



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 8, 2000

**APPLICANT:** Southern Nuclear Operating Company

**FACILITY:** Edwin I. Hatch, Units 1 and 2

**SUBJECT:** SUMMARY OF SCOPING MEETING HELD IN SUPPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

On Wednesday, May 10, 2000, members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held public environmental scoping meetings in Vidalia, Georgia in support of the staff's review of the application submitted by Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) for renewal of the operating licenses for its Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Hatch). Afternoon and evening sessions were held to allow maximum public participation. Formal presentations were made by Cynthia Carpenter, Christopher Grimes, and James Wilson, all of the NRC staff. Attachment 1 is a corrected transcript for both meetings. Attachment 2 is a copy of the presentation slides. Attachment 3 is a list of attendees for both the 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm sessions.

The purpose of the meetings was to provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process by providing comments on any issues that it thought the NRC staff should consider while preparing a plant-specific supplement to the "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (NUREG-1437) for Hatch. The staff presentations outlined the overall license renewal process, provided a description of the National Environmental Policy Act review process, discussed the environmental requirements outlined in 10 CFR Part 51, and addressed how these requirements would be implemented during the Hatch license renewal review.

After the formal presentations given by the NRC staff, officials from SNC were given the opportunity to address the audience and provide comments focusing on the environmental report that was submitted as part of the license renewal application. Next, members of the public were invited to provide comments. Approximately 50 people attended the two sessions with about 25 persons making comments. Attendees included representatives of the NRC, SNC, and nuclear industry; local government officials; State agency officials; special interest groups, and other members of the public.

James H. Wilson, Senior Project Manager  
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial, and  
Rulemaking Branch  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-321 and 50-366

Attachments: As stated

cc w/o attachments 1 and 2: See next page

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/RA/

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Southern Nuclear Operating Company  
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Docket Nos.: 50-321, 50-366

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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EDWIN I. HATCH NUCLEAR PLANT  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

Southeastern Technical Institute  
3001 East First Street  
Vidalia, GA

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

The above-entitled meeting commenced, pursuant to  
notice, at 1:30 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS:

FRANCES "CHIP" CAMERON, Facilitator

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

[1:30 p.m.]

1  
2  
3 MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone, and  
4 welcome to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's public  
5 meeting on the development of the environmental impact  
6 statement for the licensing renewal applications for Plant  
7 Hatch Units 1 and 2.

8 My name is Chip Cameron, and I'm the Special  
9 Counsel for Public Liaison at the NRC, and it's my pleasure  
10 to serve as the facilitator for this afternoon's meeting.

11 Before we get started with the substance of our  
12 program, I want to just briefly cover three topics with you.  
13 One is the objectives for the meeting this afternoon. The  
14 second is format and ground rules for today's meeting, and  
15 the third topic is an agenda overview for all of you.

16 In terms of objectives, the NRC is here to explain  
17 the NRC license renewal process to you, specifically the  
18 preparation of the environmental impact statement on the  
19 license renewal application. And we also want to listen to  
20 your comments, suggestions, and advice on the issues that  
21 the NRC should evaluate in preparing the environmental  
22 impact statement.

23 The purpose of today's meeting is called scoping,  
24 and this is a term used in connection with preparation of  
25 our environmental impact statement. The purpose of the

1 environmental impact statement is to guide the NRC in making  
2 a decision on whether to renew the license for the Hatch  
3 units. And the purpose of scoping is to help the NRC to  
4 identify information on the types of environmental impact  
5 that may result from the decision on the license renewal,  
6 and you will be hearing more on that from my colleagues in a  
7 few minutes.

8           The NRC is also asking for written comments on the  
9 scoping issues, but we wanted to be here with you today and  
10 at the meeting tonight to discuss these issues with you in  
11 person, and this will also give you an opportunity to hear  
12 what others in the community and in the region feel about  
13 these particular issues. And it also may help you to prepare  
14 any written comments that you may want to send us on these  
15 scoping issues.

16           But I want to emphasize that any comments we hear  
17 from you today will be considered by the NRC as formal  
18 comments on scoping. You don't have to send anything in  
19 writing to get these on record.

20           In terms of the ground rules and the format for  
21 today's meeting, the ground rules are pretty simple, and  
22 they're all aimed at helping all of us have an effective  
23 meeting this afternoon. We're going to have some brief NRC  
24 staff presentations today, and that will give you background  
25 information on the license renewal process, specifically on

1 the environmental impact statement process for license  
2 renewal.

3           At the end of each presentation, we're going to go  
4 out to all of you for discussion and questions on that  
5 particular presentation. When we do get to these discussion  
6 sessions, if you wish to speak, just signal me, and I will  
7 either bring you this talking stick or you can use the  
8 microphones that are in the aisles here. And I would ask you  
9 to please state your name and your affiliation, if  
10 appropriate, because we are taking a transcript. Our  
11 stenographer is over here, and we are taking a transcript so  
12 that we have a record of all of your comments, and we'll  
13 want to get your name for the record.

14           It's important that only one person speak at a  
15 time. This will not only allow us to get a clear transcript  
16 about who was saying what but, more importantly, so that we  
17 can give all of our attention to whoever has the floor at  
18 that particular time. Please try to be concise in your  
19 comments. We want to make sure that we get all the  
20 information out to you on this license renewal process, and  
21 we also want to make sure that anybody who wants an  
22 opportunity to speak will have that opportunity. So at some  
23 point I may have to ask people to summarize so that we can  
24 go on to another person or go on to the next agenda item,  
25 but we will try to get back to you before we end the meeting

1 today so that we can hear what else that you have to say.

2 I want to remind everyone that our purpose today  
3 is to gain insights on the environmental issues related to  
4 the Hatch licensing renewal applications. However, there may  
5 be other issues of concern that people have, and we're  
6 prepared to listen to those issues and try to provide  
7 information on them if we can. But we want to try to keep us  
8 focused on the environmental aspects of license renewal to  
9 make sure that we hear all of the comments on this issue  
10 before we leave here today.

11 My last subject is the agenda overview, and we're  
12 going to start in about a minute with Cindy Carpenter, who  
13 is to my right, and Cindy is the Branch Chief of the Generic  
14 Issues Environmental, Financial and Rulemaking Branch within  
15 our Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the NRC. Her  
16 staff is responsible for preparing the environmental impact  
17 statement on license renewal applications. Cindy is going to  
18 give us a welcome and a brief overview.

19 We are then going to go to Chris Grimes, who is  
20 seated right here. Chris is the Branch Chief of License  
21 Renewal and Standardization at the NRC, again in our Office  
22 of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and his staff is responsible  
23 for separating the license renewal applications through the  
24 license renewal process at the NRC. Chris is going to talk  
25 to us about the license renewal process generally. I know

1 that I've said that we are here to specifically address the  
2 environmental impact statement, but we want to tell you  
3 about the overall process and how those environmental  
4 impacts relate to what we call safety issues related to  
5 license renewal. So Chris will talk about that, and then  
6 we'll go to you for discussion and questions on that issue.  
7 Our final presentation is going to be by Jim Wilson, who  
8 is down to the far right here, and Jim is an Environmental  
9 Project Manager who is in Cindy's branch. He is going to get  
10 the nub of the issue for today's discussion, which is the  
11 environmental impact statement process and scoping.

12           The final agenda topic is an open discussion  
13 including giving all of you who might want to give us a more  
14 formal statement besides the question and answer period so  
15 that we give you an opportunity to make a formal statement.  
16 We have a list of people who want to do that, and we'll  
17 proceed with doing that when we get to the open discussion  
18 period.

19           We're going to start out that period with hearing  
20 from the Southern Company on the Company's license renewal  
21 applications, and we have Lewis Sumner and Byron Feimster,  
22 who are going to talk at that time, and then we'll get  
23 everybody else on. I know that there may be some people who  
24 have time commitments, and we'll try to get you on as early  
25 as possible if you do need to get out of here for some

1 reason.

2 I would just welcome all of you again and thank  
3 you all for being here. We look forward to hearing your  
4 comments. What I'm going to do at this point is to turn it  
5 over to Cindy Carpenter. Cindy.

6 MS. CARPENTER: Welcome, and thank you very much  
7 for coming this afternoon.

8 My name is Cindy Carpenter, and I'm the Branch  
9 Chief of Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial, and  
10 Rulemaking Branch within the Office of Nuclear Reactor  
11 Regulation, and we have the ultimate responsibility for  
12 preparation of the environmental impact statement.

13 We're here today to talk about the environmental  
14 review that the NRC is undertaking as a result of Southern  
15 Nuclear Operating Company's application for renewal of  
16 operating licenses for Hatch Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2.  
17 We'll talk a little bit about the statutory requirements of  
18 this action, the purpose of the review, a n d t h e process  
19 we go through in the decision that we're working on. More  
20 importantly, we will provide you the opportunity to give us  
21 input into our environmental review and to ask questions of  
22 the experts who are here.

23 Plant Hatch is a boiling-water reactor operated by  
24 Southern Nuclear. The operating licenses for Plant Hatch  
25 will expire in the years 2014 and 2018 for Units 1 and 2

1 respectively. The Atomic Energy Act allows the licensee,  
2 such as Southern Nuclear, to seek a renewal. The law also  
3 requires the NRC to systematically review the environmental  
4 impacts during the process.

5           Southern Nuclear submitted application for license  
6 renewal on March 1st of this year, and Federal Register  
7 notice was issued on April 3, and the scoping renewal began  
8 on April 12th. On that very same day, we began an open  
9 comments period wherein we seek comments from members of the  
10 public of on what the impact on the environment will be.  
11 These comments will help the staff determine what the  
12 effects will be on the environmental aspects of license  
13 renewal.

14           The purpose of today's meeting is identify the  
15 environmental areas and provide for any comments that you  
16 have for inclusion in the comment period.

17           Thank you.

18           MR. CAMERON: We will go out to you after Chris's  
19 presentation to hear any questions or comment that you might  
20 have. Chris.

21           MR. GRIMES: My name is Chris Grimes. I'm the  
22 Chief of Licensing and Standardization Branch, and I'm going  
23 to describe the overall concept of licensing for power  
24 reactors.

25           The NRC mission is to regulate the nation's

1 civilian nuclear materials, to ensure adequate protection of  
2 the public health and safety, to promote the common defense  
3 and security, and to protect the environment. This mission  
4 and the NRC's authority are derived from the Atomic Energy  
5 Act of 1954 and Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as well  
6 as amendments to those acts and other legislation involving  
7 security, waste, and energy policy.

8           The NRC regulations are issued under Title 10 of  
9 the Code of Federal Regulations, which we will refer to  
10 throughout our presentations as 10 CFR for short. For  
11 commercial power reactors, the NRC's regulatory functions  
12 include licensing of nuclear power plant licenses based on a  
13 set of technical regulatory requirements to ensure that the  
14 design and proposed operation of the facility are safe,  
15 based on sound radiological safety standards.

16           The NRC conducts routine inspections to ensure  
17 that the plant design and operation conform to its license  
18 requirements, and enforcement actions are taken in the event  
19 that the license requirements are not being satisfied.

20           The Atomic Energy Act and NRC Regulations limit  
21 commercial power reactor licenses to a term of 40 years, but  
22 the Act recognizes that there was a potential for license  
23 renewal, and the regulations were amended to permit the  
24 renewal of power reactor licenses for up to an additional 20  
25 years.

1           The 40-year term was originally selected on the  
2 basis of economic and anti-trust considerations, not on  
3 technical limitations. However, once selected, the design of  
4 several system and structural components were engineered on  
5 the basis of an expected 40-year life. The requirements for  
6 the initial 40-year license are contained in 10 CFR 50.

7           When the first reactors were constructed, major  
8 components were expected to last at least 40 years.  
9 Operating experience has demonstrated that that expectation  
10 was unrealistic for some major plant components such as  
11 steam and pressurized water .

12           However, research conducted over the past decade  
13 and operating experience have demonstrated that there are no  
14 technical limitations to the plant life, since major  
15 components and structures can be replaced or refurbished.  
16 The plant life is determined primarily on the cost of  
17 replacing those plant components.

18           The rule requires that an applicant demonstrate  
19 that the applicable aging effects will be adequately managed  
20 for a defined scope of passive, long-lived system structures  
21 and components. The Commission determined that aging of  
22 active components is adequately managed by existing  
23 maintenance and surveillance programs and other aspects of  
24 the existing license requirements are continued through the  
25 period of extended operation.

1           The rule also requires that certain time-  
2 dependent design analysis be identified and evaluated. A new  
3 license can be granted upon a finding by the Commission that  
4 actions have been or will be taken so that there is  
5 reasonable assurance that applicable aging effects will be  
6 adequately managed through the period of extended operation  
7 and whether or not adverse environmental impacts of license  
8 renewal are so great that preserving the option of license  
9 renewal for energy planning decision-makers would be  
10 unreasonable. That environmental impact finding is basically  
11 a determination that this is an economic decision.

12           Next slide, please.

13           The United States currently receives about 20  
14 percent of its electricity from 103 operating nuclear power  
15 plants. The electricity sector is moving rapidly to a  
16 deregulated environment in which energy supply sources will  
17 be dictated by cost to the consumer. At the same time, there  
18 are growing pressures to limit fossil fuel emissions because  
19 of continued concerns for cleaner air and potential global  
20 climate changes. Deregulation and competition have raised  
21 the interest in license renewal to strategic importance  
22 because large generating plants become vital economic assets  
23 to the plant owners. Operating nuclear power plants are  
24 expected to remain competitive after retail electricity  
25 restructuring, provided that the costs associated with

1 continued plant operation in the future can be reasonably  
2 projected.

3 Some currently operating U.S. plants will not  
4 apply for license renewal for economic reasons. The NRC  
5 established the license renewal requirements so that any  
6 plant that is capable of operating safely beyond the current  
7 term should have that opportunity and, more importantly,  
8 clearly understand the requirements for such extended plant  
9 operation.

10 Calvert Cliffs in Maryland was the first plant to  
11 apply for license renewal. The renewed license was granted  
12 on March 23rd of this year. The renewal application for the  
13 Edwin I. Hatch Units 1 and 2, which is more simply called  
14 Plant Hatch, was received on March 1st, 2000, as Cindy  
15 mentioned. Although the Plant Hatch licenses do not  
16 presently expire until 2014 and 2018, many utilities are  
17 interested in license renewal today to ensure that they  
18 clearly understand what requirements will be necessary for  
19 an extended license for future financial planning.

20 Next slide, please.

21 I don't know if you can read all the little boxes  
22 in that chart, but this chart provides a simplified flow  
23 diagram of what happens to the application after it is  
24 received at the NRC. There are copies of the handout outside  
25 the auditorium for those of you who would like to see that.

1 The licensing process consists of parallel technical and  
2 environmental reviews, which will be documented, and a  
3 safety evaluation report for the aging management aspects of  
4 the renewal application and a supplement to the generic  
5 environmental impact statement for the environmental impact  
6 figures first in draft, and then we will have another public  
7 meeting to offer an opportunity for public comments on the  
8 draft of the environmental impact statement. The aging  
9 management plans in the NRC staff safety evaluation will  
10 then be verified by NRC inspection. The renewal application  
11 and the safety evaluation will also be reviewed by the NRC's  
12 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS, in  
13 accordance with the usual practice. You will also notice on  
14 this chart that the ACRS, like this scoping meeting, is one  
15 of the opportunities that we provide for public comment.  
16 Interested members of the public who wish to comment on a  
17 safety evaluation basis can do so during the ACRS meeting.

18           The NRC plans to complete the safety evaluation  
19 report for Plant Hatch that will address the scope of  
20 passive systems, structures, and components, the applicable  
21 aging effects, and the aging management programs that  
22 Southern Nuclear will rely on to ensure that the plant is  
23 safely maintained for the period of extended operation. The  
24 initial report will identify open items and confirm certain  
25 items related to safety review under Part 54 that must be

1 resolved before a Commission decision can be reached. That  
2 report will be made available to the public upon its initial  
3 issuance and then upon reissuance after the resolution of  
4 the open items.

5           The NRC's licensing requirements also include a  
6 formal process for public involvement in hearings, as Chip  
7 mentioned, conducted by a panel of administrative judges,  
8 who are collectively called the Atomic Safety and Licensing  
9 Board. Interested persons or parties who want to hold  
10 hearings on particular matters related to the licensing  
11 action and who wish to have those matters litigated by the  
12 Board can file a petition with the NRC, as was described in  
13 the Federal Register notice that was issued on April 3rd  
14 upon announcement of the acceptance of the application.  
15 Copies of the Federal Register notice and other brochures  
16 that relate to the hearing process are available outside the  
17 auditorium. The period for filing of petition for hearing  
18 closed on May 3rd. Thus far we have not had any petitions to  
19 hold hearings on the Hatch application.

20           Separately, however, we have received a petition  
21 from the Union of Concerned Scientists that raises an issue  
22 related to the aging of liquid and gaseous waste systems at  
23 Plant Hatch and requested the Commission take action to  
24 change the regulatory requirements for license renewal  
25 related to the waste handling systems.

1           Regardless of whether or not there are any formal  
2 hearings on the Plant Hatch renewal application, interested  
3 members of the public who are concerned about nuclear safety  
4 issues can raise those issues informally during various  
5 public meetings that the NRC staff will hold with Southern  
6 Nuclear Company to discuss safety aspects of the proposed  
7 extended plant operation. Time is usually provided at the  
8 conclusion of each meeting for public comments and  
9 questions. Meetings on particular technical issues are  
10 usually held in the NRC's offices in Rockville, Maryland.  
11 However, some technical meetings and meetings to summarize  
12 the results of NRC inspections will be held near the plant  
13 site in places that is accessible to the public, and I  
14 encourage you to participate in those meetings.

15           All records for Plant Hatch are available at the  
16 NRC's public document room in Washington, D.C., and many  
17 recent records are now available on the NRC's WEB page at  
18 [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov). The Hatch renewal application and its schedules  
19 can be viewed on the NRC's WEB page under "Reactors and  
20 License Renewal."

21           In addition, although the NRC no longer tries to  
22 maintain local public document rooms, reports and  
23 correspondence related to the Hatch renewal application are  
24 available for your inspection at the Applying County Library  
25 at 242 East Parker Street in Baxley.

1           The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards,  
2 otherwise known as ACRS, that I previously mentioned  
3 performs an independent review of the renewal application  
4 and safety evaluation. They will report their findings and  
5 recommendations directly to the Commission. They will also  
6 hold meetings that are transcribed, thus the opportunity for  
7 public comment, or written statements can be provided by  
8 members of the public during ACRS meetings in accordance  
9 with the instructions that are described in the notices of  
10 the meetings that they will hold.

11           At the end of the process, the final safety  
12 evaluation report, the final supplement to the environmental  
13 impact statement, and the results of the inspections in the  
14 form of a recommendation from the Regional Administrator,  
15 along with the results of hearing findings given, are  
16 submitted to the Commission with a recommendation by the  
17 staff on action on the application.

18           Those documents and the formal Commission meeting  
19 to discuss the staff's recommendation are also open to the  
20 public. After a public Commission meeting, each Commissioner  
21 will vote on the proposed action and the decision is  
22 formally sent to the NRC staff for whatever action it is  
23 concluded is appropriate for the renewal application.

24           Throughout the NRC's review of the license renewal  
25 application, the NRC will continuously conduct regular

1 inspections and amendments to the current licensing in  
2 accordance with the routine licensing activities. The NRC's  
3 inspections of the plant performance reviews are evolving  
4 with other NRC initiatives to improve the reactor oversight  
5 process. If you are interested in learning more about the  
6 inspection and oversight process, there is information also  
7 available on NRC's WEB page in a report that is entitled  
8 NUREG 1649, Revision 1, that describes the renewal  
9 inspection process.

10 The normal regulatory process and amendments to  
11 the existing license requirements continue in parallel with  
12 the renewal application and will address matters of interest  
13 such as operational events, spent fuel storage, security,  
14 and emergency plans.

15 That concludes my overview of the NRC regulatory  
16 processes. If you have any questions about the general  
17 description of licensing, I would like to try and address  
18 those now before Jim Wilson describes the process for the  
19 staff's environmental impact review.

20 MR. CAMERON: Any questions for Chris on his  
21 presentation or any comments on his description of the  
22 license renewal process?

23 Thank you, Chris.

24 Receiving no questions, let's go on to Jim Wilson  
25 to address the focus of tonight's meeting, which is the

1 environmental impact statement process.

2 MR. WILSON: My name is Jim Wilson. I am the  
3 Environmental Project Manager for the Hatch license renewal  
4 project. I work in the Generic Issues, Environmental,  
5 Financial, and Rulemaking Branch within the Office of  
6 Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the NRC.

7 I intend to spend the next few minutes talking  
8 about the process required by the National Environmental  
9 Policy Act, the so-called NEPA process, and then describe  
10 how that process is incorporated into our regulation at the  
11 NRC, and then, more specifically, how those regulations are  
12 being applied to the Hatch license renewal application.

13 NEPA was enacted in 1969 and requires all Federal  
14 agencies to use a systematic approach to consider  
15 environmental impacts during certain decision-making  
16 proceedings.

17 It is a disclosure tool that involves the public.  
18 It invokes a process whereby information is gathered to  
19 enable Federal agencies to make informed decisions, and  
20 then, as part of that process, we document the information  
21 and invite public participation to evaluate it.

22 The NEPA process results in a number of different  
23 kinds of documents. Chief among them are environmental  
24 impact statements (also called EISs), which describe the  
25 results of the rigorous and detailed review that we in NRC

1 do to evaluate the environmental impacts of a proposed  
2 action that may significantly affect the quality of the  
3 human environment.

4 The NRC has determined that license renewal is a  
5 major Federal action. Therefore, we are going through the  
6 NEPA process for Hatch, and will prepare an environmental  
7 impact statement that describes the environmental impacts of  
8 operation for an additional 20 years. Slide 11

9 Next slide. This slide describes the objective of  
10 our environmental review. The staff is trying to determine  
11 whether or not the adverse environmental impacts of license  
12 renewal for Hatch are so great that preserving the option of  
13 license renewal for energy planning decision makers would be  
14 unreasonable.

15 That's what it says in the regulations. To  
16 paraphrase, we are trying to determine whether or not  
17 renewing the Hatch Station Units 1 and 2 licenses for an  
18 additional 20 years is acceptable from an environmental  
19 standpoint. Slide 12

20 Now I'd like to give you an overview and describe  
21 how the staff incorporated the NEPA process into the  
22 regulatory framework of the NRC, and how we perform our  
23 environmental review.

24 The NRC's implementing regulations for carrying  
25 out the NEPA process are located in Part 51 of Title 10 of

1 the Code of Federal Regulations -- what we call 10 CFR Part  
2 51. This regulation outlines the contents of environmental  
3 impact statements, and the process that the NRC uses in  
4 order to meet the requirements of NEPA.

5           Early on in establishing the license renewal  
6 process (back in the 80's and 90's), it was recognized that  
7 the original environmental impact statements that were  
8 written for the plants when they received their operating  
9 licenses 20 or more years earlier would need to be updated  
10 to address the additional 20 years of operation under  
11 license renewal. So the NRC undertook a rulemaking effort to  
12 modify Part 51 and to amend it to address environmental  
13 impacts of license renewal.

14           As part of the rulemaking effort on Part 51, the  
15 staff developed a generic environmental impact statement,  
16 called the GEIS, which took a systematic look at the  
17 thousands of hours of operating experience at all of the  
18 nuclear power plants to help us identify potential  
19 environmental impacts. In addition, the staff developed and  
20 uses an Environmental Standard Review Plan for License  
21 Renewal (NUREG-1555, Supplement 1) as guidance on how to  
22 perform our environmental reviews.

23           There are copies of the 10 CFR Part 51, the GEIS,  
24 and the Environmental Standard Review Plan outside in the  
25 lobby for your examination. These documents can be viewed on

1 the Internet at our WEB site, and can be obtained from the  
2 Government Printing Office. In addition, some of this  
3 information can be viewed at the Appling County Library in  
4 Baxley, Georgia. Slide 13

5 The next slide shows a little more detail of the  
6 environmental review process than was shown on the earlier  
7 chart that Chris described. It graphically shows the process  
8 that I'm going to talk about for the next couple of minutes,  
9 so you might want to refer back to it from time to time.

10 Slide 14

11 As far as the NEPA process goes, there are certain  
12 steps that we at the NRC are required to follow, and these  
13 steps are consistent for all EISs prepared by all Federal  
14 agencies for any proposed major Federal action.

15 The first step is the notice of intent. That lets  
16 the public know that we're going to prepare an environmental  
17 impact statement. For Hatch, the notice of intent was issued  
18 last month in the Federal Register. To prepare for the  
19 review, the staff has assembled a team of NRC staff with  
20 backgrounds in the specific technical and scientific  
21 disciplines required to perform these environmental reviews.  
22 In addition, to supplement the technical expertise of the  
23 staff, we engaged the assistance of Pacific Northwest  
24 National Laboratory to ensure that we had a well-rounded  
25 knowledge base to perform this review. We put together a

1 team of about 20 people to conduct this review, most of whom  
2 are here today to address questions that you may have and to  
3 hear what you have to say in the next step of the meeting.

4           The next step is the scoping process itself.  
5 During the scoping period, we will be identifying issues to  
6 be addressed in the environmental impact statement. The  
7 scoping period for Hatch began on April 12th, with the  
8 issuance of the Federal notice of intent, and will end on  
9 June 9th. Today we are holding two public meetings to  
10 describe what we are doing and to get input from the public.

11           During the scoping period, we are seeking  
12 information to define the scope of the environmental impact  
13 statement, and to determine what needs to be studied in  
14 detail and what is not appropriate to address. Not only are  
15 we soliciting input from you, but we will also be obtaining  
16 information from Southern Nuclear, and from Federal, State,  
17 and local agencies. Slide 15

18           Once we feel that we have enough information to  
19 establish the scope of the review, the staff looks at a  
20 number of issues, including the environmental impacts of the  
21 proposed license renewal; alternatives to the proposed  
22 action and the impacts that could result from those  
23 alternatives; and possible mitigation measures, which are  
24 things that can be done that would decrease the environmental  
25 impact of the license renewal.

1           After we complete our environmental review, we  
2 will issue a draft environmental impact statement (or draft  
3 EIS) for public comment. This will be a plant- specific  
4 supplement to the GEIS, as we rely on the findings in the  
5 GEIS for part of our conclusions. The report is a draft not  
6 because it is incomplete, but rather because we are at an  
7 intermediate stage in the decision- making process. So, once  
8 we have issued the draft supplement to the GEIS, we are  
9 planning on having another public comment period eight to  
10 nine months from now to allow you too take a look at the  
11 results of the review and to provide any comments you may  
12 have.

13           We will also hold two public meetings during this  
14 second comment period to describe the results of the NRC  
15 review, to answer questions related to our environmental  
16 review, and to try to help members of the public formulate  
17 any additional comments.

18           After we gather the comments and evaluate them, we  
19 may decide to change portions of the Hatch-specific  
20 supplement to the GEIS based on those comments. The NRC will  
21 then issue a final Hatch-specific supplement to the generic  
22 environmental impact statement. Slide 16

23           Now that I've given you a general idea of the  
24 overall process, let's talk about what we are going to be  
25 doing in the near term. Over the next few months, the

1 environmental review team will be looking at Southern  
2 Nuclear's application; visiting the Hatch site, and  
3 reviewing Southern Nuclear's evaluation process; and  
4 reviewing any comments that we receive during the scoping  
5 period ending June 9th.

6 All comments received during the scoping period  
7 will be considered. Slide 17.

8 In addition, we will be obtaining needed  
9 information on Hatch from Federal, State and local officials  
10 as well as local service agencies. Slide 18.

11 Now I'd like to tell you a little bit about what  
12 it is that we look at.

13 The generic environmental impact statement was  
14 published as NUREG-1437, and was issued in 1996. It formed  
15 the basis for the rule revisions in Part 51. Prior to that,  
16 the NRC had worked with the States, the Council on  
17 Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Environmental Protection  
18 Agency (EPA), and number of other groups, and held a series  
19 of public workshops to develop the final generic  
20 environmental impact statement.

21 During that time, the NRC did its best to identify  
22 what environmental issues need to be reviewed for license  
23 renewal.

24 The staff identified and categorized the  
25 environmental impacts that were specific to license renewal.

1 We identified a total of 92 potential environmental impacts,  
2 and we evaluated these in the generic environmental impact  
3 statement.

4           When the staff evaluated the 92 issues it had  
5 identified, it found that some of those were generic -- that  
6 is, they were common to all plants, regardless of their  
7 design or where they were sited. The NRC wanted to  
8 categorize them differently from those that needed to be  
9 evaluated on a plant-specific basis. So we chose to  
10 designate these generic impacts as being in Category 1.

11           An example of a Category 1 issue is offsite  
12 radiological consequences. When developing the GEIS, the  
13 staff looked to see if offsite doses during the renewal  
14 period would be likely to exceed the current levels  
15 associated with the normal operation of plants today. We  
16 performed a historical review and determined that doses to  
17 the public have been maintained well below those allowed by  
18 the regulations. The staff could see no reason for these  
19 doses to increase due to extended operation, provided  
20 monitoring and control programs continued to be implemented  
21 acceptably. Because expected radiological impacts apply to  
22 all plants in a similar manner, and the significance level  
23 of the offsite radiological impact is considered small at  
24 all plants (provided that regulatory compliance is  
25 maintained), the staff concluded that this item can be

1 addressed on a generic basis as a Category 1 item.

2 That does not mean that we are not going to look  
3 at this issue anymore. It means that we are going to look  
4 only for significant new information that would cause us to  
5 change the conclusions that we made on this issue four years  
6 ago when we issued the generic environmental impact  
7 statement. Slide 18

8 There were 69 Category 1 issues among the 92  
9 issues that were identified and assessed in the final GEIS.  
10 As part of our review, we require applicants to inform the  
11 NRC in its application whether it is aware of any new and  
12 significant information regarding these Category 1 issues.  
13 During the scoping phase of this review, we will also look  
14 at comments from members of the public and Federal, State  
15 and local authorities to determine whether or not there is  
16 any significant new information on these issues. If some new  
17 and significant information on a particular issue is  
18 revealed by this process, that information will be included  
19 in our review to determine the environmental impact. If not,  
20 we will adopt the generic conclusions from the GEIS for that  
21 issue.

22 All of the remaining 23 issues that were  
23 identified in the GEIS will be addressed on a plant-  
24 specific basis.

25 And finally, the review process is designed to

1 help the NRC determine whether or not there are any  
2 significant new issues that we did not identify four years  
3 ago and that are not covered in the GEIS. New issues  
4 specific to Hatch may be revealed as a result of the scoping  
5 process we are undergoing right now. If a significant new  
6 issue is identified that was not considered in the GEIS,  
7 then it will be reviewed on a plant-specific basis as though  
8 it were a Category 2 issue. Slides 19 and 20

9           The next two slides give you an idea of the types  
10 of things we look at in our review: ecological issues,  
11 health issues, socioeconomic impacts, and alternatives to  
12 renewing the license. Slide 21

13           The regulations identify some issues that the  
14 staff does not usually look at during its environmental  
15 review, including the need for power, cost of power, and  
16 spent fuel disposal. In addition, my environmental review  
17 team will not be looking at the safety aspects of license  
18 renewal. That will be covered by Mr. Grimes' people under  
19 the review process that he directs. Slide 22

20           After the scoping period ends on June 9, the staff  
21 will assess all of the comments to determine whether or not  
22 they are applicable to the environmental aspects of license  
23 renewal. Issues that do not have a bearing on the decision  
24 to renew the license will be referred to the appropriate NRC  
25 program manager (for example, Operating Plant Project

1 Manager, Allegations Coordinator). Such an issue may also be  
2 referred to other agencies that may be interested in them.  
3 Safety issues related to license renewal will be referred to  
4 Mr. Grimes' staff. Slide 23

5 This slide gives you the current schedule for the  
6 environmental review of Hatch. We expect to be finished with  
7 the entire review by the end of August of 2001.

8 If there are no hearings and the review goes  
9 smoothly, we hope to improve on this schedule if possible.  
10 To ensure that you are informed of any schedule changes, I  
11 recommend that you provide your name and address to us so we  
12 can include you on our distribution list. That way we will  
13 send you notices of the upcoming public meetings on the  
14 environmental review and copies of the draft and final  
15 environmental impact statements. Slide 24

16 This last slide provides you with my phone number,  
17 in case you have additional questions after you leave here  
18 today. I am the designated point of contact within the NRC  
19 for the environmental portion of the license review for  
20 Hatch. All of the documents that we spoke about today can be  
21 viewed at the NRC's home page on the WEB. In addition, the  
22 Appling County Library in Baxley, Georgia, has agreed to  
23 make a copy of the application available to the public as  
24 well as the Code of Federal Regulations and the generic  
25 environmental impact statement.

1           Comments may also be submitted by mail, in person,  
2 or by e-mail. This slide also gives information on how to  
3 submit comments or get information.

4           In closing, I want to thank you for your  
5 attention. This ends my formal presentation. Before we  
6 continue, I invite your questions or comments. Public  
7 participation is an important part of the legal process of  
8 licensing renewal. It is important that you participate  
9 because it makes a better process if you do. After all,  
10 those of you in the area are more familiar with the plant  
11 than we are.

12           MR. CAMERON: Are there questions on the  
13 environmental aspects of license renewal or to go back to  
14 the license renewal process generally before we go on. Any  
15 questions or comments at this point?

16           Yes. Why don't you use the mike and state your  
17 name and affiliation if appropriate.

18           MS. RAY: Janisse Ray from Baxley.

19           When you come down to do the site-specific study,  
20 are you actually going to look at radiological impact? Are  
21 you going to go out into the public and look at impacts? Are  
22 you going to send scientists out into the river to study  
23 exposure and contamination there? I mean, are you really  
24 going to come out into the area with scientists?

25           MR. WILSON: Offsite radiological impacts are

1 Category 1 issues. We're not going to be doing a review of  
2 that issue itself. We're going to be looking to see if new  
3 information has been developed since 1996. We'll be talking  
4 with people in the academic community. We'll be looking at  
5 plant records. We'll be looking at any information we can  
6 come up with that might give more information that was not  
7 available four years ago when we issued the GEIS.

8 MS. RAY: So basically you are using a study that  
9 was done somewhere else to determine impact here?

10 MR. WILSON: We'll be using all the studies.

11 MR. CAMERON: In terms of environmental impacts  
12 that we are looking at, we do have a team who is here now in  
13 the community who are going to be looking at impacts; is  
14 that correct?

15 MR. WILSON: Yes.

16 MR. CAMERON: And I'll ask Chris to elaborate a  
17 little bit.

18 MR. GRIMES: I would like to point out that the  
19 NRC maintains a presence at Plant Hatch. We have resident  
20 inspectors that work there all the time and also live in the  
21 community, and they work with other local officials who do  
22 environmental monitoring. They watch the utility's  
23 environmental monitoring. So we are out amongst you all the  
24 time, checking on the results of radiological studies and  
25 the effects that the plant is having on the surrounding

1 communities. The work that Jim and his crew are into is the  
2 local area broadly -- socioeconomic impacts of license  
3 renewal in a much broader social way. But in terms of the  
4 specific question that you raised about whether or not  
5 scientist will be out here looking at the rivers and streams  
6 and the environment, we do that constantly as part of our  
7 ongoing licensing requirement.

8 MR. CAMERON: Is it Janisse?

9 MS. RAY: Yes.

10 MR. CAMERON: Does that answer your question for  
11 right now?

12 MS. RAY: Yes.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

14 MS. SHEPPARD: This is partially a follow-up on  
15 Ms. Ray's question. I'm Deborah Sheppard, and I live in  
16 Darien. Are you aware of any specific independent  
17 evaluations that have been done on off-site radiological  
18 effects of Plant Hatch at the current time?

19 MR. WILSON: I'm not aware of any at the moment,  
20 but we're going to be looking. We just got into the area  
21 yesterday. We were at the site earlier this morning, and  
22 we'll be out there all day tomorrow reviewing plant records  
23 and off-site data and talking to State permitting agencies,  
24 resource agencies, and in some of that data we hopefully  
25 will come across material that might relate to that.

1 MS. SHEPPARD: But as to your research it would be  
2 the ongoing company-generated monitoring? Are you familiar  
3 with how far that goes geographically?

4 MR. WILSON: The people that I brought with me  
5 that are conversant in that discipline are aware of the  
6 studies that have been performed at Plant Hatch.

7 MS. SHEPPARD: Are you familiar with a couple of  
8 hundred miles or how far away?

9 MR. GRIMES: As far as I know, the studies of  
10 plant monitoring are typically in a ten-mile zone, but we  
11 work closely with State authorities and other government  
12 agencies that have monitoring programs that cover the whole  
13 State. There is no compiled study of these results. They are  
14 typically used to look at the plant records to determine  
15 whether or not those plant records are consistent with other  
16 records concerning radiological impact.

17 As I said, that's part of what we do as an ongoing  
18 regulatory process.

19 MS. SHEPPARD: And as part of the ongoing  
20 regulatory process, there is not systematic analysis of  
21 downstream effects, say, down in Wayne County or McIntosh  
22 County or anywhere beyond this ten-mile exposure?

23 MR. GRIMES: We have a specialist in health  
24 physics and emergency planning. Ms. Mulligan, would you  
25 comment on the extent to which the NRC reviews radiological

1 studies surrounding plants?

2 MS. MULLIGAN: Patricia Mulligan, NRC.

3 Typically, each utility has to file an annual  
4 effluent report. We do off-site radiological monitoring, and  
5 the utilities are required to submit in those reports all of  
6 the effluent. They take a look at the radiological impact of  
7 effluents that are taken up into groundwater and food  
8 supplies, whether dairy cattle or goats that are used for  
9 milk. All those things within a ten-mile radius are  
10 evaluated and submitted to the NRC. We have an ongoing  
11 picture of what is happening in the community over the life  
12 of the plant.

13 MR. CAMERON: Deborah, does that answer your  
14 question? And I might ask does anybody from the NRC want to  
15 be more specific or more comprehensive about the State and  
16 Federal agencies that we work with generally on this  
17 environmental impact statement process?

18 MR. WILSON: In the process in general we work  
19 with permitting agencies who administer the Clean Water Act  
20 and Clean Air Act. We work with the State radiological  
21 agencies, the State Historic Preservation officer for  
22 archeological and cultural resources. We talk to the  
23 conservation people in the Fish and Wildlife Service,  
24 Department of the Interior -- a number of agencies at the  
25 Federal and State level as well as local community planning

1 commissions and land use planners on what the socioeconomic  
2 impact will be -- a large number at every level, State  
3 agencies and Federal agencies and local agencies.

4 MS. SHEPPARD: You've answered my question. Is it  
5 appropriate to make a comment at this time?

6 MR. CAMERON: We'd rather you save that until the  
7 last discussion period. If you have a formal comment you  
8 want to make, we'll put you in then.

9 MS. SHEPPARD: I think it's fairly germane to what  
10 is being covered now.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay, go ahead.

12 MS. SHEPPARD: Just as an observation on behalf of  
13 the downstream communities. The information you are provided  
14 is of great concern. It seems like the radiological studies  
15 should certainly be going on more extensively throughout the  
16 watershed.

17 I also have another question about your Slide  
18 Number 18, when you were talking about what you look at for  
19 generic issues. Do you have a list of those 69 generic  
20 issues available for us to look at that you use in studying  
21 radiological effects?

22 MR. WILSON: Only the issues tabulated in Part 51.  
23 A portion of the back of Part 51 lists the 92 issues and  
24 identifies them as Category 1 and Category 2 issues. It's  
25 available on the WEB.

1 MS. SHEPPARD: So it's one of the documents you  
2 have here?

3 MR. WILSON: Yes.

4 MS. SHEPPARD: Okay. Thank you very much. I  
5 appreciate it.

6 MR. CAMERON: And, Deborah, I just want to inquire  
7 about something I said. I thought that you meant by comment  
8 that you wanted to read a formal comment. I don't want to  
9 imply to anybody that this is only restricted to questions  
10 here. If you have a comment on something related to a  
11 question or otherwise, please provide it.

12 One last thing before you sit down, can the NRC  
13 staff tell where this information on monitoring is  
14 available?

15 MS. CARPENTER: It should be available in the  
16 public library room. This is part of the radiological  
17 effluent monitoring program.

18 MR. GRIMES: These public documents are available  
19 in Washington. Some of these things are not accessible on  
20 the WEB site. The WEB site contents are expanding, and you  
21 can also request it in writing to the Public Document  
22 Center.

23 MS. SHEPPARD: Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Do we have other questions or  
25 comments at this point?

1           Give us your full name and affiliation.

2           MS. KILPATRICK: My name is Rita Kilpatrick. I  
3 work for Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia.

4           I have two questions. One has to do with an  
5 explanation that we would need as to why the issue of energy  
6 needs would be separated out and considered not an  
7 environmental concern, given that the choice of technology  
8 has a very direct, significant impact on the local immediate  
9 and regional area?

10          MR. CAMERON: Who would like to address the policy  
11 basis behind that? Chris?

12          MR. GRIMES: I'll take a shot at it because the  
13 policy is actually established more at the legislative level  
14 rather than the NRC level, but as I understand it,  
15 underlying our decision that whatever concerned nuclear  
16 power was an appropriate topic when we were siting nuclear  
17 power plants because then there was a choice about making  
18 the investment. When we went through the generic  
19 environmental impact statements that led to 1996 revision of  
20 Part 51, there was a policy decision that said that the  
21 plant is now there and it is a viable energy source, but the  
22 choice, as I mentioned in opening remarks, was pointed at  
23 whether or not it was reasonable for an economic decision  
24 regarding continued operation of the plant.

25          So there was a conscious decision made when Part

1 51 was amended that said we weren't going to consider  
2 nuclear power as an environmental impact on a decision to  
3 continue plant operation.

4 MS. RAY: A brief comment about that, that in the  
5 filing that the licensee made with the NRC there was  
6 addressing of this issue, and we'd like to be able to  
7 respond to it from an environmental point of view if the  
8 Company laid it out in that regard. So that's what we will  
9 be looking at economically.

10 MR. GRIMES: You certainly are free to comment on  
11 that, but I want to point out that in the way that the  
12 regulation is structured that is not one of the things that  
13 NRC is going to consider as a determining factor in its  
14 environmental impact statement.

15 MS. KILPATRICK: And a second question, I  
16 understand that the Southern Company has requested a waiver  
17 of the license fee, and I'd like to know what the status of  
18 that is and how that would impact your ability to regulate.

19 MR. CAMERON: Who's going to try to address that  
20 particular issue for us? And not only the waiver but the tie  
21 into the license renewal process.

22 MR. GRIMES: Actually, I'm not aware of a fee  
23 waiver that Hatch requested unless it was related to a  
24 generic property report. Mr. Pierce, can you comment on fee  
25 waivers that Southern Company has requested?

1           MR. CAMERON: And give us your name.

2           MR. PIERCE: Chuck Pierce, Southern Nuclear. If  
3 you remember, we requested fee waivers about two years on  
4 the application, and y'all responded to that. I don't  
5 remember the exact date.

6           MR. GRIMES: I had forgotten. All of the potential  
7 license renewal applicants that thought they were going to  
8 be like the first time in a class requested fee waivers  
9 because they felt like they were being prototypes and they  
10 might be exposed to more review fees than typical for later  
11 applications. We granted fee waivers for the first two  
12 applicants, Calvert Cliffs in Maryland and the one in South  
13 Carolina. The subsequent requests that we got from Hatch and  
14 Turkey Point we denied. We said that we felt that our review  
15 process was sufficiently stable and predictable that there  
16 was no need for a fee waiver.

17           In any event, they did not have any effect on our  
18 review for the first two applicants except it spread some of  
19 the cost of our time onto the industry as a whole rather  
20 than onto the specific utility's fees. We find typically  
21 that the fees that they incur for ongoing licensing  
22 activities wash out the fees that they pay for license  
23 renewal, and it's not really going to affect how we do our  
24 jobs.

25           MR. CAMERON: Rita, you ask that as a question,

1 but even after hearing this explanation, do you still want  
2 this to be registered as a comment that the staff should  
3 look at. MS. KILPATRICK: I'll dispense with the comment.

4 MR. CAMERON: All right. Thank you. Other  
5 questions or comments at this particular point?

6 Okay. Well, thank you. We are going to go on to  
7 that portion of the agenda where we ask people who want to  
8 make a formal statement to come up and do that.

9 We're going to start off with representatives from  
10 the Southern Company -- Lewis Sumner and Byron Feimster are  
11 going to say a few words. I would ask Lewis to come up.

12 MR. SUMNER: Good afternoon. My name is Lewis  
13 Sumner, and I am a vice president of the Hatch project.

14 I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you for a  
15 few minutes and also my neighbors in Toombs and Appling and  
16 surrounding counties who are here today to overview this  
17 town meeting.

18 Just a little about myself. I went to work at  
19 Plant Hatch in 1975 right after I graduated from Georgia  
20 Tech as a nuclear engineer, and I began my nuclear career a  
21 quarter of a century ago as a junior engineer. I worked at a  
22 number of different positions here until being named General  
23 Manager in 1990, and then I held that position until named  
24 Vice President in 1997.

25 I raised my family here in this community for a

1 long period of time, and I have still in the community  
2 people I consider to be my lifelong friends. I have watched  
3 their children from being born as infants to now being  
4 members of the local community. So I have a personal  
5 interest in the success of this community and for the health  
6 and well-being of the community here also.

7 I am a strong advocate of this renewal process and  
8 approval of the application. I have worked in this power  
9 industry for a quarter of a century, so I have had an  
10 opportunity to look at all different forms of power  
11 generation and power delivery. I believe that this renewal  
12 for the Hatch licenses is the best long-term solution for  
13 energy needs, not only here in the local community but  
14 throughout the State and country.

15 We are going to share with you an overview of the  
16 environmental report for our license renewal, and this is a  
17 very important part of the whole application process, the  
18 renewal process. Byron Feimster, who works for us at Plant  
19 Hatch, is our environmental specialist, and he works every  
20 day to make sure that we're doing everything that we can do  
21 to preserve and protect the environment around the plant.  
22 Byron is going to give you the details here in a few  
23 minutes.

24 I want to cover just some general information  
25 about Plant Hatch and license renewal, our application, and

1 then I'll turn it over to Byron to cover the summary of the  
2 environmental report itself.

3           Plant Hatch is a two-unit boiling water reactor  
4 located just across the Altamaha River in Appling County. At  
5 full power each unit generates over 920 megawatts of  
6 electricity. Over the years, Plant Hatch has demonstrated  
7 high levels of safety and reliability and serves as an  
8 economical source of electric generation for the people of  
9 Georgia.

10           Even if you add the cost of construction, future  
11 cost of operation and maintenance and license renewal costs,  
12 Plant Hatch is projected to be a cost-effective supplier of  
13 electricity for many years to come.

14           After a thorough evaluation of the technical and  
15 environmental aspects of Plant Hatch, the Atomic Energy  
16 Commission, which was the predecessor of the Nuclear  
17 Regulatory Commission, issued us a 40-year license to  
18 operate Unit 1 in 1974 and Unit 2 in 1978. In addition, the  
19 Atomic Energy Act of 1954 granted nuclear utilities the  
20 opportunity for license renewal at some point later in the  
21 life of all nuclear plants. For the past 26 years our  
22 employees have worked hard to sustain the continued  
23 operation of both Hatch units well beyond their initial 40  
24 years of operation through their dedication to the highest  
25 maintenance and safety standards.

1           Their extraordinary commitment has made Plant  
2 Hatch one of the most reliable and efficient nuclear plants  
3 in the industry. Plant Hatch and its employees have worked  
4 hard to be good neighbors to people in this area. They are  
5 your family members, your friends, your neighbors. When you  
6 talk about Plant Hatch, you are talking about the people.

7           If you look around Vidalia and Baxley and all of  
8 these areas, you will see that Plant Hatch employees are  
9 taking the lead in making their communities better places to  
10 live. Our employees give generously of their time and their  
11 resources to support the United Way, the Santa's Bag Project  
12 and countless other worthwhile efforts. For United Way  
13 alone, Plant Hatch has donated approximately a quarter of a  
14 million dollars over the past three years.

15           Plant Hatch is also an important part of the local  
16 economy. It has an annual payroll of over \$50 million, and  
17 also during the past decade, Plant Hatch has paid more than  
18 \$50 million in local and State taxes.

19           Plant Hatch is a valuable asset. It has improved  
20 with time and is operating more reliably and efficiently  
21 today than at any time in its history. With this trend of  
22 continued improvement, it makes sense to pursue license  
23 renewal.

24           License renewal is somewhat new to the industry,  
25 and Calvert Cliffs is the only plant that has completed the

1 entire approval process. We believe the process is sound,  
2 and we are committed to fully complying with all the  
3 requirements of the licensing process for technical and  
4 safety reviews, environmental reviews, and opportunities for  
5 public comment. We submitted our license renewal application  
6 on February 29th. It includes more than 1,000 pages of  
7 information supporting our application for license renewal.  
8 And as you hear earlier, our license renewal is the first  
9 license renewal application for a boiling water reactor and  
10 is the first application to be submitted electronically. The  
11 entire application, all thousand pages, is here on the CD. I  
12 wouldn't try to play it if I were you, but if you open it up  
13 on the computer, you can see our application.

14           Preparation in support has been a major  
15 undertaking for our company. We have utilized expertise  
16 throughout our company, reactor vendors, industry groups,  
17 and other companies to help us prepare our application.  
18 Thousands of hours of work have gone into generating the  
19 information that is in this application, and in your opinion  
20 it verifies that Plant Hatch is a safe and reliable plant  
21 for the future.

22           At this point in time I'm going to turn the  
23 program over to Byron for a description of environmental  
24 aspects of the report. Byron.

25           MR. FEIMSTER: Thank you, Lewis.

1           Good afternoon.

2           As Lewis said, I am Byron Feimster and I am the  
3 environmental specialist at Plant Hatch. I'm proud of our  
4 work that we do at Plant Hatch to preserve and protect the  
5 environment. There are wide applications of land  
6 management. In the past five years we have planted over  
7 10,000 assorted hardwoods and over 10,000 assorted pines,  
8 loblolly and slash.

9           We also work as a public steward so that we can  
10 provide our children a greater appreciation for the  
11 environment. It's my pleasure to be here today to share this  
12 information with you.

13           First I would like to introduce some of the team  
14 members who worked on the environmental report. Jim Davis  
15 helped lead the effort to prepare the environmental report  
16 to the NRC. Tom Moorer with Southern Nuclear Company  
17 Environmental Services helped with the environmental review  
18 and with input on the report. And Chuck Pierce, the license  
19 renewal manager, was directed to handle the license renewal  
20 efforts from the beginning.

21           In addition, there were many other Georgia Power  
22 and Southern Nuclear personnel, as well as many consultants,  
23 who helped in completing this important project.

24           Before actual construction on Plant Hatch began,  
25 we established an environmental program. The purpose of that

1 program was to monitor, maintain, and safeguard the  
2 environment around Plant Hatch's generating facilities. This  
3 was the foundation for the environmental program at Plant  
4 Hatch.

5           As part of our environmental review to support the  
6 license renewal application, we reviewed the NRC's generic  
7 environmental impact statement. We have also consulted with  
8 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Georgia  
9 Department of Natural Resources, the State Historic  
10 Preservation Office, and the National Marine and Fisheries  
11 Service to ensure that we have considered all the relevant  
12 issues to our continued operation.

13           Our environmental report includes twelve major  
14 environmental areas. This areas are grouped in five  
15 categories -- water, plants and animals, air quality, land,  
16 and people.

17           Starting with water, our study included a review  
18 of water quality, water flow and the intake and discharge  
19 structures, water use, and aquatic life in the Altamaha  
20 River. The evaluation of historic data indicates no change  
21 to water resources. There is no planned change in our  
22 operations as a result of license renewal. Therefore, we  
23 will continue to maintain the same water quality. The review  
24 shows Plant Hatch is a good steward of this vital resource  
25 and has no significant impact on the Altamaha River.

1           Our second category is plants and animals. We  
2 consulted with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
3 and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources regarding  
4 threatened or endangered species inhabiting the Plant Hatch  
5 property. A detailed field survey was performed on the plant  
6 property and transmission line corridor to identify any  
7 threatened or endangered species and potential habitats. As  
8 a result of this survey and historical review, Southern  
9 Nuclear developed a list of State and Federally listed  
10 species that are known to occur on the site and transmission  
11 line corridors bordering on the Altamaha River. License  
12 renewal will not result in any modifications of plant or  
13 transmission lines. Extended operation due to license  
14 renewal will add no adverse impact to threatened or  
15 endangered species at or near Plant Hatch.

16           The third category is air quality. One of the  
17 greatest things about this part of Georgia is the high  
18 quality of air. For the past 26 years of operation, Plant  
19 Hatch has not adversely affected the air quality. In fact,  
20 each year the operation of Plant Hatch prevents 11 million  
21 metric tons of carbon dioxide and other pollutants from  
22 going into the air you breathe. That positive impact in air  
23 quality will continue during the extended operating period.

24           As our fourth category, we looked at how our  
25 continued operation would affect the land around the plant.

1 We consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office to  
2 identify new information regarding sites of archeological,  
3 historical, or architectural significance in the Plant Hatch  
4 site. There are no historical or archeological sites  
5 identified on the plant site. License renewal will not  
6 require additional land usage, and our activities will  
7 remain in the existing site boundaries.

8           Based on these evaluations, we have determined  
9 that the renewal of the Plant Hatch licenses will not impact  
10 historic, archeological or land resources in the community.

11           Finally the most important detail, the people that  
12 live in the community surrounding the plant. Plant Hatch has  
13 established a national reputation as a well-run facility. We  
14 are committed to protecting the health and the safety of the  
15 public and our employees. This commitment will continue as  
16 long as Southern Company is part of the community. The men  
17 and women who work at Plant Hatch live in Toombs, Appling,  
18 and the surrounding counties. I've lived in Vidalia 19  
19 years. My wife is a schoolteacher at Sally Meadows  
20 Elementary School. We are raising three sons right now, ages  
21 five, seven, and twelve. We love living in this area. This  
22 is our home. That's why I have a personal and professional  
23 interest in preserving and protecting the environment. I  
24 share this with my co-workers at Plant Hatch. We are  
25 committed to preserving and protecting the environment at

1 Plant Hatch - - yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

2 As an example, copies of the certification of  
3 Plant Hatch as a wildlife habitat area are available in the  
4 lobby, and we'd like everybody to stop by. Thank you for  
5 this opportunity, and I turn this back over to Lewis.

6 MR. SUMNER: Thank you, Byron.

7 I glean from Byron's comments that he has put a  
8 lot of effort into evaluating impact on the environment, and  
9 we come to the conclusion that license renewal will have an  
10 essentially benign effect on the environment. Decisions  
11 about the future sources of generation we don't take very  
12 lightly. Georgia Power and Southern Nuclear and most  
13 electric utilities consider every reasonable alternative for  
14 making decisions such as this that was made. License renewal  
15 for Plant Hatch makes the most sense for our environment,  
16 for our customers, and for us.

17 I want to thank you again for attending this  
18 meeting and allowing us the opportunity to get this  
19 information to you. I'd like to express my personal  
20 gratitude to our neighbors for the support that you continue  
21 to provide us at Plant Hatch over the 26 years of operation.  
22 I'm looking forward to continuing this relationship for many  
23 years. Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for the closing remarks.  
25 We'll go to Kathy Mehan of the Southeastern Technical

1 Institute.

2 MS. MEHAN: My name is Kathy Mehan. I'm the  
3 President of Southeastern Technical Institute here in  
4 Vidalia, Georgia. I was born in Vidalia, raised in Vidalia.  
5 I continue to live here in Vidalia, and I'm raising two sons  
6 here in Vidalia.

7 I'd like to make a brief statement in support of  
8 the proposal for the extension of Plant Hatch's operating  
9 license. There are three points that I'd like to address in  
10 my statement.

11 The economic impact of Plant Hatch on the  
12 community, the emphasis on safety, and the performance  
13 record of Plant Hatch and the corporate citizenship of Plant  
14 Hatch. This community and surrounding communities have  
15 greatly benefited from the resources associated with Plant  
16 Hatch's location in our area. The jobs created in this area  
17 through Plant Hatch have had a huge economic impact on this  
18 community, which in turn has had a very positive impact on  
19 the quality of life for this community.

20 Plant Hatch is also a very efficient plant. In  
21 terms of performance it ranks among the best in the world.  
22 Its gross capacity factor in 1999 was among the top 50  
23 nuclear units in the world. By maintaining high capacity  
24 factors, the plant reduces the cost of electricity, which  
25 benefits all of us.

1           Because Plant Hatch has an outstanding performance  
2 record, the decision to continue operation is a good  
3 decision. In January 1999 Plant Hatch was given the  
4 Institute of Nuclear Power Operations Award of Excellence.  
5 The NRC also has given the plant its highest assessment  
6 ranking.

7           I have visited the plant on several occasions and  
8 was impressed with the emphasis on security and safety.  
9 Plant Hatch has contracted with Southeastern Tech for safety  
10 training in such areas as CPR, rescue procedures, and first  
11 responder training. These are but a few of the various  
12 security and safety training measures that take place at  
13 Plant Hatch on a continuous basis.

14           Plant Hatch is committed to meeting or surpassing  
15 our environmental laws and regulations and is constantly  
16 looking for new and better ways to enhance the quality of  
17 the environment.

18           Plant Hatch is a good neighbor, a great corporate  
19 citizen, and supports a wide range of community projects.  
20 Last year I chaired the United Way campaign for Toombs,  
21 Montgomery, and Wheeler Counties. Plant Hatch was the  
22 largest single contributor to the campaign.

23           The bottom line is Plant Hatch creates safe,  
24 emissions-free energy, while providing jobs, preserving the  
25 environment, and helping develop community projects. I want

1 to go on record as a supporter of the proposed 20- year  
2 extension of Plant Hatch's operating license. Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very much,  
4 Kathy. (The following are prepared remarks in a letter  
5 dated May 3, 2000, submitted by Dane Bruce, Director,  
6 Appling County Emergency Management Agency.)

7 Ladies and gentlemen, this letter is in regards to  
8 the Southern Nuclear Operating Company filing an application  
9 with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requesting that the  
10 operating terms for the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Power  
11 facility Units 1 and 2 located in Appling County be extended  
12 for an additional twenty years. I am writing this letter in  
13 support of this request, and to inform the Commission that  
14 granting this extension would be looked upon very favorably  
15 by my office and this community.

16 The Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Power Facility has been  
17 an integral part of the economy of Appling County and the  
18 surrounding area since its construction in the early  
19 seventies. It has provided jobs for many of our citizens and  
20 is an important component in the economic growth this region  
21 has experienced in recent years.

22 The nuclear facility has ben a very good neighbor  
23 ever since construction began. They have been involved in  
24 all different community efforts. For your information, I  
25 have been in Emergency Management in Appling County for 17

1 years. Nine of those years I have been the Emergency  
2 Management Director. My responsibility is to coordinate and  
3 respond to the emergency needs of our citizens in time of  
4 emergencies and/or disasters. As pertaining to the Nuclear  
5 Facility, I am very confident through planning, training and  
6 the coordination of local, federal, state and the utilities  
7 we can respond effectively to a situation at the Nuclear  
8 Facility, and assure the health, safety and welfare of the  
9 citizens as being our number 1 priority. Over the years, I  
10 feel that we have been kept constantly informed of the plant  
11 status and activities, and with the trust and coordination  
12 we have with the utility, I am very much in favor of the  
13 license extension.

14 Thanking you in advance for your consideration as  
15 you begin the review process for this application.

16 MR. CAMERON: We're going to go next to Pamela  
17 Blockey-O'Brien, and you may sit at the --

18 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: It's okay. I can stand.  
19 Thank you very much.

20 I believe there are some people here from Southern  
21 Nuclear Company.

22 MR. CAMERON: Yes. There are several people here  
23 from Southern Nuclear, including the two gentlemen, I  
24 believe, who just spoke.

25 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: This is an award that I

1 would like to present to them. It's in recognition of the  
2 Southern Company's Southern Nuclear Operating Company --  
3 Southern Nuclear Company and Georgia Power's role in helping  
4 destroy the environment on which all life depends by  
5 contaminating Georgia's air, water, sediment, fish, people,  
6 et cetera with radiation. With this radioactive toilet seat  
7 award. On the inside it says, "Stop using our air and water  
8 as your radioactive toilet."

9 I am sorry I didn't have time to wrap better than  
10 this because I finished making it for you all at five  
11 o'clock this morning.

12 MR. CAMERON: I think wrapping would have been  
13 sort of extraneous. Okay. Are we all set, Pamela?

14 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: Yes. This is the license  
15 renewal application. This is the license renewal  
16 application. I just wonder how many people in this room have  
17 actually read it, the whole thing?

18 [Show of hands.]

19 This is a formal introduction. This is a formal  
20 thing here. I'm representing a hundred thousand people  
21 across the country and around the world. Statement and  
22 testimony of Pamela Blockey-O'Brien on behalf of the  
23 FOR/IFOR (National and International Fellowship of  
24 Reconciliation) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
25 against the request of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, a

1 subsidiary of The Southern Company, on behalf of itself and  
2 co-owner licensees, namely: Georgia Power Company,  
3 Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority  
4 of Georgia, and the City of Dalton, for a license renewal  
5 under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 as amended for renewed  
6 operating licenses for nuclear power plants Edwin I. Hatch  
7 Units 1 and 2, Dockets Number 5-321 and 50-566, located on  
8 the banks of the Altamaha River, in Appling County, Georgia,  
9 with the application for license renewal dated February  
10 2000. The application is 1,200 pages according to the NRC. I  
11 didn't count them. The pages are divided in sections and  
12 numbered according to section.

13           After some difficulty, to say the least, I  
14 received a copy last week. Since then every waking moment  
15 (and in my nightmares) I have been going over this  
16 application, an application, by the way, that reminds one of  
17 a crooked used car salesman trying to sell a junk vehicle  
18 without disclosing too much about the bombs on board, the  
19 ingredients in the bombs, that some of the ingredients are  
20 released to the environment as the vehicle travels, and that  
21 the engine block is more or less held together with baling  
22 wire and spit balls.

23           It saddens me -- and it really and truly does --  
24 to have to come to a community held hostage by the fact that  
25 around 70 percent of its tax base comes from a radioactive

1 hulk which threatens their existence by its mere presence,  
2 with a high level radioactive waste dump inside it and  
3 another one being created outside it, the contents of which  
4 will be radioactive essentially for eternity.

5           When the Georgia Power Company teamed up with the  
6 Georgia Institute of Technology and the forerunner of the  
7 Nuclear Regulatory Commission and forerunner of the  
8 Department of Energy, namely teamed up with the Atomic  
9 Energy Commission and brought a research reactor to Georgia  
10 Tech on which to train reactor operators so the South could  
11 be nuclearized with power plants, you can bet your stock  
12 options that few of them were told the ultimate  
13 consequences, just like today. So let us examine the truth.  
14 Just as in a nuclear bomb, inside a nuclear power reactor  
15 such as Hatch, the atom is split, or fissioned, releasing  
16 incredible energy, but inside a reactor, with luck, the  
17 nuclear reaction is controlled and can be stopped. Water is  
18 hauled out of the Altamaha River, forced between the  
19 hundreds and hundreds of fuel rods containing enriched  
20 uranium, the rods grouped in bundles called assemblies. As  
21 the atom is split, the water is simultaneously cooling the  
22 rods so that they don't melt down and generating steam to  
23 power turbines for generators for electricity. In the  
24 process, more than 80 different possible radioactive split  
25 products, called fission products, are formed, capable or

1 releasing ionizing radiation, x-rays, alpha and beta  
2 particles, gamma rays or neutrons. For example, xenon-137 is  
3 created, which gives off negative beta radium which becomes  
4 cesium-137, which gives off gamma radiation. Activation  
5 products are also created.

6           The violence of the nuclear chain reaction causes  
7 existing chemicals in air, water, nearby materials, etc., to  
8 absorb energy, change structure, and become radioactive.  
9 Approximately 300 different radioactive chemicals created  
10 must then go through many half-lives as they decay back to  
11 their natural stable state, all the while emitting  
12 radiation. Radioactive particles created decay into other  
13 radioactive so-called daughter products. During the process,  
14 plutonium is also created in the fuel rods, along with other  
15 radioactive goodies like cobalt-60, cesium-137, and  
16 strontium-90.

17           When there are insufficient atoms left inside the  
18 uranium in the fuel to split to maintain a steady power  
19 state, the rods are said to be used or called spent fuel.  
20 The rods in their assemblies are now the most radioactive  
21 thing on the face of the earth, more or less, besides an  
22 atomic bomb explosion. They are removed from the reactor  
23 core under water for shielding against the incredible  
24 radioactive decay heat coming off them and stuck in a pool  
25 of water, which is an inside radioactive dump, to sit there

1 forever and forever until someone, somewhere, goes one  
2 better than the Creator and changes the laws of physics,  
3 energy, matter, etc., and can render nuclear waste safe.

4           According to information provided to me, as of  
5 last November, Hatch had approximately 302,808 radioactive  
6 rods in the pool and 69,440 in the combined cores of Hatch 1  
7 and 2. The Brookhaven Study done for NRC in 1997 regarding  
8 radioactive spent fuel in a pool estimated a worst-case  
9 scenario -- if there were an accident in that pool, the  
10 worst-case scenario, full pool as a boiled water reactor, of  
11 138,000 dead after one year in a 500-mile radius, and 2,170  
12 square miles of contaminated land in the event of a major  
13 accident. The pool is located between roughly, as far as I  
14 can figure from the drawings, the fourth and fifth floor  
15 level. It is patched because they already dropped a bolt  
16 weighing hundreds of pounds into it, ruptured the liner, and  
17 contaminated the hell out of the place, and have had leaking  
18 fuel in reports. They have leaking fuel in their reports.  
19 Yet Southern does not seem to mention this or discuss it  
20 under severe accident mitigation alternatives or under aging  
21 effects regarding the pool, except to discuss water  
22 chemistry, when it is known that radiation degrades the  
23 cement, the steel, the alloys, et cetera, et cetera, and  
24 causes all types of corrosion, irradiation embrittlement,  
25 pitting, and a host of problems they even admit to in the

1 application, for everything at the plants from the reactor  
2 to the fuel pool, and everything involved from the whole  
3 ground up. The CRAC-2 Report to Congress -- this is 1982 --  
4 back in the early 1980'[s concerning a core melt -- this is  
5 specific to Hatch -- and releases would cause hundreds of  
6 dead per unit, 700 dead a unit, thousands of injuries and up  
7 to \$56 billion in damages, causing radiation injury over a  
8 70-mile radius. It would be the death of middle and south  
9 Georgia.

10           Due to high ground water, the core melt would hit  
11 the Altamaha faster than Southern's executives could leave  
12 the State. If it happened at a time when the Altamaha's flow  
13 was high, as in 1993/94/95, when in some months it ranged  
14 between 45,000 cubic feet a second to around 70,000 cubic  
15 feet a second at the Doctortown gauge south of the plant by  
16 some miles -- this is according to the United States  
17 Geological Survey -- or the December 1948 flood in the  
18 applicant's own documents of 130,000 cubic feet a second  
19 north of the site, it wouldn't take too long for the core  
20 melt to reach Georgia's prime fishing and tourism area, the  
21 Golden Isles and the Atlantic. Yet Southern has the absolute  
22 gall to state that the off-site economic cost would be  
23 \$99,659, and the off-site exposure cost \$72,565 and also  
24 that, quote: As the environmental impacts of potential  
25 severe accidents are of small significance and because

1 additional measures to reduce such impacts would not be  
2 justified from a public risk perspective."

3 Southern Nuclear Company concludes that no  
4 additional severe accident mitigation alternative measures  
5 beyond those already implemented during the current license  
6 term are warranted for Hatch Nuclear Power Plant.

7 Southern modeled all releases except one only at  
8 the ground level. Buoyant plume rise was not modeled. They  
9 used one year's worth of site meteorology. instead of  
10 30-year wind rose off-site, on-site meteorology since  
11 startup, precipitation and temperature from Georgia records  
12 going back a minimum of 100 years, because this information  
13 is vital under accident conditions as NRC is well aware, and  
14 needed for daily use. But, hey, Georgia Power's annual  
15 report on plant radioactive effluent releases for 1996, a  
16 report that must be submitted because all nuclear power  
17 plants constantly release radioactive contaminants to the  
18 environment in order to operate, with subsequent uptake to  
19 crops, water, fish, sediment, children, and people in  
20 general for miles -- which I'll get to later on -- Georgia  
21 Power told the NRC in writing that they were not submitting  
22 it. They had it on file and would supply it on NRC request.

23 Hatch is a General Electric Mark I; it's a lemon.  
24 In 1975 General Electric's so-called Reed Report detailed  
25 major safety and economic problems with their reactors. Even

1 earlier when the NRC was still called the Atomic Energy  
2 Commission, NRC's own staff, top staff, wanted to ban  
3 reactors of the Hatch type because they have no proper  
4 containment dome at all. Do you see a dome over it? Do you  
5 see a dome rising up over the Georgia landscape? No, you  
6 don't. And their pressure suppression system using a Torus  
7 and a piddling containment chamber could lead to disaster,  
8 and as late as 1987 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
9 confirms that this pathetic system was virtually certain to  
10 fail in a major accident.

11 Hatch has known dry well leakage, and, NRC, you  
12 better read all the PCO's and licensee event reports on the  
13 Torus since startup, all about the leaking valves, Torus  
14 water temperatures reaching 97 degrees, caused, the docket  
15 says, by continuous hot water weather increasing the  
16 temperature around the reactor building, faulty wiring, and  
17 a crack in the vent header and the like. To top it off, the  
18 reactor for Unit 1 has a cracked core shroud held together  
19 by metal braces which could fail due to embrittlement  
20 ultimately and vibration.

21 But I want to get to the really serious  
22 environmental issues concerning radioactive contamination of  
23 the environment around Hatch and the contaminated sediment  
24 in the Altamaha down to the coast at Darien, thanks to this  
25 dump. Because water carries sediment down the stream. As NRC

1 knows, a curie is a measurement of radiation standardized to  
2 radium. One curie gives off gives off 37 billion macroscopic  
3 nuclear explosions a second, euphemistically called  
4 disintegrations or transformations. For comparison,  
5 radioactive contamination in the environment is measured  
6 sometimes in microcuries but usually as picocurie levels. It  
7 is also measured in millirems.

8           The State of Georgia maintained until very  
9 recently in their environmental radiation surveillance  
10 reports that average so-called background radiation in  
11 Georgia was 40-42 millirem a year. We all know that fallout  
12 from past nuclear tests now contributes only one millirem a  
13 year, though the DOE and NRC and now the State by the look  
14 of it have been increasing it for years to suit their  
15 purposes, saying it's background when most of comes from the  
16 nuclear fuel cycle and related activities such as emissions  
17 from nuclear facilities. The allowable release levels were  
18 set historically in order to allow quote -- this is a quote  
19 now -- "reasonable latitude for the expansion of atomic  
20 energy programs in the foreseeable future." The purpose of  
21 NRC regulations is only to make sure the standards for  
22 protection NRC came up with in their Part 20 regulations are  
23 not exceeded, as the regulations says. NRC and the DOE set  
24 the standard to operate. Industry must not go above those  
25 standards. IT has nothing to do with health or environmental

1 protection or worker protection, because -- you may not  
2 believe this -- but neither the NRC nor DOE gives a fig  
3 about the workers.

4           Because radiation can't be seen, smelled, et  
5 cetera, tortured mathematical formulas were invented to try  
6 and figure out the cell-damaging effects, which are  
7 immediate and essentially irreversible, according to the  
8 best medical specialists in the world specializing in  
9 radiation, and I do not mean the appalling ICRP who set  
10 permissible genetic does to your sperm and ovum. According  
11 to the government's own documents, radiation damages the  
12 genetic material in your reproductive cells and results in  
13 mutations transmitted from generation to generation. There  
14 is no safe dose below which there is no damage. This has not  
15 been conclusively proven for the umpteenth time.

16           In the environment the effects are cumulative. It  
17 bioaccumulates up the food chain. Emissions from reactors  
18 such as Hatch are poured out the stacks as noble gases, seep  
19 out of myriad minute openings in the system, and are dumped  
20 back to water. For this reason measurements are taken. Yet  
21 the true effects measurable in blood tests to the population  
22 and the animals and the assessment of individual mutations  
23 and chromosomal aberration is not done, and it should be,  
24 because that is the only way to actually determine the  
25 extent of the damage and how many generations it's going to

1 go and what has happened to your children.

2 For Southern to be saying that there are no water  
3 quality issues in the vicinity of Hatch with the river, that  
4 the quality of the ground water in the vicinity of Hatch is  
5 good, is disgusting but predictable. Among other things,  
6 they contaminated the ground water at Hatch beginning in  
7 1979. They contaminated the aquifer to be precise. Then in  
8 1982, 150,000 gallons of river water flooded the turbine and  
9 radioactive waste buildings, which will have also seeped  
10 into ground water, which discharges ultimately to the  
11 Altamaha, or could also seep into the other aquifers.

12 In 1986 there was a spent fuel pool accident where  
13 141,500 gallons of water, highly contaminated with  
14 cobalt-60, zinc-65, manganese-54, cesium-134, cesium-137,  
15 and tritium.

16 MR. CAMERON: Pamela, I'm going to have to ask you  
17 to wrap up now so that we can get on with other people and  
18 we can see if we can come back at some time. Your statement  
19 completely will go the record, but --

20 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: I'm sorry, Chip, but I  
21 didn't come here representing this many people, this far. I  
22 haven't even got to some of the additional -- this all ties  
23 in, and you are all here to listen to this.

24 MR. CAMERON: You've been talking for about twenty  
25 minutes already, and I don't like to set time limits on

1 anybody, but I think that twenty minutes is about the  
2 maximum that we could do at this point, and I'm sorry. I'm  
3 just going to have to ask you to submit that to the record.

4 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: The Company got what? Two  
5 years and a thousand-odd pages, and you're giving me twenty  
6 minutes.

7 MR. CAMERON: I'm just talking about how many  
8 minutes someone gets to present here. The Company got twenty  
9 minutes, so I gave you twenty minutes. We have to get to the  
10 rest of the people here, so I would ask you to take like  
11 three minutes and summarize for us, and then we'll go to the  
12 rest of the people who wanted to speak, and then, if there's  
13 time, we will come back to you.

14 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: Well, I'm sure that there  
15 won't be time, and what I will do is I will continue on for  
16 three minutes, and then I will continue it outside, and  
17 anybody who is interested in what really is going on can  
18 also come outside and listen to it because you need to know  
19 that the controlling radioactive receptor from all their  
20 releases is a child in the northwest quadrant.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Pamela. Go ahead.

22 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: For what? Three more  
23 minutes?

24 MR. CAMERON: Why don't you go for three more  
25 minutes and try to give us your main points?

1 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: There are too many main  
2 points.

3 MR. CAMERON: I can see that.

4 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: This always happens at these  
5 hearings, always. You know it. I know. It's always the case.  
6 This is vital information that people need to have.

7 MR. CAMERON: Pamela, we'll be glad to make your  
8 statement available to whoever wants it, so that they can  
9 take the time that they need to read it.

10 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: The entire discharge permit  
11 -- the whole thing is a joke. The State needed to know it  
12 was radioactive.

13 In any case, all right. I have two and a half  
14 minutes now. Let me see how far and have gone.

15 Anybody want me to go into the massive  
16 contamination of the river and the fish?

17 These results are available. Back in 1979, Cs- 137  
18 was still below 20 pci/kg in sediment. It has since hit 67  
19 pci/kg -- fish, a year after the '86 spill contained Cs-137  
20 up to 750 pci/kg. In 1999 river sediment in published  
21 reports still hit 380 pci/kg dry. The cobalt-60 in sediment  
22 in 1998 still hit 190 pci/kg four miles downstream, and the  
23 K-40 14,000 pci/kg. The beryllium-7, which Georgia Power  
24 admitted to me of course comes from the reactor, and it goes  
25 up and down like a yo- yo in vegetation -- 10,600 pci/kg in

1 '97, as does the cesium-137, for example, in '97 when it hit  
2 473 pci/kg, vegetation ten miles south of the plant.

3           The State calls it background, but then, as I  
4 explained to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board judges  
5 how the State operates back in '96, that's no huge surprise  
6 either. You need to impound and read every test ever done at  
7 the Georgia Tech Lab for the State and the State files and  
8 utilities records since startup, not to mention every  
9 inspection report the NRC wrote since startup, violation and  
10 so-called non-cited violation, for starters to begin to get  
11 the picture, bearing in mind that the Hatch off-site dose  
12 calculation manual and final safety analysis report were  
13 written in the Stone Age and are outrageous.

14           For example, it says the gaseous radioactive  
15 releases at and beyond the site boundary can go to 500  
16 millirems a year to the body and 3,000 millirems a year to  
17 the skin for noble gases, and they say they have no limits  
18 on the noble gases they can release, and that, for  
19 radioactive iodine-131 and 133 and tritium, which is  
20 radioactive hydrogen, can get in every cell in your body.  
21 And all radionuclides in particulate form with half-lives  
22 greater than 8 days up to 1,500 millirems to any organ. This  
23 is what is going on here.

24           They say under their off-site dose calculation  
25 methodology in their '96 report that the percentage of the

1 off-site dose calculation manual limits are not applicable  
2 because they have to curie limits for gaseous releases. They  
3 can release what they bloody well please. They don't need to  
4 tell you. They don't need to tell you a thing.

5           This is the outfit that uses what they term  
6 hypothetical children as their controlling receptor for the  
7 releases, actually in their own words "a child in the  
8 northwest quadrant." This is the outfit busy dosing the  
9 children and adults at the Roadside Park, the Camping Area,  
10 the Recreation Area, and the Visitors Center. This is the  
11 outfit dosing the Boy Scouts in that camping area according  
12 to their own manual.

13           I don't care how low a dose they maintain the kids  
14 are getting from the noble gases or particulates, if the  
15 strontium-90, being a calcium displacer lodges in the kids'  
16 bone and gives it bone cancer, both child and parent don't  
17 ask how little did it get. Strontium-90 decays to  
18 yttrium-90, which is known to concentrate in the hormone  
19 producing soft tissue organs such as the ovaries, testes,  
20 and pituitary gland, and, according to published reports by  
21 the radiation medicine community, is a powerful hormone-  
22 disrupting radioactive chemical, not just a powerful  
23 carcinogen.

24           MR. CAMERON: I think that probably the time is  
25 up, and I just want to make sure that --

1 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: Anybody here want to hear  
2 the rest of this.

3 MR. CAMERON: If they do, you're welcome to meet  
4 outside. Let me just say one thing so everybody understands  
5 it. All of Pamela's comments and her statement are going to  
6 be attached to this transcript that will be on record.

7 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: I understand that.

8 MR. CAMERON: We will be glad to give you a copy  
9 of the people who signed in for this meeting if you want to  
10 send them a copy of it, and I would just thank you for the  
11 comments and thank you for respecting the time limits that  
12 we have.

13 I would just say that if anybody else is going to  
14 talk, they cannot exceed -- we do not set a specific time  
15 limit, but we are running under a concept of reasonableness  
16 here, and 25 minutes is about as much as anybody could take,  
17 so I would thank you, Pamela, and then we're going to go on.

18 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: Do you call this reasonable?

19 MR. CAMERON: I'm only talking about making a  
20 presentation at a public meeting that has a set time limit.  
21 That's all I'm talking about in terms of reasonableness. And  
22 right now, I think that probably -- let's go to Duane  
23 Whitley, the Chairman of the Appling County Commission.

24 [The following unread text was submitted to the  
25 Court Reporter for inclusion in the record.]

1           Southern is permitted by Georgia to withdraw a  
2 monthly average of 72 millions gallons of water a day, with  
3 a maximum rate of 103.6 mdg. Georgia must have lost its mind  
4 to permit this. The annual average is 57.18 million gallons  
5 a day. They say consumptive losses approximate 46 percent.  
6 Translated into people-speak, that includes the evaporating  
7 radioactive steam et cetera, losses to the atmosphere, as  
8 they so cutely put it. They say the withdrawal to the  
9 alluvial aquifer recharge is small in impact. That the  
10 recharge is also provided by the minor confined aquifer of  
11 the Hawthorn Formation to which the alluvium is  
12 interconnected. First the Hawthorn is not minor. Hatch sits  
13 on top of it as well as the alluvium which is under and on  
14 both sides of the Altamaha, and the Hawthorn continues on  
15 the other side according to the DOE survey of the site, and  
16 as it is all interconnected and they contaminated the  
17 aquifer on site and so forth, the extent of the effects  
18 could be massive. Furthermore, a comparison of the DOE  
19 survey of soil sample data in the area from long ago, with  
20 what has been measured since regarding K-40 and cesium-137  
21 data -- even though the DOE lies and says cesium-137 is  
22 natural, when it's man-made, and the plant had been  
23 operating a short while and releasing radioactive crud --  
24 shows that the area has been contaminated. For example, most  
25 K-40 was zero, and the cesium-137 never went over 310 pCi/kg

1 in soil. K-40 was at 16000 pCi/kg in soil in '99 in one  
2 measurement and 6300 pCi/kg in an '88 measurement for  
3 comparison, and 3,500 pCi/kg in '84. Cs-137 in soil in '98  
4 in State data provided which may not be all data, knowing  
5 them) reached 240 pCi/kg, in '88 640 pCi/kg and in '84 920  
6 pCi/kg. NRC's attitude has been, "Oh, well, it's lower now."  
7 Site geology is actually extremely complex, and, as Hatch  
8 also withdraws 1.1 million gallons a day average from the  
9 Floridan aquifer also beneath the site, for, among other  
10 things process use such as demineralized water, which is of  
11 course using a huge amount of water when calculated over  
12 just one year. Georgia, Alabama, and Florida are currently  
13 engaged in what is termed water wars over their water needs,  
14 and those needs do not only cover river withdrawals, I don't  
15 think. Water issues are among the biggest issues  
16 environmentally worldwide and nationwide and are becoming  
17 critical, due to the type of pollution from facilities like  
18 Hatch, not only other pollution sources. Farmers also rely  
19 on this system. At least their needs should take precedence  
20 over the needs of the local polluter that could and should  
21 have utilized alternative energy years ago.

22           The applicants go into rhapsodies about the  
23 ecology of the site, including the wetlands that they  
24 contaminated with the spent fuel pool spill disaster. They  
25 neglect to mention that it has been documented for over 40

1 years that mammals and birds, waterfowl, et cetera, are  
2 contaminated via ingestion of contaminated seeds, berries,  
3 and other foods contaminated by nuclear emissions and direct  
4 radiation from the facilities and that contamination affects  
5 their reproduction health and is also accumulated in their  
6 bones. Migratory species carry the contamination with them.  
7 When they die, if ingested by something else, that also  
8 becomes contaminated and so it continues. The radioactive  
9 iodine from Hatch is measured in the milk in the Tattnall  
10 County dairy, as is the Cs-137 and tritium and strontiums  
11 due to uptake via the grass/cow/milk/child pathway. It used  
12 to be measured at Appling and Toombs dairies also, which it  
13 should be. Maybe it still is and I don't have the data.  
14 According to NRC and the State, both partly funded by the  
15 licensee, the nuclear industry, the attitude is all this is  
16 okay, within the levels, remember. A '94 milk sample of  
17 Hatch's showed 500 pci/L tritium. Although it has been  
18 established since decades that tritium at very low levels is  
19 particularly hazardous to the developing fetus, EPA set a  
20 helpful allowable level in water of 20,000 pci/l. Tritium  
21 irradiates as it passes through the body. Continued  
22 ingestion means continued irradiation and continued damage.

23           One thing is that I believe the Tattnall County  
24 dairy is the massive State Prison dairy, which brings me to  
25 another issue: Southern has figured out that everyone is

1 going to do the radiation stumble, namely that they are all  
2 going to evacuate in case of a severe accident -- you know,  
3 a melt-down and massive release to air, going at 2.5 meters  
4 -- about 7 feet a second -- in a radial distance. The  
5 evacuation zone is only ten miles under the law, but CRAC-2  
6 says the kill zone is 20 miles. First responders are of  
7 course the local fire department and little, cute Appling  
8 County emergency headquarters people. Anybody told them that  
9 if they try and go in under such circumstances they'll die?  
10 Is Southern/Georgia Power going to evacuate the workers,  
11 schoolchildren, shut-ins, prison guards and prisoners from  
12 the various area prisons, hospitals, nursery school children  
13 7 feet a second? That dump has had three serious events in  
14 the last year. The February event could have led to a  
15 melt-down. how many times can you get lucky?

16 I did not even bother to look at the General  
17 Electric data submitted. Why should they be trusted?

18 Regarding their NPDES discharge permit issued by  
19 the State of Georgia under the Clean Water Act to allow  
20 discharges to the Altamaha, and also the other water quality  
21 certification letter from 1972 by the State -- 1) According  
22 to the EPA definitions for NPDES discharges the NRC  
23 provided, they have absolutely no say-so whatsoever over the  
24 dumping of most radioactive contaminants, because the Atomic  
25 Energy Act of 1954 is involved. They do not cover so called

1 source, byproduct or special nuclear materials, nor radium  
2 or accelerator produced isotopes as examples. However, heat  
3 is covered.

4           2) They did not seem to explain in the documents  
5 that the radioactive decay heat is part of what causes the  
6 thermal plume. Did they tell the State water people they  
7 dump radioactive water, or that the sediment in the river  
8 contains man-mades? Did they tell National Marine Fisheries  
9 or State Fish and Wildlife about this or about the  
10 radioactive air emissions when they asked them by letter to  
11 evaluate endangered species and fish entrainment and  
12 similar? The answer is no; one cannot even find the word  
13 radioactive.

14           I called some of them. They had not been told.  
15 Now, the sturgeon is a bottom feeder. It is endangered.  
16 Ingesting a cobalt-60 particle with its damage to blood and  
17 the central nervous system alone is not a nice way for any  
18 living being to die. Nor is slow death from constant  
19 irradiation from cesium-137 in its muscles. The fish  
20 entrainment study dates back to 1980. Interestingly, it  
21 noted among the 22 species of fish an unknown egg and  
22 unknown larvae. What was it? Were there more? Talk about  
23 loss of biodiversity. Extinction is forever.

24           They speak of reforesting areas with the longleaf  
25 pine. We know that pines retain radioactive contaminants due

1 to uptake from radioactive air emissions and deposition  
2 falling in rain, just like other trees. I did not have time  
3 to look up how long the longleafs hold their needles, if you  
4 will. Obviously the longer the uptake from soil and water,  
5 et cetera, the more contaminated they'd become and when the  
6 needles drop, the litter would be that much more radioactive  
7 for all ground- dwelling species in contact with them, plus  
8 re-contaminate the ground at higher levels. Ever tested the  
9 gopher tortoises burrowing on the contaminated site If the  
10 turtles contaminated on and off site of the monstrous death  
11 of the earth (DOE) squad site on the Savannah River are any  
12 indicator, the gopher tortoises are probably also  
13 contaminated, though probably to a lesser extent.

14           With regard to transmission lines, the testimony  
15 of the eminent Dr. W. Ross Adey before Congress in 1987 on  
16 the issue of electromagnetic (as opposed to ionizing)  
17 radiation sent shivers down the spines of the collective  
18 power industry, partly because of his credentials. The  
19 effects on cell membranes and fetal development in animals  
20 for example was ghastly and included information on  
21 statistically significant increases in leukemia and lymphoma  
22 in studies of children exposed to power distribution  
23 systems, high voltage power lines and the like. These  
24 effects must be addressed. His testimony needs to be  
25 considered by NRC as he is one of the world's experts on

1 this issue. Southern has not considered it. Further studies  
2 since then agree.

3 I feel particularly sorry for the workers in the  
4 area whose jobs would be impacted. However, the NRC has  
5 repeatedly cited the facility over the years for its  
6 terrible personnel contamination record among other things,  
7 which is why NRC needs to read every inspection report ever  
8 done. NRC has taken little concrete action, except to repeat  
9 that they are concerned for the past decades. It should be  
10 remembered there are medical doctors on staff who specialize  
11 in health effects of radiation. Some of the reports on what  
12 has gone on are a nightmare, like the workers trapped in a  
13 dry well. NRC said they had no way of knowing whether or not  
14 they died. If I remember correctly, somewhere on the docket  
15 it said they forgot to test them appropriately afterwards.

16 The workers should be compensated. The community  
17 should be compensated. And Southern, with its considerable  
18 financial and political clout, could easily help get  
19 replacement work located outside the kill-zone and pay for  
20 job retraining and transportation to work. A problem I see  
21 always is the worker frustration over potential job loss,  
22 which is totally understandable, is sometimes directed at  
23 those who explain his dangers, when it should be directed at  
24 those who brought the equivalent of a nuclear bomb with a  
25 slow leak into their community to begin with.

1           The ultimate tragedy is that Southern or Georgia  
2 Power has probably not explained to them that due to them  
3 getting contaminated inside the plant, even their bodily  
4 excreta can become radioactive, and that is the essence of  
5 what was behind the NRC taking Hatch to task over the  
6 spreading of sewage sludges from the site under the power  
7 lines. it is doubtful they were told that as soon as they  
8 enter the site, under NRC regulations, they are no longer  
9 considered members of the public. If they were to die inside  
10 the plant due to contamination, in theory industry and NRC  
11 can state no member of the public died that day as a result  
12 of radiation exposure.

13           The applicant's documents only touch on the  
14 terrible, dangerous high-level radioactive waste dump they  
15 have prepared outside to put deadly radioactive spent fuel  
16 on inside casks that have never even tested in the real  
17 world, and simulated tests involved Hatch sticking a hot  
18 water pad inside one to simulate radioactive fuel rods,  
19 which the NRC gently pointed out -- oh, so politely -- that  
20 it "did not accurately simulate the temperatures." The casks  
21 -- space for 48 is created -- will stream gamma radiation  
22 into the environment and workers on the pad at a weekly rate  
23 of 21,000 millirem off the sides alone, next to the casks,  
24 each cask. A former military nuclear scientist has assured  
25 me that terrorists could blow the top off the cask in a

1 twinkling of an eye from considerable distance. Other  
2 research shows a few rounds from a Milan anti-tank weapon  
3 could blast it to smithereens from 6,000 feet with  
4 catastrophic results. People are being told it is temporary  
5 storage and that it will either be sent to Yucca Mountain or  
6 to a site on the Goshute Indian Reservation in Utah being  
7 prepared by a consortium that includes Southern, and the  
8 company, PFS, that has prepared the site in Georgia. One of  
9 the leaders of the Goshute opposition to this wanted me to  
10 remind everyone that their tribal chair does not speak for  
11 them all, and they do not intend to be at the receiving end  
12 of 4,000 casks from across the country into their valley  
13 where they already must endure myriad hazardous industries  
14 and military weapons test sites on their borders. In the  
15 end, in all probability, South Georgia is going to be left  
16 with a nuclear dump inside the plant and one outside, quite  
17 soon, and no more nuclear waste is generated.

18           Five thousand more assemblies at 60 rods a bundle  
19 will be generated without shut-down. This insanity must  
20 stop. Yucca Mountain is also basically dead in the water,  
21 literally.

22           This is the South. If a sheriff found out that  
23 someone had a decrepit junk car, with a cracked engine block  
24 wrapped with baling wire, that not only couldn't pass  
25 emissions tests, not only leaked gasoline into the local

1 creek, but carried a deadly cargo locked in the trunk  
2 capable of killing an entire county, and a second deadly  
3 cargo strapped inside, in a patched bucket, and the exhaust  
4 leaked into the car and gassed passengers periodically, plus  
5 sprayed neighbors' crops, kids, and livestock with a fine  
6 gasoline mist as a bonus, not only would the offender be  
7 jailed for reckless endangerment and a lot more besides, but  
8 both the sheriff and the judge would laugh in the face of  
9 any such a car owner, if they told the judge and sheriff,  
10 having such a car kept mechanics employed, that the people  
11 in the car were paid to be gassed periodically or that  
12 misting neighbors' crops and kids was okay because the  
13 owners' manual and the people that wrote the owner's manual  
14 said it was. That's more or less the situation. Only the  
15 sheriff and the judge got written out of the loop by the  
16 Atomic Energy Act and the NRC and a lot more besides. The  
17 NRC is in the loop and holds the power. For the love of God,  
18 at least prevent a melt-down and shut this dump down. When  
19 the spent fuel pool goes, NRC can watch it on TV from  
20 Washington -- until the plume hits it. But don't worry about  
21 that. I'm sure there's a regulation that says the dose won't  
22 damage you all that NRC wrote.

23           Just remember this: We are all accountable to the  
24 Almighty for our actions, and I doubt the Creator is pleased  
25 with the despoilers of life on earth. Thank you.

1 [End of prepared statement.]

2 MR. WHITLEY: My name is Duane Whitley, and I'm  
3 Chairman of the Appling County Commission. I'm in the middle  
4 of my third term and in the middle of my tenth year. When I  
5 first became Commissioner, I had some experience with the  
6 plant because I knew lots of folks that worked out there.  
7 The NRC came and addressed our Board as they do to bring  
8 some data about what was going on at the plant. After their  
9 presentation I asked them if we as a county were doing all  
10 the things that they needed us to do in support of the  
11 plant, and someone at the NRC called the people in  
12 Birmingham and said, "You need to get back to Baxley. The  
13 Chairman doesn't have a clue what you're doing there."

14 And so about two days later I had lunch with folks  
15 from Georgia Power, and we discussed what I meant, and two  
16 things came out of that. One is I realized that they took  
17 everything very seriously, NRC and Georgia Power together.  
18 The other thing is that I had a ready source of information  
19 when I needed it, and it has always been there. And that's  
20 why when I hear folks who talk about the plant, for  
21 instance, and imply that there is some skullduggery or  
22 withholding of information or those kinds of things, I kind  
23 of find it hard to believe, because I am inundated with it,  
24 and they go overboard to help me as Chairman to understand  
25 what's going on at the plant.

1           Before I came here I was driving from Reidsville,  
2 and my wife is Director of Nursing at the hospital Appling  
3 County. When I got her on the phone, I asked her if we had  
4 ever had a severe contamination injury in the plant. When we  
5 built our new hospital, Georgia Power helped us build a  
6 decontamination facility. They have always been very  
7 cooperative in helping us, particularly with things that we  
8 may need in emergencies.

9           So, anyway, she said that we had had some injuries  
10 out there, and when they come in with light contamination  
11 they treat them that way. And they have never had a  
12 contaminated injured person to come in the hospital or a  
13 death from an injury. They have had people who died of  
14 natural causes, heart attacks, but they have never had an  
15 injury from the plant.

16           Now, I am as concerned about the environment as  
17 anybody is, and I discuss those issues with them all the  
18 time, and they are equally concerned. I've always been very  
19 comfortable with their management of the plant, plus I have  
20 relatives and friends who work out at the plant.

21           Georgia Power pays in excess of 50 percent of our  
22 ad valorem tax. They are always cooperative in our  
23 community. They provide high tech jobs for folks who can  
24 live at home.

25           And there's another thing -- we were basically -

1 -and still are -- a heavy agriculture community, and we got  
2 to a place where we needed something to attract industry  
3 into Appling County. Without Plant Hatch we really didn't  
4 have a draw because we were really heavy agriculture. Again,  
5 we really support our agriculture -- I have friends and  
6 family in it -- but we needed something to give us a kick  
7 start, really help us. We just didn't have anything to  
8 appeal to folks. And the plant came, and it has just made a  
9 complete change in our community.

10           On top of the fact that once or twice a year there  
11 is a shut-down, and at that time these things that you hear,  
12 according to the plant, they repair those things, those  
13 things at the plant. And it provides additional jobs for  
14 everyone in our community and the surrounding communities.  
15 And they are consumers, and they pay taxes. So they've just  
16 been a tremendous asset to our community, and my whole Board  
17 supports this relicensing. And, again, if I ever have any  
18 problem -- I'm not a nuclear physicist -- but I'm very  
19 comfortable with all the folks that I deal with at that  
20 plant, and they go overboard. If there's an incident out  
21 there, they contact my EMA director and I'm the next person  
22 in line. And I know. I know when something happens out  
23 there. And they keep me informed until it's resolved,  
24 whatever it is. They've just been good neighbors to us.

25           I certainly would not support anything that I felt

1 like was a hazard or would harm my constituents. I trust  
2 them with my friends and my family, and I'm going to live  
3 here. I've got to. I have no intention of leaving. And I  
4 certainly would not support anything that I felt harmed the  
5 environment. So I just want to let them know I stand we  
6 stand behind this relicensing.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Whitley.

8 Next we're going to have Janisse Ray.

9 MS. RAY: Thanks for letting me go next. I'm a  
10 single parent, and I've got a little boy at school that will  
11 be out in just a few minutes.

12 I live five miles from the nuclear plant, and I  
13 hate to stand up here in front of friends in this room --  
14 the sheriff, the mayor, people I know and love -- and say  
15 that I think it's an unfortunate thing that we have Plant  
16 Hatch. I honestly think in the best of all possible worlds  
17 that I would rather see a solar producing plant over there  
18 or anything. I do not know enough about nuclear physics to  
19 be playing around with it, and I honestly am scared to have  
20 it right there. I am truthfully scared.

21 I'm not going to stand up here, though, and say  
22 that we have to close down the plant. If we were voting, I  
23 would vote that way. But I can't truthfully, with so many of  
24 my good friends and good neighbors supporting it, I can't  
25 stand up here and say that.

1 I can, though, say some things, and one is that  
2 we've got the plant in South Georgia, and you know this to  
3 be true, because we're poor, isolated, and we're a forgotten  
4 place. Also uneducated. Forty percent of the people in  
5 Appling County haven't finished high school. It was  
6 supported by our forefathers and still continues to be  
7 supported by our politicians because we need jobs. We're  
8 desperate to have jobs. You know that. We were told the  
9 plant would be here for 25 years. Now it's going to be here  
10 for 40 and maybe another 20 years more.

11 If this happens, as you consider relicensing, I  
12 want you to look at three things -- safety record. You have  
13 to look at the accidents. Just like Pamela O'Brien said. On  
14 January 26 there was another spill this year. My friend  
15 Steve Howe is in safety there, and I know things have gotten  
16 much better. Unfortunately, in the years before you came,  
17 there was tremendous lack of responsibility there, and I am  
18 afraid of the long-term safety record and environmental  
19 hazards. You have to look at the safety record of workers,  
20 and in a nuclear plant you have to look at long-term  
21 accident records. There are stories that traverse the  
22 community about a man who was contaminated and he didn't  
23 want to wear his Plant Hatch clothes home, so he rode his  
24 motorcycle naked home.

25 The very structures that were put in place to last

1 for 25 years have to last two or three times that amount.  
2 Truthfully look at it. When you are figuring out these  
3 things, you remember that there are real people down here  
4 who are concerned, who have children.

5 I am absolutely aghast that we are storing spent  
6 nuclear fuel on site. I visited it last week with Steve  
7 Howe. It looks good, but there's a fence 50 feet away from  
8 where these storage containers are, and the dosage limit at  
9 the fence is 2 mrem an hour. That means it's coming out into  
10 the environment. The elementary school that my son attends  
11 is five miles from Plant Hatch. Two hundred and seventy-five  
12 precious children go to school there. I hope you remember  
13 those children when you're thinking about relicensing.

14 I'm going to try to get through. Some of these  
15 things -- spent nuclear fuel at the plant I may have to live  
16 with the rest of my life. In 2038, I'll be 76 years old. I  
17 believe, though, that we absolutely right now, even if we  
18 can't close the plant down and replace it by safer forms of  
19 electricity -- and I use electricity -- we have to look at  
20 cancer and cancer rates and other epidemiological studies,  
21 other associated diseases. It hasn't been done within  
22 workers previous and present in the plant. Hasn't been done  
23 within a two-mile radius. It hasn't been done in the  
24 downstream corridor.

25 I talked to the health physicist at the plant this

1 morning. We have no studies on cancer and other diseases in  
2 this area. It has to be done, and as a community we are  
3 demanding that that be done.

4           The other thing is that I ask you to be a better  
5 environmental neighbor. I wrote the book, "Idylls of a  
6 Cracker Childhood," that came out in October. You have to be  
7 a better environmental neighbor. I've seen your wildlife  
8 habitat site. And you're talking about planting more trees.  
9 You're talking about planting Slash and Loblolly. We all  
10 know that those aren't forests. Those are trees that are  
11 going to be crops. And in the wetlands, the flood plain  
12 area, as you go across the river you're going over the  
13 bridge, it has Plant Hatch's name on it.

14           MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Janisse.

15           We're going to go to Otha Dixon. And just so those  
16 of you that are coming next can get ready, we're then going  
17 to go to Roger Byrd and then Rita Kilpatrick.

18           Otha. So he left.

19           Let's go to Roger Byrd.

20           MR. BYRD: My name is Roger Byrd. I serve in the  
21 State House representing four counties, one of which is  
22 Appling County. I have served in this district representing  
23 Appling County for 20 years.

24           First of all, let me thank you for having this  
25 public hearing. Public input is very important. People in

1 the communities affected appreciate the opportunity to come  
2 and make brief presentations to you. We are assured by this  
3 that our interests are being considered.

4 I have served on the House Industry Committee for  
5 20 years straight. I am the longest serving member of that  
6 committee in the Legislature. The House Industry Committee  
7 considers a number of issues, and one of them is utility  
8 regulation. Throughout that period of time I have had the  
9 opportunity to work with and to observe the various  
10 utilities, including Georgia Power and, more recently,  
11 Southern Nuclear.

12 And I tell you this. I wasn't asked to come here.  
13 I don't work for Georgia Power or any public utilities. I  
14 never have. Utilities are regulated, and therefore they are  
15 not subject to -- they are prohibited from campaign  
16 involvement and those kinds of things, so let me just tell  
17 you my observations.

18 I'm 45 years old, and I've lived in Jeff Davis  
19 County all my life. I've never been anywhere else. Except  
20 for the times I was away in school, I've lived within ten  
21 miles of where I live now, and I've always voted in the same  
22 voting precinct. You could argue that I haven't gone very  
23 far in my life. I guess that's debatable.

24 I remember many years ago when Georgia Power was  
25 building Plant Hatch. I observed then with great concern the

1 high level of expertise that was involved in actually  
2 constructing and putting together this great project. During  
3 my time in the Legislature I have observed the construction  
4 of other nuclear plants, and I can tell you that I've never  
5 seen the high degree of care and safety involved in any type  
6 of construction project or any type of utility construction  
7 particularly that I've seen at nuclear power plants. And  
8 that's for good reason. It's a very dangerous industry and  
9 has great potential to harm.

10 I've also observed Georgia Power over the years be  
11 very interested in making sure that they maintain public  
12 support in our area.

13 And the way they do that is simple. If you've got  
14 a question or if you've got an interest, all you've got to  
15 do is ask, and they'll tell you what's going on out at the  
16 plant. There's a lot of security out there, but they will  
17 always welcome you in to hear and be made aware of exactly  
18 what they're doing. They've always done that. I've toured  
19 Plant Hatch a number of times. I have had the opportunities,  
20 without any interference, to have conversations, frank  
21 conversations, with their administrative people. And I've  
22 always felt that with the high degree of security they're  
23 trying to do the right thing. They're applying the very best  
24 techniques that they can for safety and security.

25 Like Chairman Whitley said, I've been where I live

1 all my life, and until God calls me home that's where I want  
2 to be. Nobody is any more concerned about the environment  
3 than those of us that are right here. Janisse Ray is an  
4 excellent example. We are concerned about where we live  
5 because we're going to live here. We're not going to move  
6 away.

7           And I have a high degree of comfort that the  
8 people involved in Plant Hatch are going to do the very best  
9 that they can within technology and within the constraints  
10 that they have to work with -- they are going to do the very  
11 best they can to be sure that the Altamaha River, which, by  
12 the way, is the mightiest river in Georgia and one of the  
13 greatest on the Eastern Seaboard, is the kind of place we  
14 can take our children and grandchildren.

15           I've lived on the Ocmulgee River and fished on the  
16 Altamaha and hunted on the Altamaha most of my life, and I  
17 can tell you this. We wouldn't have agreed in the  
18 Legislature to build a State park on the Altamaha River  
19 downstream from Plant Hatch if we thought there were serious  
20 environmental concerns. We wouldn't have done that. And  
21 we're going to do that.

22           And I can tell you this -- let's talk about  
23 relicensing and what the alternatives are. I guess you could  
24 say for environmental reasons we're concerned so we  
25 shouldn't relicense Plant Hatch. Let me tell you this:

1 Georgia is a state that is growing faster than most states  
2 in the country. A million people per decade are coming to  
3 our State to live. One of the reasons they're coming is - -  
4 one of the questions they have to have answered is if  
5 they're going to get adequate power, energy, and if it's  
6 efficient.

7           And that's what we've been able to do now. We  
8 could say that the State would make a decision not to  
9 relicense, and then we'd have to look at alternatives, and  
10 we could say we've decided not to grow.

11           Well, that's not a realistic possibility because  
12 you don't choose just not to grow. If you choose not to  
13 grow, you choose to recede. You lose. You can't just sit.  
14 When that happens, all these that are made possible by the  
15 growing economy and the growing population increase the tax  
16 base and fees and that sort of thing that provide for the  
17 environmental security that we already have. You can lose  
18 them.

19           So a decision not to grow is actually a decision  
20 to do things that are detrimental to the environment.

21           And another thing I can tell you is that you can  
22 choose an alternative kind of power. You can say, "We'll  
23 just do something else to generate that power." There's  
24 nothing out there that we know that has technology that is  
25 possible today to satisfy the needs of a million new

1 Georgians every decade that will work. It's just not there.

2           So I think the decision to relicense Plant Hatch  
3 is a good decision, not only for business and for the  
4 economy, but it's a good environmental decision. And I think  
5 that the reason that we're all here is supporting that. Or  
6 many of us are. It's because we see that. We want to live  
7 where we live. We want it to be clean. We want it to be  
8 pleasant. We want it to continue to be attractive. And  
9 that's the reason we came to the decision to support  
10 relicensing of Plant Hatch for the future, for our children  
11 and grandchildren.

12           We thank you for listening to us. We think it's a  
13 good decision. Without any hesitation I recommend that you  
14 relicense Plant Hatch.

15           MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Representative Byrd. I  
16 thank all of you who have taken the time out of your  
17 schedule to come down and attend this public meeting that  
18 we're having today.

19           We're going to go to Rita Kilpatrick now, and when  
20 Rita is done we're going to go to Sheriff Parker if he's  
21 still here.

22           Rita.

23           MS. KILPATRICK: Good afternoon. I'll introduce  
24 myself again. My name is Rita Kilpatrick. I'm the Executive  
25 Director of Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia. Our

1 organization is a nonprofit conservation and energy consumer  
2 organization. We are headquartered in Atlanta, and we have a  
3 field office in Savannah.

4 We are a Statewide organization with members  
5 throughout Georgia. And I want to say on a personal note my  
6 mother was born in Georgia and the family has been for many  
7 generations in the Washington County area in any direction  
8 on either side, and this issue is of great importance to me  
9 personally as well as professionally.

10 I have worked in the energy field for many years  
11 and understand alternatives that are available and what the  
12 issues are surrounding nuclear energy as a whole. We have  
13 been focusing specifically on Plant Hatch.

14 I want to bring out the fact that this is an area  
15 of vital economic significance, and with Plant Hatch located  
16 in Appling County along the banks of the Altamaha River, the  
17 livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people depend on the  
18 river and the ecology in the area, and billions of dollars  
19 of resources from fisheries, agricultural activities,  
20 forage, and other coastal activities all are at stake here.  
21 Because of the thrust of this hearing today, the environment  
22 -- and we connect that to health concerns, and we do have  
23 quite a few economic and security issues that we would like  
24 to be raised later.

25 One major concern that we have is that Plant Hatch

1 is located in an earthquake zone that threatens the public  
2 and the surrounding environment. There have been earthquake  
3 activities in the area -- Lake Sinclair of special note --  
4 and I won't dwell on that, but that is a concern to us, as  
5 well as earthquake activity in other nearby areas in the  
6 region. So we would like for that issue to be taken up and  
7 given very serious consideration during this relicensing  
8 process.

9           We have some concerns about the natural  
10 deterioration of the plant. We realize that there will be  
11 additional hearings to look at technical issues, and insofar  
12 as the condition of the plant in a fairly decayed and  
13 contaminated state already, we believe that this is only  
14 going to worsen with time and the deteriorating effects that  
15 radiation is going to have on the plant of course is a  
16 concern.

17           There are situations of forced automatic shutdown  
18 that have occurred -- one in mid '99 and, of course, one at  
19 the beginning of this year. These are examples of faulty  
20 equipment problems, and these have an impact on the  
21 environment whereas particular releases occur as a result of  
22 the problems. These need to be looked at within the  
23 environmental arena.

24           There are quite a few concerns here that I am  
25 going to skip over we weren't sure how much time we would be

1 given here, so I want to be as brief as I can.

2           Our analysis of the situation so far tells us that  
3 there have already been an unacceptable level of damage and  
4 that there and that will worsen as the plant continues  
5 operation over time. And I should note that there is no  
6 plant anywhere in this country that has operated anywhere  
7 near the way Plant Hatch is looking to extend its license  
8 toward. There are several examples of plants that have had  
9 to close down early before their initial original license  
10 life span was expended. So that is a concern that we have.  
11 It is not a good record that we have to work with so far.

12           As mentioned in previous comments by other people,  
13 there have been major spills and highly radioactive  
14 contaminated water from the spent fuel pool occurring back  
15 in 1986, due to a number of problems, leakage seals, lack of  
16 attention to documented problems, et cetera, and there are  
17 numerous examples that I won't go into today that bring us  
18 to look at a level of contamination that exists already and  
19 ask where we're headed with this for the future.

20           We recognize that people living in the area need  
21 to put on a fairly happy face. It is important for the  
22 company itself to appear to be environmentally perfect in  
23 some regard, and yet we urge that the actual record be  
24 looked at very closely in this case.

25           The plant is situated over a major regional

1 limestone aquifer system that has groundwater resources  
2 which we know the surrounding communities rely upon, and  
3 therefore that water quality and the health associated with  
4 that is a top concern to us. And the particular type of  
5 aquifer that this is a special concern.

6           We are concerned also that the NRC frequently  
7 categorizes problems as generic industry problems, and we  
8 request that y'all treat all the problems and the areas of  
9 concern that are raised in this process about Plant Hatch as  
10 site-specific problems rather than generic and industry  
11 problems. We have been very concerned about the way that  
12 these generic problems have been handled and too often cast  
13 aside as, "We can't do anything about it; it's a generic  
14 problem."

15           I'm trying to not repeat some comments that were  
16 made earlier by several people.

17           Issues surrounding the dumping of radioactively  
18 contaminated sludge on the land for many years is certainly  
19 something that we are not happy about and see as a  
20 contamination clean-up issue.

21           The practice of upending the radioactively  
22 contaminated drums so that the residue would drain onto the  
23 ground from the drums and with drums holding radioactive  
24 waste oil and water that were contaminated and would have  
25 contaminated the soil and underground storage tank, that is

1 a very serious problem that again needs to be looked at as  
2 part of the history here of performance.

3           The dam that is located on Lake Sinclair and its  
4 potential impact if it were to break, to look at the  
5 condition of that dam and the potential for earthquake  
6 activity or other natural events to affect its ability to  
7 keep water contained and avoid flooding, if there were a dam  
8 breakage the height at time of flooding, that is something  
9 that needs to be looked at and taken into consideration.

10           Of course, the dry cast storage construction  
11 underway to the level of radioactivity associated with is  
12 that phenomenal and way out of range to what we understand  
13 is even within some fairly new standards that fairly exist.  
14 And that can be separated out. We can note that was the  
15 storage issue that was wholly taken off the list and not  
16 considered as an environmental association. In our opinion  
17 it does.

18           And if you're looking at continuing to generate  
19 high level radioactive waste on site with nowhere to put it  
20 except in one of these dry cast storage containers, that the  
21 problem with those casts can be multiplied as we keep  
22 generating waste and keep moving it.

23           The fact that radioactive contamination of  
24 sediment attributed to Plant Hatch operations extends as far  
25 as Jesup and Darien. The extent to which contamination has

1 spread is something that clearly needs to be looked at. We  
2 have some independent analysis on the level of radioactive  
3 contamination which came out in questioning over today. We  
4 are concerned about the amount of money that is going into  
5 the license renewal process. We were surprised by the  
6 request for waiver, and we felt that it was probably not  
7 enough to get into an expensive relicensing review which we  
8 feel is needed with the amount of funds that are designated.  
9 We are very concerned that with a low amount of funds they  
10 will be able to do adequate analysis on the water  
11 contamination issue.

12           There are numerous concerns we have with worker  
13 contamination which I won't get into. I will comment on that  
14 separately at another time.

15           I want to say something -- I can't wrap up here  
16 without mentioning -- and with all due respect to the folks,  
17 the woman who represented the Institute here in making a  
18 statement that the plant does not emit air pollution, I  
19 would encourage her and others of you who hold that  
20 viewpoint to turn to some information that came out in the  
21 past year from the Better Business Bureau, which is a  
22 Federal independent bureau, challenging the nuclear industry  
23 as a whole on some advertising that it was running. I will  
24 just quote very briefly here from the New York Times dated  
25 1998 end of year stated that the nuclear industry changed an

1 ad that the Bureau said falsely claimed that nuclear  
2 reactors make power without polluting the air and water or  
3 damaging the environment. The Better Business Bureau's  
4 national advertising division, which is based in New York,  
5 said in its decision today that the industry should stop  
6 calling itself environmentally clean and stop saying it  
7 makes power without polluting the environment, indicating  
8 that these claims are simply not supportable. And we  
9 certainly understand that and appreciate the effort that the  
10 Better Business Bureau has made to correct some  
11 misrepresentations that shouldn't be provided in the first  
12 place.

13 I just want to put in a quick note also to the  
14 people concerned that there are no alternatives here. I  
15 would encourage the company and other companies who co-own  
16 this plant to pay attention to pay attention to what the  
17 Tennessee Valley Authority is doing. They just unveiled a  
18 three power program which is commendable. We would like them  
19 to do much more and we believe they can. We know that the  
20 Southern Company can surpass what TVA tries to put out  
21 there. It's a publicly accountable program, and they work  
22 very closely with local environmental organizations to  
23 develop. We are eager to see that program scaled up  
24 substantially.

25 Just a quick mention of what they are looking to

1 offer a power switch program to residential consumers in  
2 blocks of power that are about 12 percent of a typical  
3 household's monthly energy use. So that's something to cast  
4 aside. We were very concerned when we looked over the  
5 Southern Company licensee file on this relicensing with the  
6 presentation that the alternatives, especially  
7 environmentally clean energy are really not available to us.  
8 We wholeheartedly disagree with that and would encourage  
9 close attention to other companies that are taking a very  
10 strong leadership role, not only in the country but now  
11 starting in the Southeast, to develop alternatives. We would  
12 like, of course, to see a comprehensive approach to this  
13 question of whether it is cost-effective and whether it is  
14 environmentally beneficial for this relicensing of Plant  
15 Hatch to proceed, in contrast with a comparison to  
16 alternatives that are available.

17           And let me make one final comment here in closing.  
18 We ask for there to be a look at what clean-up of  
19 contaminated area really needs to be done now, and over the  
20 future with any extension of the plant operation, what added  
21 cost does that bring to clean-up? And what are the  
22 situations that could occur down the road? As you know, the  
23 electric industry is under deregulation mode, and we have  
24 not seen deregulation occur here yet but it could down the  
25 road. And the question of what liability this leaves, there

1 are very sweeping, dramatic changes occurring in the  
2 industry across the country and across the world in terms of  
3 who owns what plants. This plant may not be owned by the  
4 same company that it is now, and what does that mean in  
5 terms of liability to the local community and a clean-up  
6 that is very much needed now and will be increasingly  
7 necessary in the future?

8 We are fearful of particulate radiation that has  
9 been released, in particular cobalt-60, which is in the  
10 sediment in the river and adjacent creeks and tributary  
11 areas, and decontamination of the equipment, material, and  
12 buildings on site. And of course going with that, adequate  
13 compensation of any contaminated workers, and there have  
14 been some documented. And to the general public who may be  
15 affected or whose well water has been affected, and to look  
16 at the other problems associated with internal spent fuel  
17 storage situation.

18 I thank you for the time you have given and we  
19 appreciate the opportunity to file some more documents.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Rita.

21 Is Sheriff Parker here? SHERIFF PARKER: Man,  
22 please. I thought I would never get this far. Y'all like to  
23 run me off, but I had to stay.

24 I've got my assistant. He's a deputy sheriff. He's  
25 also a member of the board of education. I ain't got a whole

1 lot of notes because my daddy used to say if you've got  
2 write it down, it's not worth saying most of the time.

3 And these things I'll put up here because I want  
4 you to see them. You've heard a picture is worth a thousand  
5 words. You can get an idea of what I'm saying, I think. And  
6 I'm hurrying. I don't know if that man can type as fast as  
7 I'm going to talk to you.

8 My name is Lewis Parker. I'm Sheriff of Appling  
9 County. I'm going to tell you about my educational  
10 background. I've got twelve years and high school. I went to  
11 college two quarters and I flunked out. You know what my  
12 daddy said? He said, "If you're going to be dumb, you've got  
13 to be tough, and you've got to pay attention." I've been  
14 paying attention ever since.

15 When I was 26 years old, I was a police chief in  
16 Baxley, Georgia, the youngest one in the State of Georgia.  
17 Baxley and Appling County have carried me through my adult  
18 life. Three years prior to that I worked with the Baxley  
19 Police Department. I started paying attention to some men  
20 drilling some holes in Appling County back in '67 and '68.  
21 We thought they was looking for oil.

22 Somebody said that our forefathers brought that  
23 power plant. No, I tell you, God Almighty gave Appling  
24 County that power plant. It's on a rock formation, and it's  
25 on the largest river east of the Mississippi, and that's the

1 Altamaha River. And that rock base they gave us -- God gave  
2 us that power plant.

3 Now, in southern Georgia, when you say, "Can you  
4 holp," that means, "Can you help?" But we've got to have  
5 "holp;" we've got to have help. We need your "holp;" we need  
6 your help.

7 Now, let me tell you this. I was 22 years old when  
8 they started on it, and I've been paying attention for 32  
9 years to Plant Hatch. You know why? My granddaddy came to  
10 Appling County at the end of the last century. Our property  
11 is within three and a half miles of Plant Hatch. Danny Broom  
12 probably is the only person here that lives closer to that  
13 plant than me. Five generations of us have lived on that  
14 land. We like to lost it. We like to lost that farm back in  
15 the early eighties. But the people elected me Sheriff. I've  
16 been Sheriff of Appling County for the last 20 years. I've  
17 worked with Plant Hatch. I've worked with Southern Company.  
18 I've worked with Georgia Power. Let me tell you this:  
19 they're as good or as bad as our government in enforcing the  
20 rules and protecting us. I don't know about all the gamma  
21 and the cobalt and all of that, but I'll tell you this -- I  
22 believe that Plant Hatch and the government is monitoring.

23 And they say if it goes down, five hundred miles  
24 will be destroyed. You think about this: There are some  
25 more of them scattered. If it's going to go down, another

1 one might go down. Let's build us another one here, and then  
2 we could get twice as much. Let's get our fair share. It  
3 gave us hope in South Georgia when it came here. We didn't  
4 have anything else. And we ask you to help us if you can and  
5 "holp" us if you can. Because if we have the help, we're  
6 going to have hope, and if we have hope, we're going to have  
7 help.

8 Now, if we don't get it, we're going to be in one  
9 hell of a mess. I can tell you that. And I ain't lying. You  
10 pull \$50 million out of an area the size of Appling County,  
11 Toombs County, Bacon County, you're going to have yourself a  
12 bad situation. And all of this money, it's going to have an  
13 environmental impact on the economy, and I tell you what, at  
14 the top of the food chain is the human. It's going to be an  
15 environmental impact. And I tell you who else it's going to  
16 affect -- all of the smaller counties in the State of  
17 Georgia where Georgia Power Company customers live and send  
18 their money to Atlanta, and it's divided up into smaller  
19 counties. I tell you what it's going to do. It's going to be  
20 an impact on a lot of young people because the schools are  
21 going to go down.

22 And I tell you what else it's going to do. It's  
23 going to take a lot of money out of a lot of families in the  
24 whole area of about 60 or 80 miles around Plant Hatch. And  
25 you say money ain't everything. It sure ain't. You go to the

1 grocery store without money and see what happens.

2 Now, if Plant Hatch, Georgia Power, and Oglethorpe  
3 can't control it, then I guarantee the government can, and I  
4 tell you right now, if you think it's going to leak, shut it  
5 down. But if you think they're going to do a good job -- and  
6 I in my heart believe they are -- I ask you to relicense  
7 Plant Hatch. We need it in Appling County, Georgia. We need  
8 it in southern Georgia. Not only us, but every child sitting  
9 in a classroom is going to get some of this in some kind of  
10 way. It gave us hope. It gave us hope.

11 I appreciate your time, and I thank you for  
12 helping us.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sheriff Parker.

14 The next speaker is Tim Smith from the Vidalia  
15 public schools. Mr. Smith. He has a tough act to follow.

16 MR. SMITH: That always happens to me. I have to  
17 follow somebody like Sheriff Parker.

18 I'm going to wind up in just a little bit. My name  
19 is Tim Smith, and I'm the Superintendent of Vidalia City  
20 Schools. And I tell you that not because I'm a super  
21 speaker. I'm not. But I'm an individual who has observed  
22 what has been going on in this county for the 20 years that  
23 I've been here. I'm still a newcomer. But I tell you I'm  
24 Superintendent of schools, and I'm in the people business.  
25 And I've learned in the last 30 years in that people

1 business that any organization -- doesn't make any  
2 difference whether it's Vidalia City Schools or Appling  
3 County Sheriff's Department or whether it's Plant Hatch --  
4 the organization is only as good as the people involved in  
5 it.

6 I want to tell you a little people story, and then  
7 I'm going to sit down. I'm glad to see that there are some  
8 of you here that have as much age on you as I do. That means  
9 that most of you maybe can remember a gentleman by the name  
10 of Roy Rogers.

11 Roy Rogers was my childhood hero, still is. I want  
12 to tell you a short story about Roy and I'll sit down. When  
13 he made his first movie, he received so much fan mail that  
14 he couldn't possibly answer all of it. He just literally got  
15 bags of it. And he went to the president of Republic Studios  
16 to ask for some help in answering his fan mail because he  
17 felt that if anybody out there felt strong enough about him  
18 and his acting to write him a letter it was his duty to  
19 answer that letter. And his salary of \$150 a week wouldn't  
20 even cover the postage to answer his fan mail.

21 So he went to the president of Republic Studios,  
22 and they laughed him out of the office, told him how  
23 ridiculous that was because nobody answered fan mail, and  
24 besides it would cost too much and take up too much time.

25 But Roy was one of the good guys in life. I mean,

1 he was really one of the good guys, and he wouldn't accept  
2 that particular attitude. So fortunately the movie that had  
3 caused this problem also made him so popular that he could  
4 go on a personal appearance tour, and he traveled thousands  
5 of miles and did hundreds of one-night stands for one  
6 purpose, and that was to be able to raise the money to pay  
7 the salary of the four people that it took to help him  
8 answer his fan mail.

9           And because he did that, he developed a fan base  
10 that was loyal to him until he died, and a lot of us are  
11 still loyal to Roy Rogers as fans and fan club members.

12           I tell you all that to tell you that Plant Hatch  
13 has developed such a fan following in Vidalia at least. We  
14 have developed a healthy respect and allegiance to Plant  
15 Hatch because of the service and leadership that they have  
16 provided to the community. Hatch employees and/or their  
17 spouses have sat through hours and hours of committee  
18 meetings on everything the schools can ever create. They  
19 show up on Saturday morning to help. They sit on the boards  
20 of PTO's and other groups that provide sound and reasonable  
21 leadership. They mentor some of our greatest at-risk kids.  
22 Their spouses are very often some of our finest teachers,  
23 and their children are usually some of our better students.

24           I tell you the Roy Rogers story to tell you that  
25 we are fans of Plant Hatch because they, just like Roy

1 Rogers, have been faithful and true to the community in  
2 which they live.

3           Sheriff Parker, years ago I heard some Appling  
4 County bragging about they were going to get all the tax  
5 revenue, and no doubt that has been a boon to Appling County  
6 and Appling County schools, but I tell you one thing -- I  
7 think that we have got the greater advantage out of that. So  
8 many of the people associated with Plant Hatch have elected  
9 to live and contribute their talents to the Vidalia area,  
10 and for that we are forever grateful. And I would certainly  
11 encourage NRC to give serious favorable consideration to the  
12 extended operating license for Plant Hatch.

13           MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Superintendent Smith.

14           We're going to go to Gary Drury right now, and  
15 after that we'll go to Edward Tyson.

16           Mr. Drury.

17           MR. DRURY: I would like to thank you for the time  
18 allowing me to speak. My name is Gary Drury. I'm from St.  
19 Simons Island. I represent an organization called Georgia  
20 Coast Watch.

21           Before I go any further, I would like to say that  
22 we are against the relicensing of Plant Hatch. People on the  
23 coast, I have to say, are scared. They are scared to death  
24 of Plant Hatch.

25           We are downstream -- Jekyll Island, St. Simons

1 Island, and Brunswick -- right there at the Altamaha Delta.

2 We get the radioactivity from Plant Hatch.

3 I was going to go in one direction when I got  
4 here, and I'll keep it brief. Everybody has been here a long  
5 time, and I appreciate that because being from the NGO  
6 community, the non-governmental side of it, I appreciate all  
7 of you people that come out and give up your time and work,  
8 when the company and corporate people are being paid big  
9 bucks to do this, and it just doesn't seem right.

10 But the direction I wanted to take is, on the way  
11 down here I started thinking about the way corporations  
12 involve themselves in our lives. When I got in this room, I  
13 realized the corporate mentality in this room is just  
14 suffocating. Suits everywhere. Corporate people everywhere.  
15 The people of work, thousands of people in Glynn County that  
16 can't come here. I wish they could be here, but they can't.  
17 They have to work.

18 The corporate mentality is one that will  
19 perpetuate a plant like Plant Hatch, and people have no  
20 recourse.

21 In my community, I was responsible for the  
22 clean-up that is ongoing for the site there. That community  
23 is so much like this community. They are involved in United  
24 Way. They were involved in the school system, members of the  
25 leading industries, on the school board. I couldn't speak in

1 the school because they were on the school board and  
2 wouldn't let me speak.

3           So you people that say corporations are our  
4 friendly neighbors and they're a gift to the people of the  
5 community, they're involved in United Way, they plant trees  
6 -- for God's sake, I tell you that this corporate mentality  
7 is what you do not want in your community. It takes away  
8 your freedom. You cannot express yourself freely because  
9 you're afraid of losing your job or your neighbor talking  
10 bad about you being molested outside county hall or city  
11 hall because you express your opinion. I've been through  
12 this. I know how it is.

13           I've been to hearings like this for 20 years or  
14 more. I've been involved in the environmental community. I  
15 have come to the conclusion that this is the last hearing I  
16 will ever attend. I will spend my energy writing newspapers,  
17 do what I can, but I really feel that what I have to say is  
18 not going to help that much either. I don't think the people  
19 here really know the extent of the contamination that is  
20 happening to the Altamaha River system, because I really  
21 don't think you get the true picture.

22           I keep up with environmental issues Statewide and  
23 nationally, and I don't think you get the real facts. That's  
24 my opinion.

25           But I'm not going to come to any more hearings or

1 any more meetings. I'm kind of meetinged out, I've been  
2 doing it so long.

3 I believe that in the future I may spend some time  
4 in forms of civil disobedience if I have to -- non-violent,  
5 direct action. Don't worry about me throwing bombs. I'm a  
6 pacifist. I hope the food is good in the sheriff's jail  
7 because I may be there.

8 Thank.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Drury.

10 Mr. Tyson.

11 MR. TYSON: I'm Eddie Tyson. I'm sure many of you  
12 know me. I've lived in Vidalia since the 1930's, so that was  
13 before Plant Hatch probably was on the drawing board.

14 I can speak to you today from personal experience  
15 of the enormous positive impact that Plant Hatch has had on  
16 our area. Having served on and as Chairman of the Toombs  
17 County Chamber of Commerce, Toombs County Development  
18 Authority, and as a City Councilman for the City of Vidalia,  
19 I can attest to you the extensive role that Plant Hatch has  
20 played in the economic growth of Toombs and surrounding  
21 counties. It has been tremendous.

22 It has already been said, but I'm going to repeat,  
23 and I'm going to take about a minute, perhaps even more  
24 important is the impact Plant Hatch has had on our  
25 communities, giving them all their support to different

1 local charities and providing the leadership in civic and  
2 community organizations. Plant Hatch employees are dedicated  
3 to making our community a better place to live.

4           Again, all the things have been said about the  
5 environmental and health situation. I can only say that  
6 possibly no industry is more regulated than this. I have  
7 been here for forty years. It is very strict. We can't do  
8 certain things that other industries can do. Our hands are  
9 tied, and we have to follow certain rules and regulations,  
10 and I've got to believe that probably anything that is going  
11 on in the nuclear industry that they're so regulated I just  
12 can't believe there's anything out of order that would scare  
13 us.

14           In closing I can only say that there have been a  
15 lot of people in and out of Plant Hatch that are not here to  
16 go over these from out of State, and I would remind you  
17 folks this afternoon that there's an awful lot of people  
18 that have worked at Plant Hatch for Georgia Power, and after  
19 their retirement they have elected to live here. That kind  
20 of amazes me if they have elected to live here and retire  
21 here, and these are people with super educations, a lot of  
22 mentality -- if there's so much to be afraid of, why have  
23 they elected to make their home here?

24           Plant Hatch is a good employer and a good neighbor  
25 to Toombs County, and I highly recommend and support Plant

1 Hatch in its application for its license renewal.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: We thank you, Mr. Tyson.

4 Now we'll go to Mayor Rigdon. MAYOR RIGDON: I am  
5 Steve Rigdon, Mayor of Baxley.

6 As far as Plant Hatch itself, I appreciate the  
7 opportunity to speak at this public meeting. I appreciate  
8 the comments pro and con. I think it's a learning process  
9 for all of us.

10 I have been involved in Baxley and Appling County  
11 since the beginning of Plant Hatch, and I know a lot of  
12 people that have worked there. They have children. They have  
13 families, and I do not believe that they would continue  
14 their employment there if they felt like it was a threat to  
15 their health or their family's health.

16 Also, they have environmentalists out at Plant  
17 Hatch, and I believe they are as concerned about the  
18 environment as any other environmentalist, and I believe  
19 that they keep a check on it, and if there was some reason  
20 for great concern, I believe they would alert the public  
21 quickly.

22 That is all I would say about the environmental  
23 issue. As far as economic impact to our community, it would  
24 be devastating to Baxley and Appling County and all of South  
25 Georgia if Plant Hatch was not relicensed. As has already

1 been said, we get about 60 percent of our tax revenue from  
2 Plant Hatch. Of the 860 people that are employed out there,  
3 252 of those employees are from Baxley and Appling County,  
4 and roughly that generates about \$12 million annually to our  
5 community. And to our community those are big salaries, and  
6 those folks have nice homes. They pay taxes. And as the  
7 Sheriff said earlier, money is not everything, but you've  
8 got to have it to survive.

9 I believe it's a good, safe, viable industry, and  
10 they pay \$12 million in salaries to Appling County. Also on  
11 the issue of being good neighbors, I've been in banking for  
12 25 years, and they're as good a neighbor -- I've been on the  
13 Chamber of Commerce, the Development Authority, a number of  
14 boards -- and everything that we've ever called on Plant  
15 Hatch to assist us with, they've been more than ready to do  
16 that. And it's not because they have to do that. I think  
17 it's their intent to be a good neighbor. They're been a  
18 corporate sponsor for our pre- tests for the last two years.  
19 They have mentors in our public schools. About 25 of their  
20 employees go out to our public schools and mentor our  
21 students.

22 And these kinds of things are from the heart.  
23 They're not there to try to get favors, I don't think. I  
24 truly believe that these people do this out of the goodness  
25 of their heart, and I'm here in support of the relicense

1 process, and I would like to go on record as saying that we  
2 support the application for the relicense process.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mayor Rigdon.

4 Ralph Beedle.

5 MR. BEEDLE: Thank you, Chip. My name is Ralph  
6 Beedle. I'm a Senior Vice President of the Nuclear Energy  
7 Institute in Washington, D.C. I'm also the Chief Nuclear  
8 Officer.

9 I guess I probably ought to establish some bona  
10 fides. I've lived in Atlanta, Georgia, for a number of  
11 years. I currently reside in Annapolis, Maryland, not too  
12 far from the Calvert Cliffs plant where recently the license  
13 renewal was granted. In 1983, after serving 21 years in the  
14 Navy on a nuclear submarine where I lived and worked with  
15 these nuclear plants on a day-to-day basis -- my son, by the  
16 way, is quite normal, as are the grandchildren -- but in  
17 1983 I had the opportunity to work at Plant Hatch for a  
18 period of about three months while they acquainted me with  
19 the intricacies of the commercial nuclear industry. And I  
20 have carried those lessons through for the last 17 years and  
21 done quite well as a result of that.

22 Has the nuclear industry changed over the last  
23 roughly 30 years that we have been operating these plants?

24 The answer is yes. We have learned a lot more  
25 about to operate them and how to operate them better. We

1 have had comments this morning about improved efficiency at  
2 Plant Hatch, and I would have to say that that is the  
3 recommendation throughout the industry. All 103 of the  
4 nuclear plants that are operating today are performing  
5 better, more efficiently and safely than they ever have.

6           So we have learned how to operate better, and the  
7 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I think, has likewise made  
8 changes in their regulatory processes that should renew your  
9 assurance that the regulatory processes are working and  
10 provide reassurance to you.

11           I would like to address an issue that was raised  
12 earlier, and that was if a license is not renewed for Plant  
13 Hatch and you as a community look to replacing that energy  
14 source from something that is similar in its clean air  
15 impact -- you could look to photovoltaic, and there's going  
16 to be a lot of solar panels out there. Appling County would  
17 have to give up about 56,000 acres.

18           If you wanted to use wind as another energy source  
19 that is relatively free of greenhouse emissions, then you  
20 would look to at about 270,000 acres of land.

21           So I think the alternatives to providing high  
22 power output and doing it with clean air sources are  
23 relatively limited in this country today. And until we  
24 develop something that is better, I think you're going to be  
25 faced with having to look at nuclear as a source of clean

1 energy. In fact, our Federal government relies on the  
2 generation of at least 20 percent of the nation's  
3 electricity in order to meet the nation's need for electric  
4 energy. And we're having a very difficult time achieving  
5 that when we continue to increase the ban on the same.

6           And as you heard earlier, this country continues  
7 to grow. The economy grows. And the economy will only grow  
8 as long as there is a reasonably low-cost energy source, and  
9 that presently is being provided by nuclear today.

10           I believe there are three things to give some  
11 thought to as you think about license renewal for Plant  
12 Hatch.

13           One, it's going to permit the United States to  
14 meet some of the clean air requirements that we're being  
15 faced with. That is reduction and elimination of some of the  
16 atmosphere pollutants like sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide  
17 and other particulates.

18           Second, license renewal will preserve jobs for  
19 Americans as well as those here in Georgia. And while we may  
20 think that the corporation is fostering this technology and  
21 buying the community, it's really a matter of finding a  
22 community that is willing to accept the impact of a large  
23 industrial facility. Whether it's nuclear, building boxes,  
24 or manufacturing cars, it has some impact on the community.  
25 In this case I think the nuclear plant at Baxley, Georgia,

1 has provided a tremendous amount of benefit to the citizens,  
2 as well as helped in terms of increasing the standard of  
3 living as a result of pumping quite a bit of money into the  
4 economy.

5 Third, renewal of the license for Plant Hatch is  
6 going to be far more economical than providing any other  
7 energy source, and you could say, "Well, we could  
8 decommission Plant Hatch and have that energy generated  
9 somewhere else. That's an option that the State of Georgia  
10 is going to have to deal with in the long term and one that  
11 will have an impact on the citizens of Appling County.

12 Now, before I close I'd like to make one comment  
13 about the Better Business Bureau. The Nuclear Energy  
14 Institute was the subject of the charge by the Better  
15 Business Bureau that we were not being truthful in our  
16 advertising. The issue stems from an assertion on the part  
17 of the Nuclear Energy Institute that we were a clean air  
18 energy generator and we were doing it in an environmentally  
19 sound manner and were not having an impact on the  
20 environment.

21 The Better Business Bureau says that anything that  
22 you do that produces gases in the atmosphere that is at all  
23 connected with your process would mean that you can't  
24 advertise as a clean air energy generator. And they went  
25 back and said if your fuel was fabricated in a gaseous

1 diffusion plant that used coal electric-generated energy,  
2 and since coal is a pollutant to the atmosphere, nuclear is  
3 therefore not a clean air energy generator.

4 Well, we thought that that was kind of a strange  
5 connection, and we argued that that was inappropriate to  
6 connect the process of fabrication and involvement of a coal  
7 plant with a nuclear plant and say that therefore we weren't  
8 clean air energy generators.

9 And that ultimately went to the Federal Trade  
10 Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission did not find  
11 that we had violated anything. They wanted to make sure we  
12 were truthful in our advertising, and so they find that NEI  
13 could carry a logo that says "Nuclear is a clean air energy  
14 source."

15 And that's exactly right. We do not provide  
16 pollutants to the atmosphere as a result of the operation of  
17 the nuclear power process.

18 So with that, whether or not that clarifies it for  
19 some of you and you have any questions, I'd be glad to talk  
20 to you after we close here. But I would commend Southern  
21 Nuclear for their bold step to do license renewal and  
22 commend even more the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for  
23 having hearings such as this to solicit comments from the  
24 public and get everyone's input and comment on it. I think  
25 it's absolutely vital to be able to do that.

1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ralph.

3 We have three remaining commenters. I think we  
4 probably will be closing soon. The first one is Karen  
5 Durden.

6 MS. DURDEN: My name is Karen Durden, and I am  
7 President of the Toombs-Montgomery-Wheeler County United  
8 Way, and I am here to say how fortunate we are to have the  
9 employees at Plant Hatch. They have been instrumental in  
10 putting together our campaign every year. This past year  
11 they pledged over \$55,000, which is probably about a sixth  
12 of our entire budget. We have 22 agencies, and many of these  
13 agencies would not exist without them. There are  
14 approximately 8,000 people who are touched every year by our  
15 agencies.

16 Twenty-seven of the employees at Plant Hatch are  
17 high givers, which means that they give at least \$500 a year  
18 to United Way, and it is a tremendous help when we have  
19 people who set the example that way for you. They're very,  
20 very important to us, and I shudder to think what would  
21 happen to our United Way and to our community without them.

22 I was also the Chairman of the Vidalia Onion  
23 Festival Committee this year. We had a real good time if  
24 y'all missed it. There probably were more than 30,000 people  
25 involved in that, and Southern Company or Southern Nuclear

1 was a financial sponsor of that. It is really a big time for  
2 us. There are a lot of people in town who cannot leave town  
3 to go on vacations and things like that, and they are able  
4 to come to our festival. We have a lot of fun, and it's  
5 really a good time for them. I think that shows what kind of  
6 good neighbors that they are.

7 I would also like to say that Pete Wells is on our  
8 Executive Board of Directors for the United Way, and several  
9 other of their employees are on our full board, and many,  
10 many of them are volunteers for the United Way and the  
11 Vidalia Onion Festival.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

14 Next, Phil Proctor.

15 MR. PROCTOR: My name is Phil Proctor. I'm an  
16 engineer with Nuclear Electrical Energy Corporation.

17 I did not prepare a statement today because I was  
18 not sure that I would be here, but I have heard some  
19 comments that led me to think that you need to hear our view  
20 from our consumer's point of view.

21 Our organization is a not-for-profit cooperative  
22 that serves primarily residential customers in this area.  
23 We're located in Reidsville, Georgia, and are one of 39  
24 properties that are served by Oglethorpe Power Corporation,  
25 which is a co-owner of Plant Hatch.

1           I felt everyone needs to know that our consumers  
2 benefit from Plant Hatch in the respect that it is a good  
3 part of our energy resources that we have. We are part of  
4 the Oglethorpe system that is the co-owner, and I need to  
5 tell you that one reason I wasn't sure I would be here today  
6 is we had a generation planning meeting. As a matter of  
7 fact, this week has been the subject of interest to the  
8 electric industry. As of Monday, on the PJM exchange, which  
9 is the power marketing exchange in the Northeast that is  
10 undergoing some shortages at this time, prices on the  
11 wholesale market approached \$6 per kilowatt hour, and most  
12 of you in here today are being served with energy on a  
13 retail basis that is between 6 and 7 cents per kilowatt  
14 hour, and we saw Monday where prices were \$6 per kilowatt  
15 hour on the wholesale market.

16           And that's been going on for the past couple of  
17 years because the wholesale market is going through some  
18 changes in the industry, changes in generation, changes in  
19 the energy available in the market and a shortage in net  
20 energy on the market. I think it's critical in looking at  
21 energy program in the future to remember that these are  
22 long-range decisions. You can't turn around and change them  
23 overnight to have fuel diversity.

24           Right now we have nuclear, we have coal, we have  
25 natural gas, and we have hydroelectric. Many of those are

1 not able to be built today. For example, hydroelectric. But  
2 there is a growing predominance of natural gas. Two years  
3 ago we saw natural gas prices move 20 percent within two  
4 weeks. That's on a wholesale at-the-wellhead price.

5           The point I want to make is that our organization  
6 represents predominantly residential customers. Ninety  
7 percent of our customers are residential. We are not for  
8 profit and provide their service at our cost, our cost that  
9 we incur for electricity. So our motives are not towards  
10 other reasons but are strictly toward energy users, in our  
11 case residential. And I just want to bring that up, the for  
12 purposes of fuel diversity long-term planning is critical,  
13 and nuclear in our respect is a key resource in fuel  
14 diversity.

15           Thank you.

16           MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Phil.

17           Our last commenter this afternoon is Mr. George  
18 Dickens.

19           MR. DICKENS: I am currently serving as the  
20 Executive Director of Development Authority of Jeff Davis  
21 County. By way of more background on me, I actually worked  
22 at Plant Hatch for awhile, so I have seen it from the  
23 inside, and it's an awesome facility.

24           If you could imagine growing up in this part of  
25 the State and hearing of a facility like this, the

1 possibility of its coming, it was very exciting. A lot of  
2 people were much afraid of it, and there was a little bit of  
3 hysteria.

4           But I think the history we have seen for this  
5 particular facility, if you take a very risky facility and  
6 operate it properly, the results are just tremendous, and,  
7 as has already been alluded to, it's an economical source of  
8 power in spite of all the regulation and other things that  
9 run the price of it up.

10           You've got to realize that with the kind of  
11 investment the utility has got in this business, they were  
12 actually hoping that nuclear power would be too cheap to  
13 meter, that they could furnish it to the residential  
14 customer basically for a flat fee and let them use as much  
15 as they wanted. Of course, reality set in, and it's not  
16 free, but it still helps the overall cost of power.

17           Many comments have been made about the  
18 environmental impact. Our County has, of course, been  
19 impacted positively. About 7 percent of the employees of  
20 Plant Hatch reside in Jeff David County. Most of them plan  
21 to make a career of it, and one or two of them I know even  
22 plan to retire right here.

23           What I think is really important here, though, and  
24 I think it should relate to all our scores, and that is what  
25 is the track record, and from everything I can tell, the

1 track record has been excellent.

2 I think that Southern Nuclear Operating Company is  
3 a good operating company, and if there is actually hard  
4 evidence presented that they're causing harm to people, I  
5 think it should all be shut down. I think the Nuclear  
6 Regulatory Commission is there to make sure that that  
7 happens if it is proved that there has been damage.

8 Some of the comments regarding environmental  
9 contamination are interesting in that they -- almost always  
10 no one knows the industry. They rarely are able to actually  
11 give the details of this scary phenomenon.

12 It's something that we need to take a hard look at  
13 at all times. If in the future it is proven that damage is  
14 being done, they should certainly be shut down. In the  
15 meantime, as long as these plants are safe to operate and  
16 economically viable, it is in the best interest of all  
17 people that they should continue to operate.

18 So I leave you this comment, that as long as  
19 things are going no worse than they have so far, that they  
20 should certainly consider renewing the operating license. It  
21 would be a tragedy to have facility like this, without proof  
22 that it was causing a problem, for it to be shut down would  
23 be an economic travesty, the likes of which this area of  
24 Georgia would probably spend a great many years and a great  
25 deal of money in an effort to recover from it.

1           Thanks.

2           MR. CAMERON: Our scheduled closing time was 4:30.  
3 I don't know if Pamela is there or not, but we will put her  
4 comments in the record.

5           I would just like to thank all of you for your  
6 patience and comments today. I think that we have heard a  
7 lot of different perspectives today. I'm sorry that the  
8 format that we had to use today didn't allow for  
9 conversations between people with these various  
10 perspectives. In some cases we heard people comment on  
11 comments that other made and clarification. We're going to  
12 close this meeting now, and I would just encourage you to  
13 the extent that you want to just to talk to each other about  
14 your perspectives on these issues.

15           The NRC staff is going to consider all the  
16 comments today that we heard, specifically those that might  
17 have an impact on the public health and safety of the plant  
18 or the environmental impact. There is NRC staff from a lot  
19 of different offices here today, so after we close the  
20 meeting, if you'd like to talk to them, just feel free to  
21 talk with us.

22           With that, I guess I would adjourn the meeting. We  
23 do have another public meeting tonight starting at 7:00. We  
24 were hoping that people who work during the day would be  
25 able to get here for that. If you would like to come back

1 and hear some other perspectives and talk to us again,  
2 please come back at seven. We'll be right here in this room.

3 Thank you very much.

4 [Whereupon, at 4:30 p.m., the meeting was  
5 recessed, to reconvene at 7:00 p.m., this same day.]

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## EVENING SESSION

[7:00 p.m.]

1  
2  
3 MR. CAMERON: Good evening, everybody, and welcome  
4 to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's public meeting  
5 on the development of the environmental impact statement for  
6 the licensing renewal applications for Plant Hatch Units 1  
7 and 2.

8 My name is Chip Cameron, and I'm the Special  
9 Counsel for Public Liaison at the NRC, and I'll be serving  
10 as the facilitator for tonight's meeting.

11 I just want to talk briefly about three items  
12 before we get to the real substance of tonight's meeting.  
13 One is the objectives for the meeting. The second is format  
14 and agenda for the meeting, and the third topic is the  
15 ground rules for the meeting.

16 In terms of objectives, the NRC wants to explain  
17 to the public the NRC license renewal process to you,  
18 specifically the process for developing the environmental  
19 impact statement that will be used in connection with the  
20 NRC's evaluation of the license renewal application. Most  
21 importantly, we want to hear your comments, suggestions, and  
22 advice on these issues, particularly the environmental  
23 impact statement issues.

24 If you saw the Federal Register notice on the  
25 meeting, it called this a scoping meeting, and scoping is a

1 term used in connection with preparation of our  
2 environmental impact statement. As you'll hear more from the  
3 NRC staff tonight, the environmental impact statement is  
4 used to assist the NRC in making a decision on a particular  
5 action, in this case the granting of the license renewal  
6 application, the granting or denial of the license renewal.  
7 Scoping is a term used in connection with the environmental  
8 impact process, and it to help the NRC to identify types of  
9 environmental impact that you look at in preparing the  
10 environmental impact statement.

11           The NRC is also taking written comments on the  
12 scoping issues, and the NRC staff will be giving you more  
13 particulars on when those comments are due, but we wanted to  
14 be here with you today and at the meeting tonight to discuss  
15 these issues with you in person, and this will also give you  
16 an opportunity to hear what others in the community and in  
17 the region feel about these particular issues. And if you  
18 are going to prepare written comments, sometimes this  
19 discussion in a public meeting is a help in preparing those  
20 written comments.

21           But I want to emphasize that any comments we hear  
22 from you today will be considered by the NRC as formal  
23 comments on scoping just as fully as any written comments.  
24 You don't have to send anything in writing to get these on  
25 record.

1           In terms of the ground rules and the format for  
2 tonight's meeting, the ground rules are pretty simple, and  
3 they're all aimed at helping all of us to have an effective  
4 meeting tonight. We're going to have some short staff  
5 presentations tonight to just give you some background  
6 information on this subject.

7           At each of those presentations, at least after two  
8 of them, we're going to go out to you for questions and  
9 comments on the particular issues. We are taking a  
10 transcript tonight, and if you do have comments or  
11 questions, just give me the high sign and I will either  
12 bring you this talking stick or you can go to one of these  
13 mikes. And I would ask you to please state your name and  
14 your affiliation, if appropriate, because we are taking a  
15 transcript. I would ask you to only speak one at a time so  
16 that we can get a clear transcript and also so that we can  
17 give our full attention to whoever has the floor at the  
18 particular time. I would just ask you to be concise in your  
19 comments. We have a lot of people who may want to speak  
20 tonight. I am mainly aiming that at the discussion we have  
21 after the staff presentation. We are going to have a session  
22 at the end of tonight's meeting that allows people to come  
23 up and make a formal statement, or they're going to come  
24 down here and read their statements.

25           Usually we don't set any specific time limits on

1 those statements because we want to give people flexibility.  
2 In our experience usually those statements are five to ten  
3 minutes. Sometimes they go longer and need to go longer, and  
4 I would say that should be in the 15 to 20 minute range.  
5 Then we are going to have to ask you to just summarize and  
6 give us the full statement of comments in writing. I just  
7 thought I'd add that.

8 I want to remind everyone that our purpose today  
9 is to gain insights on the environmental issues related to  
10 the Hatch licensing renewal applications. However, there may  
11 be other issues of concern that people have, and we're  
12 prepared to listen to those issues and try to provide  
13 information on them if we can. But we want to try to keep us  
14 focused on the environmental aspects of license renewal to  
15 make sure that we hear all of the comments on this issue  
16 before we leave here today.

17 My last subject is the agenda overview, and we're  
18 going to start in about a minute with Cindy Carpenter, who  
19 is to my right, and Cindy is the Branch Chief of the Generic  
20 Issues Environmental, Financial and Rule-Making Branch  
21 within our Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the NRC.  
22 Her staff is responsible for preparing the environmental  
23 impact statement on license renewal applications. Cindy is  
24 going to give us a welcome and a brief overview.

25 We are then going to go to Chris Grimes, who is

1 seated right here. Chris is the Branch Chief of License  
2 Renewal and Standardization at the NRC, again in our Office  
3 of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and his staff is responsible  
4 for separating the license renewal applications through the  
5 license renewal process at the NRC. Chris is going to talk  
6 to us about the license renewal process generally. I know  
7 that I've said that we are here to specifically address the  
8 environmental impact statement, but we want to tell you  
9 about the overall process and how those environmental  
10 impacts relate to what we call safety issues related to  
11 license renewal. So Chris will talk about that, and then  
12 we'll go to you for discussion and questions on that issue.  
13 O u r final presentation is going to be by Jim Wilson, who  
14 is down to the far right here, and Jim is an Environmental  
15 Project Manager who is in Cindy's branch. He is going to get  
16 the nub of the issue for today's discussion, which is the  
17 environmental impact statement process and scoping.

18           The final agenda topic is an open discussion  
19 including giving all of you who might want to give us a more  
20 formal statement besides the question and answer period so  
21 that we give you an opportunity to make a formal statement.  
22 We have a list of people who want to do that, and we'll  
23 proceed with doing that when we get to the open discussion  
24 period.

25           We're going to start out that period with hearing

1 from the Southern Company on the Company's license renewal  
2 applications, and we have Lewis Sumner and Byron Feimster,  
3 who are going to talk at that time, and then we'll get  
4 everybody else on. We have some people signed up already to  
5 do this. If you would like to make a formal statement, if  
6 you would just tell the NRC staff outside at the desk, we'll  
7 put you on the list if you'll give us an idea of how much  
8 time you need to spend.

9 I would just welcome all of you again and thank  
10 you all for being here. We look forward to hearing your  
11 comments. I was asked to mention one arcane but important  
12 item, which is that this is a public meeting. Some people  
13 might want to call it a public hearing rather than a public  
14 meeting, and that is perfectly understandable, but in the  
15 NRC regulatory framework a public hearing is a totally  
16 different animal. We don't want anybody to be confused by  
17 referring to this as a public hearing.

18 At this point is to turn it over to Cindy  
19 Carpenter. Cindy.

20 MS. CARPENTER: Welcome, and thank you very much  
21 for coming this evening.

22 My name is Cindy Carpenter, and I'm the Branch  
23 Chief of Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial, and  
24 Rulemaking Branch within the Office of Nuclear Reactor  
25 Regulation, and we have the ultimate responsibility for

1 preparation of the environmental impact statement.

2           We're here today to talk about the environmental  
3 review that the NRC is undertaking as a result of Southern  
4 Nuclear Operating Company's application for renewal of  
5 operating licenses for Hatch Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2.  
6 We'll talk a little bit about the statutory requirements of  
7 this action, the purpose of the review, a n d t h e process  
8 we go through in the decision that we're working on. More  
9 importantly, we will provide you the opportunity to give us  
10 input into our environmental review and to ask questions of  
11 the experts who are here.

12           Plant Hatch is a boiling-water reactor operated by  
13 Southern Nuclear. The operating licenses for Plant Hatch  
14 will expire in the years 2014 and 2018 for Units 1 and 2  
15 respectively. The Atomic Energy Act allows the licensee,  
16 such as Southern Nuclear, to seek a renewal. The law also  
17 requires the NRC to systematically review the environmental  
18 impacts during the process.

19           Southern Nuclear submitted application for license  
20 renewal on March 1st of this year, and Federal Register  
21 notice was issued on April 3, and the scoping renewal began  
22 on April 12th. On that very same day, we began an open  
23 comments period wherein we seek comments from members of the  
24 public of on what the impact on the environment will be.  
25 These comments will help the staff determine what the

1 effects will be on the environmental aspects of license  
2 renewal.

3 The purpose of today's meeting is identify the  
4 environmental areas and provide for any comments that you  
5 have for inclusion in the comment period.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: We will go out to you after Chris's  
8 presentation to hear any questions or comment that you might  
9 have. Chris.

10 MR. GRIMES: My name is Chris Grimes. I'm the  
11 Chief of Licensing and Standardization Branch, and I'm going  
12 to describe the overall concept of licensing for power  
13 reactors.

14 The NRC mission is to regulate the nation's  
15 civilian nuclear materials, to ensure adequate protection of  
16 the public health and safety, to promote the common defense,  
17 and security, and to protect the environment. This mission  
18 and the NRC's authority are derived from the Atomic Energy  
19 Act of 1954 and Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as well  
20 as amendments to those acts and other legislation involving  
21 security, waste, and energy policy.

22 The NRC regulations are issued under Title 10 of  
23 the Code of Federal Regulations, which we will refer to  
24 throughout our presentations as 10 CFR for short. For  
25 commercial power reactors, the NRC's regulatory functions

1 include licensing of nuclear power plant licenses based on a  
2 set of technical regulatory requirements to ensure that the  
3 design and proposed operation of the facility are safe,  
4 based on sound radiological safety standards.

5           The NRC conducts routine inspections to ensure  
6 that the plant design and operation conform to its license  
7 requirements, and enforcement actions are taken in the event  
8 that the license requirements are not being satisfied.

9           The Atomic Energy Act and NRC Regulations limit  
10 commercial power reactor licenses to a term of 40 years, but  
11 the Act recognizes that there was a potential for license  
12 renewal, and the regulations were amended to permit the  
13 renewal of power reactor licenses for up to an additional 20  
14 years.

15           The 40-year term was originally selected on the  
16 basis of economic and anti-trust considerations, not on  
17 technical limitations. However, once selected, the design of  
18 several system and structural components were engineered on  
19 the basis of an expected 40-year life.

20           When the first reactors were constructed, major  
21 components were expected to last at least 40 years.  
22 Operating experience has demonstrated that that expectation  
23 was unrealistic for some major plant components such as the  
24 steam generators and pressurized water reactors.

25           However, research conducted over the past decade

1 and operating experience have demonstrated that there are no  
2 technical limitations to the plant life, since major  
3 components and structures can be replaced or refurbished.  
4 The plant life is determined primarily on economic factors,  
5 this is, on cost of repair or replacing of major plant  
6 components.

7           The rule requires that an applicant demonstrate  
8 that the applicable aging effects will be adequately managed  
9 for a defined scope of passive, long-lived system structures  
10 and components. The Commission determined that aging of  
11 active components is adequately managed by existing  
12 maintenance and surveillance programs and other aspects of  
13 the existing license requirements are continued through the  
14 period of extended operation.

15           The rule also requires that certain time-  
16 dependent design analysis be identified and evaluated. A new  
17 license can be granted upon a finding by the Commission that  
18 actions have been or will be taken so that there is  
19 reasonable assurance that applicable aging effects will be  
20 adequately managed through the period of extended operation  
21 and whether or not adverse environmental impacts of license  
22 renewal are so great that preserving the option of license  
23 renewal for energy planning decision-makers would be  
24 unreasonable. That environmental impact finding is basically  
25 a determination that this is an economic decision.

1           Next slide, please.

2           The United States currently receives about 20  
3 percent of its electricity from 103 operating nuclear power  
4 plants. The electricity sector is moving rapidly to a  
5 deregulated environment in which energy supply sources will  
6 be dictated by cost to the consumer. At the same time, there  
7 are growing pressures to limit fossil fuel emissions because  
8 of continued concerns for cleaner air and potential global  
9 climate changes. Deregulation and competition have raised  
10 the interest in license renewal to strategic importance  
11 because large generating plants become vital economic assets  
12 to the plant owners. Operating nuclear power plants are  
13 expected to remain competitive after retail electricity  
14 restructuring, provided that the costs associated with  
15 continued plant operation in the future can be reasonably  
16 projected.

17           Some currently operating U.S. plants will not  
18 apply for license renewal for economic reasons. The NRC  
19 established the license renewal requirements so that any  
20 plant that is capable of operating safely beyond the current  
21 term should have that opportunity and, more importantly,  
22 clearly understand the requirements for such extended plant  
23 operation.

24           Calvert Cliffs in Maryland was the first plant to  
25 apply for license renewal. The renewed license was granted

1 on March 23rd of this year. The renewal application for the  
2 Edwin I. Hatch Units 1 and 2, which is more simply called  
3 Plant Hatch, was received on March 1st, 2000, as Cindy  
4 mentioned. Although the Plant Hatch licenses do not  
5 presently expire until 2014 and 2018, many utilities are  
6 interested in license renewal today to ensure that they  
7 clearly understand what requirements will be necessary for  
8 an extended license for future financial planning.

9 Next slide, please.

10 I don't know if you can read all the little boxes  
11 in that chart, but this chart provides a simplified flow  
12 diagram of what happens to the application after it is  
13 received at the NRC. There are copies of the handout outside  
14 the auditorium for those of you who would like to see that.  
15 The licensing process consists of parallel technical and  
16 environmental reviews, which will be documented, and a  
17 safety evaluation report for the aging management aspects of  
18 the renewal application and a supplement to the generic  
19 environmental impact statement for the environmental impact  
20 figures first in draft, and then we will have another public  
21 meeting to offer an opportunity for public comments on the  
22 draft of the environmental impact statement. The aging  
23 management plans and the NRC staff safety evaluation will  
24 then be verified by NRC inspection. The renewal application  
25 and the safety evaluation will also be reviewed by the NRC's

1 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS, in  
2 accordance with the usual practice. You will also notice on  
3 this chart that the ACRS, like this scoping meeting, is one  
4 of the opportunities that we provide for public comment.  
5 Interested members of the public who wish to comment on a  
6 safety evaluation basis can do so during the ACRS meeting.

7           The NRC plans to complete the safety evaluation  
8 report for Plant Hatch that will address the scope of  
9 passive system structures and components, the applicable  
10 aging effects, and the aging management programs that  
11 Southern Nuclear will rely on to ensure that the plant is  
12 safely maintained for the period of extended operation. The  
13 initial report will identify open items and confirm certain  
14 items related to safety review under Part 54 that must be  
15 resolved before a Commission decision can be reached. That  
16 report will be made available to the public upon its initial  
17 issuance and then upon reissuance after the resolution of  
18 the open items.

19           The NRC's licensing requirements also include a  
20 formal process for public involvement in hearings, as Chip  
21 mentioned, conducted by a panel of administrative judges,  
22 who are collectively called the Atomic Safety and Licensing  
23 Board. Interested persons or parties who want to hold  
24 hearings on particular matters related to the licensing  
25 action and which wish to have those matters litigated by the

1 Board can file a petition with the NRC, as was described in  
2 the Federal Register notice that was issued on April 3rd  
3 upon announcement of the acceptance of the application.  
4 Copies of the Federal Register notice and other brochures  
5 that relate to the hearing process are available outside the  
6 auditorium. The period for filing of petition for hearing  
7 closed on May 3rd. Thus far we have not had any petitions to  
8 hold hearings on the Hatch application.

9 Separately, however, we have received a petition  
10 from the Union of Concerned Scientists that raises an issue  
11 related to the aging of liquid and gaseous waste systems at  
12 Plant Hatch and requested the Commission take action to  
13 change the regulatory requirements for license renewal  
14 related to the waste handling systems.

15 Regardless of whether or not there are any formal  
16 hearings on the Plant Hatch renewal application, interested  
17 members of the public who are concerned about nuclear safety  
18 issues can raise those issues informally during various  
19 public meetings that the NRC staff will hold with Southern  
20 Nuclear Company to discuss safety aspects of the proposed  
21 extended plant operation. Time is usually provided at the  
22 conclusion of each meeting for public comments and  
23 questions. Meetings on particular technical issues are  
24 usually held in the NRC's offices in Rockville, Maryland.  
25 However, some technical meetings and meetings to summarize

1 the results of NRC inspections will be held near the plant  
2 site in places that is accessible to the public, and I  
3 encourage you to participate in those meetings.

4 All records for Plant Hatch are available at the  
5 NRC's public document room in Washington, D.C., and many  
6 recent records are now available on the NRC's WEB page at  
7 [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov). The Hatch renewal application and its schedules  
8 can be viewed on the NRC's WEB page under "Reactors and  
9 License Renewal."

10 In addition, although the NRC no longer tries to  
11 maintain local public document rooms, reports and  
12 correspondence related to the Hatch renewal application are  
13 available for your inspection at the Appling County Library  
14 at 242 East Parker Street in Baxley.

15 The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards,  
16 otherwise known as ACRS, that I previously mentioned  
17 performs an independent review of the renewal application  
18 and safety evaluation. They will report their findings and  
19 recommendations directly to the Commission. They will also  
20 hold meetings that are transcribed, thus the opportunity for  
21 public comment, or written statements can be provided by  
22 members of the public during ACRS meetings in accordance  
23 with the instructions that are described in the notices of  
24 the meetings that they will hold.

25 At the end of the process, the final safety

1 evaluation report, the final supplement to the environmental  
2 impact statement, and the results of the inspections in the  
3 form of a recommendation from the Regional Administrator,  
4 along with the results of hearing findings given, are  
5 submitted to the Commission with a recommendation by the  
6 staff on action on the application.

7           Those documents and the formal Commission meeting  
8 to discuss the staff's recommendation are also to the  
9 public. After a public Commission meeting, each Commissioner  
10 will vote on the proposed action and the decision is  
11 formally sent to the NRC staff for whatever action it is  
12 concluded is appropriate for the renewal application.

13           Throughout the NRC's review of the license renewal  
14 application, the NRC will continuously conduct regular  
15 inspections and amendments to the current licensing in  
16 accordance with the routine licensing activities. The NRC's  
17 inspections of the plant performance reviews are evolving  
18 with other NRC initiatives to improve the reactor oversight  
19 process. If you are interested in learning more about the  
20 inspection and oversight process, there is information also  
21 available on NRC's WEB page in a report that is entitled  
22 NUREG 1649, Revision 1, that describes the renewal  
23 inspection process.

24           The normal regulatory process and amendments to  
25 the existing license requirements continue in parallel with

1 the renewal application and will address matters of interest  
2 such as operational events, spent fuel storage, security,  
3 and emergency plans.

4 That concludes my overview of the NRC regulatory  
5 processes. If you have any questions about the general  
6 description of licensing, I would like to try and address  
7 those now before Jim Wilson describes the process for the  
8 staff's environmental impact review.

9 MR. CAMERON: Any questions for Chris on his  
10 presentation or any comments on his description of the  
11 license renewal process?

12 Thank you, Chris.

13 Receiving no questions, let's go on to Jim Wilson  
14 to address the focus of tonight's meeting, which is the  
15 environmental impact statement process.

16 MR. WILSON: My name is Jim Wilson. I am the  
17 Environmental Project Manager for the Hatch license renewal  
18 project. I work in the Generic Issues, Environmental,  
19 Financial, and Rulemaking Branch within the Office of  
20 Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the NRC.

21 I intend to spend the next 30 minutes or so  
22 talking about the process required by the National  
23 Environmental Policy Act, the so-called NEPA process, and  
24 then describe how that process is incorporated into our  
25 relations at the NRC, and then, more specifically, how those

1 regulations are being applied to the Hatch license renewal  
2 application.

3 NEPA was enacted in 1969 and requires all Federal  
4 agencies to use a systematic approach to consider  
5 environmental impacts during certain decision-making  
6 proceedings.

7 It is a disclosure tool that involves the public.  
8 It invokes a process whereby information is gathered to  
9 enable Federal agencies to make informed decisions, and  
10 then, as part of that process, to document that information  
11 and invite public participation to evaluate it.

12 The NEPA process results in a number of different  
13 kinds of documents. Chief among them are environmental  
14 impact statements (also called EISs), which describe the  
15 results of the rigorous and detailed review that we in NRC  
16 use to evaluate the environmental impacts of a proposed  
17 action that may significantly affect the quality of the  
18 human environment.

19 The NRC has determined that license renewal is a  
20 major Federal action. Therefore, we are going through the  
21 NEPA process for Hatch, and will prepare an environmental  
22 impact statement that describes the environmental impacts of  
23 operation for an additional 20 years. Slide 11

24 Next slide. This slide describes the objective of  
25 our environmental review. The staff is trying to determine

1 whether or not the adverse environmental impacts of license  
2 renewal for Hatch are so great that preserving the option of  
3 license renewal for energy planning decision makers would be  
4 unreasonable.

5           That's what it says in the regulations. To  
6 paraphrase, we are trying to determine whether or not  
7 renewing the Hatch Station Units 1 and 2 operating licenses  
8 for an additional 20 years is acceptable from an  
9 environmental impact standpoint. Slide 12

10           Now I'd like to give you an overview and describe  
11 how the staff incorporated the NEPA process into the  
12 regulatory framework of the NRC, and how we perform an  
13 environmental review.

14           The NRC's implementing regulations for carrying  
15 out the NEPA process are located in Part 51 of Title 10 of  
16 the Code of Federal Regulations -- what we call 10 CFR Part  
17 51. This regulation outlines the contents of environmental  
18 impact statements, and the process that the NRC uses in  
19 order to meet the requirements of NEPA.

20           Early on in establishing the license renewal  
21 process (back in the 80's and 90's), it was recognized that  
22 the original environmental impact statements that were  
23 written for the plants when they received their operating  
24 licenses 20 or more years earlier would need to be updated  
25 to address the additional 20 years of operation under

1 license renewal. So the NRC undertook a rulemaking effort to  
2 modify Part 51 and to amend it to address environmental  
3 impacts of license renewal.

4 As part of the rulemaking effort on Part 51, the  
5 staff developed a generic environmental impact statement,  
6 called the GEIS, which took a systematic look at the  
7 thousands of hours of operating experience at all of the  
8 nuclear power plants to help us identify potential  
9 environmental impacts. In addition, the staff developed and  
10 uses an Environmental Standard Review Plan for License  
11 Renewal (NUREG-1555, Supplement 1) as guidance on how to  
12 perform our environmental reviews.

13 There are copies of the 10 CFR Part 51, the GEIS,  
14 and the Environmental Standard Review Plan outside in the  
15 lobby for your examination. These documents can be viewed on  
16 the Internet at our WEB site, and can be obtained from the  
17 Government Printing Office. In addition, some of this  
18 information can be viewed at the Appling County Library in  
19 Baxley, Georgia. Slide 13

20 The next slide shows a little more detail of the  
21 environmental review process than was shown on the earlier  
22 chart that Chris described. It graphically shows the process  
23 that I'm going to talk about for the next couple of minutes,  
24 so you might want to refer back to it from time to time.  
25 Slide 14

1           As far as the NEPA process goes, there are certain  
2 steps that we at the NRC are required to follow, and these  
3 steps are consistent for all EISs prepared by all Federal  
4 agencies for any proposed major Federal action.

5           The first step is the notice of intent. That lets  
6 the public know that we're going to prepare an environmental  
7 impact statement. For Hatch, the notice of intent was issued  
8 last month in the Federal Register. To prepare for the  
9 review, the staff has assembled a team of NRC staff with  
10 backgrounds in the specific technical and scientific  
11 disciplines required to perform these environmental reviews.  
12 In addition, to supplement the technical expertise of the  
13 staff, we engaged the assistance of Pacific Northwest  
14 National Laboratory to ensure that we had a well-rounded  
15 knowledge base to perform this review. We put together a  
16 team of about 20 people to conduct this review, most of whom  
17 are here today to address questions that you may have and to  
18 hear what you have to say in the next step of the meeting.

19           The next step is the scoping process itself.  
20 During the scoping period, we will be identifying issues to  
21 be addressed in the environmental impact statement. The  
22 scoping period for Hatch began on April 12th, with the  
23 issuance of the Federal notice of intent, and will end on  
24 June 9th. Today we are holding two public meetings to  
25 describe what we are doing and to get input from the public.

1           During the scoping period, we are seeking  
2 information to define the scope of the environmental impact  
3 statement, and to determine what needs to be studied in  
4 detail and what is not appropriate to address. Not only are  
5 we soliciting input from you, but we will also be obtaining  
6 information from Southern Nuclear, and from Federal, State,  
7 and local agencies. Slide 15

8           Once we feel that we have enough information to  
9 establish the scope of the review, the staff looks at a  
10 number of issues, including the environmental impacts of the  
11 proposed license renewal; alternatives to the proposed  
12 action and the impacts that could result from those  
13 alternatives; and possible mitigation measures, which are  
14 things that can be done that would decrease the  
15 environmental impact of the license renewal.

16           After we complete our environmental review, we  
17 will issue a draft environmental impact statement (or draft  
18 EIS) for public comment. This will be a plant- specific  
19 supplement to the GEIS, as we rely on the findings in the  
20 GEIS for part of our conclusions. The report is a draft not  
21 because it is incomplete, but rather because we are at an  
22 intermediate stage in the decision- making process. So, once  
23 we have issued the draft supplement to the GEIS, we are  
24 planning on having another public comment period eight to  
25 nine months from now to allow you too take a look at the

1 results of the review and to provide any comments you may  
2 have.

3 We will also hold two public meetings during this  
4 second comment period to describe the results of the NRC  
5 review, to answer questions related to our environmental  
6 review, and to try to help members of the public formulate  
7 any additional comments.

8 After we gather the comments and evaluate them, we  
9 may decide to change portions of the Hatch-specific  
10 supplement to the GEIS based on those comments. The NRC will  
11 then issue a final Hatch-specified supplement to the generic  
12 environmental impact statement. Slide 16

13 Now that I've given you a general idea of the  
14 overall process, let's talk about what we are going to be  
15 doing in the near term. Over the next few months, the  
16 environmental review team will be looking at Southern  
17 Nuclear's application; visiting the Hatch site, and  
18 reviewing Southern Nuclear's evaluation process; and  
19 reviewing any comments that we receive during the scoping  
20 period ending June 9th.

21 All comments received during the scoping period  
22 will be considered. Slide 17.

23 In addition, we will be obtaining needed  
24 information on Hatch from Federal, State and local officials  
25 as well as local service agencies. Slide 18.

1           Now I'd like to tell you a little bit about what  
2 it is that we look at.

3           The generic environmental impact statement was  
4 published as NUREG-1437, and was issued in 1996. it formed  
5 the basis for the rule revisions in Part 51. Prior to that,  
6 the NRC had worked with the States, the Council on  
7 Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Environmental Protection  
8 Agency (EPA), and number of other groups, and held a series  
9 of public workshops to develop the final generic  
10 environmental impact statement.

11           During that time, the NRC did its best to identify  
12 what environmental issues need to be reviewed for license  
13 renewal.

14           The staff identified and categorized the  
15 environmental impacts that were specific to license renewal.  
16 We identified a total of 92 potential environmental impacts,  
17 and we evaluated these in the generic environmental impact  
18 statement.

19           When the staff evaluated the 92 issues it had  
20 identified, it found that some of those were generic -- that  
21 is, they were common to all plants, regardless of their  
22 design or where they were sited. The NRC wanted to  
23 categorize them differently from those that needed to be  
24 evaluated on a plant-specific basis. So we chose to  
25 designate these generic impacts as being in Category 1.

1           An example of a Category 1 issue is offsite  
2 radiological consequences. When developing the GEIS, the  
3 staff looked to see if offsite doses during the renewal  
4 period would be likely to exceed the current levels  
5 associated with the normal operation of plants today. We  
6 performed a historical review and determined that doses to  
7 the public have been maintained well below those allowed by  
8 the regulations. The staff could see no reason for these  
9 doses to increase due to extended operation, provided  
10 monitoring and control programs continued to be implemented  
11 acceptably. Because expected radiological impacts apply to  
12 all plants in a similar manner, and the significance level  
13 of the offsite radiological impact is considered small at  
14 all plants (provided that regulatory compliance is  
15 maintained), the staff concluded that this item can be  
16 addressed on a generic basis as a Category 1 item.

17           That does not mean that we are not going to look  
18 at this issue anymore. It means only that we are going to  
19 look only for significant new information that would cause  
20 us to change the conclusions that we made on this issue four  
21 years ago when we issued the generic environmental impact  
22 statement. Slide 18

23           There were 69 Category 1 issues among the 92  
24 issues that were identified and assessed in the final GEIS.  
25 As part of our review, we require applicants to inform the

1 NRC in its application whether it is aware of any new and  
2 significant information regarding these Category 1 issues.  
3 During the scoping phase of this review, we will also look  
4 at comments from members of the public and Federal, State  
5 and local authorities to determine whether or not there is  
6 any significant new information on these issues. If some new  
7 and significant information on a particular issue is  
8 revealed by this process, that information will be included  
9 in our review to determine the environmental impact. If not,  
10 we will adopt the generic conclusions from the GEIS for that  
11 issue.

12 All of the remaining 23 issues that were  
13 identified in the GEIS will be addressed on a plant-  
14 specific basis.

15 And finally, the review process is designed to  
16 help the NRC determine whether or not there are any  
17 significant new issues that we did not identify four years  
18 ago and that are not covered in the GEIS. New issues  
19 specific to Hatch may be revealed as a result of the scoping  
20 process we are undergoing right now. If a significant new  
21 issue is identified that was not considered in the GEIS,  
22 then it will be reviewed on a plant-specific basis as though  
23 it were a Category 2 issue. Slides 19 and 20

24 The next two slides give you an idea of the types  
25 of things we look at in our review: ecological issues,

1 water quality, health issues, socioeconomic impacts, and  
2 alternatives to renewing the license. Slide 21

3 The regulations identify some issues that the  
4 staff does not usually look at during its environmental  
5 review, including the need for power, cost of power, and  
6 spent fuel disposal. In addition, my environmental review  
7 team will not be looking at the safety aspects of license  
8 renewal. That will be covered by Mr. Grimes' people under  
9 the review process that he directs. Slide 22

10 After the scoping period ends on June 9, the staff  
11 will assess all of the comments to determine whether or not  
12 they are applicable to the environmental aspects of license  
13 renewal. Issues that do not have a bearing on the decision  
14 to renew the license will be referred to the appropriate NRC  
15 program manager (for example, Operating Plant Project  
16 Manager, Allegations Coordinator). Such an issue may also be  
17 referred to other agencies that may be interested in them.  
18 Safety issues related to license renewal will be referred to  
19 Mr. Grimes' staff. Slide 23

20 This slide gives you the current schedule for the  
21 environmental review of Hatch. We expect to be finished with  
22 the entire review by the end of August of 2001.

23 If there are no hearings and the review goes  
24 smoothly, we hope to improve on this schedule if possible.  
25 To ensure that you are informed of any schedule changes, I

1 recommend that you provide your name and address to us so we  
2 can include you on our distribution list. That way we will  
3 send you notices of the upcoming public meetings on the  
4 environmental review and copies of the draft and final  
5 environmental impact statements. Slide 24

6           This last slide provides you with my phone number,  
7 in case you have additional questions after you leave here  
8 today. I am the designated point of contact within the NRC  
9 for the environmental portion of the license renewal review  
10 for Hatch. All of the documents that we spoke about today  
11 can be viewed at the NRC's home page on the WEB. In  
12 addition, the Appling County Library in Baxley, Georgia, has  
13 agreed to make a copy of the application available to the  
14 public as well as a copy of the Code of Federal Regulations  
15 and the generic environmental impact statement.

16           Comments may also be submitted by mail, in person,  
17 or by e-mail. This slide also gives information on how to  
18 submit comments or get information.

19           In closing, I want to thank you for your  
20 attention. This ends my formal presentation. Before we  
21 continue, I would like to thank you for coming to today's  
22 meeting. Public participation is an important part of the  
23 legal process of license renewal. It is important that you  
24 participate because it makes for a better process if you do.  
25 After all, those of you in the area are more familiar with

1 the plant than we are.

2 MR. CAMERON: Are there questions on the  
3 environmental aspects of license renewal or to go back to  
4 the license renewal process generally before we go on. Any  
5 questions or comments at this point?

6 Yes. Why don't you use the mike and state your  
7 name and affiliation if appropriate.

8 MS. KILPATRICK: My name is Rita Kilpatrick. I  
9 have a couple of questions. One is regarding the  
10 availability of information. It was indicated that people  
11 can go to the Appling County Library, and I wonder if all of  
12 the documents from the start of the operation of Plant Hatch  
13 forward, which would lay out the accidents and violations of  
14 the plant, which are part of the total historical  
15 perspective, are those also on hand at the library and  
16 available for people to be able to read?

17 MR. WILSON: When I was down here a month and a  
18 half ago, we went to the Appling County Library in Baxley to  
19 meet with the librarian and confirm what she did retain at  
20 her facility. I was shown where the previous public document  
21 room was. As you may or may not know, our limited public  
22 document room was eliminated last year. The librarian agreed  
23 to maintain any documents that we sent her associated with  
24 license renewal, but the historical record of the last 20  
25 years of submittals is no longer there. However, the

1 application and the correspondence related to license  
2 renewal are in the public library.

3 MS. KILPATRICK: In relation to that, what does  
4 one do, then, to get the full historical documentation on  
5 the accidents and violations? Where does a member of the  
6 public go to acquire this?

7 MR. WILSON: The historical record is maintained  
8 in the Public Document Room in Washington. Everything that  
9 was submitted in connection with this application is still  
10 in Washington.

11 MR. CAMERON: Let me ask, Rita, if you have a  
12 recommendation to the NRC in terms of providing documents  
13 that may be relevant to license renewal at the place here?  
14 You asked a question, but I heard a recommendation behind  
15 that.

16 MS. KILPATRICK: That was just off the top of my  
17 head. I wanted to know what was available for someone who  
18 didn't have time to go to Washington. It is quite  
19 voluminous, I know, so if that could be made available  
20 electronically, that is one thing you could address toward  
21 getting a full listing to the public on your WEB site so  
22 that people can if they want to order and get a hard copy of  
23 those events to look at.

24 MR. GRIMES: There are several brochures outside  
25 this meeting room that describe information from NRC. A

1 couple of years ago when I checked, we were handling about a  
2 million pieces of paper a day. So if any of that paper and  
3 any of that information that you want, you can get by mail  
4 from the NRC by a request in writing. Documents are produced  
5 on a daily basis in response to requests from listings of  
6 documents. We abandoned the local public document room  
7 system primarily because it wasn't being used and justifying  
8 costs.

9           Also, since we've started our WEB page, more and  
10 more records are now available on the WEB, and you can use  
11 this search technique to be able to screen out different  
12 kinds of records.

13           I don't know how far back they go, but all of the  
14 reports are reported on a daily basis, so whatever records  
15 any member of the public is interested in getting, if you  
16 can access them on the WEB you can request them through the  
17 WEB or in writing to the NRC.

18           MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: This is Pamela  
19 Blockey-O'Brien. I would like to make a recommendation if I  
20 may.

21           If the NRC could provide the 1-800 number to the  
22 Public Document Room in Washington, D.C., people can call up  
23 that number and they can ask for what is called a free  
24 docket printout, which is a synopsis of paragraphs from  
25 every single thing that has ever happened at that plant

1 since prior to operation. Then they can order documents off  
2 the docket. To make it easier, they might want to focus on  
3 violations -- violation reports, spills, accidents, and  
4 contamination -- those words. That is free. When they get  
5 the document printout, then they can order. It costs about  
6 ten cents a page. The Public Document Room librarians in  
7 Washington are very helpful.

8 MR. GRIMES: Your suggestion is quite well taken,  
9 and we encourage you to do that. I don't keep that number in  
10 my head. It is printed, and I believe one of the NRC staff  
11 members has gone out to get the brochure with the number.

12 MR. CAMERON: You can also call the 1-800 number  
13 that is listed for Jim Wilson up here. That gets you through  
14 to the NRC operator, and you could say, "Could you put me  
15 through to the Public Document Room." And if there's a more  
16 specific number, we'll get that.

17 Okay. The number for the Public Document Room is  
18 1-800-397-4209. It should get you there

19 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: One of the things that  
20 happens is if you ask for violations, it will search the  
21 entire data base beginning prior to start-up for every  
22 violation that ever occurred. These violations go back to  
23 contamination and so on and this is historically very  
24 important.

25 MR. GRIMES: Yes. We agree.

1 MR. CAMERON: Any other questions on the  
2 environmental impact statement or license renewal process?

3 I know we still have one more over here, but I  
4 guess I still thought there was a recommendation lurking, so  
5 to speak, in the last discussion we had, but perhaps there  
6 are certain relevant documents -- and maybe this is our  
7 intent -- to license renewal that might be able to be made  
8 available in hard copy at the library. It's something for  
9 the NRC to consider, I guess.

10 MR. GRIMES: If you have any suggestions on  
11 records you would like to be made available at the library,  
12 let us know and we'll see what we can do. We're imposing on  
13 the good graces of the librarian, but if there are records  
14 that you are interested in, we'll see if we can get them  
15 made available at the library.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

17 There's a question here from Pamela Blockey-  
18 O'Brien of do we have any idea where all the records that  
19 were in the Public Document Room, where they are? Whether  
20 they were shipped back to the NRC or destroyed?

21 MR. GRIMES: They were not shipped back to the  
22 NRC, so they likely were destroyed.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Perhaps that's a suggestion  
24 that might be worthwhile looking at.

25 All right. Let's go to Rita.

1 MS. KILPATRICK: Thank you. We would certainly  
2 appreciate that.

3 I've got a few technical questions if there is  
4 time for those to be asked?

5 MR. GRIMES: We'll do our best.

6 MS. KILPATRICK: One of them has to do with  
7 calculations of reactor accidents. We are aware that in the  
8 filing the licensee has made for renewal that the numbers  
9 are dramatically different and dramatically lower than  
10 figures from a report that we used as a basis generally, and  
11 that is from the Congressional Committee on Nuclear Affairs  
12 that is commonly called the FAC2 study. There's such a  
13 difference, for example, in the dollars in cost from  
14 thousands to billions, that kind of variation.

15 MR. GRIMES: Actually I can show you a much more  
16 dramatic area, because if you go all the way back to the  
17 Reed Report which was referred to earlier, to the present,  
18 the analytical techniques that are used to calculate  
19 possibilities and consequences of accidents have evolved  
20 dramatically just in the last five years, ten years.

21 The most recent figures that we have are from the  
22 individual plant examinations. Those figures have been  
23 collected over about the last four years, and they have much  
24 more refined models in terms of calculating off- site does  
25 effects, land damage, reclaim value. Those have undergone

1 peer review, and they now represent the best estimates that  
2 contrast very dramatically from the old studies that  
3 attempted worst-case scenarios. We think that the worst-case  
4 scenarios tend to do exactly what they were not intended to  
5 do, and that is to scare people. So the new models tend to  
6 do analysis of accident consequences in terms of best  
7 estimates of what would happen in the event of the accident.

8 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: Can you tell us what is now  
9 defined as an accident? When an accident is referred to,  
10 we're talking about release to the environment by breach,  
11 core melt-down?

12 MR. GRIMES: We do not use Class 9 accident  
13 terminology anymore. That is three decades old. According to  
14 risk analysis, we now classify events into four categories.  
15 Specifically you will find us speak of releases that are  
16 associated with 20 minutes, and those are routine releases  
17 that occur as part of plant operations that are monitored as  
18 part of the release stream.

19 Then there are design basis accidents which are  
20 part of the licensing basis that are described in the plant  
21 safety analysis report that constitute the limits for which  
22 the plant was designed to withstand a breach of the reactor  
23 cooling system.

24 Severe accidents are all accidents beyond the  
25 design basis, up to and including a core melt-down and a

1 loss of containment. Those things go all the way out to the  
2 hypothetical complete melt-down of the plant core. Severe  
3 accidents are those things that are studied with risk  
4 analysis and cost benefit studies.

5 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: Are you familiar with NUREG  
6 1079?

7 MR. GRIMES: I'm not familiar with NUREG 1079.

8 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: That dealt with the  
9 different types of accidents.

10 MR. GRIMES: If you will look at NUREG 1150 --

11 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: Ten-seventy-nine was the  
12 most important one.

13 MR. GRIMES: But 1079 was superseded by 1150 when  
14 we compiled all the studies that were contained in 1079.

15 MR. CAMERON: Could we get Pam a copy of 1150.

16 MR. GRIMES: I'll look at 1079 and provide her a  
17 copy of 1150.

18 MR. CAMERON: Let's go back to Rita.

19 MS. KILPATRICK: I have a question of whether the  
20 NRC will consider adverse local effects of radioactive  
21 emissions when you are considering license renewal?

22 MR. WILSON: We excluded radiation effects on the  
23 basis that Part 20 provides that the effluents constituted  
24 an ongoing regulatory concept, and on that basis we  
25 concluded that it was a Category 1 issue in the generic

1 environmental impact statement.

2 MS. KILPATRICK: One other question: Will the NRC  
3 be testing or ordering testing on site down to the Floridian  
4 aquifer to see if that has been contaminated?

5 MR. GRIMES: The answer is no, we don't plan any  
6 special testing. We continue to provide environmental  
7 monitoring assistance, and we will contact all the local and  
8 State governments who do their own testing.

9 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: But the State is not allowed  
10 to do any testing on site. That falls under NRC  
11 jurisdiction. MR. GRIMES: The NRC only maintains  
12 jurisdiction with respect to monitoring the effluents.  
13 However, the state still do water testing, and they still  
14 check aquifers, and to the extent that they have done that  
15 we have used that to corroborate information the plant  
16 gathers.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for these questions. Does  
18 anybody else have a question or comment?

19 What we're going to do now is to go to that part  
20 of the program where people make formal statements, and, as  
21 I reminded everybody at the beginning of this evening  
22 session, we would like you to keep your formal statements to  
23 no longer than approximately 20 minutes. Most of them run  
24 much shorter than that, but we are setting that guideline  
25 for the statements.

1           We're going to lead off with some representatives  
2 from the Southern Company, Lewis Sumner and Byron Feimster.  
3 And I would ask Lewis to come up and lead off.

4           MR. SUMNER: Good evening. My name is Lewis  
5 Sumner, and I am the vice president that has responsibility  
6 for Plant Hatch.

7           I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you for a  
8 few minutes. I also want to thank all our neighbors in  
9 Toombs and Appling and surrounding counties who are here  
10 today to overview this town meeting. I know you have other  
11 things to do, and I sure do appreciate your taking the time  
12 to come.

13           Just a little about myself. I went to work at  
14 Plant Hatch in 1975 right after I graduated from Georgia  
15 Tech as a nuclear engineer, and I began my nuclear career a  
16 quarter of a century ago as a junior engineer. I worked at a  
17 number of different positions here until being named General  
18 Manager in 1990, and then I held that position until named  
19 Vice President in 1997, at which time Pete Wells was named  
20 General Manager and I became Vice President.

21           I raised my family here in this community so I  
22 have a vested interest in this renewal process. I have a  
23 vested interest in the success of the surrounding community,  
24 as well as the health and well-being of the people who work  
25 here.

1           I have still in the community people I consider to  
2 be my lifelong friends. I have watched their children from  
3 being born as infants to now being members of the local  
4 community. So I have a personal interest in the success of  
5 this community and for the health and well- being of the  
6 community here also.

7           I am a strong advocate of this renewal process and  
8 approval of the application. I have worked in this power  
9 industry for a quarter of a century, so I have had an  
10 opportunity to look at all different forms of power  
11 generation that exist out there. I believe that this renewal  
12 process for the Hatch licenses is the best long- term  
13 solution for energy needs, not only here in the local  
14 community but throughout the State and country.

15           This evening we are going to share with you an  
16 overview of the environmental report for our license renewal  
17 at Hatch, and this report is a very important part of the  
18 whole application process, the renewal process. Since this  
19 particular meeting is focused on environmental issues, I  
20 have asked Byron Feimster to speak briefly on the  
21 environmental report in the assessment of our impact on the  
22 local environment. Byron is an environmental specialist at  
23 Plant Hatch, and he works there every day to make sure that  
24 we are preserving and protecting the environment around the  
25 plant.

1 I'm going to cover some general information about  
2 Plant Hatch -- license renewal and our application, and then  
3 I'm going to invite Byron to come up here and give a summary  
4 of the environmental report itself.

5 Plant Hatch is a two-unit boiling water reactor  
6 located just across the Altamaha River in Appling County. At  
7 full power each unit generates over 920 megawatts of  
8 electricity. Over the years, Plant Hatch has demonstrated  
9 high levels of safety and reliability and serves as an  
10 economical source of electrical generation for the people of  
11 Georgia.

12 Even if you add the cost of construction, future  
13 cost of operation and maintenance and license renewal costs,  
14 Plant Hatch is projected to be a cost-effective supplier of  
15 electricity for many years to come.

16 After a thorough evaluation of the technical and  
17 environmental aspects of Plant Hatch, the Atomic Energy  
18 Commission, which was the predecessor of the Nuclear  
19 Regulatory Commission, issued us a 40-year license to  
20 operate Unit 1 in 1974 and Unit 2 in 1978. In addition, the  
21 Atomic Energy Act of 1954 granted nuclear utilities the  
22 opportunity for license renewal at some point later in the  
23 life of all nuclear plants, and we are exercising that  
24 opportunity.

25 For the past 26 years our employees have worked

1 hard to maintain the condition of the plant so that we can  
2 operate both Hatch units well beyond their initial 40 year  
3 licenses through their dedication to the highest maintenance  
4 and safety standards.

5           Their extraordinary commitment has made Plant  
6 Hatch one of the most reliable and efficient nuclear plants  
7 in the industry. Plant Hatch and its employees have worked  
8 hard to be good neighbors to people in this area. They are  
9 your family members, your friends, your neighbors. When you  
10 talk about Plant Hatch, you are talking about the people.

11           If you look around Vidalia and Baxley and all of  
12 these areas, you will see that Plant Hatch employees are  
13 taking the lead in making their communities better places to  
14 live. Our employees give generously of their time and their  
15 resources to support the United Way, the Santa Bag Project  
16 and countless other worthwhile efforts. For United Way  
17 alone, Plant Hatch has donated approximately a quarter of a  
18 million dollars over the past three years.

19           Plant Hatch is also an important part of the local  
20 economy. It has an annual payroll of over \$50 million, and  
21 also during the past decade, Plant Hatch has paid more than  
22 \$50 million in local and State taxes.

23           Plant Hatch is a valuable asset. It has improved  
24 with time and is operating more reliably and efficiently  
25 today than at any time in its history. With this trend of

1 continued improvement, it makes sense to pursue license  
2 renewal.

3 License renewal is somewhat new to the industry,  
4 and Calvert Cliffs is the only plant that has completed the  
5 entire approval process. We believe the process is sound,  
6 and we are committed to fully complying with all the  
7 requirements of the licensing process for technical and  
8 safety reviews, environmental reviews, and opportunities for  
9 public comment. We submitted our license renewal application  
10 on February 29th. It includes more than 1,000 pages of  
11 information supporting our application for license renewal.  
12 And as you heard earlier, our license renewal is the first  
13 license renewal application for a boiling water reactor and  
14 is the first application to be submitted electronically. The  
15 entire application, all thousand-plus pages, exist on this  
16 one CD right here. I wouldn't try to play it if I were you,  
17 but if you open it up on the computer, you can see our  
18 application.

19 Preparation of this report has been a major  
20 undertaking for our company. We have utilized expertise  
21 throughout our own company, reactor vendors, industry  
22 groups, and other companies to help us prepare our  
23 application. Thousands of hours of work have gone into  
24 generating the information and analysis, and in your opinion  
25 it verifies that Plant Hatch is a safe and reliable plant

1 for the future.

2 At this point in time I'm going to turn the  
3 program over to Byron for a brief overview of the various  
4 elements of our environmental program and our conclusions on  
5 the impact of the environment that we may have in the  
6 relicense period. Byron.

7 MR. FEIMSTER: Thank you, Lewis.

8 Good evening. As Lewis said, my name is Byron  
9 Feimster, and my career began in April of 1981 as a safety  
10 technician. I stayed in that position for two years. For the  
11 past twelve years, I have been the environmental specialist  
12 at Plant Hatch. I'm proud of our work that we do at Plant  
13 Hatch to preserve and protect the environment, from wildlife  
14 management to land management. There are wide applications  
15 of land management. In the past five years we have planted  
16 over 10,000 assorted hardwoods and over 10,000 assorted  
17 pines, loblolly and slash.

18 We also work with local school boards to help  
19 school children have a greater appreciation for the  
20 environment. It is my pleasure to be here today to share  
21 this information with you.

22 First I would like to introduce some of the team  
23 members who worked on the environmental report. Jim Davis  
24 helped lead the effort to prepare the environmental report  
25 in support of the review by the NRC. Tom Moore with Southern

1 Nuclear Company Environmental Services helped with the  
2 environmental review and with input on the report. And Chuck  
3 Pierce, the license renewal manager, has directed the  
4 license renewal efforts from the beginning.

5 In addition, there were many other Georgia Power  
6 and Southern Nuclear personnel, as well as many consultants,  
7 who helped in completing this important project.

8 Before actual construction on Plant Hatch began,  
9 we established an environmental program. The purpose of that  
10 program was to monitor, maintain, and safeguard the  
11 environment around Plant Hatch's generating facilities. This  
12 was the foundation for the environmental program at Plant  
13 Hatch.

14 As part of our environmental review to support the  
15 license renewal application, we reviewed the NRC's generic  
16 environmental impact statement. We have also consulted with  
17 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Georgia  
18 Department of Natural Resources, the State Historic  
19 Preservation Office, and the National Marine and Fishery  
20 Service to ensure that we have considered all the relevant  
21 issues to our continued operation.

22 Our environmental report includes twelve major  
23 environmental areas. These areas can be grouped into five  
24 categories -- water, plants and animals, air quality, land,  
25 and people.

1           Starting with water, our study included a review  
2 of water quality, water flow and the intake and discharge  
3 structures, water use, and aquatic life in the Altamaha  
4 River. The evaluation of historic data indicates no change  
5 to water resources. There is no planned change in our  
6 operations as a result of license renewal. Therefore, we  
7 will continue to maintain the same water quality. The review  
8 shows Plant Hatch is a good steward of this vital resource  
9 and has no significant impact on the Altamaha River.

10           Our second category is plants and animals. We  
11 consulted with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
12 and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources regarding  
13 threatened or endangered species inhabiting the Plant Hatch  
14 property and the transmission line corridors built for  
15 supporting operations. A detailed field survey was performed  
16 on the plant property and transmission line corridors to  
17 identify any threatened or endangered species and potential  
18 habitats. As a result of this survey and historical review,  
19 Southern Nuclear developed a list of State and Federally  
20 listed species that are known to occur on the site and  
21 transmission line corridors or in the Altamaha River.  
22 License renewal will not result in any modifications of  
23 plant or transmission lines. Extended operation due to  
24 license renewal will have no adverse impact to threatened or  
25 endangered species at or near Plant Hatch. The third

1 category is air quality. One of the greatest things about  
2 this part of Georgia is the high quality of air. For the  
3 past 26 years of operation, Plant Hatch has not adversely  
4 affected the air quality. In fact, each year the operation  
5 of Plant Hatch prevents 11 million metric tons of carbon  
6 dioxide and other pollutants from going into the air you  
7 breathe. That positive impact in air quality will continue  
8 during the extended operating period.

9 As our fourth category, we looked at how our  
10 continued operation would affect the land around the plant.  
11 We consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office to  
12 identify new information regarding sites of archeological,  
13 historical, or architectural significance in the Plant Hatch  
14 site. There are no historical or archeological sites  
15 identified on the plant site. License renewal will not  
16 require additional land usage, and our activities will  
17 remain within the existing site boundaries.

18 Based on these evaluations, we have determined  
19 that the renewal of the Plant Hatch licenses will not impact  
20 historic, archeological or land resources in the community.

21 Finally, the most important detail, the people  
22 that live in the community surrounding the plant. Plant  
23 Hatch has established a national reputation as a well-run  
24 facility. We are committed to protecting the health and the  
25 safety of the public and our employees. This commitment will

1 continue as long as Southern Company is part of the  
2 community.

3           The men and women who work at Plant Hatch live in  
4 Toombs, Appling, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, and other surrounding  
5 counties. I've lived in Vidalia 19 years. My wife is a  
6 schoolteacher at Sally Meadows Elementary School. We are  
7 raising three sons right now, ages five, seven, and twelve.  
8 We love living in this area. This is our home, and we're  
9 going to stay here for a long time. That's why I have a  
10 personal and professional interest in preserving and  
11 protecting the environment. I share this with my co-workers  
12 at Plant Hatch. We are committed to preserving and  
13 protecting the environment at Plant Hatch - - yesterday,  
14 today, and tomorrow.

15           As an example, copies of the certification of  
16 Plant Hatch as a wildlife habitat area are available in the  
17 lobby, and we'd like everybody to stop by. Thank you for  
18 this opportunity, and I turn this back over to Lewis.

19           MR. SUMNER: Thank you, Byron.

20           Decisions about the future sources of generation  
21 are not to be taken lightly, and we have not done that in  
22 this case either. Georgia Power and Southern Nuclear and  
23 most electric utilities consider every reasonable  
24 alternative before making decisions such as this that was  
25 made. License renewal for Plant Hatch makes the most sense

1 for our environment, for our customers, and for us.

2 I want to thank you again for attending this  
3 meeting and allowing us the opportunity to get this  
4 information to you. I'd like to express my personal  
5 gratitude to our neighbors for the support that you continue  
6 to provide us at Plant Hatch over the 26 years of operation.  
7 I'm looking forward to continuing this relationship for many  
8 years. Thank you.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Byron. Thank you, Lewis.  
10 We're going to go next to Dale Adkins.

11 MR. ADKINS: Good evening.

12 My name is Dale Adkins. I am the Director of the  
13 Appling County Development in Baxley. I've been in that  
14 position about seven years now. I'm also a realtor in  
15 Baxley. I was born in Vidalia in 1950. My family moved to  
16 Baxley about '54, so I consider myself a native of Appling  
17 County. I didn't fall to far from the next from Vidalia to  
18 Baxley.

19 My experience with Plant Hatch goes back to my  
20 college days at the University of Georgia. This evening is  
21 sort of ironic to me because I wrote a paper at that time on  
22 the impact of Plant Hatch on Baxley and Appling County.  
23 Surprisingly, that paper was one of the few A's I got at the  
24 University of Georgia. I guess it turned out to be a pretty  
25 good report, mainly because it was a paper showing the

1 tremendous potential impact that Plant Hatch would have on  
2 Baxley and Appling Counties.

3 I remember back while doing the report and going  
4 around and interviewing the people in the community that we  
5 had a lot of mobile home dealers in the community because at  
6 that time the plant was under construction and we had mobile  
7 homes dealers everywhere. We had mobile homes in the  
8 community. We had a lot of building contractors. There was a  
9 lot of building going on, and I think probably at the time  
10 the plant was being constructed there were more houses built  
11 in that area than any other time in the history of Appling  
12 County.

13 To talk about the impact this has on the  
14 community, you certainly have to think about the tax  
15 revenues that it generates. The revenues that Plant Hatch  
16 has generated for us in Appling County has allowed us over  
17 the years to be among the lowest ten percent in millage rate  
18 in the State of Georgia. With the Plant Hatch revenues we  
19 have been able to have better schools. Our hospital -- most  
20 of you that live in this area of rural Georgia know that  
21 rural hospitals are in trouble. I would say that were it not  
22 for the tax revenues generated from Plant Hatch that our  
23 hospital would be on the ropes. I would venture to say that  
24 it would probably be closed if it were not for Plant Hatch.

25 Our public roads, our recreation, and all of this

1 have experienced tremendous impact from all the tax dollars  
2 coming in generated from Plant Hatch. The overall goods and  
3 services and quality of life in our community have been much  
4 increased.

5 Another economic impact, when you think about a  
6 thousand employee plant of the magnitude of Plant Hatch,  
7 approximately 30 percent of the employees at Plant Hatch  
8 live in Appling County. They are much higher paying jobs  
9 than the average job in Appling County -- a sewing plant or  
10 some agricultural jobs. The jobs pay anywhere from fifty to  
11 a hundred thousand a year. Some of these are just technical  
12 jobs requiring certificates, not necessarily college  
13 graduates. For a little community our size that's a good  
14 paycheck.

15 One thing that this has done, it has allowed our  
16 people -- I graduated from high school in '68, so a lot of  
17 the folks I graduated with graduated or left high school  
18 with a technical education and went on to work at Plant  
19 Hatch. We're talking about some 300 people. I have  
20 oftentimes wondered had we not had Plant Hatch where these  
21 people would have gone because I don't think they would have  
22 stayed around in Baxley, because there was nothing to do. So  
23 it kept those families in the community, which now have had  
24 kids who are coming through our school system.

25 Plant Hatch has benefited us in the quality of

1 leadership we have been exposed to. The ones of us that were  
2 raised there have been exposed to people like Lewis moving  
3 in and others in management positions at Plant Hatch that  
4 have played a leadership role and have given us direction in  
5 our communities. They have been involved very much in civic  
6 activities. They have been involved in the political arena  
7 in Baxley with the County Commissioner, City Council, and  
8 School Board, where we have had Plant Hatch employees on  
9 each of those public seats.

10           As far as economic development and the Appling  
11 County Development Authority, it makes our job much easier  
12 when we're recruiting industry to have an industry like  
13 Plant Hatch in our community. One of the big obstacles for a  
14 community our size when we try to recruit, the first thing  
15 on the list probably is labor. They're always concerned  
16 about their labor. "Do you have a trained or trainable labor  
17 force?" We can point to Plant Hatch and use the plant to  
18 say, "We've got 300 people from Appling County working at  
19 this plant, and they're from Appling County. Yes, we have a  
20 trained or trainable labor force."

21           It's a good example for us to use.

22           Plant Hatch has been nothing but a good neighbor.  
23 I've been there the whole time. They've taken an active  
24 role, like I said, in the community. If you want something,  
25 you go out, talk with them, and usually they come through.

1 As far as security is concerned and being in real estate,  
2 coming back home after graduation and opening a real estate  
3 office in June of '73, I had never heard of anyone moving in  
4 Appling County -- I had never heard of anyone living in  
5 Appling County being concerned about Plant Hatch, for the  
6 safety of Plant Hatch. That has never been a problem for  
7 people living in the community.

8 I feel secure personally. My family is here. I  
9 have three sons that still live in Appling County, and  
10 safety and security have never been a problem. They operate  
11 with their license. They continuously have to be educated  
12 and have their license renewed. I am familiar with all of  
13 their operators, and they have a pretty intense program.

14 I think Plant Hatch is like any other business or  
15 industry. There were some in the back of the room talking  
16 about accidents and mishaps. Any industry is going to have  
17 accidents and mishaps. I think that Plant Hatch is just as  
18 safe as any other industry we have. We're pleased in Appling  
19 County to have them. We are pleased that they are applying  
20 for this license renewal. We hope it is successful, and if  
21 there's any ways we can help, we'll be glad to do so, and if  
22 you get ready to expand, then our door is open. We'll be  
23 glad to talk with you about expansion and building another  
24 one.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

1 Mike Cleland. Is Mike here?

2 There he is. Mike is the County Manager of Appling  
3 County.

4 MR. CLELAND: Good evening.

5 I am Mike Cleland, serving as County Manager of  
6 Appling County. I'm also Chairman of the local development  
7 authority. I was also born and raised in Appling County. I  
8 have had the privilege of spending my career in Appling  
9 County without ever having to move.

10 I can remember over the years -- the middle  
11 sixties, the seventies and beyond -- Appling County was  
12 primarily a rural county -- farming and timber. I've seen  
13 Appling County being dried up. I've seen our young people  
14 having to leave and go to other places to find jobs to make  
15 a living.

16 Then, along in the seventies, we had Plant Hatch  
17 come, and they have had a tremendous impact on the local  
18 structure. Since that time, they have provided jobs for our  
19 people and have helped us tremendously in other ways. It  
20 hasn't solved all our problems, but Plant Hatch has been  
21 good for Appling County, and Appling County appreciates it.

22 Without Hatch, I don't know -- I have a good idea  
23 where we would be. I've got a few things here that are  
24 positive things that I want to touch on as far as the impact  
25 that Hatch has had on Appling County.

1           It contributes over 60 percent of our ad valorem  
2 tax, thereby reducing the tax burden our individual property  
3 owners. It enables us to maintain one of the lowest millage  
4 rates in the State of Georgia, as was said earlier.

5           It has, through its tax contributions, helped us  
6 to make capital improvements to enhance our community. It  
7 has made us more appealing to visitors and retirees and  
8 industries, and we appreciate that.

9           It provides well above average payrolls to many of  
10 our citizens. These people build homes and buy homes. They  
11 buy groceries, they buy gas, they pay taxes. They contribute  
12 a lot of other benefits from spin-offs from these benefits  
13 that also come to our community as a result of Plant Hatch.

14           Plant Hatch also pays sales tax when they refuel.

15           They have been good for Appling County. Plant  
16 Hatch surely contributes more to the economy of Appling  
17 County than any other industry or business we have. And a  
18 lot of businesses and industries we have wouldn't be there  
19 if it hadn't been for Plant Hatch.

20           Plant Hatch contributes to our emergency response  
21 people, our program that enables us to stay prepared in the  
22 event that we have an accident or an event out there that  
23 requires emergency services. They help us to stay prepared.  
24 Plant Hatch keeps us informed when they have an incident or  
25 violation, We stay well informed of their violations and the

1 measures they take to correct them. Sometimes we think too  
2 well when we sell all those documents coming across the  
3 desk. Sometimes that makes you wish they wouldn't keep you  
4 so well informed.

5           Plant Hatch has been a good neighbor in our  
6 community in many ways to touch all of our citizens. Some of  
7 it has been through recreation, civic, hospital, safety, and  
8 many other ways. Many of the people that work at Plant Hatch  
9 live in other communities. I know of one incident in  
10 particular where we had an individual that drives from Glynn  
11 County about 75 miles a day back and to work.

12           So it's not just Appling County that Plant Hatch  
13 is good for and not just Toombs County; it is many counties.  
14 The positive impact of Plant Hatch I feel like affects all  
15 of our citizens positively one way or another, either  
16 directly or indirectly. Every person in Appling County  
17 benefits from Plant Hatch being there. If Plant Hatch were  
18 ever to close, it would have a devastating impact on Appling  
19 County that I don't think we would ever see Appling County  
20 overcome.

21           Environmentally, I'm no scientist or biologist,  
22 but I have fished the Altamaha River for many years. I was  
23 familiar with that area before Plant Hatch ever came there.  
24 Visually today it looks much better than it did thirty years  
25 ago. The fishing on good days is just as good or better as

1 it was thirty years ago. And the fish taste just as good,  
2 maybe because I enjoy them better.

3 I feel like the people of Appling County have  
4 gained enough confidence in Plant Hatch and the way it's  
5 managed and the way it has operated that if they had an  
6 opportunity to vote for two more units to be built at that  
7 same location, I believe they would approve it  
8 overwhelmingly.

9 I want to say that Appling County supports the  
10 relicensing of Plant Hatch.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Cleland.

13 Next we're going to go to Mr. Jeff Baxley.

14 MR. BAXLEY: Good evening. My name is Jeff Baxley,  
15 and I'm the City Manager of the City of Baxley, which is the  
16 County seat of Appling County.

17 It's a very small city of about 5,000 people in a  
18 county, Appling County, of about 16,000.

19 This has been of great interest to me, and I came  
20 over this afternoon to sit in the public meeting this  
21 afternoon, and based on the comments I heard today, I guess  
22 it changed my mind on what I was going to say. I had  
23 prepared some comments that invoked some statistics on the  
24 benefit of Plant Hatch being in our County for tax revenues,  
25 for sales tax revenues, for the safety record that they've

1 maintained over the years, for their being good stewards of  
2 our environment.

3           And I want to talk about basically two things, and  
4 that is confidence and trust.

5           I listened today as people came here -- some for  
6 and some against this relicensing. And if I was coming here  
7 today and knew no one here and was trying to make a decision  
8 about relicensing based on what percent was said at this  
9 podium, it would probably be difficult. It would depend on  
10 who you believe or who you trust.

11           And that's not the case with me because I do know  
12 some of the people involved in this hearing today. Some of  
13 my colleagues in the County have mentioned some statistics  
14 and talked about some of the people that work at Plant Hatch  
15 and that live in Baxley and Appling County, and I think  
16 about 30 percent of those or close to 300 of those live  
17 there. And because we're a small community, I have had the  
18 opportunity to know most of those on a first- name basis. I  
19 know Pete Wells, the Manager. I know Mr. Sumner. And I know  
20 numerous ones who don't live in Appling County but live in  
21 Vidalia. I know them, and I see them quite often. They are  
22 very accessible.

23           But people I grew up with, people I went to high  
24 school with, played football with, that my kids are friends  
25 with, work at Plant Hatch. And I know in my heart that I can

1 trust these people, and I have all the confidence in the  
2 world in the NRC for providing regulations and a permit to  
3 continue these Reactors 1 and 2 for another twenty years.

4 And I have all the trust in the world in the  
5 employees at Plant Hatch, especially the ones that I know  
6 personally, that I know would do everything in their power  
7 to comply with the regulations of the NRC.

8 I, too, like Mr. Cleland, our County Manager, like  
9 to fish in the Altamaha River and have done that all my  
10 life. And I hope to continue to do that a long time to come.

11 I have two daughters -- an eighteen-year-old and a  
12 fourteen-year-old -- that don't fish that much, but both of  
13 them like to hunt. And I'm concerned about the environment.  
14 And I trust the employees of Southern Nuclear and the  
15 Southern Company and Georgia Power to be good stewards of  
16 that environment and to do everything possible for our  
17 community to be a safe one and still generate very efficient  
18 energy for the State of Georgia and the surrounding areas of  
19 our communities.

20 And I'm here today to strongly support the  
21 relicensing of Plant Hatch in their request and ask for a  
22 favorable response from NRC on that request.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Baxley.

25 Let's go now to Ross Kitts.

1           MR. KITTS: Thank you. I'm Ross Kitts. I have the  
2 privilege of representing the Municipal Electric Authority  
3 of Georgia -- that's MEAG -- commonly pronounced MEE-AG.  
4 MEAG is a 17.1 percent co-owner in Plant Hatch, and we are  
5 here to support the relicensing effort by Southern Nuclear  
6 Company here.

7           I've been an engineer for about 40 years, and one  
8 of the things that I've observed in working with power  
9 production facilities over the years is that any economic  
10 power production facility has the common thread with any  
11 other one, and that is they have to be safe and they have to  
12 be environmentally friendly before they even have a chance  
13 to become economically viable. Plant Hatch , due to the  
14 excellent staff work of the NRC and the equally excellent  
15 staff work of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, is a safe  
16 plant.

17           And if it's safe it has a chance of being  
18 environmentally friendly. And if we talk about Plant Hatch  
19 and its environmental friendliness, we need to talk about  
20 what it doesn't do. When you compare Plant Hatch to any  
21 other thermal generating facility out there, it's what it  
22 doesn't emit that is important, and that's oxidized carbon,  
23 nitrogen, sulfur, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. All those  
24 things that we are hearing about as being bad for us, this  
25 plant doesn't emit any of that stuff. This is really an

1 environmentally friendly operation.

2           The next thing that makes an engineer a little bit  
3 uncomfortable is they have to talk to the accountants, and  
4 that's about the economics, and they ensure that Plant Hatch  
5 is one of the most economical power production facilities  
6 that MEAG has.

7           So consequently we strongly support relicensing.  
8 Thank you.

9           MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Kitts.

10           We have three speakers left, and before I go to  
11 Ralph Beedle, I just want to check -- is Mr. Lonnie Roberts  
12 here with us tonight? He did sign up to speak, but we didn't  
13 see him tonight.

14           Okay. Ralph.

15           MR. BEEDLE: Thank you, Chip.

16           Good evening. My name is Ralph Beedle. I'm a  
17 Senior Vice President of the Nuclear Energy Institute in  
18 Washington, D.C. I'm also the Chief Nuclear Officer.

19           If we're talking about years of experience, I have  
20 38. I've literally lived with a reactor for much of that  
21 time. I've worked with them for the full 38 years. I spent  
22 21 years in the U.S. Navy living on board ship and working  
23 with a reactor. I have every bit of confidence in the people  
24 that operate these reactors and the designs and the safety  
25 features that are provided for them.

1           The Nuclear Energy Institute is in Washington,  
2 D.C., and we represent every nuclear utility in the country.  
3 We have many international members. We represent all the  
4 fuel cycle facilities, the people who manufacture their  
5 fuel, many of the service companies that support the  
6 industry, all of the pharmaceutical manufacturers, the  
7 people who manufacture the radioactive materials that are  
8 used to diagnose heart disease, cure cancer and many other  
9 illnesses.

10           If we are talking about license renewal for Plant  
11 Hatch this evening, we're really talking about a broader  
12 issue. We're talking about the survival and the propriety of  
13 nuclear technology in this country. And I would have to tell  
14 you that from our perspective in Washington, D.C., nuclear  
15 has made a big difference in the life of every citizen of  
16 the United States. It has made a big difference, as you have  
17 just heard, in the lives of the people of Appling and Toombs  
18 Counties, and indeed the entire State of Georgia.

19           Let's say the Institute's activities are focused  
20 on nuclear, and it's a technology that provides 20 percent  
21 of the electricity generated here in the United States, and  
22 as far as the State of Georgia, that's 27 percent.

23           Southern Company is the fourth company to apply  
24 for license renewal. The first license renewal, as mentioned  
25 earlier, was issued to Calvert Cliffs. My home is not too

1 far from Calvert Cliffs. We are provided electricity by  
2 Baltimore Gas & Electric, one of our member companies, as is  
3 Southern Nuclear, and those companies represent, I think, a  
4 tremendous asset to the country as a whole and one that we  
5 value as improving the quality of life.

6 One of the questions that I think we need to give  
7 some consideration for is the question of what happens if  
8 the Plant Hatch license renewal is not granted by the  
9 Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I think that is something  
10 that certainly gives me pause for concern. In the State of  
11 Maryland had the NRC seen fit to deny the application of  
12 Calvert Cliffs, that would have meant that Calvert Cliffs  
13 would probably be looking at decommissioning within the next  
14 four to five years, and as a result of that, they would have  
15 to look for an alternate source of energy.

16 And in doing that, I had our staff do a little bit  
17 of calculation for Appling County. If you replaced Plant  
18 Hatch with a similarly environmentally friendly source of  
19 energy, the citizens of Appling County would have to give up  
20 about 57,000 acres of land in order to put in a solar system  
21 that would generate the same sort of energy. And if they  
22 decided to do that with some sort of a windmill system,  
23 you're looking at about 270,000 acres. That's an appreciable  
24 part of Appling County if we thought that was having an  
25 effect in terms of land consumption. Then we've got many of

1 the attendant problems associated with solar and wind that I  
2 think most people would find objectionable.

3           The license renewal, as I say, is important here  
4 for Plant Hatch. It is important for the entire country. We  
5 have approximately 22 plants that have been designated as  
6 license renewal candidates over the next four or five years.  
7 We're looking for NRC to maintain the same rigor in  
8 developing license renewal processes that they have over the  
9 Calvert Cliffs and have carried on with the license renewal  
10 application here at Plant Hatch. And that is roughly 24  
11 months, and we are expecting that that will continue.

12           We also expect that as this goes on we will see  
13 some improvements in efficient processing of these  
14 applications, which would then result in some reduction in  
15 the costs affecting the license renewal process.

16           And that's an important thing for you to think  
17 about. We're expecting that if you had to replace this plant  
18 with some other generator -- for example, gas -- you  
19 couldn't do it with nearly the economic efficiency that you  
20 would in the case of license renewal. So it represents a  
21 real in-place asset in addition to the many benefits that  
22 the County executives from Appling County have discussed.

23           License renewal is a process that has taken on a  
24 significant amount of interest on the part of states.  
25 Certainly special interest groups, some anti-nuclear groups.

1 The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners  
2 has weighed in on this. While the anti- nuclear has opposed  
3 for a number of reasons, by and large the country recognizes  
4 that if we are to meet our air quality standards, we've got  
5 to count on nuclear as part of that energy mix in this  
6 country.

7 The EIA report, the Energy Information Agency of  
8 the Department of Energy, acknowledges that there is  
9 absolutely no way that the country can achieve the accords  
10 that were established in Kyota, Japan, two years ago without  
11 the use of nuclear energy in that mix. And in fact we are  
12 anticipating that that mix would include 20 percent nuclear,  
13 even with an increasing base load capacity in this country,  
14 which means we've got to figure out how to maintain these  
15 plants and maintain them well and improve their capacity.  
16 Part of that concept is going through the license renewal  
17 process as an essential for achieving air quality.

18 Now, working in Washington, D.C., I will tell you  
19 that our air quality is not nearly as good as air quality  
20 down here in Southeast Georgia. I wish it were, but it's  
21 not. And I'm hoping that the Federal government will exact  
22 stringent requirements in the case of generators that don't  
23 comply with the air quality standards. It's something we  
24 don't need to worry about with Plant Hatch.

25 So with that I would offer congratulations to

1 Georgia Power and Southern Company for going through the  
2 bold step of license renewal. I think we also owe it to the  
3 NRC to continue to support them in their effort of carrying  
4 out an exacting and very well-defined process of assuring  
5 that these plants are operated safely and will continue that  
6 through the license renewal period.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ralph.

9 Next we will go to Rita Kilpatrick from Campaign  
10 for a Prosperous Georgia.

11 MS. KILPATRICK: Good evening. I'll introduce our  
12 organization. We are a nonprofit conservation and energy  
13 consumer organization. We are headquartered in Atlanta, and  
14 we have a field office in Savannah.

15 We are a Statewide organization with members  
16 throughout Georgia. We have been in existence for 17 years  
17 now, working on energy issues, and have a wealth of  
18 information and knowledge base on different energy  
19 alternatives available to Georgia, some of which have been  
20 tapped, some not.

21 We work hard in different areas -- the Public  
22 Service Commission -- and occasionally participate in NRC  
23 public hearings and proceedings -- and have been very  
24 actively involved in the air quality issues that Georgia  
25 faces and particularly involved in the clean-up of the

1 coal-fired power plants throughout the State.

2           And I want to say on a personal note my mother,  
3 granddaddy, great granddaddy, great-great, and on back --  
4 all grew up in South Georgia. This area is very special to  
5 me for that reason. Not only in regard to the work that I do  
6 but also from a family point of view, I care a lot about  
7 what happens here.

8           My organization, I need to state, does not support  
9 the license renewal of Plant Hatch, and we do not agree with  
10 those who hold the belief that the plant is the best option  
11 for supplying energy to the region. We actually would be  
12 deceiving the public if I stood up here and said that we  
13 believe this plant is operating safely now and has  
14 historically operated in safe ways to the public and would  
15 in a relicensed future.

16           In looking at energy choices, nuclear plants are  
17 in our view the most dangerous and most threatening in terms  
18 of risks, not only to the environment but to human health,  
19 and, in the long run, to the economy itself. Because this  
20 hearing is focused on environmental criteria, environmental  
21 factors, we're going to steer clear as much as we can from  
22 commenting on the economic and security concerns that we  
23 have because we will have an opportunity to raise those  
24 later.

25           I had elaborated this afternoon on some areas of

1 concern that we ask the NRC to please address in the  
2 relicensing process, so I won't repeat those. They are  
3 related to the earthquake zones, the spills that have  
4 occurred over time at this plant, and the dumping on land  
5 and in areas that should not have been dumped on and the  
6 increasing contamination at the site, to be addressing those  
7 as well as the natural deterioration of the plant which is  
8 inevitable to occur with the aging of the plant and the need  
9 for aging monitoring to be going on. We feel that that is  
10 extremely important.

11 I ran short of time this afternoon, so I just  
12 wanted to bring out a little more on the aquifer issue. We  
13 are very concerned and hope that the NRC will assign top  
14 priority to the environmental issues area of looking at the  
15 fact that Hatch is situated over a major regional limestone  
16 aquifer system containing groundwater resources and that  
17 that does impact the surrounding community, which relies on  
18 underground wells, and to pay attention to one of the local  
19 aquifers near the plant, being an unconfined meicene  
20 pleiocene aquifer.

21 This afternoon people will be standing up and  
22 making claims and not referencing any evidence or documents.  
23 We can certainly do that. We would be glad to provide that  
24 kind of information if anyone feels that some of the  
25 concerns we are raising are not substantiated in the

1 documents either provided by the company or by the NRC or  
2 the State.

3           We wanted to mention a concern we do have about  
4 the continuation of operation at Plant Hatch. Obviously  
5 we're very concerned about the fact that the plant has  
6 maximized its capacity for spent fuel on site and that it is  
7 now being forced to look for other options. We don't feel  
8 that the option chosen is a safe one, to set up a dry cast  
9 storage system, including the one that has been selected or  
10 which will, by the way, be the first experiment of that in  
11 the country, if that goes forward.

12           NRC has revealed that these types of casts will  
13 put off 125 millirems per hour on the site of the cast over  
14 pack and 85 millirems per hour on the top. There is nothing  
15 safe about that. Those levels are phenomenally high, and  
16 they are very risky and dangerous to people who are working  
17 in the area.

18           This radioactivity will stream into the  
19 environment and will further add to the radiological burden  
20 to people in the area, as well the environment and wildlife  
21 and migrating birds at levels above already existing  
22 contamination and above the daily routine releases that  
23 occur of radioactive contamination to water and air, due to  
24 the plant operation. I just want to emphasize that it has  
25 been there is no air emissions here. That's not true. There

1 are, and they need to be looked at and taken into  
2 consideration in the relicensing process.

3           Everyone was not here when the question was asked  
4 if there would be any consideration given to the local  
5 health effects of the radioactive emissions, particularly at  
6 Hatch. That is extremely important in our view, and it's a  
7 factor that we feel would be fairly obvious to consider in  
8 looking at whether or not to grant relicensing.

9           The other items -- I don't know if worker  
10 contamination issues are considered a part of this. They are  
11 not. We have a host of concerns in that arena, which we will  
12 raise at another opportunity.

13           MR. GRIMES: We had earlier explained that all the  
14 health effects issue we believe are adequately covered by  
15 the ongoing process, and that's the way that they will be  
16 reported in the draft of our impact statement. And you will  
17 have another opportunity to raise that issue in the draft of  
18 the environmental impact statement, the general concern  
19 about worker contamination and public exposure.

20           MS. KILPATRICK: I wanted to make a general  
21 statement about our concerns with public health and things  
22 that we understand that NRC will do to set standards to  
23 protect health. We don't believe that you can make a  
24 determination that there is not a significant health impact  
25 here or perhaps for any plant that is in your jurisdiction.

1 And that is based on a combination of factors, including the  
2 fact that we don't see there to be a health basis for the  
3 NRC. So that is a concern that we can raise in various other  
4 ways.

5 And I want to point out for those of you who were  
6 here earlier today who will know what I'm talking about,  
7 there were quite a comments -- I was struck by the number of  
8 people who came up here and said, "People are healthy around  
9 here, and all we have to do is look at the fact that there  
10 is a significant number of Georgia Power employees who have  
11 worked at Plant Hatch who are now retired and have chosen to  
12 stay in the area. So that's a pretty strong indicator that  
13 things must be going fine."

14 And our understanding of the health issues is that  
15 it takes time for health problems to really reveal  
16 themselves when there is radioactivity in the environment  
17 and that it's with ensuing generations where problems are  
18 likely to arise, although some can occur in various ways. So  
19 it depends on what people are talking about. If you're  
20 talking about cancers or people keeling over dying, it's not  
21 the situation we're facing in the way of health problems.

22 And it's important to look at women and children  
23 as well, and we'd like to see a process for that to be taken  
24 up.

25 I want to say a few things about the options here,

1 and I should start out with a comment that was made earlier  
2 today by the gentleman who is here with the Nuclear Energy  
3 Institute, who had referenced an issue brought up about the  
4 Better Business Bureau that has challenged the nuclear  
5 industry nationwide as running false advertisements that  
6 they are a clean industry, environmentally clean. I have  
7 some information about that and would be glad to share that  
8 if you all would like to see it. But I felt that the reply  
9 to that from the Nuclear Energy Institute attempted to lay  
10 out that the Federal Trade Commission actually came back and  
11 said, "You guys are clean. You've got clean air."

12           To get the record straight, I'd be glad to argue  
13 or file in the record the FTC's decision, because I feel  
14 that was presented in a somewhat slanted way for the people  
15 at the hearing here. So we can put that together. Our  
16 interpretation is that the FTC came out plainly and it would  
17 be misleading for the industry to be presenting itself as  
18 environmentally clean. The water contamination is fairly  
19 obvious, but there are other areas of contamination that  
20 don't mean clean at all.

21           And if we get into comparisons of which is  
22 cleaner, coal or nuclear, thus or that, often when the  
23 argument comes up, "Well, we can bring clean air and solve  
24 the air quality problem here in Georgia with nuclear plants  
25 and do that on a nationwide basis." An analogy that is often

1 made to that kind of scenario is that if you're looking at  
2 moving to nuclear power as a solution to air pollution that  
3 it's comparable to quitting smoking cigarettes and taking up  
4 smoking crack. You need to get the big picture to understand  
5 and to really present to the public, this is what the health  
6 implications and the environmental implications truly are.

7           We would like to also have it recognized that we  
8 believe the options presented for alternative fuel supplies  
9 in the company's filing, licensee's filing, and by some  
10 commenters here today, do not necessarily reflect the  
11 broader energy industry's analysis. There are quite a few  
12 options that are becoming commercially feasible. Renewable  
13 energy is becoming available in various ways, and to cast it  
14 off as a wind issue that will take up a tremendous amount of  
15 land or solar being a possibility, this is just very  
16 shortsighted, and it's important to look at the new  
17 technologies that are available not only from a distributive  
18 generation vantage point but also from the broader  
19 technology choices that becoming available worldwide.

20           And added to that, energy efficiency has always  
21 been a very important potential that Georgia has not tapped.  
22 Electricity consumption, as many of you may know, has  
23 skyrocketed. It has outpaced population growth in the last  
24 couple of decades here in our State by over two and a half  
25 times. We don't look good nationwide. It's not a very

1 commendable feature of our energy use and our energy system.  
2 We have a lot to do in that area. There are some fairly  
3 simple alternatives that may look like they're not very  
4 important individually, but collectively they make a big  
5 difference. And those always have to be kept in mind.

6 We've seen some fairly perverse load-building  
7 initiatives proposed by the Southern Company to the Public  
8 Service Commission. And by "perverse," I mean it attempts to  
9 get people to buy more electricity, and it's not just their  
10 competition against natural gas and other energy supplies  
11 but really a need to build up the system so that those  
12 off-peak kinds of usage can be more fully used, and nuclear  
13 power plants play into that very significantly. There, too,  
14 need to be more generation alternatives, and it is very  
15 important to pay attention to the alternatives.

16 I want to wind down here by pointing out two  
17 points regarding the dependency of Appling County and the  
18 area on Plant Hatch as far as tax base. Between 60 and 70  
19 percent of the revenue base for the County is fairly  
20 alarming to us. We have been doing quite a bit of research  
21 on that and have found reports coming out and saying 17  
22 percent reliance on a nuclear plant is too high, and it's  
23 not a healthy dependency. Where we can assist in helping  
24 diversify that base so that it's not as highly dependent on  
25 nuclear in the energy arena, where a system built up by

1 other alternatives, we'd be happy to do that because we  
2 firmly believe that clean and safe energy supply can be  
3 provided to the region, and it will bring safe jobs as well,  
4 which we feel is quite a contrast to what currently exists.

5 Thank you for giving me the opportunity here to  
6 come up and speak twice. We appreciate that.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Rita. Thank you for being  
8 with us at both sessions.

9 Our last speaker, I believe, is Pamela Blockey-  
10 O'Brien.

11 Pamela.

12 MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: Okay. For those of you that  
13 weren't here this afternoon to witness the radioactive  
14 toilet seat presentation to Southern Nuclear for  
15 contaminating Georgia's air, water, soil, and vegetation, I  
16 explained also how nuclear plants worked, how they release  
17 radioactivity to air, water, and soil. They can't operate  
18 without doing it. It's impossible.

19 If anyone is here who wants a copy of what I said,  
20 I've got a few extra copies. I want to make it clear before  
21 I continue with what I was saying this afternoon that this  
22 is not a question of being here against the Southern Company  
23 itself or the Georgia Power Company itself. The issue is the  
24 issue of splitting the atom, of radiation.

25 As ongoing member of the United Nations' second

1 special session on disarmament in 1982 -- bad situation.  
2 They did not want to disarm one nuclear weapon at any level.  
3 We still have 38,000 nuclear weapons that can obliterate all  
4 life on earth, but we could have a lot more, and I'm proud  
5 to say that I think I have a little bit to do with lowering  
6 the threshold a little bit, and, as I explained back then,  
7 these questions are of life or death.

8           What I say is based on fact, and these situations  
9 -- I have brought with me a few of the examples of the NRC's  
10 inspection reports of Plant Hatch. You might want to  
11 actually read them to find out what really goes on in there.  
12 I think I stopped how it was busy giving radioactive doses  
13 of the children and the adults at the Roadside Park, the  
14 Camping Center, the Recreation Area, and the Visitors'  
15 Center.

16           I think I got to the point of strontium-90  
17 decaying to yttrium-90, which is known to concentrate the  
18 hormone-producing soft-tissue organs such as the ovaries,  
19 testes, and pituitary glands, and, according to published  
20 reports by the radiation medicine community, is a powerful  
21 hormone-disrupting radioactive chemical, not just a powerful  
22 carcinogen.

23           I want to insert something here that I've added to  
24 the back of this. I'm assuming that most people in this room  
25 know what plutonium is. Plutonium is also created at Plant

1 Hatch.

2           This is from Dr. John W. Gofman, M.D., Ph.D.,  
3 Professor Emeritus of Molecular and Cell Biology. Dr. Gofman  
4 used to be the top scientist for the Atomic Energy  
5 Commission. He was founder of the Biomedical Research  
6 Division at Lawrence Livermore Labs in California. He is a  
7 medical doctor, as well as a nuclear chemist. His Ph.D. is  
8 in the nuclear area.

9           (Reading) "During 1942, Robert E. Connick and I  
10 led the "Plutonium Group" at the University of California,  
11 Berkeley, which managed to isolate the first milligram of  
12 plutonium from irradiated uranium. (Plutonium-239 had  
13 previously been discovered by Glenn Seaborg and Edwin  
14 McMillan.) During subsequent decades, I have studied the  
15 biological effects of ionizing radiation -- including the  
16 alpha particles emitted by the radioactive decay of  
17 plutonium.

18           "By any reasonable standard of biomedical proof,  
19 there is no safe dose, which means that just one decaying  
20 radioactive atom can produce permanent mutation in a cell's  
21 genetic molecules. My own work showed this in 1990 for  
22 x-rays, gamma rays, and beta particles (Gofman 1990:  
23 "Radiation-Induced Cancer from Low-Dose Exposure"). For  
24 alpha particles, the logic of no safe dose was confirmed  
25 experimentally in 1997 by Tom K. Hei and co-workers at

1 Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in  
2 New York (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences  
3 (USA) Vol. 94, pp. 3765-3770, April 1997, "Mutagenic Effects  
4 of a Single and an Exact Number of Alpha Particles in  
5 Mammalian Cells").

6 "It follows from such evidence that citizens  
7 worldwide have a strong biological basis for opposing  
8 activities which produce an appreciable risk of exposing  
9 humans and others to plutonium and other radioactive  
10 pollution at any level. The fact that humans cannot escape  
11 exposure to ionizing radiation from various natural sources  
12 -- which may well account for a large share of humanity's  
13 inherited afflictions -- is no reason to let human  
14 activities increase the exposure to ionizing radiation. The  
15 fact that ionizing radiation is a mutagen was first  
16 demonstrated in 1927 by Herman Joseph Muller, and subsequent  
17 evidence has shown it be a mutagen of unique potency.  
18 Mutation is the basis not only for inherited afflictions,  
19 but also for concern."

20 Yours very truly, blah, blah, blah. John Gofman,  
21 Ph.D., M.D.

22 Southern is permitted by Georgia to withdraw a  
23 monthly average of 72 millions gallons of water a day, with  
24 a maximum rate of 103.6 mdg. Georgia must have lost its mind  
25 to permit this. The annual average is 57.18 million gallons

1 a day. They say consumptive losses approximate 46 percent.  
2 Translated into people-speak, that includes the evaporating  
3 radioactive steam set cetera, losses to the atmosphere, as  
4 they so cutely put it. They say the withdrawal to the  
5 alluvial aquifer recharge is small in impact. That the  
6 recharge is also provided by the minor confined aquifer of  
7 the Hawthorn Formation to which the alluvium is  
8 interconnected. First the Hawthorn is not minor. Hatch sits  
9 on top of it as well as the alluvium which is under and on  
10 both sides of the Altamaha, and the Hawthorn continues on  
11 the other side according to the DOE survey of the site, and  
12 as it is all interconnected and they contaminated the  
13 aquifer on site and so forth, the extent of the effects  
14 could be massive. Furthermore, a comparison of the DOE  
15 survey of soil sample data in the area from long ago, with  
16 what has been measured since regarding K-40 and cesium-137  
17 data -- even though the DOE lies and says cesium-137 is  
18 natural, when it's man-made, and the plant had been  
19 operating a short while and releasing radioactive crud --  
20 shows that the area has been contaminated. For example, most  
21 K-40 was zero, and the cesium-137 never went over 310 pCi/kg  
22 in soil. K-40 was at 16000 pCi/kg in soil in '99 in one  
23 measurement and 6300 pCi/kg in an '88 measurement for  
24 comparison, and 3,500 pCi/kg in '84. Cs-137 in soil in '98  
25 in State data provided which may not be all data, knowing

1 them) reached 240 pCi/kg, in '88 640 pCi/kg and in '84  
2 920 pCi/kg. NRC's attitude has been, "Oh, well, it's lower  
3 now." Site geology is actually extremely complex, and, as  
4 Hatch also withdraws 1.1 million gallons a day average from  
5 the Floridan aquifer also beneath the site, for, among other  
6 things process use such as demineralized water, which is of  
7 course using a huge amount of water when calculated over  
8 just one year. Georgia, Alabama, and Florida are currently  
9 engaged in what is termed water wars over their water needs,  
10 and those needs do not only cover river withdrawals, I don't  
11 think. Water issues are among the biggest issues  
12 environmentally worldwide and nationwide and are becoming  
13 critical, due to the type of pollution from facilities like  
14 Hatch, not only other pollution sources. Farmers also rely  
15 on this system. At least their needs should take precedence  
16 over the needs of the local polluter that could and should  
17 have utilized alternative energy years ago.

18           The applicants go into rhapsodies about the  
19 ecology of the site, including the wetlands that they  
20 contaminated with the spent fuel pool spill disaster. They  
21 neglect to mention that it has been documented for over 40  
22 years that mammals and birds, waterfowl, et cetera, are  
23 contaminated via ingestion of contaminated seeds, berries,  
24 and other foods contaminated by nuclear emissions and direct  
25 radiation from the facilities and that contamination affects

1 their reproduction health and is also accumulated in their  
2 bones. Migratory species carry the contamination with them.  
3 When they die, if ingested by something else, that also  
4 becomes contaminated and so it continues. The radioactive  
5 iodine from Hatch is measured in the milk in the Tattnall  
6 County dairy, as is the Cs-137 and tritium and strontiums  
7 due to uptake via the grass/cow/milk/child pathway. It used  
8 to be measured at Appling and Toombs dairies also, which it  
9 should be. Maybe it still is and I don't have the data.  
10 According to NRC and the State, both partly funded by the  
11 licensee, the nuclear industry, the attitude is all this is  
12 okay, within the levels, remember. A '94 milk sample of  
13 Hatch's showed 500 pci/L tritium. Although it has been  
14 established since decades that tritium at very low levels is  
15 particularly hazardous to the developing fetus, EPA set a  
16 helpful allowable level in water of 20,000 pci/l. Tritium  
17 irradiates as it passes through the body. Continued  
18 ingestion means continued irradiation and continued damage.

19           One thing is that I believe the Tattnall County  
20 dairy is the massive State Prison dairy, which brings me to  
21 another issue: Southern has figured out that everyone is  
22 going to do the radiation stumble, namely that they are all  
23 going to evacuate in case of a severe accident -- you know,  
24 a melt-down and massive release to air, going at 2.5 meters  
25 -- about 7 feet a second -- in a radial distance. The

1 evacuation zone is only ten miles under the law, but CRAC-2  
2 says the kill zone is 20 miles. First responders are of  
3 course the local fire department and little, cute Appling  
4 County emergency headquarters people. Anybody told them that  
5 if they try and go in under such circumstances they'll die?  
6 Is Southern/Georgia Power going to evacuate the workers,  
7 schoolchildren, shut-ins, prison guards and prisoners from  
8 the various area prisons, hospitals, nursery school children  
9 7 feet a second? That dump has had three serious events in  
10 the last year. The February event could have led to a  
11 melt-down. How many times can you get lucky?

12 I did not even bother to look at the General  
13 Electric data submitted. Why should they be trusted?

14 Regarding their NPDES discharge permit issued by  
15 the State of Georgia under the Clean Water Act to allow  
16 discharges to the Altamaha, and also the other water quality  
17 certification letter from 1972 by the State -- 1) According  
18 to the EPA definitions for NPDES discharges the NRC  
19 provided, they have absolutely no say-so whatsoever over the  
20 dumping of most radioactive contaminants, because the Atomic  
21 Energy Act of 1954 is involved. They do not cover so called  
22 source, byproduct or special nuclear materials, nor radium  
23 or accelerator produced isotopes as examples. However, heat  
24 is covered.

25 2) They did not seem to explain in the documents

1 that the radioactive decay heat is part of what causes the  
2 thermal plume. Did they tell the State water people they  
3 dump radioactive water, or that the sediment in the river  
4 contains man-mades? Did they tell National Marine Fisheries  
5 or State Fish and Wildlife about this or about the  
6 radioactive air emissions when they asked them by letter to  
7 evaluate endangered species and fish entrainment and  
8 similar? The answer is no; one cannot even find the word  
9 radioactive.

10 I called some of them. They had not been told.  
11 Now, the sturgeon is a bottom feeder. It is endangered.  
12 Ingesting a cobalt-60 particle with its damage to blood and  
13 the central nervous system alone is not a nice way for any  
14 living being to die. Nor is slow death from constant  
15 irradiation from cesium-137 in its muscles. The fish  
16 entrainment study dates back to 1980. Interestingly, it  
17 noted among the 22 species of fish an unknown egg and  
18 unknown larvae. What was it? Were there more? Talk about  
19 loss of biodiversity. Extinction is forever.

20 They speak of reforesting areas with the longleaf  
21 pine. We know that pines retain radioactive contaminants due  
22 to uptake from radioactive air emissions and deposition  
23 falling in rain, just like other trees. I did not have time  
24 to look up how long the longleafs hold their needles, if you  
25 will. Obviously the longer the uptake from soil and water,

1 et cetera, the more contaminated they'd become and when the  
2 needles drop, the litter would be that much more radioactive  
3 for all ground- dwelling species in contact with them, plus  
4 re-contaminate the ground at higher levels. Ever tested the  
5 gopher tortoises burrowing on the contaminated site? If the  
6 turtles contaminated on and off site of the monstrous death  
7 of the earth (DOE) squad site on the Savannah River are any  
8 indicator, the gopher tortoises are probably also  
9 contaminated, though probably to a lesser extent.

10           With regard to transmission lines, the testimony  
11 of the eminent Dr. W. Ross Adey before Congress in 1987 on  
12 the issue of electromagnetic (as opposed to ionizing)  
13 radiation sent shivers down the spines of the collective  
14 power industry, partly because of his credentials. The  
15 effects on cell membranes and fetal development in animals  
16 for example was ghastly and included information on  
17 statistically significant increases in leukemia and lymphoma  
18 in studies of children exposed to power distribution  
19 systems, high voltage power lines and the like. These  
20 effects must be addressed. His testimony needs to be  
21 considered by NRC as he is one of the world's experts on  
22 this issue. Southern has not considered it. Further studies  
23 since then agree.

24           I feel particularly sorry for the workers in the  
25 area whose jobs would be impacted. However, the NRC has

1 repeatedly cited the facility over the years for its  
2 terrible personnel contamination record among other things,  
3 which is why NRC needs to read every inspection report ever  
4 done. NRC has taken little concrete action, except to repeat  
5 that they are concerned for the past decades. It should be  
6 remembered there are medical doctors on staff who specialize  
7 in health effects of radiation. Some of the reports on what  
8 has gone on are a nightmare, like the workers trapped in a  
9 dry well. NRC said they had no way of knowing whether or not  
10 they died. If I remember correctly, somewhere on the docket  
11 it said they forgot to test them appropriately afterwards.

12           The workers should be compensated. The community  
13 should be compensated. And Southern, with its considerable  
14 financial and political clout, could easily help get  
15 replacement work located outside the kill-zone and pay for  
16 job retraining and transportation to work. A problem I see  
17 always is the worker frustration over potential job loss,  
18 which is totally understandable, is sometimes directed at  
19 those who explain his dangers, when it should be directed at  
20 those who brought the equivalent of a nuclear bomb with a  
21 slow leak into their community to begin with.

22           The ultimate tragedy is that Southern or Georgia  
23 Power has probably not explained to them that due to them  
24 getting contaminated inside the plant, even their bodily  
25 excreta can become radioactive, and that is the essence of

1 what was behind the NRC taking Hatch to task over the  
2 spreading of sewage sludges from the site under the power  
3 lines. It is doubtful they were told that as soon as they  
4 enter the site, under NRC regulations, they are no longer  
5 considered members of the public. If they were to die inside  
6 the plant due to contamination, in theory industry and NRC  
7 can state no member of the public died that day as a result  
8 of radiation exposure.

9           The applicant's documents only touch on the  
10 terrible, dangerous high-level radioactive waste dump they  
11 have prepared outside to put deadly radioactive spent fuel  
12 on inside casks that have never even tested in the real  
13 world, and simulated tests involved Hatch sticking a hot  
14 water pad inside one to simulate radioactive fuel rods,  
15 which the NRC gently pointed out -- oh, so politely -- that  
16 it "did not accurately simulate the temperatures." The casks  
17 -- space for 48 is created -- will stream gamma radiation  
18 into the environment and workers on the pad at a weekly rate  
19 of 21,000 millirem off the sides alone, next to the casks,  
20 each cask. A former military nuclear scientist has assured  
21 me that terrorists could blow the top off the cask in a  
22 twinkling of an eye from considerable distance. Other  
23 research shows a few rounds from a Milan anti-tank weapon  
24 could blast it to smithereens from 6,000 feet with  
25 catastrophic results. People are being told it is temporary

1 storage and that it will either be sent to Yucca Mountain or  
2 to a site on the Goshute Indian Reservation in Utah being  
3 prepared by a consortium that includes Southern, and the  
4 company, PFS, that has prepared the site in Georgia. One of  
5 the leaders of the Goshute opposition to this wanted me to  
6 remind everyone that their tribal chair does not speak for  
7 them all, and they do not intend to be at the receiving end  
8 of 4,000 casks from across the country into their valley  
9 where they already must endure myriad hazardous industries  
10 and military weapons test sites on their borders. In the  
11 end, in all probability, South Georgia is going to be left  
12 with a nuclear dump inside the plant and one outside, quite  
13 soon, and no more nuclear waste is generated.

14           Five thousand more assemblies at 60 rods a bundle  
15 will be generated without shut-down. This insanity must  
16 stop. Yucca Mountain is also basically dead in the water,  
17 literally.

18           This is the South. If a sheriff found out that  
19 someone had a decrepit junk car, with a cracked engine block  
20 wrapped with baling wire, that not only couldn't pass  
21 emissions tests, not only leaked gasoline into the local  
22 creek, but carried a deadly cargo locked in the trunk  
23 capable of killing an entire county, and a second deadly  
24 cargo strapped inside, in a patched bucket, and the exhaust  
25 leaked into the car and gassed passengers periodically, plus

1 sprayed neighbors' crops, kids, and livestock with a fine  
2 gasoline mist as a bonus, not only would the offender be  
3 jailed for reckless endangerment and a lot more besides, but  
4 both the sheriff and the judge would laugh in the face of  
5 any such a car owner, if they told the judge and sheriff,  
6 having such a car kept mechanics employed, that the people  
7 in the car were paid to be gassed periodically or that  
8 misting neighbors' crops and kids was okay because the  
9 owners' manual and the people that wrote the owner's manual  
10 said it was. That's more or less the situation. Only the  
11 sheriff and the judge got written out of the loop by the  
12 Atomic Energy Act and the NRC and a lot more besides. The  
13 NRC is in the loop and holds the power. For the love of God,  
14 at least prevent a melt-down and shut this dump down. When  
15 the spent fuel pool goes, NRC can watch it on TV from  
16 Washington -- until the plume hits it. But don't worry about  
17 that. I'm sure there's a regulation that says the dose won't  
18 damage you all that NRC wrote.

19           Just remember this: We are all accountable to the  
20 Almighty for our actions, and I doubt the Creator is pleased  
21 with the despoilers of life on earth. Thank you.

22           MR. CAMERON: We thank you, Pamela. Would you  
23 provide a copy of the doctor's letter for the transcript.

24           MS. BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN: I did already.

25           MR. CAMERON: Thank you. I think we're finished.

1 We've had our last speaker. I would thank you again for all  
2 the comments and for your patience. I feel that we should  
3 give a special thanks to our stenographer, who has been  
4 typing away over there. Who knows whether it will make any  
5 sense or not.

6 Thank you all.

7 [Whereupon, at 9:45 p.m., the meeting was  
8 concluded.]

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**Statement by Pamela Blockey-O'Brien**

**made at Public Scoping Meeting**

**Related to Hatch License Renewal**

**Held in Vidalia, Georgia on**

**May 10, 2000**

**(Including referenced letter from John W. Goffman)**

May 10th, 2000

Statement and Testimony of Pamela Blockey-O'Brien, on behalf of the F.O.R./I.F.O.R (National and International Fellowship of Reconciliation) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, AGAINST the request of Southern Nuclear Operating Company - a subsidiary of The Southern Company - - on behalf of itself and co-owner licensees, namely: Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Company, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and the City of Dalton - for a License Renewal under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 as Amended for Renewed Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants Edwin I. Hatch Units I and II, Dockets Number 50-321 and 50-366, located on the banks of the Altamaha River, in Appling County, Georgia, with the Application for License Renewal dated February 2000. The Application is 1200 pages according to NRC, the pages are divided in sections and numbered according to section. After some difficulty I recieved a copy last week. Since then every waking moment (and in my nightmares) I have been going over this Application - an Application, by the way, that reminds one of a crooked used car salesman trying to sell a junk vehicle without disclosing too much about the bombs on board, the ingredients in the bombs, that some of the ingredients are released to the environment as the vehicle travels and that the engine block is more or less held together with baling wire and spit balls.

It saddens me to have to come to a community held hostage by the fact that around 70% of its tax base comes from a radioactive hulk which threatens their existance by its mere presence, with a high level radioactive waste dump inside it and another one being created outside it, the contents of which will be radioactive essentially for eternity. When the Georgia Power Company teamed up with the Georgia Institute of Technology and the forerunner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and forerunner of the Department of Energy, namely the Atomic Energy Commission and brought a research reactor to Georgia Tech on which to train reactor operators so the South could be nuclearized with power plants, you can bet your stock options that few were told the ultimate consequences, just like today. So let us examine the truth:

Just as in a nuclear bomb, inside a nuclear power reactor such as Hatch, the atom is split, or "fissioned" releasing incredible energy, but inside a reactor, with luck, the nuclear reaction is "controlled" and can be stopped. Water is hauled out of the Altamaha River, forced between the hundreds and hundreds of fuel rods containing enriched uranium, the rods grouped in bundles called assemblies, as the atom is split, the water is simulataneously cooling the rods so they don't melt-down, and generating steam to power turbines for generators for electricity. In the process, more than eighty different possible radioactive "split" products, called "fission products" are formed, capable of releasing ionizing radiation, X-Rays, alpha and beta particles, gamma rays or neutrons. For example, Xenon-137 is created which gives off (negative) beta radiation which becomes cesium-137, which gives off gamma radiation. "Activation products" are also created, the violence of the nuclear chain reaction causes existing chemicals in air, water, nearby materials etc. to absorb energy change structure and become radioactive. Approx. 300 different radioactive chemicals created, must then go through many half-lives as they decay back to their natural stable state, all the while emitting radiation. Radioactive particles created decay into other radioactive so-called "daughter products". During the process plutonium is also created in the fuel rods, along with other radioactive "goodies" like Cobalt-60, Cesium-137 and Strontium-90. When there are insufficient atoms left inside the uranium in the fuel to split to maintain a steady power state, rods are said to be "used", or called "spent fuel", The

rods in their assemblies are now the most radioactive thing on the face of the earth more or less, besides an atomic bomb explosion. They are removed from the reactor core underwater for shielding against the incredible radioactive decay heat coming off them and stuck in a pool of water, which is an inside radioactive dump, to sit there forever and forever until someone, somewhere goes one better than The Creator and changes the laws of physics, energy, matter etc. and can render nuclear waste safe. According to information provided me, as of last Nov. Hatch had approximately 302,808 radioactive rods in the pool and 69,440 in the combined cores of Hatch I and II. The Brookhaven Study done for NRC in 1997 regarding radioactive spent fuel estimated a worst case scenario, full pool at a BWR, of 138,000 dead after one year in a 500 mile radius and 2,170 square miles of contaminated land in event of accident, in the pool. The pool is located between the fourth and fifth floor level approx. It is patched because they already dropped a bolt weighing hundreds of pounds into it, ruptured the liner and contaminated the hell out of the place, and have had leaking fuel in reports, yet Southern does not seem to mention this or discuss it under Severe Accident Mitigation Alternatives or under Aging Effects regarding the pool, except to discuss water chemistry, when it is known that radiation degrades the cement, steel etc. alloys etc. and causes all types of corrosion, irradiation embrittlement, pitting, and a host of problems they even admit to in the application, for everything at the plants from the reactor to the fuel, pool, and everything involved from the ground up. The CRAC-2 Report to congress back in the early 1980's concerning a core melt at Hatch and releases would cause hundreds of dead per Unit, thousands of injuries and up to \$56 Billion in damages causing radiation injury over a 70 mile radius. It would be the death of middle and south Georgia, due to high groundwater the core melt would hit the Altamaha faster than Southern's executives could leave the State. If it happened at a time when the Altamaha's flow was high, as in 1998/94/95, when in some months it ranged between around 45,000 cubic feet a second to around 70,000 cubic feet a second at the Doctortown gauge south of the plant by some miles according to USGS documents, or the December 1948 flood in the applicants own documents of 130,000 cubic feet a second north of the site, it wouldn't take too long to reach Georgia's prime fishing and tourism area, the Golden Isles and the Atlantic. Yet Southern has the absolute gall to state that the offsite economic cost would be \$99,659, and the offsite exposure cost \$72,565 and also that quote: "As the environmental impacts of potential severe accidents are of small significance and because additional measures to reduce such impacts would not be justified from a public ~~hazkkk~~ perspective

risk

Southern Nuclear Company concludes that no additional severe accident mitigation alternative measures beyond those already implemented during the current license term are warranted for HNP."

Southern modelled all releases, except one only, at ground level, buoyant plume rise was not modelled, They used ONE years worth of site meteorology, instead of 30 year wind roses offsite, onsite meteorology since startup, precipitation and temperature from Georgia records going back a minimum of 180 years, because this information is vital under accident conditions as NRC well knows and needed for daily use - but hey, Georgia Powers Annual Report on Plant Radioactive Effluent Releases for 1996, a report that must be submitted because all nuclear power plants constantly release radioactive contaminants to the environment in order to operate, with subsequent uptake to crops, water, fish, sediment, children, people in general for miles I'll get to later on, Georgia Power told the NRC in writing that they were not submitting it they had it on file and would supply it on NRC request

Hatch is A General Electric Mark I , its a lemon. the 1975 GE so-called "Reed Report" detailed major safety and economic problems with their reactors. Even earlier when the NRC was still the Atomic Energy Commission, your own top staff wanted to ban reactors of the Hatch type because THEY HAVE NO PROPER CONTAINMENT DOME AT ALL and their pressure-suppression system using a Torus and a piddling containment chamber could lead to disaster, and as late as 1987 NRC confirmed, their pathetic system was virtually certain to fail in a major accident. Hatch has known drywell leakage and you better read all the PNO's and Licensee Event Report on the Torus since startup all about leaking valves, torus water temperature reaching 97 degrees caused (they Docket says) by continuous hot weather increasing the temperature around the reactor building, faulty wiring and a crack in the vent header and the like. To top it off, the reactor for Unit I has a cracked core shroud held together by metal braces which could fail due to embrittlement and vibration.

But I want to get to serious environmental issues, concerning the radioactive contamination of the environment around Hatch and the contaminated sediment in the Altamaha down to the coast at Darien thanks to this dump. As NRC knows, A Curie is a measurement of radiation standardized to radium. One Curie gives off thirty seven billion macroscopic nuclear explosions a second, euphemistically called "disintegrations" or "transformations" , for comparison, radioactive contamination in the environment is measured in microCurie and Pico Curie levels, usually in the last. It is also measured in milliRems. The State of Georgia maintained until very recently in their Environmental Radiation Surveillance Reports, that average so-called background radiation in Georgia was 40-42 millirem a year- we all know that fallout from past nuclear tests now contributes only one millirem a year, though DOE and NRC (and now the State by the look of it) have been increasing it for years to suit their purposes, saying its "background" when most of it comes from the nuclear fuel cycle and related activities such as emissions from nuclear facilities. Allowable release levels were set, historically, in order to allow quote "reasonable latitude for the expansion of atomic energy programs in the foreseeable future." The purpose of NRC Regulations, is ONLY to make sure the standards for protection NRC came up with in their Part 20 Regulations as the regulation says. NRC (and DOE ) set the standard to operate, industry must not go above those standards. It has nothing to do with health or environmental protection or worker protection, Neither NRC nor DOE gives a fig about the workers. Because radiation can't be seen, smelled, etc. tortured mathematical formulas were invented to try and figure out the cell damaging effects , which are immediate and essentially irreversible according to the best medical specialists in the world specializing in radiation, and I do not mean the appalling ICRP who set permissible genetic doses to sperm and ovum. According to the governments own documents, radiation damages the genetic material in reproductive cells and results in mutations transmitted from generation to generation. There is no "safe" dose below which there is no damage, this has now been conclusively proven for the umpteenth time. In the environment the effects are cumulative. It bioaccumulates up the food chain. Emissions from reactors, such as Hatch, are poured out the stacks as "Noble gases" seep out of myriad minute openings in the system, and are dumped back to water. For this reason measurements are taken - yet the true effects measureable in blood tests to the population and the animals, and assessment of individual mutations and chromosomal aberration is not done, and it should be. For Southern to be saying that there are no water quality issues in the vicinity of Hatch with the river, that the quality of the groundwater in the vicinity of Hatch is good,

is disgusting, but predictable. Among other things, they contaminated the groundwater at Hatch beginning in 1979, the aquifer to be precise, then in 1982 150,000 gallons of riverwater flooded the turbine and radioactive waste buildings which will have also seeped into the ground water which discharges ultimately to the Altamaha, or could also seep into the other aquifers, In 1986 there was a spent fuel pool accident where 141,500 gallons of water highly contaminated with Cobalt-60, Zinc-65, Manganese 54, Cesium-134, Cesium-137, Tritium. Back in 1979, Cs-137 was still below 20 pCi /kg in sediment, it has since hit 67,000 pCi/kg, - fish, a year after the '86 spill contained Cs-137 up to 750 pCi/kg. In 1999 river sediment in published reports still hit 380pCi/Kg dry, the cobalt-60 in sediment in 1998 still hit 190 pCi/kg 4 miles downstream and the K-40 14,000 pCi/kg. The Beryllium-7 which Georgia Power admitted to me of course comes from the reactor and it goes up and down like yo-yo in vegetation -10,600 pCi/kg in '97, as does the Cesium-137 for example in '97 it hit 473 pCi/kg vegetation 10 miles south of the plant which even though its one of the wind State calls it background - but then, as I explained to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Judges how the State operates back in '96 that's no huge surprise either. You need to impound and read every test ever done at the Georgia Tech Lab for the State, the State files and the Utilities records since startup. Not to mention every inspection report the NRC wrote since start-up and violation and so-called non-cited violation, for starters to begin to get the picture, bearing in mind that the Hatch offsite Dose Calculation Manual and Final Safety Analysis Report were written in the stone Age and are outrageous. For example, the ODCM says gaseous radioactive releases at and beyond the site boundary can go to 500 millirems a year to the body and 3,000 mRems a year to the skin for noble gases, and then say they have no limits on the noble gases they can release, and that, for radioactive iodine -131 and 133, tritium (radioactive hydrogen) and all radionuclides in particulate form with half-lives greater than 8 days, up to 1500 millirem to ANY organ, all of the aforementioned as dose rate limits, this is worse than absurd. They say (under ODCM Methodology in their 96 report) that the percent of the ODCM limits are not applicable because they have no Curie limits for gaseous releases. This is the outfit that uses what they term "hypothetical" children as their controlling receptor for the releases, in actuality their own words was "a child in the NW quadrant" if I remember correctly - This is the outfit busy dosing the children and adults at the Roadside Park, the Camping Area, the Recreation Area and the Visitors Center. This is the outfit dosing the Boy Scouts in that camping area according to their own manual. I don't care how low a dose they maintain the kids are getting from the noble gases or particulates, if the Strontium 90, being a calcium displacer lodges in the kids bone and gives it bone cancer, both child and parent don't ask how little did it get. Strontium-90 decays to Yttrium-90. which is known to concentrate in the hormone producing soft-tissue organs such as the ovaries, testes and pituitary gland, and, according to published reports by the radiation medicine community is a powerful hormone disrupting radioactive chemical not just a powerful carcinogen.. Southern is permitted by Georgia to withdraw a monthly average of 72 Million gallons of water a day with a maximum rate of 103.6 mgd. Georgia must have lost its mind to permit this. The annual average is 57.18 million gallons a day they say consumptive losses approximate 46%. Translated into "people-speak" that includes the evaporating radioactive steam etc. "losses to the atmosphere"

as they so cutely put it. They say their withdrawal to the alluvial

aquifer recharge is small in impact. That the recharge is also provided by the minor confined aquifer of the Hawthorn Formation to which the alluvium is interconnected. First the Hawthorn is not minor, Hatch sits on top of it as well as the alluvium which is under and on both sides of the Altamaha and the Hawthorn continues on the other side according to the DOE survey of the site and as it is all interconnected and they contaminated the aquifer onsite and so forth the extent of the effects could be massive. Furthermore, a comparison of the DOE survey of soil sample data in the area from long ago, with what has been measured since regarding K-40 and Cesium-137 data, even though the DOE lies and says Cesium-137 is natural, when its man-made, and the plant had been operating a short while and releasing radioactive crud, shows that the area has been contaminated. For example, most K-40 was zero, and the Cesium-137 never went over 310 pCi/kg in soil. K-40 was at 1600 pCi/kg in soil in '99 in one measurement and 6300 pCi/kg in an '88 measurement for comparison, and 3,500 pCi/kg in '84. Cs-137 in soil in '98 in State data provided (which may not be all data-knowing them) reached 240 pCi/kg, in '88 640 pCi/kg and in '84 920 pCi/kg. NRC's attitude has been oh well, it's lower now. Site geology is actually extremely complex, and, as Hatch also withdraws 1.1 million gallons a day average from the Floridan aquifer also

monthly  
beneath the site, for, among other things "process use" such as demineralized water, which is of course ~~xxxxxx~~ using a huge amount of water when calculated over just one year. Georgia, Alabama and Florida are currently engaged in what is termed "water wars" over their water needs, and those needs do not only cover river withdrawals, I don't think. Water issues are among the biggest issues environmentally worldwide and nationwide and are becoming critical, due to the type of pollution from facilities like Hatch, not only other pollution sources. Farmers also rely on this system. At least their needs should take precedence over the needs of a local polluter that could and should have utilized alternative energy years ago.

The Applicant's go into rhapsodies about the ecology of the site, including the wetlands that they contaminated with the spent-fuel pool spill disaster. They neglect to mention that it has been documented for over 40 years that mammals and birds waterfowl etc. are contaminated via ingestion of contaminated seeds, berries and other foods contaminated by nuclear emissions and direct radiation from the facilities and that contamination affects their reproduction, health and is also accumulated in their bones. Migratory species carry the contamination with them. When they die, if ingested by something else, that also becomes contaminated and so it continues. The radioactive iodine from Hatch is measured in the milk in the Tattnall Co dairy, as is the Cs-137 and tritium and strontiums due to uptake via the grass/cow/milk/child pathway. It used to be measured at Appling and Toombs dairies also, which it should be, maybe it still is and I don't have the data. According to NRC and the State, both partly funded by the licensee, the nuclear industry, the attitude is all this is Ok, within the levels, remember. A '94 milk sample of Hatch's showed 500 pCi/L tritium. Although it has been established since decades that tritium at very low levels is particularly hazardous to the developing fetus EPA set a helpful allowable level in water of 20,000 pCi/l. Tritium irradiates as it passes through the body, continued ingestion means continued irradiation and continued damage. One thing is that I believe the Tattnall Co. Dairy is the massive State Prison dairy, which brings me to another issue: Southern has figured out that everyone is going to do the "radiation stumble" namely, that they are all going to evacuate in case of a severe accident - you know, a meltdown and massive release

to air , going at 2.5 Meters - about 7 feet a second\_ in a radial distance. The evac.Zone is only 10 miles under the law, but CRAC-2 says the kill-zone is 20 miles. First responders are of course the local fire department and little, cute Appling CO. Emergency headquarters people. Anybody told them that if they try and go in under such circumstances they'll die ? Is Southern/Georgia Power going to evacuate the workers, schoolchildren, shut-ins, prison guards and prisoners from the various area prisons, hospitals, nursery school children ~~at~~ 7 feet a second ? That dump has had three serious events in the last year, the February event could have led to a meltdown. How many times can you get lucky ?

I did not even bother to look at the General Electric data submitted - why should they be trusted ?

Regarding their NPDES Discharge Permit issued by the State of Georgia under the Clean Water Act to Allow discharges to the Altamaha, and also the other Water Quality Certification letter from 1972 by the State.

1) According to the EPA Definitions for NPDES Discharges the NRC provided, they have absolutely no say-so whatsoever over the dumping of most radioactive contaminants, because the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 is involved, they do not cover so called "source, byproduct or Special Nuclear Materials, nor radium or accelerator produced-isotopes as examples. However, "heat " is covered. 2) They did not seem to explain in the attached documents, that the radioactive decay heat is part of what causes the "THERMAL PLUME" . Did they tell the State Water people they dump radioactive water, or that the sediment in the river contains man-mades ? Did they tell National Marine Fisheries or State Fish and Wildlife about this or about the radioactive air emissions when they asked them by letter to evaluate Endangered Species and fish entrainment and similar ? The answer is "NO", one cannot even find the word "radioactive" . I called some of them, they had not been told. Now, the Sturgeon is a bottom feeder, it is Endangered, ingesting a Cobalt-60 particle with its damage to blood and the central nervous system alone is not a nice way for any living being to die. Nor is slow death from constant irradiation from Cesium-137 in its muscles. The fish entrainment study dates back to 1980. Interestingly it noted among the 22 species of fish an unknown egg and an unknown larvae. What was it ? Were there more ? Talk about loss of biodiversity. Extinction is forever. They speak of reforesting areas with the longleaf pine - we know that pines retain radioactive contaminants due to uptake from radioactive air emissions and deposition falling in rain, just like other trees, I did not have time to look up how long the longleafs hold their "needles" if you will, obviously the longer the uptake from soil and water etc. the more contaminated they'd become and when the needles drop the litter would be that much more radioactive for all ground-dwelling species in contact with them, plus re-contaminate the ground at higher levels. Ever tested the Gopher tortoises burrowing on the contaminated site ? If the turtles contaminated on and offsite of the monstrous Death of the Earth (DOE) squad site on the Savannah River are any indicator, the gopher tortoises are probably also contaminated, though probably to a lesser extent.

With regard to transmission lines , the testimony of the eminent Dr. W. Ross Adey ,before Congress in 1987 on the issue of electromagnetic (as opposed to ionizing) radiations, sent shivers down the spines of the collective electric power industry, partly because of his credentials. The effects on cell membranes and foetal development in animals for example was ghastly and included information on statistically significant increases in leukemia and lymphoma in studies of children exposed to power distribution systems, high voltage power lines

7.

and the like. These effects must be addressed. His testimony needs to be considered by NRC as he is one of the worlds experts on this issue. Southern has not considered it. Further studies since then agree.

I feel particularly sorry for the workers in the area whose jobs would be impacted. However, the NRC has repeatedly cited the facility over the years for its terrible personnel contamination record among other things, which is why NRC needs to read EVERY Inspection Report ever done. NRC has taken little concrete action, except to repeat that they are "concerned" for the past decades. It should be remembered there are no medical doctors on staff who specialize in health effects of radition, some of the reports on what has gone on are a nightmare. Like the workers trapped in the drywell. NRC said they had no way of knowing whether or not they died. If I remember correctly, somewhere on the Docket it said they forgot to test them appropriately afterwards. The workers should be compensated, the community should be compensated, and Southern, with its considerable financial and political clout could easily help get replacement work located outside the kill-zone and pay for job retraining and transportation to work. A problem I see always is the worker frustration over potential job loss, which is totally understandable, is sometimes directed at those who explain the dangers, when it should be directed at those who brought the equivalent of a nuclear bomb with a slow leak into their community to begin with. The ultimate tradgedy, is that Southern or Georgia Power, has ~~not been~~ probably not explained to them that due to them getting contaminated inside the plant, even their bodily excreta can become radioactive, and that is the essence of what was behind the NRC taking Hatch to task over the spreading of sewage sludges from the site under the power lines, ~~but~~ It is doubtful they were told that as soon as they enter the site, under NRC Regulations, they are no longer considered "members of the public". If they were to die inside the plant due to contamination - in theory industry and NRC can state No member of the public died that day as a result of radiation exposure.

The Applicant's documents only touch on the terrible, dangerous high-level radioactive waste dump they have prepared outside to put deadly radioactive spent fuel <sup>on</sup> inside casks that have never been tested in the real world, and simulated tests involved Hatch sticking a hot water pad inside one to simulate radioactive fuel rods, which the NRC gently pointed out - oh, so politely - that it "did not accurately simulate the temperatures." The casks - space for 48 is created - will stream gamma radiation into the environment and workers on the pad at a weekly rate of 21,000 millirem off the sides alone, next to the casks, each cask. A Former military nuclear scientist has assured me that terrorists could blow the top off the cask in a twinkling of an eye from considerable distance, other research shows a few rounds from a Milan anti-tank weapon could blast it to smithereens from 6000 feet with catastrophic results. People are being told it is temporary storage and that it will either be sent to Yucca Mountain or to a site on the Goshute Indian Reservation in Utah being prepared by a consortium that includes Southern, and the company, PFS that has prepared the site in Georgia. One of the leaders of the Goshute opposition to this wanted me to remind everyone, that their tribal chair does not speak for them all, and they do not intend to be at the recieving end of 4,000 casks from across the country into their valley where they already must endure myriad hazardous industries and military weapons test sides on their borders. In the end, in all probability, South Georgia is going to be left with a nuclear dump inside the plant and one outside, forever. The outside one would be eliminated if the plant is shutdown quite soon and no more nuclear waste is generated.

5000 more assemblies at sixty rods a bundle will be generated without shut-

down. This insanity must stop. Yucca Mountain is also basically dead in the water, literally.

This is the South. If a Sheriff found out that someone had a decrepit junk car, with a cracked engine block wrapped with baling wire, that not only couldn't pass emissions tests, not only leaked gasoline into the local creek, but carried a deadly cargo locked in the trunk capable of killing an entire county, and a second deadly cargo strapped inside, in a patched bucket, and the exhaust leaked into the car and gassed passengers periodically, plus sprayed neighbors crops, kids and livestock with a fine gasoline mist as a bonus, not only would the offender be jailed for reckless endangerment and a lot more besides, but both the sheriff and the judge would laugh in the face of any such a car owner, if they told the judge and sheriff, having such a car kept mechanics employed, that the people in the car were paid to be gassed periodically or that misting neighbors crops and kids was OK, because the owners manual and the people that wrote the owners manual said it was. That's more or less the situation - only the sheriff and the judge got written out of the loop by the Atomic Energy Act and the NRC and a lot more besides. The NRC is in the loop and holds the power. For the love of God, at least prevent a meltdown and shut this dump down. When the spent fuel pool goes, NRC can watch it on TV from Washington - until the plume hits it. But don't worry about that, I'm sure there's a regulation that says the dose won't damage you all, that NRC wrote. Just remember this, we are all accountable to the Almighty for our actions and I doubt the Creator is pleased with the despoilers of life on earth. Thank you.

*Patricia Blockey-O'Brien*

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

May 11, 1999  
LETTER OF CONCERN.

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

To Whom It May Concern:

During 1942, Robert E. Connick and I led the "Plutonium Group" at the University of California, Berkeley, which managed to isolate the first milligram of plutonium from irradiated uranium. (Plutonium-239 had previously been discovered by Glenn Seaborg and Edwin McMillan.) During subsequent decades, I have studied the biological effects of ionizing radiation --- including the alpha particles emitted by the radioactive decay of plutonium.

By any reasonable standard of biomedical proof, there is no safe dose, which means that just one decaying radioactive atom can produce permanent mutation in a cell's genetic molecules. My own work showed this in 1990 for xrays, gamma rays, and beta particles (Gofman 1990: "Radiation-Induced Cancer from Low-Dose Exposure"). For alpha particles, the logic of no safe dose was confirmed experimentally in 1997 by Tom K. Hei and co-workers at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA) Vol.94, pp.3765-3770, April 1997, "Mutagenic Effects of a Single and an Exact Number of Alpha Particles in Mammalian Cells").

It follows from such evidence that citizens worldwide have a strong biological basis for opposing activities which produce an appreciable risk of exposing humans and others to plutonium and other radioactive pollution at any level. The fact that humans cannot escape exposure to ionizing radiation from various natural sources --- which may well account for a large share of humanity's inherited afflictions --- is no reason to let human activities INCREASE the exposure to ionizing radiation. The fact that ionizing radiation is a mutagen was first demonstrated in 1927 by Herman Joseph Muller, and subsequent evidence has shown it to be a mutagen of unique potency. Mutation is the basis not only for inherited afflictions, but also for cancer.

Very truly yours,

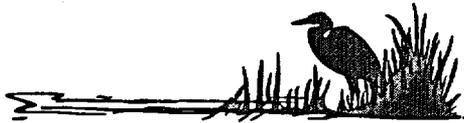
*John W. Gofman*  
John W. Gofman, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus of Molecular and Cell Biology

# Environmental Scoping Meeting

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
May 10, 2000



## Introduction

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- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Statutory background
- ▶ National Environmental Policy Act
- ▶ Review process
- ▶ Schedule
- ▶ Public comment



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## Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2-- License Renewal

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- ▶ First Boiling Water Reactor to Apply for License Renewal
- ▶ Operating licenses to expire in 2014 and 2018
- ▶ Application requests authorization to operate until 2034 and 2038
- ▶ Southern Nuclear Operating Company's license renewal application includes their Environmental Report

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## Hatch License Renewal Environmental Milestones

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- ▶ Application received - 3/1/00 by letter dated 2/29/00
- ▶ Application accepted for docketing - 4/3/00
- ▶ Notice of Intent - 4/12/00
- ▶ Scoping meeting - 5/10/00
- ▶ Comment period - 4/12/00 - 6/9/00

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## **Purpose of Today's Meeting**

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- ▶ Describe the environmental review process
- ▶ Identify environmental areas that the staff typically evaluates
- ▶ Provide the review schedule
- ▶ Accept any comments you may have today
- ▶ Describe how to submit comments

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## **NRC Mission**

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- ▶ NRC governed by:
  - ▷ Atomic Energy Act
  - ▷ Energy Reorganization Act
  - ▷ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
  - ▷ other statutes
- ▶ Mission statement:
  - ▷ health and safety protection
  - ▷ environmental protection
  - ▷ common defense and security

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## **What is License Renewal?**

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- ▶ Atomic Energy Act
  - ▷ Limits term of license
  - ▷ Allows for renewal
- ▶ License Renewal (10 CFR Part 54)
  - ▷ Operate an additional 20 years beyond current license term
  - ▷ NRC review
  - ▷ Public participation
  - ▷ Commission decision

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## **Purpose and Need**

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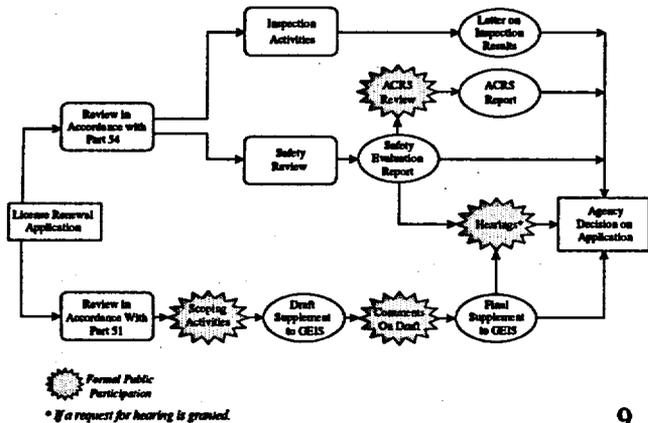
**Renewal of an operating license**

“... to provide an option that allows for power generation capability beyond the term of a current nuclear power plant operating license to meet future system generating needs...”

Generic Environmental Impact Statement  
for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants  
NUREG-1437

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## License Renewal Process



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## National Environmental Policy Act

- ▶ NEPA requires Federal agencies to use a systematic approach to consider environmental impacts
- ▶ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment
- ▶ License renewal is considered a major federal action

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## Staff's Objective of Environmental Review

To determine whether or not:

The adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Hatch Units 1 and 2 are so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning decision makers would be unreasonable.

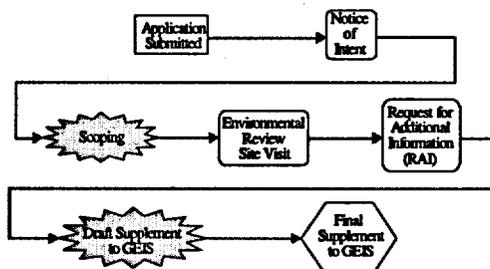
11

## How We Implement NEPA

- ▶ Regulations
  - ▷ 10 CFR Part 51
  - ▷ Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)
- ▶ Regulatory Guidance
  - ▷ Environmental Standard Review Plan for License Renewal

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## Environmental License Renewal Process



Formal Public Participation

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## NEPA Process

- ▶ Notice of Intent - notifies public of NRC's plans to prepare an EIS
- ▶ Scoping Process - identifies scope of EIS and solicits public input
  - ▷ Public Meeting
  - ▷ Public Comment Period

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## NEPA Process (continued)

- ▶ Review - evaluates environmental impacts, alternatives, & mitigation measures
- ▶ Issue draft EIS for public comment
  - ▷ Public Meeting
  - ▷ Public Comment Period
- ▶ Issue final EIS

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## Information Gathering Process

- ▶ Review Southern Nuclear's application
- ▶ Visit site and review Southern Nuclear's process for identifying new information
- ▶ Evaluate input received through public scoping process
  - ▷ All comments received during the comment period will be considered

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## Information Gathering Process (continued)

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- ▶ Visit county, regional, and State government environmental and resource regulators
- ▶ Visit information service agencies
- ▶ Verify environmental permits and requirements for continuing operations
- ▶ Discuss consequences during renewal term with regulating agencies

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## What Do We Look At?

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- ▶ Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal (GEIS, NUREG-1437)
  - ▶ Identified 92 issues of potential consequence
    - 69 issues resolved generically (Category 1)
    - 23 issues looked at on plant-specific basis (Category 2 or unassigned)
- ▶ Staff also looks for any significant new information not identified in GEIS

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## Areas Reviewed

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- ▶ Surface water quality, hydrology, & use
- ▶ Aquatic ecology
- ▶ Ground-water use & quality
- ▶ Threatened or endangered species
- ▶ Air quality
- ▶ Land use
- ▶ Uranium fuel cycle & waste management



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## Areas Reviewed (continued)

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- ▶ Human health
- ▶ Socioeconomics
- ▶ Postulated accidents
- ▶ Decommissioning
- ▶ Environmental justice
- ▶ Alternatives to license renewal



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## **Issues Not Considered In Environmental Review**

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- ▶ Need for power
- ▶ Cost of power
- ▶ Spent fuel disposal (except for transportation)
- ▶ Safety-related issues

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## **Public Comments**

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- ▶ Comment period ends on June 9, 2000
- ▶ All comments received during the comment period will be considered
- ▶ Comments not bearing on decision to renew license will be referred to appropriate NRC programs.

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## **Hatch License Renewal Environmental Review Milestones**

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- ▶ Application received - 3/1/00
- ▶ Notice of Intent - 4/12/00
- ▶ Scoping Meeting - 5/10/00
- ▶ Comment period - 4/12/00 - 6/9/00
- ▶ Draft EIS issued - 1/01
- ▶ Final EIS issued - 7/01

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## **Point of Contact**

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- ▶ Agency point of contact:

James H. Wilson  
1 (800) 368-5642 extension 1108

- ▶ Documents located at Appling County Library and can be viewed at NRC's Web site ([www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov))
- ▶ Provide comments: by mail, in person, or e-mail at [hatcheis@nrc.gov](mailto:hatcheis@nrc.gov)

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**LIST OF ATTENDEES  
HATCH PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING  
May 10, 2000**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>NRC AND CONTRACTORS</b>
Francis Cameron	NRC
Cynthia Carpenter	NRC
Barry Zalcman	NRC
James Wilson	NRC
Thomas Kenyon	NRC
Cynthia Sochor	NRC
Robert Jolly	NRC
Antoinette Walker	NRC
Christopher Grimes	NRC
William Burton	NRC
Robert Prato	NRC
Raj Anand	NRC
Tamara Bloomer	NRC
Janice Moore	NRC
Brooke Poole	NRC
Mary Ann Parkhurst	PNNL
Van Ramsdell	PNNL
Michael Scott	PNNL
John Jaksch	PNNL
Lance Vail	PNNL
Greg Stoetzel	PNNL
Michael Sackschewsky	PNNL
Duane Neitzel	PNNL
Paul Nickens	PNNL
Cynthia Harbaugh	NRC
Kenneth Clark	NRC
Patricia Milligan	NRC
Edward Pentecost	ANL
Gary Johnson	LLNL
Kenneth Zahn	LLNL
Bruce McDowell	LLNL
Robert Breckenridge	INEEL
Kenneth Moore	INEEL
Joel Munday	NRC/Region II
Thomas Fredette	NRC/Region II
Edna Dyal	NRC Region II

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SNC AND CONTRACTORS</b>
Raymond Baker	SNC
Jim Davis	SNC
Chris Hobson	GPC
Louis Long	GPC
Charles Pierce	SNC
Michael Jones	SNC

Jim Wade	SNC
Pete Wells	SNC
Scott Kirk	SCS
William P. Evans	SCS
Rick Kimble	SNC
Tom Moorer	SNC
Charles K. Brown	SNC
Mike Nichols	GPC
Art Domby	Troutman Sanders
Lewis Sumner	SNC
Byron Feemster	SNC
Marty Ray	Tetra Tech
Mike Whitten	Tetra Tech
Bill Craig	Tetra Tech
M. Stanford Blanton	Balch & Bingham

NAME	AFFILIATION
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Otha Dixon	Holiday Inn Express
George Dickens	Development Authority
Cathy Meehan	Southeastern Technical Institute
Duane Whitley	Appling County Commission Chairman
Janisse Ray	
Roger Byrd	State Representative
Lewis Parker	Sheriff, Appling County
Tim Smith	Superintendent Vidalia Public Schools
Gary Drury	Georgia Coast Watch
J. Edward Tyson	Darby Bank & Trust Company
Mayor Steve Rigdon	Mayor of Baxley
Karon Durden	Toombs, Montgomery, Wheeler County United Way
	Vidalia Onion Festival
Phil Proctor	
Bill Mitchell	Toombs, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
Deborah Sheppard	Altamaha Riverkeeper
Dale Adkins	Appling County Development Authority
Mike Cleland	County Manager, Appling
Jeff Baxley	City Manager, City of Baxley
Ross Kist	Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia
Pamela Blockey O'Brian	
Ralph Beedle	Nuclear Energy Institute
Rita Kilpatrick	Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia
Tony Banks	Virginia Power
Laurence M. Bergen	Oglethorpe Power Company
Carol Boatnight	Georgia Power
Dennis Capella	PECO Energy Co.
Julea Hovey	Constellation Nuclear Services
Jan Kozyra	
Bill Maher	PECO Energy Co.
Karen Patterson	Tetra Tech
Barty Simontar	Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**NAME****AFFILIATION**

**Bill Slocumb  
Richard Zuercher  
William Bleck  
Kathy Bradford  
Patricia Dixin  
June Hagan  
Christi Hardin  
Cole Lindell  
Doug Shaw  
Jerry Strickland  
Debbie Betsill  
J. A. Betsill  
Calvin K. Bobbitt  
Philip Moore  
Stephen Summer  
John Ladson**

**Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Dominion Energy  
  
Advance Progress Newspaper  
Toombs, Montgomery, and Wheeler County United Way  
Georgia Power Company  
Georgia Power Company  
MEAG Power  
The Nature Conservancy  
Sun Trust Bank  
  
  
Tetra Tech  
South Carolina Electric and Gas Company  
Ladson Investments, Briland Oil, and Restar  
Transportation**