation that you can give to the area schools, you know, like an hour presentation, and to explain what's going on to the senior high level?

MR. SPECTOR: On this process?

MR. WASKOWIAK: New process, old process, whatever, but that's one way you can reach these through -- the parents through the students.

MR. SPECTOR: Okay.

MR. WASKOWIAK: Because the parents will listen to what their students are saying.

MR. SPECTOR: That's a good idea. We'll put that one in the hopper.

MR. WASKOWIAK: You need to get the students, because the parents are listening. In this day and age of electronics, parents don't know, and if the kids come back home and say, we're doing this, then oh well that's good what about buying a new computer for you

AND then, oh, well, that's good, what about buying a new computer for you? RILEY MR. SPECTOR: Sure.

MR. GOOS: I don't know whether it would be feasible or not, ASSOCUL Cooper puts out a real good flyer through a calendar every year.

ATES And maybe they could work together.

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Maybe you guys could just put a definition of what you do.
       It might be a one-page tearout or insert or something in that calendar
       explaining what your job is in working with Cooper Nuclear Station or
       any other nuclear station.
                   Just have them put it right out with the calendar once a
       year. That covers a wide area.
                   MR. SPECTOR: How do you get the calendar? Is that the
       calendar that --
                   MR. WASKOWIAK: That's the one --
                   MR. SPECTOR: -- that little children have drawn pictures
 6
       on?
                   MR. WASKOWIAK: Well, also, see, they mail it out to
       everybody in this area, basically for the people within the ten-mile
       emergency preparedness zone. Maybe that could be expanded and pushed
       out a little further into the public.
                   AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: That's really our calendar, Roger,
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       and we'll take -- Paul is here and our EP organization covers things
       like that. And we'll take that suggestion.
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                   AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: I'll tell you right out front, as far
       as doing something in conjunction with Cooper, we probably won't,
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       because we're very conscious about the independence. But that doesn't
       mean that we couldn't go to Cooper, for example, and get their mailing
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       list and do something similar on our own. We just wouldn't do it in
       conjunction with the Cooper folks.
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                   MR. MARSCHALL: It's part of the perception of
       appropriateness.
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                   MR. SWANSON: How much media or how much information would
       you provide to the media on this new program? I mean, have they been
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       running stories on it?
                   MR. MADISON: We have provided -- and we can talk more
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       effectively maybe in some of the regions. We've kind of let some of the
       -- the Office of Public Affairs take charge of that.
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                   But we have briefed selected members of the press. We held
       several briefings in Washington.
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                   We've offered briefings for others. We've provided
       information through the local office of Public Affairs, and there have
19
       been some, including the press release for this activity that we're
       doing tonight. But that's not to say that we couldn't do more, that
20
       there may be more activities.
                   That's not to say that we couldn't do more.
21
                   MR. SWANSON: It may have to be a repetitive thing that you
       do over and over, because sooner or later, people are going to read it.
                   MR. MADISON: Part of what we're asking, too, is where will
       we get the most bang for our buck? What type of information should we
23
       put out, and who should it be focused at?
                   This is one of the reasons why we're doing this type of a
24
       process, is to identify who is the public? Is the public a collection
       of editors?
                   Is it a group of -- like the Union of Concerned Scientists,
25
       or is it this group here?
                   Well, it's all of those and probably some others that we
       haven't mentioned. And we have to -- you know there are different ways
       that we will have to get to each of those groups to get the information
  ANN out.
  R
    LEY
                   MS. THOMAS: Probably the best way you could get it out is
       to get an ad spot on the Big 12 Championship Game.
  ASSOCI
                   [Laughter.]
  ATES,
                   MR. SPECTOR: Well, if there aren't any other comments from
  LTD.
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the audience, does anybody at the table have any other comments?

MS. THOMAS: Thank you very much for bringing this to us. I think it's been educational for myself, I know, and I'm sure others feel the same way. I appreciate it.

MR. HULTON: It has been for me, too. Thank you.

MR. SPECTOR: Thank you, thank you very much. We appreciate your coming down here, and as I said, our process calls for additional meetings, periodically, you know, to give the community updates as to what's going on. Hopefully we'll be out here in the future, the NRC will be out here.

 $\,$ MS. THOMAS: Not officially, but I just hope you'll be here for information. We don't want you down here closing us down.

[Laughter.]

MR. MARSCHALL: We're here every day on official business. MR. MADISON: I thank everybody for participating. I know that there have been some fits and starts with the process, and there's obvious a lack of information out there. We may not have been able to come to the table fully armed and fully prepared to discuss each of the questions, but I think in my mind, it's still been a valuable exercise in that at least we've -- you folks have been invited to the table to participate in helping develop the program.

I hope you also know that it was a genuine -- I was trying to think of the right word -- a genuine invitation to the table to participate and get involved in the development of the program, and in having your opinions heard and appreciated.

And with that --

MR. SPECTOR: We would also like to thank the Auburn Inn for the fine accommodations. One more thing: If any of you would like to receive a transcript of tonight, we will have that available. You can let me know after the meeting, and give me your address, and anybody in the room, and we'll make it available.

MR. MADISON: Hopefully everybody in the room has signed in. There was a sign-in sheet that went around. If you haven't signed in yet, please sign in before you leave, so we have a list of all the folks that attended.

MR. SPECTOR: Thank you very much. [Whereupon, at 8:45 p.m., the meeting was concluded.]

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