

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Environmental Scoping Process for North Anna
Power Station, Units 1 and 2, License Renewal
Application: Public Meeting: Evening Session

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Pages 1-80

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ATTACHMENT 2

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
3 + + + + +
4 ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR
5 NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2,
6 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

7 + + + + +
8 PUBLIC MEETING

9 + + + + +
10 THURSDAY,
11 OCTOBER 18, 2001

12 + + + + +
13

14 The public meeting was held in the Public
15 Meeting Room, Louisa County Office Building, One
16 Woolfolk Avenue, Louisa, Virginia, at 7:00 p.m., Chris
17 Grimes, presiding.

18 NRC REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

19 CHRIS GRIMES, Chief, License Renewal and
20 Standardization Branch, Facilitator
21 ROBERT PRATO, Safety Project Manager
22 ANDREW KUGLER, Environmental Project
23 Manager
24
25

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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

(7:00 p.m.)

MR. GRIMES: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Chris Grimes, and I am the Chief of the License Renewal and Standardization Branch at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

This evening I'm going to step out of that role to serve as a facilitator for our public meeting to discuss the license renewal application for North Anna Units 1 and 2. And as facilitator, I hope to be able to help all of us share information. The NRC would like to share information with you about the regulatory process that we follow to process a license renewal application, and we wish to get information from you, the local citizens, officials, and interested parties, about what your public interests are and the potential impacts of the license renewal action.

A couple of administrative features that I'd like to start with are I'd like to remind all of you to please turn off your cell phones. Not only does it distract the speakers. Well, it doesn't distract me, but it may distract other speakers. But it also plays havoc with the recording system that we're using to transcribe this meeting.

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1 This is a transcribed meeting so that we
2 can capture all of the comments and all of the issues
3 that are raised, and then the NRC staff will address
4 those issues as part of the renewal process that we
5 will describe later.

6 The other administrative point that I want
7 to raise is we have a public meeting feedback form.
8 This is a way for us to find out whether or not the
9 public service that we're providing with these
10 meetings satisfies your wants and needs.

11 This is a rather formidable form. There
12 are lots of questions. You don't have to answer all
13 of them. Just pick the ones you like. Any feedback
14 that we can get would be appreciated.

15 The agenda for the session this evening
16 consists of three basic parts. First, there will be
17 brief presentations by the NRC staff to explain the
18 process. At the end of these presentations, there
19 will be an opportunity for questions in order for you
20 to understand the process and to ask any questions
21 that you need to ask in order to be sufficiently
22 informed to provide feedback to us. And then there
23 will be a comment period where those who have asked to
24 make comments to be put on the record will be afforded
25 time to provide those comments.

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1 The meeting is being transcribed, as I
2 mentioned. Our recorder is Mary Jo Mitchell. If you
3 have any written materials that you want to submit,
4 along with your oral comments, please make sure that
5 she gets a copy for our transcript.

6 The staff is also going to explain as part
7 of the presentation how written comments can be
8 submitted to the NRC. The oral comments that we
9 receive tonight that we extract from the transcript
10 and the written comments will all be treated in the
11 same fashion.

12 When you speak, we request that you
13 identify yourself, that you speak into a microphone.
14 If you want to speak, I can bring this portable
15 walking stick around to you, and also identify your
16 affiliation, if appropriate.

17 The rules for the comment period are we
18 ask that you present your comments in about five
19 minutes. We desire to make sure that everyone has an
20 ample opportunity to participate in the meeting.
21 That's not a rigid time rule, but as many of you have
22 expressed an interest in watching the baseball playoff
23 games, we're going to try and move swiftly through the
24 comments.

25 (Laughter.)

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1 MR. GRIMES: And we also want to emphasize
2 that more detailed written comments might be more
3 effective because we will treat them all the same way.

4 The presentations will start off by a
5 description of the overall license renewal process by
6 Robert Prato, who is the Project Manager for the
7 safety review.

8 After his presentation, Andy Kugler, who
9 is the Environmental Project Manager for the Dominion
10 application, will describe the environmental review
11 process.

12 Also, I want to introduce John Nakoski,
13 who is the Section Chief in the License Renewal
14 Branch, and he's here to assist in responding to any
15 questions.

16 And with that introduction, Mr. Prato,
17 would you please begin?

18 MR. PRATO: Good evening. Again, my name
19 is Bob Prato. I am the Project Manager for the safety
20 review of the license renewal applications for North
21 Anna's Unit 1 and Unit 2.

22 What that means is I coordinate the
23 activities of about 30 different staff engineers and
24 a national laboratory in the review of the application
25 from the safety perspective.

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1 What I'm going to do tonight is I'm going
2 to give you a brief presentation, and during that
3 presentation I'm going to cover three basic areas.
4 The first area is I'm going to give you the context
5 and the backdrop for this meeting, why we are here
6 tonight.

7 The second item is I'm going to discuss
8 the staff's roles and responsibility in the license
9 renewal process.

10 And the third item is that I'm going to
11 describe the safety review process.

12 At that point I'm going to open up the
13 floor to questions. It's important that you
14 understand that this is your evening, your opportunity
15 to express your concerns and identify any questions
16 you may have, and we'll do everything in our power to
17 answer those questions.

18 If we can't answer a question for you
19 tonight, we will respond to you in writing, but
20 nonetheless, you will get an answer to any questions
21 that you may ask.

22 Without any further delay, let's talk a
23 little bit about the backdrop, why we're here. As
24 most of you know, on May 29th, 2001, Dominion, the
25 corporation that owns and operates North Anna Unit 1

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1 and Unit 2, submitted an application for the renewal
2 of licenses for Unit 1 and Unit 2 for the North Anna
3 nuclear power facility.

4 That application was a dual application.
5 What I mean by a dual application is that they not
6 only submitted applications for North Anna Unit 1 and
7 Unit 2, but they also submitted applications for Surry
8 Unit 1 and Unit 2. That's the other facility that
9 Dominion owns and operates.

10 Because we received two applications, we
11 are going to do a combined safety review of both of
12 those applications, and the reason we can do this is
13 because those two facilities are similar in design.
14 The primary systems are both Westinghouse pressurized
15 water reactors of the same vintage and the same period
16 of construction and design.

17 And the balance of plant is a little bit
18 different. However, what the staff will do is they
19 will review the similarities of both of those units,
20 of both of those facilities for the four units. They
21 will review the differences between those units
22 separately, and then they will review any uniqueness
23 to those units separately also.

24 Although the safety review is going to be
25 done as a single review, the environmental review will

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1 be done separately. The reason it's going to be done
2 separately is because the environmental review is site
3 specific, and the sites are considerably different.
4 So the environmental review for each of those
5 facilities will be done separately.

6 As far as the roles and responsibilities,
7 the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended over the
8 years, gave the staff three basic responsibilities.
9 The first responsibility was public health and safety.
10 The second was protection of the environment, and the
11 third was the common defense and security of nuclear
12 power facilities.

13 The Atomic Energy Act also limited the
14 licensing of nuclear power plants to 40 years, but at
15 the same time gave the staff the authority to renew
16 those licenses for 20-year periods at a time.

17 The original license term was limited not
18 because of any technical limitations. Even for
19 generating facilities at that time there was no reason
20 for them to limit the term to 40 years. However,
21 there were financial and antitrust limitations that
22 required the license to be limited to 40 years.

23 However, because the original license was
24 limited to 40 years, some of the systems, structures,
25 and components were designed for only 40 years of

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1 operation. Realizing this in the early '80s, about
2 the same time that the earlier vintage nuclear power
3 plants started asking themselves the question do they
4 want to renew their plants, the staff recognized that
5 they needed to identify what was needed to grant an
6 extended license and to define the process that would
7 be used during that renewal process.

8 Therefore, the Commission set forth the
9 requirements for license renewal in Part 54 of Title
10 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Now, 10 CFR
11 are the laws that govern the use of nuclear material
12 in the United States. That's all nuclear material.
13 That's medical, industrial, and power generation use.

14 Part 50 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal
15 Regulations provides the laws for operation of a
16 nuclear power plant.

17 Part 54 provides the rules for relicensing
18 a nuclear power plant for 20-year periods.

19 In addition, Part 51, a companion
20 regulation to Part 54, provides the scope of the
21 environmental review for a renewed license.

22 As far as the process is defined in Part
23 54 -- you'll have this slide in your handout if you're
24 having a problem reading it. Okay? -- Part 54 allows
25 applicants for a renewed license to submit an

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1 application after 20 years of operation.

2 The reason they are allowed to submit for
3 renewed license with up to 20 more years of operation
4 left on the current license is because the time for
5 design and construction of a new major generating
6 facility is typically about 10 years.

7 So if an applicant comes in to try to
8 renew their license for the nuclear power facility and
9 go through that three-year process and at the end do
10 not receive permission to extend that license, then
11 they have time to go through the decision process as
12 to what kind of facility to build, go through the
13 planning process, deciding process, the design and
14 construction process.

15 So this process of allowing them to apply
16 early in their operation cycle is to make sure that
17 the lights stay on.

18 In addition, Part 54 provides the
19 expectations for the public, the staff, and potential
20 applicants regarding the plant inspection and
21 maintenance practices for the period of extended
22 operation that must be demonstrated before a renewed
23 license is granted.

24 In other words, the rule defines the
25 safety and environmental requirements to help us

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1 determine the best decision for the facility as to
2 whether or not that facility should be decommissioned
3 or be allowed to continue to operate.

4 The rule, again, Part 54, focuses on the
5 aging of passive, long-lived systems, structures, and
6 components. The reason the Commission focused the
7 requirements for license renewal on passive, long-
8 lived systems, structures, and components is because
9 there are ongoing regulatory requirements and
10 processes in place that monitor and maintain the
11 remaining systems, structures, and components and
12 address emergency planning and security plans.

13 There are things that are constantly and
14 routinely attended to under the regulations. However,
15 those processes did not explicitly look at plant
16 design capability to manage long-term degradation of
17 equipment due to aging.

18 So the license renewal application focuses
19 on those inspection programs and maintenance practices
20 that are used to maintain the margin of safety in the
21 plant safety equipment by managing applicable aging
22 effects.

23 In light of everything that's been said,
24 the staff reviews the applicant's license renewal
25 application from a safety and environmental impact

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1 aspect and issues a safety evaluation report and an
2 environmental impact statement to document its
3 findings.

4 Those reports are taken together with two
5 additional independent reviews. The Commission's
6 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, better known
7 as ACRS, is an independent body of experts primarily
8 from industry and academia who have particular
9 expertise on safety issues, and they evaluate the
10 quality of the staff's findings.

11 There is also an independent inspection
12 program that verifies certain key elements of the
13 staff's safety findings. Therefore, the Commission
14 decision on this license renewal application will rely
15 on the staff's safety evaluation, the environmental
16 impact statement that includes any public comments,
17 the ACRS report, and the inspection findings.

18 The schedule for this process is
19 approximately 25 months from the date the application
20 was submitted. If requests for petition to interview
21 had been received, that schedule would have been
22 extended approximately five months to allow for
23 hearings, but no petition has been received.
24 Therefore, the current schedule for the Commission
25 decision as to whether or not to approve the renewed

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1 license for North Anna Unit 1 and Unit 2 and Surry
2 Unit 1 and Unit 2 is currently set for July of 2003.

3 That completes my presentation. Are there
4 any questions?

5 MR. GRIMES: Any questions about the
6 general process description and the steps in the
7 staff's license renewal review?

8 MR. PRATO: Before I sit down, if there
9 are no questions right now, myself and John will be
10 available after the meeting. We'll stay around, and
11 we'll answer any questions anybody may have. So
12 please don't hesitate to come forward and ask.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. GRIMES: Now we'll ask Andy Kugler to
15 provide an overview of the environmental review
16 process.

17 MR. KUGLER: Thank you, Chris.

18 Good evening, everybody, and thank you for
19 coming out here this evening. Again, my name is Andy
20 Kugler, and I am the Project Manager for the
21 environmental review for the North Anna license
22 renewal application.

23 I'm leading a team of experts who are
24 reviewing the impacts of the license renewal for this
25 plant, and we're going to be developing an

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1 environmental impact statement in relation to that.

2 The process that we work under comes from
3 the National Environmental Policy Act, which was
4 enacted in 1969. It requires us to use a systematic
5 approach to evaluate the impacts of the proposed
6 action and also to consider what actions should be
7 taken to mitigate any impacts that are associated with
8 this action.

9 In addition, we look for alternatives to
10 the proposal that might have less environmental
11 impacts than the action requested.

12 The NEPA process is basically a disclosure
13 tool in which we provide information to the public on
14 what it is that's being proposed and what the impacts
15 are, and it also allows us an opportunity to receive
16 input from the public on their concerns with the
17 operations of the plant and the concerns of an
18 environmental nature.

19 Under this process, the Nuclear Regulatory
20 Commission considers license renewal to be a major
21 Federal action, and what that means for us is that we
22 are required to prepare an environmental impact
23 statement to evaluate the impacts.

24 One of the steps in this process is called
25 scoping in which the staff determines what issues need

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1 to be considered and evaluated, and the subpart of
2 that process is getting input from sources that may be
3 able to assist us in that determination.

4 The public comments that we receive
5 tonight and any public comments we receive in writing
6 will be considered in determining the scope of our
7 review.

8 Next slide.

9 The basic purpose of our review is to
10 determine whether license renewal for this plant is
11 acceptable from an environmental point of view. We'll
12 be trying to determine whether preserving this option
13 of continued operation is the right thing to do.

14 I want to make a point here that is
15 sometimes missed in that if we should reach the
16 determination that license renewal is acceptable from
17 an environmental perspective, and if the Commission
18 decides to renew the licenses, that gives the licensee
19 permission to continue operation, but it doesn't
20 determine whether the plant will actually operate for
21 an additional 20 years.

22 That decision will come from the licensee,
23 from state regulators. They'll determine whether or
24 not it makes sense to continue to operate this plant.
25 We would simply be allowing them to do so if they

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1 chose.

2 Next slide, please.

3 This slide details the environmental
4 review process a little bit more, and again, this is
5 in your handout. If you're toward the back, you may
6 not be able to read this. As mentioned before, the
7 application was received at the end of May of this
8 year.

9 In September we issued a notice of intent
10 to develop an environmental impact statement, and it
11 also noticed that we were opening a scoping period of
12 60 days. That period is continuing at this time, and
13 as part of the scoping we also come out here to talk
14 to you in person and try and gather any comments you
15 might have.

16 In addition, during this time when we're
17 in the area of the site, we go around and we go to the
18 site, review information there, look at the site, look
19 at the vicinity around the site to gather information
20 that we will need in writing our environmental impact
21 statement.

22 After we are done here, we'll go back and
23 determine if we need any additional information from
24 the licensee to finish our product. If we do, we'll
25 write a request from the licensee to get that

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1 information.

2 We expect to finish developing the draft
3 around May of next year, and when we do that, we'll
4 publish it for comment, and you'll have an opportunity
5 to review it and provide us with comments on it.

6 During that comment period, we'll come
7 back here for another meeting, again, to allow you to
8 give us comments directly, and we'll also have an
9 opportunity at that point to explain our findings in
10 the draft.

11 Once we've collected the comments on the
12 draft, we'll develop the final document, and we expect
13 to issue that around December of next year. So it's
14 a fairly lengthy process.

15 Next slide, please.

16 During the development of the
17 environmental impact statement, we gather information
18 from a number of different sources. We, of course,
19 look at the licensee submittal, the environmental
20 report. We gather comments from the public during the
21 scoping phase. We also talk to state and Federal
22 agencies and local agencies, and we talk to local
23 social service groups and things of that nature to try
24 and gather information to help us in our evaluation.

25 We consider all of the comments that we

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1 receive during the scoping phase when we develop the
2 EIS and any information that we receive from these
3 other organizations.

4 Next slide, please.

5 In this slide, I'm trying to give you an
6 idea of the types of experts that we have on our team
7 and the areas that they cover as we perform our
8 evaluation. Obviously we look at the obvious things,
9 the air, water, soil. We also look at cultural
10 resources and archeological resources, and
11 socioeconomics, an area that maybe people don't think
12 about when you think environment, but it is covered in
13 our review, considering what impacts the plant has on
14 the socioeconomics in this area.

15 And a part of that is also what's called
16 environmental justice, determining whether the
17 operation of the facility may have an adverse impact,
18 a disproportionate adverse impact on certain groups in
19 the area.

20 Next slide, please.

21 I'm the agency's point of contact for this
22 environmental review. On this slide I'm giving you my
23 phone number if you need to reach me. If you have
24 questions that you think of after the meeting
25 concerning the process, I will try to help you out.

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1 We've also placed documents associated
2 with the review in the Louisa County Library and also
3 in the old local public document room, which is the
4 Alderman Library in the University of Virginia.

5 The application is there as are and will
6 be documents that we issue in relation to this review,
7 and we're also going to place some reference documents
8 there as well to help you if you need to look at those
9 documents.

10 All of those documents can also be viewed
11 through our Web site once it's available again. I do
12 have to mention we have a situation at the current
13 time that the Web site is not available to the public.
14 It relates to concerns with safeguards for the power
15 plants, and I am not sure at this time when that Web
16 site will be available again. But we'll keep it
17 updated, and when it does become available, which
18 would hopefully be soon, the documents are available
19 there as well.

20 Next slide, please.

21 We've tried to give you as many different
22 ways to submit comments as we could to make it as easy
23 as possible. Obviously comments given here tonight,
24 that's one method. You can also submit comments in
25 writing to the address provided on this slide. This

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1 is the group that collects all comments on documents
2 that we issue.

3 You can come by in person to Rockville
4 Pike up in Rockville, Maryland if you want. We'd be
5 happy to see you.

6 You can also submit comments by E-mail.
7 We've set up a special mailbox just for this effort,
8 and if you wish to submit them electronically, that
9 method is available to you as well.

10 Whichever method you choose, we will
11 collect all of the comments together and address them.
12 At the end of the scoping period, once we have all of
13 the comments, we will develop a scoping summary report
14 in which we'll list all of the comments we receive and
15 describe how we are responding to them.

16 Some comments may be responded to in the
17 environmental impact statement itself, but we will
18 note that.

19 But that summary will be mailed to anybody
20 who has filled out a card out there with your address.
21 We'll send it to that address. So if you didn't do
22 that and if you do want to get a copy of that, please
23 when you're done stop by and fill out a card.

24 And that completes my remarks. If there
25 are any questions on the environmental process?

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1 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Andy.

2 Does anyone have any questions about
3 Andy's presentation or the process for our
4 environmental review under the NEPA process?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. GRIMES: If not, thank you, Andy.

7 I will point out even though the Web site
8 is down, our E-mail still works. Incoming works;
9 outgoing doesn't.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. GRIMES: Our first speaker tonight is
12 going to be Sheriff Ashland Fortune, Louisa County
13 Sheriff.

14 SHERIFF FORTUNE: Good evening, ladies and
15 gentlemen.

16 I'm Ashland Fortune, Sheriff of Louisa
17 County.

18 First, I'd like to say that it's a
19 pleasure to be here this afternoon to speak on the
20 impact on how Virginia Power had come to this
21 community and the public service that it has given us.

22 I'm a little hoarse, but nevertheless,
23 this afternoon or earlier this evening I asked Chris
24 how much time I had to speak. He said five minutes.
25 I said, well, due to the coloration of my hair, I can

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1 speak a little longer.

2 (Laughter.)

3 SHERIFF FORTUNE: So on that note, I'm a
4 very observant person when I go into places. About
5 three weeks ago I was sitting in church. A lady came
6 into church, and she had on a pretty flowered dress.
7 She came in, and about ten minutes later she went in
8 the back and came back on with a white dress on. So
9 I said that was odd. So when she came back after the
10 service was over, I walked up to her, and I said,
11 "Ma'am," I said, "why did you change clothes?"

12 She said, "You had to notice that, didn't
13 you? I forgot you're the policeman."

14 I say that to say this. I visited, toured
15 Virginia Power. I toured Virginia Power. It's the
16 most cleanest place I ever walked into for the health
17 and the safety of the employees there. And that's my
18 job, to help to keep Virginia Power safe and to keep
19 terrorism from coming attacking Virginia Power like
20 they did in New York and Washington and Pennsylvania.

21 But before that happened, I toured the dry
22 (cask) area site down at Virginia Power where they
23 stored the dry area site, and before I entered that
24 place, I was dressed like I am now. To show you how
25 tight the security was, I had to take and leave my gun

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1 in the vehicle. Before I entered through the gates of
2 the dry area where they had stored electricity, I was
3 searched.

4 It didn't bother me. It bothered some of
5 the other people. About 25 or 30 of us were in the
6 group. It bothered them because of the fact that they
7 knew the Sheriff; they took the gun.

8 So that the security of Virginia Power is
9 awesome. They do their job. That's what they were
10 trained to do, and that's what they did. And I
11 praised them for the job they're doing there.

12 Now, since all of this happened in New
13 York, security is much tighter. We have State Police
14 down there working. I have a group of my people down
15 there working. As of Friday, I had nine down there at
16 work surveying, training in the outside area of the
17 plant to make sure that nobody comes in on foot.

18 So there is security now. You go in
19 there; you will be searched. Your car will be
20 searched. You will be searched.

21 So we cannot control what's above us.
22 Nobody can do that but the good Lord, but
23 nevertheless, we've tried to protect anything that
24 comes into that plant on ground, and also if we see it
25 in the air, to put a stop to it before they strike the

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1 plant.

2 I say to you, ladies and gentlemen,
3 tonight I would like to see that the license be
4 restored for Virginia Power because of the fact if it
5 wasn't for Virginia Power, where would we get our
6 current?

7 May God bless you. Thank you.

8 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Sheriff Fortune,
9 and you didn't use but five minutes.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. GRIMES: Our next speaker is going to
12 be Delegate V. Earl Dickinson of the Virginia General
13 Assembly.

14 Delegate Dickinson.

15 MR. DICKINSON: Thank you.

16 Good evening, and first let me thank you
17 for giving the citizens of this area the opportunity
18 make public comments on the proposed application.

19 I am Earl Dickinson. I'm a member of the
20 Virginia House of Delegates for the past 30 years, and
21 I represent this area, Louisa, Goochland, Fluvanna,
22 and the rural part of Spotsylvania, the portion that
23 joins Lake Anna.

24 And I'm here tonight in support of our
25 Nuclear Regulatory Commission granting the North Anna

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1 Power Station a permit to operate here in Louisa
2 County an additional 20 years after the expiration of
3 its present permit.

4 It's my understanding that the present
5 permit allows North Anna Units 1 and 2 to operate
6 until 2018 and 2020, respectively, and that under a
7 new permit it would continue to operate until 2038 and
8 2040, respectively.

9 According to the Nuclear Energy Institute,
10 it is technically feasible for safe and reliable
11 operation of nuclear power plants to continue
12 operations up to 70 years.

13 There are many reasons why this plant
14 should continue to operate. First and foremost is
15 safety. North Anna Power Plant has a history of a
16 safe and reliable operation, and the NRC and the
17 Institute of Nuclear Power Operations have recognized
18 its safety performance.

19 Secondly, it produces 17 percent of all
20 electricity used in Virginia, and it generates at one
21 of the lowest producing costs of any generating plant
22 in the United States. In fact, since the demand for
23 electricity in Virginia continues to grow and the
24 coming deregulation allows the start-up of many more
25 expensive, smaller plants using mainly natural gas

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1 fuel, I wrote to Mr. Thomas Capps, who is President of
2 Dominion Power, the father company, to consider
3 constructing Units 3 and 4 as originally planned for
4 the North Anna plant.

5 I'm certain that millions of dollars were
6 spent in plans for these two units and believe that
7 there would be little or no public opposition to the
8 planned expansion. Certainly this would help the
9 consumer.

10 Mr. Capps' reply was first to secure the
11 license for the 20-year expansion for the present
12 Units 1 and 2. The consumer benefits from the lower
13 producing cost of electricity generated by nuclear
14 plants.

15 Thirdly, electricity provided from the
16 North Anna Power Station is emission free energy.
17 This generation contributes to the economy of Virginia
18 and the counties in which they operate.

19 Fourthly, since 1966, Dominion Resources,
20 North Anna Power Company, has paid approximately \$160
21 million in property taxes to Louisa County. The new
22 schools, many things that you see that we have
23 developed in Louisa County could not have happened if
24 we did not have this additional revenue coming from
25 the power plant. Last year they paid property tax to

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1 Louisa of \$10.58 million.

2 And lastly, North Anna is a good neighbor.
3 It provides jobs and helps make Louisa a better place
4 in which to live. When contributions are needed for
5 community projects, such as our library, LinkAges,
6 Crime Solvers, fire departments, rescue squads, who do
7 you go to? Dominion Power is the first one that we
8 contact.

9 It is sincerely hoped that the requested
10 permit will be granted, and the greater majority of
11 the citizens residing in Louisa County join me in this
12 request.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Delegate
15 Dickinson.

16 We were focusing on values. One of the
17 institutions we value most is marriage. So I thought
18 it most appropriate that the next speaker will be Mary
19 Lou Dickinson, who's here as Vice Mayor of Mineral and
20 representing LinkAges Community Services.

21 MS. DICKINSON: Thanks for the opportunity
22 of coming.

23 I have been to Virginia Power many times,
24 and I certainly hope they stay here. When I needed
25 money for a little building known as LinkAges, and a

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1 lot of you in the county are familiar with this little
2 brochure, they said we needed 500 and some thousand
3 dollars. That was my portion of what to raise.

4 And I thought, "Where in the world am I
5 going to find 500 and some thousand dollars? They've
6 just built a new library. They've just built a new
7 Baptist Church in Mineral, one in Louisa. Well, the
8 first thing I think I'll do I'll go down to Dominion
9 Power and see if they'll listen to me."

10 They did. They stepped up to the bat, and
11 they helped me get started. That I'll forever be
12 grateful for. You know, when you can say one has
13 already contributed, the next one can follow through
14 pretty easy. It's kind of hard if you haven't gotten
15 the first dollar to get the second dollar. But when
16 the first one comes, the next one comes pretty easy.

17 So LinkAges is under construction. If any
18 of you have a chance, go down to the Industrial Park.
19 You'll see that underway, and I thank Dominion Power
20 for the start of that building.

21 That's one of my charities, and what is
22 LinkAges? I'll tell you while you're here. That's a
23 building that connects the ages from the baby to the
24 grave. That's Grandma in one part of the building and
25 the baby in the other part, and it's a community

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1 building, and that's what it's for.

2 Second, I'm Vice Mayor of the Town of
3 Mineral, and I thought our town manager was going to
4 be here. I don't see him at the time.

5 Mineral is a small town, and if we don't
6 have Virginia Power, we don't have anything. We're
7 kind of small. We've got a little grocery store and
8 a couple of service stations, and if you take away the
9 payroll, you take away Mineral.

10 We wondered where the next dollar is
11 coming from. So the employees in the town that work
12 at Dominion Power and the money that is made there
13 that comes back through, and they get gas at the gas
14 station, and they run by and get a loaf of bread on
15 their way home.

16 All of those things lead to the economy of
17 the little Town of Mineral. Some of you in coming up
18 tonight came through Mineral, and if you blinked, you
19 passed it. So you know if we don't have some income,
20 we're not going to make it.

21 Along with that, we have one of the nicest
22 Little League ball diamonds in the State of Virginia,
23 and that was done through Dominion Power, not cash
24 dollars, but back labor. The men came by after work,
25 went to work, and helped us put up lights so that we

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1 can play at night. They came by and raked up gravel
2 and what have you and then planted grass seed so we
3 can have green grass around the edges. They put up a
4 playground for children. All of that has been the
5 labor part of it, not the cash part, but all of it
6 came from Virginia Power.

7 So please don't take Dominion Power away.
8 Please renew theirs. We need it in Mineral.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. GRIMES: Thank you very much, Ms.
11 Dickinson.

12 I should point out Mr. Candeto was here
13 this afternoon and provided comments.

14 Our speaker is going to be Donald
15 Gallihugh, the Mayor of the Town of Louisa.

16 MR. GALLIHUGH: Thank you.

17 When you called on Earl, I said, "God, I
18 don't want to be behind Earl." And then when he
19 called on Mary Lou, I said, "Forget this."

20 (Laughter.)

21 MR. GALLIHUGH: So I'll just hand you this
22 and you can put it down.

23 (Laughter.)

24 MR. GALLIHUGH: But, no, Earl has been a
25 good friend for a long time, and every time I go back

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1 to Madison, Earl, I find more and more ties you've got
2 up there. We need to talk again.

3 But as I stated, I am Don Gallihugh, Mayor
4 of the Town of Louisa, and I'd like to begin this
5 evening by stating that I am here to support the
6 license renewal of Dominion Virginia Power's North
7 Anna Nuclear Power Plant.

8 When contacted about making some comments
9 this evening, several concerns went through my mind as
10 I was preparing for this, and some of the issues that
11 I was concerned about have already been mentioned,
12 that being safety, economic development, and services
13 to the citizens of the Town and County of Louisa.

14 In all three of these areas, I can say
15 that Dominion Virginia Power has far exceeded my
16 expectations. First of all, as to safety, since the
17 cowardly actions which occurred on September the 11th,
18 2001, this must be placed in the forefront. The 31
19 years which I have lived, worked, and raised a family
20 in Louisa County have to me been a safe and healthy
21 environment. This period of time has encompassed the
22 entire operating life of the North Anna nuclear plant.
23 At no time have I or my family felt threatened with
24 the existence of North Anna in Louisa.

25 As to the activities on September the

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1 11th, 2001, and insinuations of nuclear power plants
2 being a target for terrorist, the fact that this is
3 known in itself is and makes for a far safer
4 situation.

5 As has already been mentioned, immediately
6 after the Twin Towers were hit, the State Police,
7 local law enforcement were down there protecting the
8 power plant and initiating a security system that
9 would have prevented just about anyone from getting
10 in.

11 Also, to the overall safety of the plant,
12 I feel reports available to the public support the
13 safe environment of the plant and the surrounding
14 areas.

15 For the second area of interest for me as
16 the Mayor of the Town of Louisa, economic development
17 is a factor that I can see in a very favorable manner.
18 Through the availability of the tax base assessed on
19 the North Anna Power Plant, the county has been
20 available and able to provide services which could
21 only have been accomplished through double and triple
22 taxation on the citizens that are already here without
23 North Anna's help.

24 The development of the lake facilities has
25 increased the land values and the scenic beauty of the

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1 county. The North Anna Power plant employs more than
2 825 people of which a large number consists of Louisa
3 County citizens and town citizens, which in turn share
4 their salaries with many of the businesses in the town
5 and county.

6 Finally, the third area of concern to me
7 is the services provided to our citizens of the town
8 and county. This begins with the fact that the North
9 Anna Power Station generates about 17 percent of the
10 electricity used by Virginians, which results in more
11 competitive prices for each and every one of us that
12 use electricity. That should be inclusive of all.

13 Through the development of the water
14 source needed to maintain water temperatures, the
15 Dominion Virginia Power has created one of the premier
16 lakes in the State of Virginia for all who enjoy
17 various recreational activities. This is at our back
18 door.

19 In conclusion, I would like to support
20 Dominion Virginia Power in their request to acquire a
21 license renewal for the North Anna Power Station and
22 encourage the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to grant
23 this request.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mayor Gallihugh.

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1 Our next speaker is going to be Edward
2 Kube or Kube.

3 MR. KUBE: Kube.

4 MR. GRIMES: Kube -- thank you -- who is
5 the Chairman of the Louisa County Board of
6 Supervisors. Got that correct?

7 MR. KUBE: Well, let me welcome everyone
8 to Louisa County, the NRC folks, the Dominion Virginia
9 Power, obviously lots of local people that are here.

10 I am Ed Kube, and I'm Chairman of the
11 Board of Supervisors, and I'm the Supervisor of
12 Jackson District. That district runs from basically
13 just a little bit east of the power plant around all
14 of the cooling lagoons to the dam. I probably have
15 more constituents at Lake Anna or in Louisa County in
16 my district than in the other districts that border on
17 Lake Anna.

18 Anyway, I have a perspective on Lake Anna
19 having been County Administrator here when the plant
20 first was licensed. I was County Administrator from
21 1976 to 1982. The first units came on line in 1978
22 and 1980. I was a part of the drills and all at that
23 time for it to get licensed.

24 I certainly think of North Anna as a very
25 safe plant. I've been around it quite a bit. I

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1 worked for North Anna for 13 -- well, not for North
2 Anna, but Dominion Power for 13 years, and I'm now on
3 the Board of Supervisors with the perspective of
4 looking after the citizens of Louisa County. Each
5 year North Anna's management comes before the Board of
6 Supervisors, presents us with a -- gives us a
7 presentation about their activities and their
8 operations. We have very good communications and a
9 very good relationship with the people of Virginia
10 Power and with North Anna.

11 I think that they mean an awful lot to our
12 community, obviously, as has been said by many people
13 here tonight, some of those things that they
14 contribute. The biggest, of course, is the tax
15 dollars, over \$10 million a year. It means an awful
16 lot to the county as far as its budget planning.

17 We've not raised taxes here in about five
18 years. I think a lot of other counties would be
19 envious of that. Dominion is not all of it. We're
20 looking to bring other industry in, too, so that we
21 can have tax dollars from industry, but Dominion Power
22 has always been a major part of that.

23 They contribute in other ways, to the
24 schools. They contributed recently to a park that's
25 been developed. So they do lots of public service and

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1 volunteerism in our community.

2 Dominion Power has 825 employees, I
3 believe. About a third of those are from Louisa
4 County. So a lot of our citizens work there and rely
5 on that.

6 The plant was licensed for 40 years. It
7 should run until the year 2018 and 2020 by the
8 original approval, and I think certainly with the
9 back-ups that they have, with the maintenance that
10 they do on the plant that another 20 years on each one
11 of them would certainly be a reasonable thing to do,
12 and I certainly support it.

13 And I believe the Board of Supervisors as
14 a whole would also be supportive of it. So I throw my
15 hat in as an endorsement and support for the request.

16 Thank you very much.

17 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Kube.

18 Our next speaker is going to be Jerry
19 Rosenthal from the Concerned Citizens of Louisa
20 County.

21 MR. ROSENTHAL: Good evening. I'm glad to
22 be here.

23 I was here at the earlier session, and I
24 spoke on several issues. I'd like to touch back on
25 those just in general and bring up a few other points.

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1 First of all, the number one issue here is
2 safety. That is the overriding issue. It's not on
3 economics. It's not on public relations. It's on the
4 safety of the plant.

5 Earlier I spoke about the dry cask
6 situation being at the lake, that it is vulnerable to
7 terrorists not just to steal the material, but that
8 they could blow the cask apart and have material
9 thrown out into the lake.

10 Plus, the county has an agreement with
11 Virginia Power limiting how much storage space they
12 can use on the dry cask, which could be a limiting
13 factor in extending the life of the plant. So that's
14 something that needs to be looked at.

15 We talked about MOX, that Virginia Power
16 had flip-flopped on MOX, gone back and forth. It now
17 says they don't want to use it, but a profile needs to
18 be used if they're going to bring in weapons grade
19 plutonium MOX and use it here at the plant.

20 I talked a little bit about September the
21 11th. The plant has not -- security has not been set
22 up to deal with multiple terrorist groups. It has not
23 been set up to deal with an airplane coming into the
24 containment. We've got suicide people who are willing
25 to come in not necessarily to steal anything or to

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1 cause damage, but could just do damage right there at
2 the plant and release large amounts of radioactivity
3 either into Lake Anna or into the atmosphere.

4 And all of this needs to be dealt with.
5 We need to deal with the fact that it's less than 70
6 miles or 60 miles from Dulles Airport and on the
7 flight path out of Dulles. This is a serious concern.
8 It's not a question is it a possibility that somebody
9 might steal an airplane and crash it into a building.
10 We've seen that that can actually happen.

11 I discussed the need for independent
12 monitoring of the workers at the plant long term, of
13 the community long term, of the environment long term.
14 this is independent, not just what is done by the
15 state and what is done by Virginia Power.

16 Back to our number one issue, we have
17 safety. I also want to talk about nuclear
18 proliferation. We are being confronted with nuclear
19 power plants used to produce the weapons, and we see
20 this in Russia. We see this in Iran. We see this in
21 Pakistan. These, again, are not theoretical problems.
22 These are real problems.

23 The United States government is spending
24 billions of dollars to try to counter this, and so
25 when you consider continuing to operate a plant,

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1 you're talking about billions of dollars.

2 We need to talk about high and low level
3 waste. The high level waste has not been moved, Yucca
4 Mountain, or a storage place hasn't been done. The
5 regional low level waste compact is bankrupt, and
6 we're sitting -- there are hundreds of tons of low
7 level waste sitting on the shores of Lake Anna.

8 We have many other issues that need to be
9 addressed, possibilities. The sale of the plant.
10 What if DOE takes over the waste there? How does that
11 affect the NRC and what is going on?

12 These, there are so many things that are
13 out there that I believe the NRC should take its time
14 and at this point say no to the relicensing and take
15 it under advisement and consider this over a longer
16 period of time.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Rosenthal.

19 Our next speaker is going to be Tom Filen
20 from the Louisa Chamber of Commerce, also President of
21 the Virginia Community Bank.

22 MR. FILEN: Thank you all for this
23 opportunity, and I really want to thank you for the
24 promotion though because I'm not quite President yet,
25 but --

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1 (Laughter.)

2 MR. FILEN: -- if any of you know my boss,
3 I'll very much appreciate it.

4 (Laughter.)

5 MR. FILEN: Thank you all for having me
6 come here to speak, and, Delegate Dickinson and Ms.
7 Dickinson, I have to reiterate what Mr. Gallihugh said
8 because you had most of the points on economics that
9 I wanted to discuss, but, Mr. Gallihugh, you did
10 slight yourself because you had the other ones that I
11 wanted to bring up.

12 So I'm a local resident of Louisa County.
13 I grew up here, moved here at the age of nine years
14 old, and I was educated here, went away to college,
15 came back to carry on my career and to raise my
16 family.

17 Having grown up here in the area, I've
18 always known North Anna Power Station. So what it's
19 done for me personally is somewhat on the economic
20 level because we heard a number of 825 jobs earlier,
21 and I don't think that that includes the part-time
22 jobs. And one of my part-time summer jobs was to work
23 at North Anna as an assistant instrument technician.
24 That helped me gain some experience as to what might
25 happen in a career and field like that to look forward

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1 to, as well as there were a number of other people
2 that I know that were working with me that today are
3 working in the engineering field and nuclear energy.
4 So it's been very helpful.

5 I can also speak to you on behalf of the
6 Chamber of Commerce. I have served the last two years
7 as President of the Chamber of Commerce and can tell
8 you that we didn't have a more supportive member than
9 Virginia Power. Whenever we were looking for money to
10 be raised for a particular project, they were always
11 there to help us, as well as when we were searching
12 for a site location to hold a social event one event,
13 they offered their Tourist Center there.

14 And I have to tell you after having been
15 there that at that particular time I was serving on
16 the Tourism Council for the county, and we were
17 considering what attractions we have in Louisa County,
18 and at the very top of the list was Lake Anna. Well,
19 without North Anna Power Station, Lake Anna wouldn't
20 be here. So that was something for us to consider.

21 It's one of the largest tourist
22 attractions that we've got. It brings people into the
23 community. It brings dollars into the community,
24 which helps create new businesses, as well as when
25 people come here to visit. That's a lot of times how

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1 they might decide to relocate to the area. They come
2 here and see what a nice community we have and what a
3 beautiful landscape, what nice neighbors we have, and
4 talk to the other local businesses to decide whether
5 to relocate their business there.

6 So tourism is a very important part of any
7 community. Their facility though was wonderful. It's
8 along the lines of anything that the State of Virginia
9 would put in, and in many ways was better than what
10 the state has put in in some places. So that was a
11 key focus for us in that particular committee, and
12 Virginia Power was very open to helping us with some
13 ideas and concepts and building that tourism council.

14 Again, with the Chamber of Commerce, they
15 were right there for us with the social event. We had
16 what I considered a low attendance that evening, but
17 that was no fault of Virginia Power's. That was more
18 of the timing. It was a December social that we were
19 trying to hold, and a lot of people are concentrating
20 on their families and year end with their businesses
21 and not so much coming out to a social event.

22 But we had approximately 40 people there
23 that night, which is not bad for a rural community to
24 have a social event like that. It was very enjoyable
25 for everyone to actually take a tour also and see how

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1 a reactor works.

2 Having worked inside the plant, I had some
3 experience myself, but many of the people that were
4 there didn't. So it was a great opportunity for other
5 folks to get in and see what goes on inside the plant.

6 So I guess as you can tell, I'm personally
7 in support of this, and on behalf of the Chamber of
8 Commerce I can't tell you that we've had a better
9 neighbor or friend to our economic community and
10 welcome them and want to -- hope that you will approve
11 the additional time period for their licensing.

12 Thank you for the time.

13 MR. GRIMES: Thank you very much, Mr.
14 Filen.

15 I do want to point out I don't have the
16 regulatory authority to grant your promotion.

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. GRIMES: Our next speaker is going to
19 be Hugh Jackson from Public Citizen.

20 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Chris, and thank
21 you, folks, for giving us the opportunity to talk to
22 you.

23 Again, my name is Hugh Jackson. I'm with
24 Public Citizen. That's a national public interest and
25 consumer advocacy organization based out of

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2 And as somebody that's just coming into
3 your town for the first time and spent the day here
4 today, I think my mother would be upset and think that
5 I was ill mannered if I didn't tell you what a
6 charming town it is and how hospitable everyone has
7 been to us today. My associate and I both appreciate
8 that.

9 Public Citizen is opposed to the
10 relicensing of the North Anna Nuclear Power Plants,
11 and the North Anna plants are really the latest in a
12 wave of plants across the country that are going
13 through this process. The nuclear industry's trade
14 association proudly inventories some two dozen plants
15 with 46 reactors that are in some stage or another of
16 relicensing right now or expected to be within the
17 next few years.

18 This is a wave of continued reliance on a
19 source of power when now more than ever it should be
20 clear that the nation should be moving away from that
21 source of power and finally after decades adopting
22 more elegant and sane energy policy that is driven by
23 energy efficiency, conservation and alternatives.

24 U.S. nuclear reactors were not designed to
25 operate safely beyond their original 40-year period,

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1 and safety risks increase as reactor components age.
2 Extreme temperatures, corrosive chemical environment,
3 and intense radiation bombardment within operating
4 nuclear reactors can cause reactor components to thin
5 and crack, compromising their structural integrity.

6 Reactor pressure vessel can become brittle
7 over time, increasing the risk of a catastrophic
8 explosion. Steam generator tubes, part of the cooling
9 system, also cause concern because when they
10 deteriorate, dangerous radiation leaks can occur.

11 In fact, earlier this year, the North Anna
12 Unit 2 was shut down due to excessive leaking from the
13 reactor coolant system. The owner attributed this
14 failure to aging.

15 Further, each operating nuclear reactor
16 generates about 20 metric tons of high level nuclear
17 waste annually. Relicensing North Anna would add 800
18 metric tons of waste to the nation's mounting waste
19 stockpile which already poses health, safety, and
20 environmental concerns.

21 The Federal government has proposed
22 building a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain
23 in Nevada, and I guess I should add that currently my
24 wife and child live about 50 miles from there, and we
25 don't want your waste.

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1 That dump would not be able to accommodate
2 the additional volume of waste from relicensed
3 reactors, such as North Anna.

4 Further, Public Citizen and other
5 organizations oppose the Yucca Mountain project
6 because of concerns about transporting waste to the
7 site and the potential for environmental disaster and
8 radioactive release at the dump.

9 And I would also add I grew up in the
10 West, and as a lifelong Westerner there are two things
11 that we're pretty sure that we agree on. One is that
12 we don't trust the Department of Energy, which will be
13 operating the Yucca Mountain dump, and the other one
14 is that we don't trust Union Pacific Railroad, which
15 is one of the railroads that would probably be
16 shipping this stuff across the country.

17 Also, it has to be said, and as others
18 have addressed tonight, the NRC must consider the
19 vulnerability of nuclear plants to attacks before
20 permitting them to run for an additional 20 years.
21 Since March 2000 the NRC or -- I'm sorry -- since
22 September 11th, the catastrophic devastation that
23 assuredly would exist from an attack on a nuclear
24 plant has emerged as one of the leading potential
25 threats to public safety in media reports and in the

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1 public mind, and governors in at least two states have
2 ordered National Guards out to protect nuclear power
3 plants.

4 Maybe you've heard about the Three Mile
5 Island situation this morning. I confess I've been
6 traveling all day and am not exactly sure what
7 happened up there.

8 But you know, Sheriff Venture (Fortune) --
9 I believe that's his name -- was here earlier tonight,
10 and he spoke very sincerely and very eloquently about
11 the dedication and the sincerity of the folks who are
12 guarding the North Anna unit, and I do not for a
13 minute doubt that, that they are sincere and that they
14 are dedicated and that they will do everything that
15 they can to protect the public health and safety in
16 this area.

17 But given the diabolical imagination that
18 we have seen displayed in the country since September
19 11th, despite the Sheriff's assurances or anyone else,
20 I for one have trouble believing that such assurances
21 can, in fact, be granted. And if you folks feel that
22 such assurances can be granted, then I guess I envy
23 you.

24 A couple other points that Public Citizen
25 wants to make. We're pretty disheartened with the NRC

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1 for not responding to requests that public meetings
2 and rulemakings be postponed since the agency last
3 week blocked access to its Web site after citing
4 security concerns. The calendar of public events
5 wasn't available on the site for most of the week, and
6 as of yesterday pretty much all you could get was some
7 things that said, "Hey, we're having meetings." You
8 still couldn't get any detailed information, which is
9 probably lucky for you because then this presentation
10 would have been a lot longer.

11 In any case, by blocking access to its Web
12 site, the NRC has given the impression that its public
13 processes are suspended. It's ridiculous that the
14 agency has not rescheduled this hearing. It should
15 have reflected the time that their site was down and
16 the time that information wasn't available to the
17 public.

18 Again, I want to thank you for allowing me
19 to participate. We've put a press release out on the
20 table back here. It encompasses a lot of the points
21 that I've discussed, and thank you again for welcoming
22 us.

23 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Jackson.

24 Our next speaker is going to be Matthew
25 Kersey, who is with the Industrial Development

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1 Authority of the Town of Louisa.

2 MR. KERSEY: I appreciate the opportunity
3 to appear before you this evening. It certainly is a
4 good process where the public can offer some input and
5 hopefully get some questions answered and have an
6 opportunity to air those.

7 Certainly from the comments that have
8 already been received this evening, Dominion Power has
9 played a tremendous role in Louisa County sine their
10 arrival many years ago. I served for 12 years on the
11 Board of Supervisors in the '80s and '90s. Their
12 contributions through tax dollars enabled us to build
13 three fine elementary schools in the county. There
14 have been expansions to the high school, the middle
15 school, a number of other public facilities.

16 This one we sit in this evening was able
17 to be afforded because of the tax revenues that were
18 generated from the plant being here in the county.

19 They've been a good corporate citizen.
20 There's no question that they have made their
21 contributions to volunteer organizations. I served
22 for a time on the Board of Directors of the Holly
23 Grove Fire Department, and they made contributions to
24 that. They've made it to other fire and rescue within
25 the county.

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1 It's no question that they're a good
2 corporate citizen. As a small stockholder in Dominion
3 Resources, I'm glad that they're a good corporate
4 citizen, that they're interested in the citizens of
5 this county, and that they have done those things
6 which from a PR standpoint make them look good and
7 also benefit the people who hold stock in their
8 company.

9 But the true issues on this application
10 are safety issues, issues that certainly impact. The
11 county just approved a comprehensive plan just a few
12 months ago and is looking towards its future and how
13 we can provide for our citizens in this country.

14 However this decision is made as far as
15 the application will have direct impacts on any sort
16 of plan, but if the safety impacts are not the primary
17 consideration, it doesn't matter what sort of economic
18 plans nor plans for the day-to-day lives of their
19 children and grandchildren, which this will certainly
20 impact in the future.

21 A terrorist attack as happened in New
22 York, God forbid it would happen in Louisa Country,
23 but certainly that needs to be considered, and I would
24 hope that the NRC would look at additional
25 regulations.

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1 We can't prevent everything. There's no
2 question about that. But we have to consider the
3 possibilities and do all in our power to make sure
4 that the citizens of this county are safe and that
5 they are comfortable with the risks that are involved
6 with having the nuclear plant within our county.

7 Dry cask storage has been the answer to
8 the waste problem at the plant. That multiplies our
9 exposure, and a 20-year extension on the license will
10 only extend our possibilities for exposure. So this
11 issue needs to be dealt with.

12 I know the NRC cannot make policy on how
13 to deal with radioactive spent fuel, but this is an
14 issue that has been talked about and discussed and
15 waffled back and forth for at least 25 years, and we
16 still sit at the same position we did that many years
17 ago with a very limited policy and no long-range plan.

18 And I would certainly hope that when all
19 of the decisions are made that the NRC will make this
20 based on the environmental and safety issues because
21 it's not just the people in this room or the citizens
22 who are living in this country that are counting on
23 you. It's those lives that may not have even touched
24 this earth yet, children and grandchildren who will
25 reap the benefits of our decisions that are made in

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1 this short term.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to speak
3 before you this evening.

4 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Kersey.

5 Our next speaker will be Tom Aven, who's
6 a local taxpaying resident.

7 MR. AVEN: Mr. Moderator, I'd like to
8 forego my time this afternoon or this evening and pass
9 it on to the next person. I was misinformed about
10 this meeting, and I prefer not to comment.

11 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, sir.

12 In that case our next speaker will be Lisa
13 Gue from Public Citizen.

14 MS. GUE: Good evening. Again, my name is
15 Lisa Gue, G-u-e, and I'm here today from Washington,
16 D.C. on the other side of the Dulles Airport, and
17 again, I thank you for your hospitality in this town
18 today, and it's a pleasure to meet you all this
19 evening.

20 I certainly appreciate your commitment to
21 providing input on this important issue and public
22 involvement in these decision makings is critical.

23 The timing of this meeting tonight is
24 quite bizarre considering that this morning the
25 nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, Three Mile

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1 Island, was -- well, leaked warnings were issued about
2 that plant and about an unknown, an unspecified
3 security risk to that plant to the extent that
4 airports in Pennsylvania were temporarily shut down.

5 I think the events of the recent month,
6 tragic events of the recent month, have really brought
7 into focus the fact that nuclear power plants are
8 inherently dangerous, and that the security risk that
9 these plants pose not just to Louisa, but to the
10 country overall, the 103 operating nuclear power
11 plants has just been highlighted in a way that nobody
12 ever wanted to see.

13 The reality is that nuclear power plants
14 are not designed to meet the kind of attack, to
15 withstand the kind of attack that we saw recently on
16 the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon quite
17 nearby, and in fact, in acknowledgement of this,
18 Congress is in the process of passing some legislation
19 that would require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
20 to upgrade its design basis threat regulations, that
21 is, the security requirements surrounding the
22 specification for reactor design.

23 But the fact is that the North Anna Power
24 Plant and all other operating power plants in this
25 country have been constructed according to the old

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1 design, and this should be a concern during this
2 discussion of a potential relicensing of this plant.

3 I oppose the relicensing of nuclear power
4 plants across the country. I really am convinced that
5 it's time to end the 50-year experiment with
6 commercial nuclear power and move beyond that into and
7 begin a transition to a sustainable energy future.

8 But, moreover, I feel that it's grossly
9 inappropriate to be considering this question at this
10 time. Not only is it impossible to make an informed
11 decision or an informed assessment of the
12 environmental impacts of relicensing this plant 20,
13 30, 40 years into the future, but the Nuclear
14 Regulatory Commission should really put this proposal
15 on hold until a thorough and independent study of
16 nuclear power plant security requirements can be
17 completed and an accurate assessment of nuclear power
18 plant safety in light of what we now know to be a real
19 threat can be determined.

20 So I think I'll leave it at that. A lot
21 of the other points are also concerns have already
22 been mentioned, but I think that it's time right now.
23 The current license doesn't expire for another 20
24 years. There's no reason to rush into an uninformed
25 decision that could have negative and dangerous

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1 consequences for people that don't at this point have
2 the opportunity to participate in the decision making
3 process.

4 Thanks again.

5 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Ms. Gue.

6 Our next speaker is going to be Dave
7 Heacock, who is the Dominion Site Vice President for
8 North Anna Power Station.

9 MR. HEACOCK: Thank you, Chris.

10 Good evening. I'm Dave Heacock. My
11 affiliation, like Chris said, is with Dominion. I'm
12 the Site Vice President.

13 I just realized the other day I've been at
14 North Anna for half of my life. I've been there for
15 22 years. It happened just a few months ago. So I
16 have some experience at North Anna, and I'm a nuclear
17 engineer from the area. I grew up in Northern
18 Virginia, went to college at the University of
19 Virginia. That's the University of Virginia, you
20 folks from around here. I'm a nuclear engineer, and
21 I've been at North Anna ever since then.

22 But I went through my list of points I
23 wanted to make, and I think you all have done a great
24 job making the points that I wanted to make already.
25 So I don't want to bore you with regurgitating the

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1 same points over again, the \$160 million in taxes, 17
2 percent of power in the State of Virginia. You know,
3 the list continues on through all of those things.

4 North Anna and Surry combined, about a
5 third of the power in the State of Virginia on an
6 average.

7 A couple of points that have not been made
8 yet: we are a low cost producer of electricity. This
9 nuclear power plant, North Anna, is the lowest cost
10 power plant, nuclear power plant, in the United States
11 and has been so on a three-year average, which is the
12 best way to measure power plant performance. Over the
13 last decade it hasn't changed.

14 In addition, you can say, "Well, that's
15 just nuclear power." I've heard people say in here,
16 people say in general, "Nuclear power is not the least
17 expensive power."

18 That's simply not true. If you take all
19 of the steam electric power plants in the United
20 States, of which there nearly 1,000 today, North Anna
21 was number five the last time they were rating the low
22 cost producers; the cheapest nuclear plant, number
23 five overall, a pretty good position to be in.

24 You mentioned that there's 850 roughly
25 employees at North Anna. I have a hard time keeping

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1 track of that number. We have part-time people. We
2 have people come and go. We have contractors.
3 There's about 50 contractors on site on a routine
4 basis.

5 In addition, we bring in contractors for
6 outages. Just recently I had over 830 people at North
7 Anna in addition to the normal workers. Those people
8 all live in Louisa and in Mineral. They spend their
9 money here. They spend time in the restaurants,
10 hotels, food stores, and so forth, and they are part
11 of the community. They may come and go, but they're
12 part of the community for that short period of time.

13 The other thing that's important, I think,
14 is that a number of outside agencies come in and look
15 at North Anna over time. We're partially owned by a
16 company called Old Dominion Electric Co-op, or ODEC,
17 as you may know from the local area here. They bring
18 in experts. These folks happen to work at other power
19 plants and may be retired or chief nuclear officers in
20 their past lives. They come in and do an audit of
21 North Anna periodically.

22 The Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
23 has come in and done periodic audits of North Anna.
24 We've been an excellent power plant in the INPO's
25 rating for the last 12 years, a very enviable position

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1 in the United States.

2 The NRC used to have a systematic
3 assessment of licensee performance, a self-rating.
4 They rated you on a scale of one to three, one being
5 the best.

6 North Anna was a one for a number of
7 years, and in the current reactor oversight process
8 the NRC uses, the NRC measures us for security, for
9 safety, and one thing Jerry and I do agree on. Safety
10 is the most important thing that we do. I agree 100
11 percent with that.

12 The rest, eh, but on that point we agree
13 100 percent. Safety is our most important attribute.
14 If you're not safe, there's no point in operating. So
15 being a low cost producer is great, but the only way
16 you can get there is through safe, consistent,
17 reliable operation.

18 I need to talk about September 11th.
19 That's a very important issue in the country. It's
20 ongoing. September 11th was a horrible event. North
21 Anna, contrary to what has been said here tonight, is
22 specifically designed for this type of threat. It's
23 a hardened target. It's not a very good target, if
24 you want to talk about good or bad targets.

25 If you want to hit something that's four

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1 and a half foot thick concrete with steel reinforcing
2 bars, it doesn't really matter how big a plane it is.
3 A lot of talk is going on at the NRC on this very
4 issue on how big a plane, how much it weighs, how much
5 fuel it carries. That has already been analyzed, it
6 turns out. It's not a big issue.

7 The dry cask storage facility, the same
8 thing is true. Not a big issue. So not a very big
9 target, if you will. It doesn't stick out of the
10 ground like the World Trade Center. It's a very
11 short, squat target. In fact, the reactor is
12 underground. That's where it is, physically below the
13 grade. It's not above ground. It doesn't stick up.
14 A very difficult target.

15 In addition, we have raised security to a
16 very, very high level. Local law enforcement has been
17 very helpful in that regard. As you heard from
18 Sheriff Fortune earlier, they have been on site since
19 September 11th, along with other Federal and state
20 agencies in our security force, well trained security
21 force.

22 And we have many visible and not so
23 visible things in place right now to insure the safety
24 of the plant.

25 I work there every day. It's very

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1 important to me. I believe very strongly it's a safe
2 place or I wouldn't go to work every day there.
3 That's very, very important.

4 One of the things we look at when we
5 consider a license renewal is what do you do about the
6 power we generate. We generate 1,800 million watts of
7 electricity, and that's a hard number to even fathom
8 how big that is. It's enough power for about 450,000
9 homes just at North Anna. If you add Surry in, it's
10 almost a million homes.

11 In order to not extend the license, you've
12 have to come up with generation to offset that or some
13 kind of way to reduce power, and the fact is this
14 country is using more and more energy, not less and
15 less energy. Each year it grows three, three and a
16 half percent in this service territory alone.

17 The plant cost about \$1.3 billion to
18 build, but in today's terms, how much would it cost to
19 replace that power? It would be considerably more
20 than that cost.

21 We've heard a lot about the taxes and
22 direct contributions, and I think Mary Lou said it
23 best earlier. What I'm the most proud of is the
24 personal capital, personal investment.

25 We have folks in the community here that

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1 have done things like blood drives. You can't buy
2 blood. It's one of those things that people have to
3 do for other people, and that's what our folks have
4 done here for years. I think that's a really
5 important contribution.

6 I feel a very strong tie to the community
7 building baseball diamonds so that the kids can play
8 baseball rather than do something else you don't want
9 them to be doing. That's real important in the
10 community. I think that's a real valuable thing that
11 money can't buy.

12 You can't buy a baseball diamond. It
13 takes humans to do that. It takes humans to give
14 blood. It takes humans to take the Boy Scouts out for
15 a camp-out for the weekend, and that's what we do in
16 the community.

17 We're here to stay, and we hope to be here
18 for an additional 20 years. I thank you for the
19 opportunity to address you tonight.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Heacock.

22 Our next speaker is going to be Bill Bolin
23 from Dominion, who is the Manager of Environmental
24 Biology.

25 MR. BOLIN: Thank you, Chris.

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1 And I, too, want to thank the Nuclear
2 Regulatory Commission for holding this meeting and
3 allowing me to speak tonight.

4 As previously mentioned, my name is Bill
5 Bolin. My official Dominion title is Manager,
6 Environmental Biology. My unofficial title is Chief
7 Biologist.

8 I guess that's because I began my career
9 nearly 30 years ago being the first station biologist
10 that was hired by what was then VEPCO.

11 When Congress passed the Clean Water Act
12 in the early '70s, utility companies such as mine had
13 to decide whether they wanted to comply with the
14 provisions of the Clean Water Act by hiring staff in
15 house or by hiring consultants. In what I consider
16 personally to be a brilliant decision, VEPCO decided
17 to hire staff in house, and I was asked to join the
18 company.

19 As such, we were one of the first
20 companies nationwide to staff with environmental
21 professionals.

22 Environmental considerations are a very
23 important aspect in the design and placement of all of
24 our power stations. For example, at North Anna Power
25 Station when the lake was created as a source of

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1 cooling water, we also designed and constructed an
2 innovative series of three cooling lagoons totaling
3 3,400 surface acres that's designated as a waste heat
4 treatment facility.

5 These lagoons received the warmer water
6 from the station and returned the water to the lake
7 after flowing through the lagoons with the water
8 temperature to near ambient conditions.

9 While all Dominion power stations maintain
10 strict compliance to state and Federal environmental
11 regulations, the company always endeavors to raise the
12 bar on environmental stewardship. This includes
13 partnering with state and Federal agencies and
14 conservation groups to protect, as well as enhance the
15 various ecosystems around our power stations and
16 transmission and distribution rights-of-way.

17 Let me take just a few minutes and share
18 with you a few examples of how we've raised the bar at
19 North Anna Power Station.

20 We initiated studies of this area prior to
21 the formation of the lake, and these studies, for the
22 most part, are still ongoing, giving us nearly 30
23 years of continuous and valuable information.

24 One of our early findings before
25 impoundment of the lake was that the water quality in

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1 Contrary Creek, which was a major tributary of the
2 North Anna River, was extremely poor and basically had
3 impaired much of the North Anna River.

4 The formation of Lake Anna immediately
5 improved conditions in the Contrary Creek arm of the
6 lake, as well as the North Anna River below the dam.

7 The post impoundment studies, that is,
8 after the lake was formed, showed that North Anna
9 behaved as most new reservoirs in that there was a
10 period of several years of rapid biological growth.
11 For example, there was a great surge in the
12 populations of Largemouth bass, and for every year
13 since Lake Anna has been impounded, the lake has been
14 in one of the top three state lakes for producing
15 citation Largemouth bass, which is in Virginia a
16 weight of over seven pounds or a length of over 21
17 inches.

18 As the lake matured and our understanding
19 of it grew, we were able to identify other areas that
20 needed help. Unlike the Largemouth bass, the crappie
21 populations didn't seem to be responding in a positive
22 way. We felt this was due to a lack of suitable
23 habitat. So we put in 21 artificial structures in the
24 lake in conjunction with the Virginia Department of
25 Game and Inland Fisheries.

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1 The structures were comprised of cinder
2 blocks or actually thousands of cinder blocks and tree
3 tops. We have marked these structures with buoys and
4 developed a brochure showing their locations.

5 We even designed an underwater monitoring
6 program to test the effectiveness of the structures.
7 The crappie, as well as other types of fish that use
8 these structures, have responded positively.

9 This habitat enhancement program is alive
10 and well today. Now we're not the only players.
11 Local bass clubs, tackle manufacturers, and the
12 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries have
13 taken the lead.

14 The type of structure has changed
15 somewhat, but the principal remains the same, and that
16 is creating habitat.

17 We have also assisted the Virginia
18 Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in the
19 construction of a handicap[ed accessible fishing pier
20 parallel to Route 622 that crosses over Dike 3 where
21 the lake receives the cooling water discharge. Early
22 on this area was frequented, you know, the fishermen
23 find these things out a lot quicker than we scientists
24 do, and it became really apparent that it was an
25 extremely important fishing area because the road

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1 would often be blocked by the fishermen down there.

2 So we talked with the Game Commission, and
3 we decided there was something that needed to be done.
4 So we helped them design and construct the handicapped
5 fishing pier.

6 Right now we're working with the Game
7 Commission to turn over a piece of property that
8 surrounds the pier and dedicate it to the Game
9 Commission.

10 When we found hydrilla in the lake, and
11 especially the waste heat treatment facility, we
12 funded several graduate studies to identify control
13 options. Hydrilla is an introduced aquatic plant that
14 has the capacity to completely take over a water body.
15 We worked with bass clubs, marina owners, lake
16 property owners, and the Game Commission to identify
17 optimal control for this noxious weed.

18 Today all users of the lake are
19 benefitting from these actions. With the improvement
20 in water quality and flow of the North Anna downstream
21 of the dam, we were able to stock the river with
22 Smallmouth bass. Today the river is now well known
23 for its Smallmouth bass fishing and recreational
24 canoeing.

25 In fact, the North Anna River below Lake

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1 Anna was selected by the Oak Ridge National
2 Laboratory for a series of studies related to
3 Smallmouth bass populations.

4 Over the years we've also placed a
5 substantial number of wood duck nesting boxes around
6 the lake to help boost this population of one of our
7 most beautiful ducks.

8 As mentioned several times tonight, we
9 also pride ourselves at Dominion in an active role in
10 whatever community we are a part of, and North Anna is
11 no exception. As you've already heard, we are
12 involved on many fronts.

13 One that I'd like to highlight tonight of
14 particular importance at North Anna is the partnership
15 with the Lake Anna State Park, which at least we think
16 is the crown jewel of all of Virginia's state parks.
17 We have been participants in this park since its
18 initial planning stages.

19 I could go on about other environmental
20 improvements and our considerations at North Anna, but
21 perhaps I should spend some of my time talking about
22 the essence of our environmental report for North Anna
23 Power Station.

24 Firstly, as you've heard the NRC say
25 tonight, the environmental report is required in any

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1 nuclear license renewal process as a part of the
2 National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

3 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has
4 identified nearly 100 environmental issues that must
5 be addressed in the environmental report by all
6 applicants, which in this case is us. Most of these
7 issues were determined by the NRC to be of minor
8 environmental impact and, therefore, may be addressed
9 generically.

10 In our environmental assessment, we
11 performed a review of these same issues, and our
12 assessment concurred with the NRC conclusions.

13 However, some of the issues, the
14 environmental issues, in particular, are site specific
15 for each facility and must, therefore, be addressed
16 accordingly. Some of the issue categories include
17 aquatic biology, terrestrial biology, demographics,
18 and transmission line impacts.

19 For example, at North Anna issues we
20 looked at included waste heat, water withdrawal, and
21 threatened and endangered species. The term "waste
22 heat" refers to heat that is transferred to water as
23 it passes through the station to cool the steam during
24 the electrical generation process.

25 In the mid-'80s, we conducted a study that

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1 looked at the impacts of this waste heat on the biota
2 of Lake Anna. Using past information coupled with new
3 information, we found no long-term deleterious
4 effects, and the Virginia State Water Control Board,
5 which is now called the Department of Environmental
6 Quality, agreed with our findings.

7 Similarly, when we looked at water
8 withdrawal, which is the water that I mentioned
9 earlier that is used for cooling, we did a study of
10 the water withdrawal, and again, we demonstrated no
11 long-term deleterious effects on the lake, and the
12 Water Board, now DEQ, again, concurred with our
13 findings.

14 The evaluation of threatened and
15 endangered species was a little different in that we
16 had to go to state and Federal agencies to investigate
17 possible impacts on listed species. The research
18 showed no impact to any threatened or endangered
19 species as a result of the operation of North Anna and
20 its associated transmission lines.

21 A couple of other site specific issues
22 that we looked at included socioeconomic impacts and
23 impacts on cultural resources. With regard to
24 socioeconomic impacts, we found positive contribution
25 to the local infrastructure. Because there will be no

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1 new construction activity, continued operation of the
2 station means that the cultural resource impacts are
3 also negligible.

4 These are examples of but a few of the
5 specific issues addressed in the environmental report.
6 In the evaluation of these specific issues, we
7 consulted with representatives of state and Federal
8 resource agencies, as well as universities, to update
9 our information. Agencies such as the Virginia
10 Department of Conservation and Recreation, the
11 Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the
12 Virginia Department of Transportation, and the
13 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries were
14 talked with.

15 For every issue we examined, it was
16 determined that the continued generation of
17 electricity from North Anna Power Station best
18 benefits our customers and the community while at the
19 same time minimizing environmental impact. North Anna
20 has a history of excellent environmental stewardship.

21 One final message. I'm very proud to have
22 been but a small part of the North Anna story and the
23 even bigger Dominion story. Over the years it's been
24 my distinct privilege to be a part of numerous
25 company-wide environmental projects, such as the

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1 recent Peregrine Falcon Project conducted in
2 partnership with state and Federal agencies.

3 And in conclusion, I would like to thank
4 everyone for coming out tonight, for your interest,
5 for your participation. This is a very important part
6 of the process, and I wish everybody has a safe trip
7 home tonight.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Bolin.

10 That completes all of the registered
11 speakers we have. Is there anyone else who would like
12 to make a formal comment at this meeting? Would you
13 please step up here and identify yourself and your
14 affiliation if that's appropriate?

15 MR. MURPHEY: My name is Bill Murphey.
16 I'm a citizen of Louisa County and live up on the
17 lake.

18 And this is half comment and half request.
19 I've been trying to listen to both sides as they've
20 been expressed, and I feel that at least the people
21 who have spoken against the relicensing could benefit
22 from the following. And this is a challenge to you,
23 Jerry.

24 I believe that if you can formulate your
25 questions in a fairly straightforward manner that you

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1 would be able to allow the NRC to focus on responding
2 technically to your questions. I think there are good
3 technical answers to the questions.

4 For example, one of the concerns was dry
5 cask storage. Oh, somebody is going to come in, and
6 they're going to set off an explosive, blow it up, and
7 we'll all be covered with radioactivity.

8 Well, just from what I happen to know, if
9 somebody drives up with a truck, even a pickup truck
10 full of explosive materials through the front gate of
11 the plant, the security guards will probably notice
12 that.

13 Even if they went in and set it off, these
14 casks are so thick that it would probably just knock
15 one over and they wouldn't leak at all.

16 So if you ask the question, can somebody
17 go in and blow it up and expose us, I think NRC can
18 respond to that in a technically competent manner.

19 Some of the issues which I felt were sort
20 of raised as a hand wave were things like MOX. Well,
21 you know, weapons grade MOX is not a real concern
22 around here. Number one, I believe that North Anna is
23 not going to have any.

24 Number two, any kind of fuel like MOX
25 coming in would be as a ceramic mixed with uranium, to

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1 start with, and it's a long process to go from there
2 to setting it off.

3 So if you ask the question, what about
4 MOX, I think NRC can respond to the safety issues of
5 MOX.

6 So you had ten different points, and I
7 think that if you can phrase those clearly, I think
8 NRC can respond, and I think that could form a
9 dialogue.

10 So I propose and request. I propose that
11 they formulate the questions more clearly. I request
12 that NRC respond to them in a manner that we can all
13 enjoy the responses.

14 Thank you.

15 By the way, I'm in favor of relicensing in
16 case you were wondering.

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Mr. Murphey.

19 And actually I'll ask Mr. Kugler to
20 describe a little bit more in detail about what will
21 be done with both the transcript of this meeting and
22 the written comments in terms of the documentation and
23 the reporting that we will produce from this process.

24 Andy.

25 MR. KUGLER: Well, as I indicated, we will

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1 prepare a scoping summary report where we will list
2 all of the comments we received and address those
3 related to license renewal. Those that are not
4 related to license renewal we may refer to others to
5 provide the responses.

6 But one thing I will say kind of in
7 relation to the last comment we received, I know, for
8 instance, Mr. Rosenthal, when you were speaking, you
9 were trying to be very brief and go very quickly. It
10 would be easier for us to respond if we had -- like
11 some of the questions and some of the statements you
12 made I wasn't entirely clear on the basis of the
13 concern, and so you may want to submit them in writing
14 so that we do answer the question you intended.

15 Sometimes in the transcript it's difficult
16 to be certain what the person was trying to say. So
17 if you have the time to do that, I'd appreciate that
18 because it'll help me to provide a better answer.

19 But we will provide those reports.
20 Anybody who signed up and put their address on the
21 card, we'll provide you a copy of the scoping summary
22 report.

23 In addition, a number of the issues may be
24 addressed in the environmental impact statement itself
25 when we issue that, and as I said, it will be issued

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1 as a draft. So at that point if you don't feel that
2 we've addressed your concern, you'll have the
3 opportunity to indicate that to us either in writing
4 or in the meetings we'll hold at that time.

5 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Andy.

6 Also there was a theme throughout some of
7 the comments about how the NRC is going to proceed
8 through this licensing process in the face of
9 uncertainties and concerns regarding security.
10 Potential legislation could change security
11 requirements and information flow that has now been
12 somewhat disrupted.

13 Mr. Nakoski, could you comment on those
14 for us, please?

15 MR. NAKOSKI: My name is John Nakoski. As
16 Chris introduced me, I'm the Engineering Section Chief
17 for the license renewal.

18 The NRC took some immediate actions
19 following the events of September 11th. We issued
20 advisories to all nuclear power plants throughout the
21 country, put them on the highest state of security.
22 They remain at this heightened level of security.

23 In addition, we at the NRC have
24 continuously been staffing since ten o'clock the
25 morning of September 11th at our Incident Response

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1 Center and our regional office, regional Response
2 Centers. There's four of those around the country.

3 We're continuing to interact with other
4 Federal agencies to provide the best assessment of the
5 situation for all of the plants throughout the
6 country, and to date there have been no credible
7 threats against nuclear power facilities in this
8 country.

9 You heard mention of TMI from some of the
10 folks here. That just highlights how serious all
11 agencies involved with responding to this event, how
12 seriously they all take this issue. This issue, the
13 TMI issue, was noncredible, but we took -- as a nation
14 we took a fairly aggressive posture in responding to
15 even this noncredible threat.

16 And unfortunately some airports were
17 closed down. That's just, again, a demonstration of
18 how seriously we are taking this situation.

19 Regarding how would the license renewal
20 process be evaluated on the fallout of this situation,
21 if you will, from security of terrorist events,
22 security is one of those programs that is just as
23 important today within the current license period as
24 it would be in a renewal period.

25 So this security effort continues to

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1 receive continuous and ongoing evaluation. If, in
2 fact, the results of these events result in changes to
3 our regulations and our rules are required to be
4 adjusted from the lessons learned following the
5 September 11th terrorist acts, that would be done
6 under a rulemaking process regardless of whether a
7 plant had received an extended license or not.

8 So I really think you need to look at
9 license renewal and security as two separate issues.
10 Security is not really closely tied to license
11 renewal.

12 There were some questions about ongoing or
13 changing the design basis threat essentially or
14 changing rulemaking. We are continuing to coordinate
15 with other Federal agencies and intelligence agencies
16 to assess the implications of this new manifestation
17 of terrorism, and if we determine that the design
18 basis threat needs to be revised, we will revise the
19 design basis threat through rulemaking.

20 Questions have been raised about access to
21 our Web site. It's correct our Web site was shut
22 down, for the most part remains shut down as we go
23 through a process of assessing the types of
24 information that we make readily available at one
25 point.

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1 I think you've heard that some information
2 is coming back onto our Web site. As we identify
3 information that can be returned or restored to the
4 Web site, we will be doing that on a case-by-case
5 basis going forward.

6 And at this point if there's any
7 questions, I'd be happy to entertain those. We have
8 other staff here that could help support responding to
9 your questions.

10 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, John.

11 Are there any other questions or comments
12 that you have?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. GRIMES: All of the NRC staff I
15 mentioned, Mr. Prato, Mr. Kugler, Mr. Nakoski, have
16 all offered their services to stay on this evening and
17 talk to you one on one if you have particular
18 questions that you want answered.

19 Seeing no other desires for comments and
20 seeing the lateness of the hour, I want to thank you
21 all very much for taking your valuable time to share
22 your views with us and to contribute information to
23 our decision making process.

24 Thank you all for attending, and the
25 meeting is adjourned.

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1 (Whereupon, at 8:42 p.m., the public
2 meeting was concluded.)

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