

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Public Environmental Scoping Meeting
on Fort Calhoun License Renewal
Afternoon Session

Docket Number: 50-285

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2002

Work Order No.: NRC-433

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

(NRR)

PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING

ON FORT CALHOUN LICENSE RENEWAL

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TUESDAY

JUNE 18, 2002

AFTERNOON SESSION

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OMAHA, NEBRASKA

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The Public Environmental Scoping Meeting
met at the Days Hotel Carlisle, 10909 M Street, at
1:30 p.m., Francis Cameron, Facilitator, presiding.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

FRANCIS CAMERON

FACILITATOR

WILLIAM BURTON

NRR/DRIP/RLSB

THOMAS J. KENYON

NRR/DRIP/RLEP

JOHN TAPPERT

NRR/DRIP/RLEP

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Adjourn 60

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

1:32 P.M.

MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone.

My name is Chip Cameron and I'm the Special Counsel for Public Liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. And I would just like to welcome all of you to the NRC's Public Meeting on the Omaha Public Power District's Application to renew the license at the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station.

My colleagues and I from the NRC are going to try to avoid using acronyms today, but one that we will be using for sure is to say NRC for Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I'm pleased to serve as your facilitator this afternoon and my job will be to try to help all of you have a productive meeting today.

Before we get into some of our presentations, I'd like to just cover three items briefly for you about the meeting process. One is objectives of today's meeting. A second item is format and ground rules for the meeting. And a third item is the agenda for today's meeting to give you an idea what we're going to be talking about. And I'd also like to introduce some of the NRC staff who are going to be making those presentations.

In terms of objectives of the meeting, the NRC wants to try to clearly explain to all of you what

1 the license renewal process is about and to answer any
2 questions that you may have about that process. A
3 second and most important objective is to hear from
4 you today any concerns or comments that you might have
5 on license renewal and this is called a scoping
6 meeting.

7 And very simply, this means that the NRC
8 is trying to determine what should the scope of the
9 environmental review be on the Fort Calhoun license
10 renewal application? What information should the NRC
11 look at in preparing the environmental impact
12 statement? What alternatives should be considered in
13 that environmental impact statement? And we'd like to
14 hear from any of you on those issues so that the NRC
15 can put together its plan and methodology for
16 preparing the environmental impact statement.

17 We're also asking for written comments on
18 these issues, but we wanted to be here personally this
19 afternoon to talk with you and you may hear
20 information today that will prompt you to either
21 elaborate on some comments that you give us today or
22 it may prompt you to submit comments, but I want to
23 emphasize that any comments that you give us today
24 will have the same weight as written comments, so feel
25 free to talk to us today.

26 In terms of the format for the meeting, we
27 have two segments to the meeting. The first segment

1 of the meeting is to give you some background on the
2 NRC's license renewal process and to answer any
3 questions about that process that you may have. So
4 we're going to have some brief NRC presentations and
5 then we'll go out to any of you who have questions
6 about that process.

7 The second segment of the meeting is to
8 give all of you an opportunity to make some more
9 formal comments to us on these issues and usually we
10 ask people to come up to this podium and provide their
11 comments to us.

12 The ground rules for the meeting are
13 fairly simple. If you have a question during our
14 interactive portion of the meeting, just signal me and
15 I'll bring you this talking stick and then give us
16 your name and affiliation, if appropriate. We are
17 taking a transcript. Caroline is our stenographer
18 today so your comments will be captured on the record.

19 A second ground rule is that I would like
20 to request that only one person at a time speak, not
21 only so that we can get a clean transcript, but also
22 and more importantly, so that we can give our full
23 attention to whomever has the floor at the time.

24 Finally, I want to make sure that everyone
25 has an opportunity to talk today, everybody who wishes
26 to do so, so I would just ask you to be as brief as
27 possible. I know that on these complicated

1 controversial issues sometimes it's hard to be
2 concise, but if you could do that that will give us a
3 better chance of making sure that we hear from
4 everybody today.

5 In terms of the formal statements, when we
6 get to that portion of the meeting, I'd like everybody
7 to respect a five minute ground rule, try to get your
8 comments done in five minutes. There's some
9 flexibility there, of course, it's not a drop dead
10 five minutes, but try to keep it brief. And if you
11 have a prepared statement that you would like us to
12 attach to the transcript, we're also ready to do that.

13 I would just thank you all for being here.
14 The NRC is faced with a very important decision in
15 terms of the evaluation of the license renewal
16 application and we thank you for helping us to make
17 that decision.

18 Before I go to the agenda and
19 introductions, I would just say that this is one
20 meeting, we're here with you. We're going to be back
21 out here, as you'll hear, again for another public
22 meeting when the draft environmental impact statement
23 is completed.

24 But I would just encourage you to get to
25 know after the meeting the NRC staff that are here and
26 to feel free to contact them, either by e-mail or
27 phone in the times when we're not here in a public

1 meeting setting, try to keep some continuity with
2 them, call them, e-mail them if you have questions or
3 concerns. They'll be very receptive to that. And
4 also, we have some expert consultants who are helping
5 us to prepare the environmental review and you'll be
6 hearing more about that. They're here with us today
7 and please get to know them also.

8 And with that, let me introduce the NRC
9 speakers. I've asked John Tappert who is right down
10 here in front to give you a welcome also before we
11 have the two presentations and I asked John to do that
12 because he is the Section Leader of the Environmental
13 Review Branch in our Office of Nuclear Reactor
14 Regulation and John and his staff are responsible for
15 preparing all of the environmental reviews that come
16 in on a license renewal application. And John has
17 been with the Agency for 11 years. He was one of our
18 Resident Inspectors at nuclear power plants and has a
19 Master's degree in Environmental Engineering from
20 Johns Hopkins.

21 After John, we're going to bring up
22 William Burton and William is better known as "Butch"
23 and Butch is the Project Manager for the Safety Review
24 of the Fort Calhoun license renewal application and
25 you'll get a better idea of the safety review and the
26 environmental review when they speak. But he's been
27 with the NRC for 18 years. He has a Bachelor's degree

1 in Nuclear Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic
2 Institute. He was also the Project Manager on the
3 license renewal review for the Hatch Power Plant in
4 Georgia and he has worked for utilities directly
5 before he came to the NRC. He was the Staff Technical
6 Advisor for GPU Nuclear at the TMI Station.

7 After Butch is done we'll go out to you
8 for questions and then we're going to bring up Tom
9 Kenyon who is right over here. And Tom is the Project
10 Manager for the environmental part of the review on
11 license renewal and he's been with the Agency for 22
12 years and he's also been the Project Manager for the
13 initial licensing of nuclear power plants, for
14 example, the Watts Bar plant and also the Project
15 Manager for Operating Reactors and he has a Bachelor's
16 in Nuclear Engineering from the University of
17 Michigan.

18 I'll get out of the way now and ask John
19 Tappert to give you a short welcome. Then we'll put
20 Butch on and go out to you for any questions you might
21 have.

22 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you. As Chip said, my
23 name is John Tappert. I'm the Chief in the
24 Environmental Section in the Office of Nuclear Reactor
25 Regulation. I too would like to welcome you to this
26 meeting and thank you for participating in our
27 process.

1 As Chip mentioned, there are several
2 things we'd like to cover in today's meeting. First,
3 we'd like to provide you a brief overview of the
4 entire license renewal process. This will include
5 both the safety review, as well as the environmental
6 review, which is the principal focus of today's
7 meeting.

8 We also will provide some additional
9 information about the environmental review which will
10 assess the environmental impacts associated with
11 extending the operating license for the Fort Calhoun
12 Station for an additional 20 years. We'll also give
13 you information about how you can submit written
14 comments and also the schedule that we'll be
15 following.

16 At the conclusion of the staff's
17 presentation, we'll be happy to receive any questions
18 or comments that you may have about the scope of our
19 environmental impact statement.

20 First, let me provide some context for the
21 license renewal process. The Atomic Energy Act gives
22 the NRC the authority to issue operating licenses to
23 commercial nuclear power plants for a period of 40
24 years. At the Fort Calhoun Station, that operating
25 license will expire in 2013. Our regulations also
26 make provisions for extending that operating license
27 for an additional 20 years as part of the license

1 renewal program. OPPD has requested license renewal
2 for the Fort Calhoun Station.

3 As part of the NRC's review of that
4 license renewal application, we will perform an
5 environmental review and one of the principal purposes
6 of this meeting today is to receive your input before
7 we prepare our environmental impact statement. And
8 with that, I'd like to ask Butch Burton to provide a
9 brief overview of the safety portion of the license
10 renewal program.

11 MR. BURTON: Thanks, John. As John
12 mentioned, my name is Butch Burton. I'm the Project
13 Manager for the safety review of the application for
14 license renewal for Fort Calhoun. The NRC's license
15 renewal process essentially runs in two parallel
16 paths.

17 There is a safety review which I head up
18 that is focused on the review and inspection of aging
19 management programs for passive, long-lived systems,
20 structures and components. The reason that the
21 Commission felt that these programs should be the
22 focus of the license renewal regulations is because
23 on-going regulatory processes already ensure that the
24 current licensing bases is maintained and things like
25 emergency planning and security plans are acceptably
26 implemented.

27 There are components and systems that need

1 to be constantly attended to. However, those
2 maintenance processes do not explicitly look at the
3 plant's design capability to cope with long-term
4 degradation of equipment due to aging effects. So the
5 license renewal application focuses on those
6 inspection programs and maintenance practices that are
7 used to maintain the margins of safety in the plant
8 safety equipment.

9 The second review path involves the
10 environmental review which Tom Kenyon will discuss
11 shortly. I also want to mention that there is an
12 independent review by the Advisory Committee on
13 Reactor Safeguards, the ACRS, which reviews the
14 renewal application and the staff safety evaluation.
15 The Committee reports their findings and
16 recommendations directly to the Commission.

17 Next slide. Okay. One more. There you
18 go. Okay. This figure illustrates the entire license
19 renewal process. The upper path describes the safety
20 review and the lower path shows the environmental
21 review. As you can see, the staff safety review
22 results in a safety evaluation report. As I mentioned
23 earlier, the ACRS reviews this report, as well as the
24 application, in order to develop its independent
25 findings on the review.

26 The ACRS holds public meetings which are
27 transcribed. Oral and written statements can be

1 provided during the ACRS meetings in accordance with
2 the instructions described in the notice of their
3 meetings in the Federal Register.

4 In parallel with the safety review, the
5 staff performs its review of the environmental impacts
6 of continued operation. As Tom Kenyon will discuss
7 later, the staff will issue an environmental impact
8 statement on the facility after it completes its
9 review.

10 The NRC's licensing process also includes
11 a formal process for public involvement through
12 hearings conducted by a panel of Administrative Law
13 Judges who are called the Atomic Safety and Licensing
14 Board or ASLB. That process requires a petition be
15 submitted to hold hearings on particular issues which
16 would be litigated by the Board. However, there were
17 no petitions to intervene on the Fort Calhoun
18 proceedings.

19 At the end of the process, the final
20 safety evaluation report, the final environmental
21 impact statement, the results of the staff's
22 inspections and the ACRS recommendation will be
23 submitted to the Commission with a staff
24 recommendation. Each Commissioner will vote on the
25 proposed action and their decision will be formally
26 sent to the NRC staff for whatever action they
27 conclude is appropriate for the renewal application.

1 The individual Commissioner votes and their
2 instructions to the NRC staff will be publicly
3 available.

4 Throughout this process, interested
5 members of the public who are concerned about nuclear
6 safety issues can raise those issues during the
7 various public meetings that the NRC will hold to
8 discuss the Fort Calhoun application. Meetings on
9 particular technical issues are usually held at the
10 NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. However,
11 some technical meetings and meetings to summarize the
12 results of the NRC's inspection findings will be held
13 near the plant site in a place that is accessible to
14 the public.

15 In addition, the staff holds four public
16 meetings on the environmental aspects of the review;
17 two on the scope of the review; and two on the results
18 of the review during which the public can provide
19 comments.

20 That's a brief overview of the renewal
21 process. The NRC staff members here tonight will be
22 available after the meeting to answer any questions
23 about the renewal process, but unless there are any
24 particular questions that you may have about the
25 overall process, I'll turn it over to Tom Kenyon.

26 MR. CAMERON: Let's see. This is, we
27 know, for many of you perhaps new information. And

1 we'd like to just make sure things were clear.

2 Are there any questions for Butch on the
3 material he presented, on the overview of the license
4 renewal process?

5 If nothing comes to mind now, but
6 something occurs later, we can handle that also.

7 MR. BURTON: And let me do one thing,
8 Chip. For those of you -- if you do have questions or
9 comments on the safety portion of the review I want to
10 leave you my phone number and my e-mail address.
11 Again, the name is Butch Burton. You can reach me at
12 301/415-2853. And my e-mail address is wfb@nrc.gov.
13 So at any time if I am not available, there's also my
14 back-up, S.K. Mitra who is also in the audience. S.K.
15 Did you want to give your phone number?

16 MR. MITRA: I am S.K. Mitra. I am back-up
17 project manager for Fort Calhoun. My name number is
18 301/415-2783. My e-mail address is sskml@nrc.gov.

19 MR. CAMERON: That was great. Thank you
20 and let's go to Tom Kenyon now to hear about the
21 environmental portion of the review process.

22 Tom?

23 MR. KENYON: My name is Tom Kenyon and I'm
24 the Environmental Project Manager charged with this
25 review. I'm going to spend the next 15 minutes or so
26 talking about the environmental review process that
27 we're going to be going through and explain to you how

1 you can participate in that process. Now the National
2 Environmental Policy Act was enacted in 1969. We call
3 it NEPA and it requires federal agencies to use a
4 systematic approach to consider environmental impacts
5 of certain decision-making proceedings.

6 Now it's a disclosure tool that involves
7 the public and it involves the process in which the
8 federal agency is going to gather information. We
9 take it and evaluate it and take a look at the
10 environmental impacts of the action and we document
11 that information and then we invite public
12 participation to help us evaluate it.

13 Now the NEPA process results in a document
14 known as an environmental impact statement which is
15 required for any major federal action which has the
16 potential to significantly affect the quality of the
17 human environment. As you might expect, the NRC
18 Commission has decided that license renewal is just
19 such a major federal action.

20 One of the things we also considered is
21 alternatives to the actions and in the case of license
22 renewal, one of the alternatives we look at is what
23 would be the impact of not renewing the license and no
24 other action being taken. Another potential
25 alternative would be us not renewing the Fort Calhoun
26 license and the licensee deciding to replace the power
27 that came from a nuclear power plant with a

1 non-nuclear facility such as a coal or gas-fired
2 plant. We would look at the environmental impacts of
3 that action as well.

4 Now at this point as Chip has explained to
5 you, we're kind of in the early process of our review
6 stage. We're in the scoping process where we're
7 trying to determine what the scope of the review is
8 going to be and in particular, we're having this
9 meeting today to solicit any comments and any
10 information that you might think is appropriate for us
11 to consider in our review.

12 Now this slide describes the objective of
13 our review and I'm just going to read it. The staff
14 is trying to determine whether or not the adverse
15 environmental impacts of license renewal for Fort
16 Calhoun are so great that preserving the option of
17 license renewal for energy planning decision-makers
18 would be unreasonable. Now that's what it says in the
19 regulations, but to paraphrase what we're trying to do
20 is determine whether or not it's acceptable from an
21 environmental standpoint for the Fort Calhoun Station
22 to continue operation for another 20 years.

23 Now I want to emphasize at this point that
24 it's not the NRC that's going to make the ultimate
25 decision as to whether or not the plant continues
26 operation. We're trying to determine whether or not
27 it's acceptable from an environmental standpoint to

1 continue operation. The real decision of whether or
2 not to continue will be -- is up to the licensee,
3 OPPD, in conjunction with state public officials.

4 Now this slide, diagram gives you a little
5 more description of the earlier diagram that Butch
6 Burton was showing you. The application was submitted
7 in January of this year and we issued our Notice of
8 Intent to develop an Environmental Impact Statement
9 and to perform the scoping process back in May.
10 Currently, we're in the scoping process. It's a 60-day
11 period which is going to end on July 10th where we're
12 trying to gather information. Now once we've gotten
13 the information that we need to perform our review,
14 the staff will develop an environmental impact
15 statement and we're going to issue a draft of that
16 document. It's currently scheduled to be issued in
17 January of 2003.

18 Now after we issue that document, there
19 will be another, in this case, a 75-day comment period
20 where you'll have the opportunity to review our
21 document and to provide us with any additional
22 comments that you might think are appropriate for the
23 review. After we've gotten your comments and
24 considered them, we may decide that we may need to
25 revise our environmental impact statement and our
26 intention is to issue the final EIS no later than
27 August of 2003.

1 Now we're here today, as we've said, to
2 gather additional information. We, of course, start
3 our information gathering by looking at the
4 environmental report that was submitted by OPPD. Now
5 this week, we're going to go down to the site. We're
6 going to talk with the applicant and get clarification
7 on some of the information that they provided. We're
8 going to be talking to Federal, State and local
9 authorities. We're going to be talking to local
10 government officials and of course, we're here today
11 to solicit what comments that you might have.

12 Next slide. Now our team focuses on many
13 environmental processes. We're going to be looking at
14 how the plant interacts with the air, how it interacts
15 with the Missouri River and other water sources, and
16 even how it interacts under the ground. We're going
17 to look at some seemingly unrelated issues such as the
18 socioeconomic aspects of the continued operation. In
19 other words, we're looking to see what the effect of
20 continued operation, or shutting down the plant, what
21 the effect would be on the local economy. We will
22 also consider an issue known as environmental justice
23 where we take a look to determine whether or not the
24 continued operation or shutdown of the plant would
25 have a disproportionate effect on minority or low
26 income groups.

27 Now to prepare for this review, we've

1 assembled a team of NRC staff which have backgrounds
2 in the scientific disciplines that are required to
3 perform this review. In addition, we've engaged the
4 assistance of four national laboratories headed up by
5 Lawrence Livermore National Lab, to make sure that we
6 have a well-rounded knowledge base in order to do our
7 review. In all, we've assembled a team of about 20
8 people, all of whom are here today to hear what you
9 have to say.

10 Now to summarize a few of the key dates
11 that we've already talked about, the scoping and
12 comment period started on May 10th and ends on July
13 10th. So in order for your comments to be considered,
14 we must receive your comments no later than July 10th
15 or they must be postmarked no later than July 10th.

16 As I said earlier, we're going to issue
17 the draft and the final environmental impact
18 statements in January and August of next year. Now if
19 any of you would like to get a copy of these
20 documents, make sure that you leave your name and
21 mailing address with one of the young ladies in the
22 back at the registration desk and we will send you a
23 copy of those documents when they're issued.

24 Now this slide provides you with my phone
25 number. Butch Burton has already given you his. I am
26 the Environmental Project Manager and as Butch
27 mentioned, he's in charge of the aging management

1 aspects of the review.

2 Now even though I've given you my phone
3 number, that's so you can ask any questions that you
4 may think of after we leave today, but I need to get
5 your comments in writing so I can formally document
6 those comments. As Chip had mentioned earlier, since
7 this meeting is being transcribed, any comments that
8 you make today during today's meeting will also be put
9 together into a transcript and we will use that as a
10 formal documentation of your comments.

11 Now we've made arrangements with local
12 libraries here to have paper copies of a few key
13 documents made available to you. Currently the W.
14 Dale Clark Library in Omaha and the Blair Public
15 Library up near the plant have the Applicant's --
16 OPPD's application and the environmental report. In
17 addition, when we issue our draft and final
18 environmental impact statements paper copies will be
19 sent to those libraries and be made available to the
20 public there.

21 In addition, all of our publicly available
22 documents can be accessed through the NRC's website at
23 this address. Simply go to the internet address shown
24 there and follow the instructions to get access to our
25 document management system.

26 As we've said earlier, you can provide
27 your comments to us by mail, in person, or by e-mail

1 at these addresses. If you send your comments to us
2 by mail, be sure to have them postmarked no later than
3 July 10th. You can deliver your comments to us in
4 writing, in person, at our Rockville offices in
5 Rockville, Maryland, although we don't expect a lot of
6 people to take advantage of that. And of course,
7 we've set up an e-mail address where you can send us
8 your written comments to that address via the
9 internet.

10 I do want to emphasize that should you use
11 that e-mail address, be sure and include the two
12 underlines that are shown. Some people neglect to put
13 those in and we don't get their comments.

14 With that, that ends my formal
15 presentation and I'm going to turn the podium back
16 over to Chip.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Tom. Let's
18 see if anyone has questions for Tom on the
19 environmental review. Any questions at all at this
20 point?

21 (No response.)

22 Okay, great. Thank you very much, Tom.

23 We're going to go to the second part of
24 the meeting which is to give us an opportunity to hear
25 from you on these issues and I'd like to ask the --
26 have the elected officials from the various
27 jurisdictions around the facility to speak to us first

1 and we're lucky to have two of the mayors of the local
2 towns with us and I'm going to ask Mick Mines who is
3 the Mayor of Blair, Nebraska to come up first and then
4 after Mick is done, we'll hear from Larry Halford who
5 is the Mayor of Fort Calhoun.

6 MAYOR MINES: Thank you, Chip. My name
7 again is Mick Mines. I'm the Mayor of Blair. I'd
8 like to thank the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for
9 this opportunity and specifically this open and public
10 forum.

11 As I was watching the presentation, I saw
12 safety review and environmental impact studies and
13 that's exactly why I'm here. I'm here to comment in
14 support of extending the license for the Fort Calhoun
15 nuclear power station.

16 I'll speak just a little bit about the
17 socioeconomic impact on my city, in particular. From
18 a practical standpoint, I'm not sure it makes sense to
19 discard a proven and effective method of power
20 generation, especially when it has served Washington
21 County, eastern Nebraska, and OPPD for so many years.
22 The Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station is an economic
23 stimulus to Blair and the Washington County area.

24 Their footprint is a stabilizing factor in
25 Washington County's economy. As an example, they
26 employ 645 people; 135 of those live in Washington
27 County, specifically 110 live in the community of

1 Blair. Their annual payroll is \$43 million and of
2 that, \$6.2 million is the payroll for those employees
3 that live in Blair and with just a very little bit of
4 math that shows that the annual income per employee
5 living in Blair is \$66,700. By any measure, that's a
6 quality job. And those kinds of jobs attract and keep
7 quality individuals, quality families in our
8 community. Now these people are our friends. They're
9 our neighbors. Their kids go to school with my kids.
10 They go to church. They volunteer their time to make
11 Blair and Nebraska a better place to live.

12 In 2001, Fort Calhoun Station purchased
13 almost \$23 million of goods and services. Now I'm
14 clearly not an economic developer and I don't know the
15 multiplier effect when you've purchased goods and you
16 have sales and incoming property tax within the State
17 of Nebraska. On the other hand, I do understand the
18 positive impact that the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station
19 has on the quality of life and the quality of life of
20 the 8,000 people living in my city. Indeed, all
21 Nebraskans benefit from the operation of the Fort
22 Calhoun Nuclear Station.

23 OPPD is an outstanding community citizen.
24 They're always there when we need them. They deliver
25 prompt response to community requests. Their
26 employees are involved in our local organizations and
27 programs. And their service is nothing less than

1 outstanding. As a Mayor, I'm confident in the ability
2 of OPPD to deliver reliable power throughout my
3 community. The rates are competitive and because of
4 that they've been effective in recruiting new business
5 and I would point to Nebraska's single largest
6 economic development investment, Cargill, which is
7 just outside our city.

8 We'll hear from, I'm sure, people that are
9 concerned about safety issues and so am I. My family
10 and I wake up every morning and we can see the plant
11 from our living room window. Throughout the years
12 though, I've come to know the people at OPPD and I
13 have confidence that they understand the risks
14 associated with nuclear power generation and that
15 they've been and continue to do everything in their
16 power to ensure my safety. You see, at the same time
17 they're ensuring the safety of their families because
18 they live in Blair too.

19 With that, I'd like to thank the Nuclear
20 Regulatory Commission and entertain any questions.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mayor
23 Mines. Let's go to Mayor Halford from Fort Calhoun.

24 MAYOR HALFORD: I'm Mayor Halford from
25 Fort Calhoun and that's who the station's named after.
26 It's our community. Myself, as Mayor, I not only get
27 to speak for myself and my family, but for the

1 community of Fort Calhoun, the City Council. We have
2 discussed this prior to coming here as a Council of
3 what the feelings were towards the nuclear power
4 station, but on environmental impact and the safety
5 concerns that we've had. So this is the opinion that
6 Fort Calhoun as a whole has on the Nuclear Regulatory
7 Commission.

8 Basically, they have been -- OPPD has been
9 good neighbors. Any time we've ever had any concerns,
10 and we have, about the environmental impact on our
11 community. For example, the City Council, everyone on
12 the City Council has been, has lived in Fort Calhoun
13 for at least 30 years. We all have families. We all
14 have -- naturally living there 30 years, we have a lot
15 of friends, so we're very concerned on what's going on
16 up there, especially the safety issues that we've had.

17 The response that we get from OPPD has
18 been exceptional. And I mean that. Any time we've
19 had a concern or questions. We don't get a
20 smokescreen. We get people to come to the meetings,
21 explain to us in layman's terms of what's going on,
22 what we need. If we need any support to help them, we
23 work together good. So it has been a very good deal
24 for the community as a whole. And I do mean that.

25 I want to thank the Nuclear Regulatory
26 Commission. I hope they do get their license because
27 we do support that very much.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mayor
3 Halford. Now I think it's appropriate to hear a
4 little bit about what the rationale and vision of the
5 Power District was for the license renewal application
6 and I'm going to ask Gary Gates who is the Senior Vice
7 President of Nuclear Operations for the Power District
8 to talk to us and then he's going to introduce Joe
9 Gasper to talk a little bit more about the
10 application.

11 Gary?

12 MR. GATES: Thank you. My name is Gary
13 Gates. I'm the Vice President at OPPD in charge of
14 the nuclear operations. I'm also a resident of the
15 area. And started working with OPPD nearly 30 years
16 ago, so I've been a part of Fort Calhoun since the
17 initial construction. I have deep ties to the people
18 who live in this area and to the philosophy of service
19 that OPPD has.

20 I'll provide you some information briefly
21 on Fort Calhoun Station and the steps we took before
22 we submitted our application for renewal, specifically
23 on the environmental report. Here to give more
24 details of the environmental report specifically is
25 Dr. Joe Gasper. Joe is the license renewal project
26 engineer and project leader. He holds a Ph.D. in
27 nuclear engineering from Iowa State.

1 Let me provide you some basic background
2 about Fort Calhoun Station. Some of OPPD's philosophy
3 of operating a nuclear power plant going forward in
4 the license renewal on our application, and then Joe
5 will cover some details of the environmental
6 statement.

7 Fort Calhoun is a single unit. It's
8 located between Blair and Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. It
9 has a generation capacity of approximately 500
10 megawatts. Operating in that manner, it provides
11 about 30 percent of the power that OPPD uses on a
12 daily basis for its customers in a 13 county area.

13 We started construction of the plant in
14 1968 and it was declared commercial in 1973 and it has
15 operated safely ever since. The safe operation of
16 Fort Calhoun Station is first and foremost in our
17 minds, for all the people that run the station and at
18 OPPD. Over the years, we have demonstrated a high
19 level of safety in all our programs and operation of
20 the unit.

21 That's not surprising when you consider
22 our homes and our families are in the area. We
23 contribute to the communities in volunteer work, and
24 in our social leadership. It's also not surprising
25 that we do that and the fact that we are owned by the
26 people of our community who buy power from us. As you
27 might know, Nebraska is unique among the 50 states in

1 that all the electricity produced here is produced in
2 a municipal or public manner. It is a public power
3 state.

4 Nebraskans take a great deal of pride in
5 this uniqueness and in the fact that they own the
6 organizations that provide the power. Our customers
7 elect our Board of Directors; one of whom is with us
8 today, Anne McGuire, who is chairman of our Nuclear
9 Oversight Committee and Member of our Board.

10 In addition, the nuclear operations group
11 at OPPD gets outstanding support from the rest of our
12 company. Two other vice presidents are with me here
13 today, Chuck Eldred, our Chief Financial Officer; and
14 Tim Burke, who's responsible for retail and all the
15 electric operations, the wires and transmission part
16 of our company.

17 If our customers, who are owners, felt
18 we're not operating safely at Fort Calhoun, they would
19 not hesitate to let us know that changes need to be
20 made through many of the avenues that a public company
21 has.

22 We also know that to successfully operate
23 our power plant, we must do it economically. Fort
24 Calhoun Station is an economical source of electricity
25 for our customers and its cost effectiveness continues
26 to improve. We recently completed one of the most
27 efficient refueling outages in the history of the

1 plant and it's a tribute to the workers at the plant
2 and at OPPD and all the skilled labor that we have in
3 the Omaha area that this outage was completed in a
4 record fashion.

5 Looking ahead, we see continuing
6 improvement in all areas of operation at Fort Calhoun.

7 To provide you the details of the
8 environmental impact statement, I'd like now to
9 introduce Dr. Joe Gasper.

10 DR. GASPER: Thanks, Gary. As he said,
11 I'm Joe Gasper. I've been in charge of the license
12 renewal project for about four years now, from its
13 inception. I've been with OPPD since 1974 so I'm
14 coming up on about 28 years with the company.

15 During the next several minutes, I'd like
16 to provide you some of the background on the OPPD's
17 environmental management and our approach to the
18 license renewal process and briefly summarize the
19 review and the information that we provided in our
20 application.

21 OPPD maintains a strong commitment to
22 environmental management. Our operations are guided
23 by our environmental protection policy which is a
24 corporate level document that ensures all activities
25 that OPPD undertakes are conducted in an
26 environmentally responsible manner that protects the
27 interests of our employees, our customer-owners, and

1 the communities we serve. This ensures OPPD maintains
2 its facilities and conducts its operations in
3 compliance with the applicable government laws and
4 regulations.

5 It is our policy to extend these efforts
6 beyond compliance in important areas such as pollution
7 prevention and natural resource stewardship.
8 Pollution prevention programs emphasize reduction,
9 reuse, and recycling in the management of the
10 materials and products that we use to produce
11 electricity. Natural resources stewardship ensures
12 the protection of the sensitive natural systems and
13 conservation of natural resources.

14 I'll share a few of these examples with
15 you. OPPD has been recently awarded the distinguished
16 Environmental Leadership Award by the Nebraska
17 Industrial Council on the Environment and was named a
18 Treeline USA utility by the National Arbor Day
19 Foundation.

20 OPPD's Forestry Department conducts
21 programs that have resulted in the planting of more
22 than 100,000 trees and shrubs within the OPPD service
23 territory. And finally, at the Fort Calhoun Station,
24 our employees have established a prairie grass habitat
25 area at the site, in addition to numerous nesting
26 boxes for bluebirds, wood ducks, etcetera that share
27 the resources on our site with us.

1 In keeping within the spirit of our
2 environmental policy, we took a thorough approach to
3 the license renewal environmental review. We
4 established a review team that includes consultants
5 who work closely with the environmental and
6 engineering staff both there at the plant and our
7 corporate environmental group. Members of these teams
8 are recognized leaders in the industry and have
9 extensive experience at Fort Calhoun Station. Many of
10 the team members also in support of the environmental
11 studies and monitoring are associated with the initial
12 operation of the plant.

13 In order to ensure that all relevant
14 issues were addressed, the team conducted extensive
15 interviews to gain a thorough understanding of the
16 operational environmental changes that occurred during
17 the 30 years of operation of the station. This
18 includes a review of our environmental baseline
19 established during the initial licensing and
20 operation; our operating history; the NRC's generic
21 study; and current information from various external
22 sources.

23 OPPD performed a considerable amount of
24 work that characterized the environmental conditions
25 in support of the initial licensing and operation of
26 the plant. Pre-operational and post-operational
27 studies started in the late 1960s and continued

1 through the mid-1980s. The work on the Missouri River
2 represents the most comprehensive characterization of
3 the middle reaches of the river available today and
4 OPPD continues to monitor these certain key areas.

5 As part of the review and assessment of
6 current conditions, the OPPD environmental review team
7 conducted site walkdowns, reviewed monitoring reports,
8 current publications and studies, and interviewed a
9 number of state and federal agencies, including the
10 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Corps of
11 Engineers, the Nebraska Department of Environmental
12 Quality, the Natural Resources, Game and Parks
13 Commission, and the Economic Development Commission.
14 Given that we are located on the Iowa border, we also
15 interfaced with the Iowa Department of Natural
16 Resources and the Iowa Department of Health.

17 As Tom Kenyon described, the NRC has
18 prepared a generic environmental impact statement that
19 identified and evaluated many environmental issues
20 that may be associated with the operation of nuclear
21 power plants beyond their current license period. NRC
22 was able to generically resolve many of these issues
23 and others are to be addressed on a site specific
24 basis. The review team reviewed the generic
25 environmental impact statement and findings and
26 confirmed that there was no new information of
27 significance that would alter the NRC's generic

1 conclusions as they would apply to Fort Calhoun
2 Station.

3 Site specific assessments were conducted
4 by the review team and addressed 12 major
5 environmental areas that I've grouped into 5 general
6 areas. These are water, plants, animals, air, land
7 use, and people.

8 In the area of water, OPPD looked at the
9 water quality, water flow associated with the intake
10 and discharge and the aquatic ecology. Our review of
11 historical data, current conditions and operations
12 indicated that the continued operation beyond 2013
13 will not adversely impact the Missouri River flow,
14 water quality or aquatic ecology.

15 In the area of plants and animals, reviews
16 of internal documentation and observations indicate
17 that there are no threatened or endangered species at
18 the site and on our associated transmission line
19 rights of way. Interfaces and consultations with the
20 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and both the Nebraska
21 and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources supported
22 these findings.

23 NRC will be entering into formal
24 consultations with these agencies under the Endangered
25 Species Act during the development of their
26 environmental impact statement.

27 In the area of air quality, nuclear power

1 represents about 30 percent of the generation utilized
2 by OPPD customers. This makes a significant
3 contribution to maintaining the air quality of the
4 area and there are no planned changes in the
5 operations that will alter the air quality in any way.

6 Relative to land use, land use at the OPPD
7 site prior to construction was agricultural and the
8 balance of the property not supporting generation has
9 been maintained in agricultural uses through lease
10 arrangements with local farmers. We also interface
11 with the State Historical Preservation Office and have
12 confirmed that continued operations would not impact
13 any historical or archaeological resources.

14 Finally, in the area of people, OPPD is
15 committed to protecting the health and safety of its
16 employees and the people who live within the
17 communities around the plant. In addition to being a
18 safely operating facility, Fort Calhoun operations
19 have benefitted the community in the form of jobs,
20 payments in lieu of taxes, and community service.
21 Continued operation would support the continuation of
22 these benefits.

23 In closing, I'd like to thank the NRC for
24 an opportunity in providing these remarks and I'll
25 turn it back over to Chip.

26 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Joe.
27 Next we're going to hear from four citizens of the

1 community and then we're going to go to three
2 emergency planning officials to hear their comments on
3 that particular issue. And I'd like Cheryl Straub to
4 come up and then we're going to go to Sam Augustine,
5 John Pollack and Terry Moore.

6 Cheryl?

7 MS. STRAUB: Thank you. I'd first like to
8 thank the NRC for the opportunity to comment today on
9 the relicensing. I have with me today a letter from
10 our president, president of the Greater Omaha Chamber
11 of Commerce, Lou Burgher, that I would like to read
12 into the record.

13 "On behalf of the Greater Omaha Chamber of
14 Commerce, I'm expressing full support for the Omaha
15 Public Power District's application to relicense the
16 Fort Calhoun Station. We believe Fort Calhoun's top
17 safety and performance ratings speak for OPPD
18 expertise in nuclear plant operations. OPPD has also
19 been an excellent partner in our community's economic
20 development efforts, with a proven record in planning
21 for and meeting the area's energy needs.

22 OPPD has always been accessible and
23 responsive to the public and its proactive planning
24 for future growth and demand has played a crucial role
25 in the success that the Omaha area has enjoyed in
26 accommodating a growing population and industrial
27 base. We believe that Fort Calhoun will continue to

1 provide essential electricity supplies for the growing
2 metropolitan area and have full confidence in OPPD's
3 operation of the facility. Thanks for your time and
4 consideration. Louis W. Burgher, M.D., Ph.D.,
5 President."

6 And I might add from his personal
7 standpoint that he does live within just a few miles
8 of the plant up in Fort Calhoun.

9 From my own perspective, I've been with
10 the Chamber for 16 years now and I have found that
11 OPPD has been a wonderful corporate citizen. We have
12 found that they are just extremely responsive to the
13 needs of the community and particularly the business
14 community that I represent.

15 OPPD has also been key to our area's
16 economic development efforts and this is one area that
17 I can certainly speak to since the Omaha Chamber is
18 one of the lead entities in the economic development
19 arena for our community.

20 OPPD's competitive electric rates have
21 been extremely important in the attraction and
22 retention of new and existing industry and the
23 relicensing of the Fort Calhoun plant is an extremely
24 important factor in keeping our local electrical rates
25 competitive with other metropolitan areas as well as
26 providing the reliability and dependability of
27 electrical service that businesses today require.

1 And again, we at the Chamber fully support
2 OPPD's application for relicensing and we recommend
3 approval of that.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Cheryl.
5 Next we're going to hear from Sam Augustine.

6 DR. AUGUSTINE: Good afternoon. I, too,
7 thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.
8 I am Dr. Sam Augustine, a representative of the
9 University of Nebraska Medical Center. I'm a
10 Board-certified nuclear pharmacist and an Associate
11 Professor at the College of Pharmacy in the College of
12 Medicine. I am also a member of the Emergency
13 Response Team of the Radiation Health Center. For
14 over 30 years, the Omaha Public Power District has
15 proven to be a very good corporate partner with UNMC.
16 OPPD has supported and co-funded the regional
17 Radiation Health Center at UNMC. The purpose of the
18 Radiation Health Center is to provide specialized
19 medical services related to the evaluation, treatment
20 and management of individuals exposed to radioactive
21 materials.

22 Through OPPD support of our health center,
23 UNMC has been able to obtain state of the art
24 radiation detection equipment and instrumentation.
25 The Radiation Health Center and the Nuclear Medical
26 Division of the Nebraska Health System and UNMC's
27 College of Pharmacy and College of Medicine are able

1 to utilize this equipment for routine patient care and
2 medical research whenever the facility and
3 instrumentation are not being utilized for radiation
4 accident patients.

5 In fact, the routine use of
6 instrumentation by UNMC and NHS is primarily how it is
7 utilized. Among the list of instrumentation that OPPD
8 support has contributed to includes a gamma camera
9 which has been for nuclear medicine imaging of
10 patients, high purity germanium lithium detector used
11 in research for analysis of radiative samples and
12 various computers, radiation survey meters and
13 personnel monitoring devices used in monitoring
14 patients and equipment.

15 Additionally, OPPD has participated,
16 supported and helped coordinate full-scale emergency
17 exercises involving the actuation and implementation
18 of the Radiation Health Center. In August of 2001,
19 evaluation of the Radiation Health Center by the
20 Federal Emergency Management Agency said that the
21 Medical Center staff is extremely well-trained and the
22 equipment is excellent. We feel that OPPD support is
23 a major contributor to the excellence of our Radiation
24 Health Center.

25 OPPD's emergency preparedness organization
26 also provides considerable equipment, supplies and
27 training to various organizations in the surrounding

1 vicinity. In addition to the state and county civil
2 defense departments, OPPD has worked with local
3 sheriff's departments, fire departments, ambulance
4 crews, schools, nursing homes and others to ensure
5 that these organizations can properly respond in
6 emergency situations.

7 OPPD has established reception centers for
8 the evaluation and decontamination of members of the
9 general public if an emergency should arise.

10 Coordination with the American Red Cross
11 at these centers has also been developed to provide
12 housing to evacuate individuals, if necessary. As a
13 result, the area around Fort Calhoun Station emergency
14 planning zone has developed a trained,
15 well-coordinated emergency response organization that
16 could be invaluable in any type of emergency
17 situation.

18 We feel that OPPD is an exemplary and
19 committed member of our community and we support
20 OPPD's application for relicensure.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dr. Augustine.
22 Let's go to John Pollack.

23 MR. POLLACK: I'd like to thank you for
24 your time here today. I am a meteorologist. I've
25 been a weather forecaster with the National Weather
26 Service here in Omaha for over 20 years. I say that
27 not because I'm representing my employer here today.

1 I am here on my own time and of my own interest, not
2 representing any particular organization.

3 My main concern on some of the aspects in
4 the OPPD environmental response--I'm particularly
5 concerned about some of the things that might arise in
6 the event of a severe accident and how these risks
7 were assessed. In the event of a severe accident, the
8 radiological doses received by the surrounding
9 population are highly sensitive to meteorological
10 conditions at the time of the release. In this
11 context, the weather data and the model used to
12 calculate the dispersion probabilities are crucial.
13 A concern that I didn't see addressed is a long-term
14 correlation between strong winds from the north and
15 strong inversions. Now this is a weather pattern that
16 is specific to the Missouri River Valley around Omaha
17 and it needs to be accounted for. It can't be part of
18 the generic environmental impact statement because
19 it's a weather pattern that prevails in our area at
20 certain times.

21 You can find the correlation that I looked
22 at by going to data such as the airport climatological
23 summary for Eppley Airfield. Now that sounds kind of
24 abstract, perhaps, but there's a summary report that
25 covers, for example, a 10-year period on winds and
26 weather conditions from 1965 to 1974. That sounds
27 kind of old, but these haven't been updated since as

1 far as I'm aware and it's a long-enough period to show
2 any kind of pattern.

3 During that time, the average prevailing
4 wind speed for Omaha was 8.7 miles an hour. However,
5 during the time when IFR conditions prevail, and I'll
6 get into that in a minute, and with the wind blowing
7 from the north or northwest, the average windspeed was
8 12.4 miles an hour. So when the wind was coming from
9 approximately the direction from Fort Calhoun down to
10 Omaha, the wind was 50 percent stronger than average
11 from all directions.

12 Now IFR refers to instrument flight rules
13 and the significance of that is that IFR conditions
14 are when there is a strong inversion over the Missouri
15 River Valley. They're characterized by poor
16 visibility or low clouds and the inversion would be
17 below the 1,000 foot level and that's above ground.

18 Now that combination of IFR conditions and
19 wind from the north-northwest or north occurred only
20 2.6 percent of the time, but that's a minimum estimate
21 of the prevalence of that combination of a strong
22 inversion with winds blowing from Fort Calhoun toward
23 Omaha because you can have a strong inversion without
24 having the clouds that create the IFR conditions.

25 Then I took a more detailed look at data
26 collected from 1948 to 1978 at Eppley Airfield and I
27 looked only at cases where the visibility was below a

1 mile and the ceilings were below 400 feet, which means
2 the clouds were very low, basically covering the hills
3 surrounding the top of the valley. And that meant
4 that the inversion would be combined strictly to the
5 Missouri River Valley where downtown Omaha is located,
6 basically the flood plain up to the bluffs on both
7 sides of the valley and of course, that's also where
8 the Fort Calhoun plant is located.

9 And under those conditions, the average
10 windspeed was 15 miles per hour. So my point is that
11 the cases where you had a very strong low level
12 inversion which would prevent any possible radioactive
13 release from Fort Calhoun from escaping vertically and
14 would also confine the release horizontally to the
15 Missouri River Valley, those are exactly the cases
16 that would produce the greatest exposure to the
17 general population around Omaha to a concentrated
18 radioactive plume. So during the worst case, the
19 winds were the strongest.

20 Now since there's a demonstrated
21 correlation between atypically strong winds blowing
22 from Fort Calhoun toward Omaha and strong inversions,
23 even though they're fairly rare, those cases would be
24 responsible for most of the exposure risk, especially
25 to people in the Omaha area and they need to be looked
26 at carefully. Now in my job, I'm used to dealing with
27 low risk, high consequence cases. The most obvious of

1 which is a big tornado. Now there's a pretty low risk
2 of a large tornado hitting at any one spot in any
3 particular year, but over time we do get them in some
4 places and it has happened in Omaha.

5 And in the planning for Fort Calhoun, they
6 wisely decided to look at a case where a tornado hit
7 the plant, what were the odds and so forth. I think
8 this is another case where the risk calculations have
9 to incorporate the possibility of a fairly low
10 probability event which does happen and has large
11 consequences if it does happen in the event of a
12 severe accident.

13 So instead of the general model which I
14 think as far as I can tell is what was used for
15 calculating where the radiological release would go,
16 I think we need a specific model for what happens if
17 there's a serious accident and the radiological
18 release travels down the Missouri River Valley toward
19 Omaha under conditions of strong inversion.

20 Now the environmental review assumed that
21 there would be a 45-minute delay between the release
22 and the commencement of evacuation. With the kind of
23 wind speeds we see during those conditions, that
24 45-minute delay would mean that the radioactive plume
25 was basically at the doorstep of north Omaha before
26 there was an evacuation. Since this is the case, I
27 think that a mitigation strategy should be looked at

1 which would involve sirens, rapid evacuation
2 procedures and so forth for that portion of the Omaha
3 metropolitan area which is located between the
4 Missouri River bluffs.

5 Another problem that I would note in
6 regards to this is that the model that was used
7 specified a deposition rate of 3 centimeters per
8 second. Now that might sound kind of arcane, but if
9 you go through the calculations, under those
10 conditions if you say well, the plume is trapped by an
11 inversion and it settles at 3 centimeters per second.

12 If you run through in 50 minutes, the
13 plume all hits the ground if it doesn't get any higher
14 than the level of the bluffs on both sides. So what
15 that would essentially say is that if you use that
16 assumption, the plume never really makes it to Omaha.
17 It doesn't have time before it settles out. Now, that
18 isn't necessarily valid either. A settling rate of 3
19 centimeters per second would work fairly well if you
20 were talking about pretty large particulates, but if
21 you're talking about small stuff in the air, that
22 settling rate is much too fast.

23 So once again, the implications are in
24 order to have a really adequate environmental review
25 in the case of a severe accident, you need to look at
26 this possibility that the settling rate is less than
27 3 centimeters per second, that it would occur during

1 conditions where there was an inversion and the wind
2 was directed from Fort Calhoun toward Omaha and that
3 those conditions would tend to keep the plume
4 concentrated.

5 One other concern that I would like to
6 mention, although I realize that this one is dealt
7 with in the generic environmental impact statement is
8 I'm sure a concern that a lot of us have about
9 possible terrorist activity. I am a little concerned
10 what happens if a plane, either a commercial aircraft,
11 Eppley is pretty close, or else a small plane that was
12 loaded with explosives or some kind of chemical, did
13 make a direct hit at the Fort Calhoun site, either at
14 the containment structure, the auxiliary building.

15 With the containment is there going to be
16 any problem with embrittlement? Does that mean that
17 the containment is less able to withstand the impact
18 of a plane toward the end of the licensing, the
19 relicensing period than it is right now.

20 Thank you very much for your time and
21 consideration of my concerns.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for those
23 comments, John. Next, we're going to hear from Terry
24 Moore.

25 MR. MOORE: Thank you. I'm glad to be
26 here today. My name is Terry Moore and I am the
27 president of the Omaha Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

1 I'm happy to say that I have been a union member for
2 41 years and the last 26 of those years I have served
3 as the president of the federation that takes in five
4 counties, Burt, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy and Cass
5 and in that area we have over 35,000 union members and
6 of that family is definitely the family of OPPD and
7 the workers that work at that facility.

8 I'm here today to speak in favor of
9 relicensing that with my prepared remarks.

10 The Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station
11 employs 651 residents as part of its regular remanding
12 table. As the regular remanding payroll, \$46.1
13 million, Fort Calhoun payroll has the potential to
14 generate \$3 million in tax revenue. In addition to
15 Fort Calhoun's regular remanding table, the last
16 refueling outage resulted in an additional 592 jobs
17 that produced \$13.8 million in wages and tax revenue
18 potential of \$897,000. That would be a grand total of
19 \$4 million in potential tax revenue in our area.

20 Fort Calhoun also contributes to the
21 social fiber of our community. The Salvation Army,
22 the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts and other charitable
23 organizations as well as houses of worship are able to
24 provide programs that benefit our community, thanks in
25 part, to Fort Calhoun's continued ability to provide
26 good jobs.

27 Local public schools, as well as the

1 Nebraska University system, the Metro Community
2 College benefits from Fort Calhoun's continued
3 operation. As a part of the OPPD, Fort Calhoun played
4 a key role in raising \$250,000 in last year's United
5 Way Midland's drive which is extremely important to
6 our community in raising dollars for charitable
7 organizations in our community.

8 Over the last year, the Omaha labor
9 movement and Fort Calhoun have played and developed a
10 spirit of cooperation on a series of levels in order
11 to operate more safely and proficiently during the
12 fueling outages at Fort Calhoun. Labor and management
13 have taken new innovative approaches to reduce the
14 redundant fees spent on background investigations. In
15 addition, labor and management are working together to
16 provide training off-site. Off-site training reduces
17 the need of additional badging which creates a more
18 secure work environment and also reduces manhours. In
19 an effort to make refueling outages shorter, safer and
20 more proficient, Fort Calhoun and local labor leader
21 organizations have taken steps to ensure that there
22 will be a trained and ready workforce to assist Fort
23 Calhoun with refueling outages.

24 I have had the opportunity to work with
25 the Fort Calhoun employees as a part of my
26 responsibilities as a labor leader. I have found each
27 of them take pride in everything they do, each are

1 extremely knowledgeable in their job, and each
2 acknowledge that safety is woven into every factor of
3 their jobs. And I believe this is an excellent
4 reflection of Fort Calhoun's management.

5 You have to forgive me, I'm coming over a
6 cold, so if I'm drying up here, I apologize. It's
7 because of that continued effort of business and labor
8 working together in the management of that facility,
9 that I think has brought about a tremendous end in
10 what has happened in the last fueling outage. We had
11 30 days scheduled in that facility. I'm happy to tell
12 you that we did that in 29 days, 3 hours and 19
13 minutes under the called time and further to tell you
14 that I'm extremely happy to say there was not one
15 grievance filed by one worker. There wasn't one
16 stoppage or one slow down on any part of this job and
17 I think that is a great credit to the workers of OPPD
18 and the management that has worked diligently to make
19 sure we forge a long lasting relationship. Thank you.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr.
21 Moore. Next we're going to hear from three emergency
22 management officials and I'd like to start with
23 Jonathan Schwarz.

24 MR. SCHWARZ: My name is Jonathan Schwarz.
25 I'm the Radiological Programs Manager with the
26 Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and I'm here
27 representing my boss, Al Berndt, who is the Assistant

1 Director. He asked me to read a letter into the
2 record.

3 "The Fort Calhoun Station is one part of
4 the Omaha Public Power District's diverse public power
5 structure.

6 The State of Nebraska and in particular,
7 the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, works
8 closely and on a regular basis with the Fort Calhoun
9 Nuclear Station's Security and Emergency Planning
10 Staff to ensure the health and safety of the citizens
11 of Nebraska through off-site emergency planning,
12 training and exercising.

13 The Fort Calhoun Station's Security and
14 Emergency Planning Staff ensure that any emergency on-
15 site plan changes are reviewed and concurred with by
16 the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and the
17 Nebraska Health and Human Services Regulation and
18 Licensure, as well as with local emergency management
19 officials.

20 Security measures are closely coordinated,
21 not only with the FBI, but both with the Nebraska
22 State Patrol and local law enforcement.

23 The Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station's
24 Security and Emergency Planning Staff assists the
25 Nebraska Emergency Management Agency by providing
26 information for off-site planning, updates and
27 revisions and actively participates in annual training

1 of emergency first responders through team training,
2 that is, state and plant personnel conduct training
3 together.

4 The Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station provides
5 funding to support off-site planning and emergency
6 response. As an example, the equipment provided, the
7 station provided portable monitors for the local
8 reception and care facilities.

9 The Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station's
10 Security and Emergency Planning Staff help ensure
11 close and friendly working relationships with the
12 state and local officials and emergency first
13 responders by hosting quarterly meetings to coordinate
14 plans, training, exercises and drills. And on an
15 annual basis, an appreciation night is sponsored by
16 the Station for the efforts put forth by those local
17 volunteer emergency first responders who attend
18 training and exercises on their own time.

19 The close relationships developed by the
20 Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station Security and Emergency
21 Planning Staff with state and local agencies has paid
22 off big dividends as evidenced by the last FEMA
23 evaluated off-site full-scale exercise where there
24 were no areas requiring corrective actions and no
25 deficiencies.

26 In the immediate aftermath of the
27 September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, there was close

1 coordination between the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station
2 Security and Planning Staff with the Nebraska State
3 Patrol and the Nebraska Military Department which
4 includes the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and
5 the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard, as well as
6 with local law enforcement to ensure an immediate
7 response should it be necessary by the Fort Calhoun
8 Nuclear Station.

9 Many of the employees from the Fort
10 Calhoun Nuclear Station and their families live and
11 work in local communities surrounding the nuclear
12 power station. These people participate in local
13 religious and service organizations that benefit the
14 communities they live in and the State of Nebraska.
15 They also participate in and support local schools and
16 local governments. As these employees and their
17 families live in surrounding communities, they have a
18 strong incentive to ensure the continued safe
19 operation of the nuclear station and the station's
20 continued efforts to preserve the quality of life and
21 environment.

22 As described, it can be seen that the Fort
23 Calhoun Nuclear Station and its staff are a large and
24 beneficial part of the local economy. The Fort
25 Calhoun Nuclear Station, with working partners such as
26 they have with the State of Nebraska, is considered a
27 Nebraska asset that must be retained."

1 Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jonathan. Let's
3 go to Mr. Bill Pook.

4 MR. POOK: My name is Bill Pook. I'm with
5 the Region 56 Office of Emergency Management and I'm
6 here representing the emergency responders in
7 Washington, as the Rist County and Dodge County as the
8 host community for potential evacuation. Throughout
9 the years, emergency planners and responders, people
10 that are the local people, the ones that are actually
11 doing the actual grunt labor, the first responders, we
12 have developed a very strong working relationship at
13 multiple levels with the Fort Calhoun Station
14 personnel.

15 The people there provide us with an open
16 line of communication on multiple issues. They
17 participate in local emergency planning in their
18 facility and outside the fence as well. They provide
19 us with use of facilities, equipment, personnel and
20 financial resources directly in response to the REP
21 plan. Also, Fort Calhoun Station personnel go beyond
22 their minimum responsibilities of radiological
23 emergency preparedness, but they also participate in
24 our local emergency planning committees and support
25 all our hazard emergency planning programs.

26 The Fort Calhoun personnel are neighbors,
27 are friends, more than just faces entity that sits

1 down the road.

2 The OPPD Station at Fort Calhoun is a
3 stellar example of what corporate citizenship should
4 be in any civics book. We wholeheartedly endorse
5 their renewal application and pray that the NRC grants
6 this application request.

7 As a public citizen, I was involved in the
8 pilot plant reactor oversight process and I also
9 annually review the end of cycle plant performance
10 reports on a very, very close basis. As a father in
11 the community and an emergency responder, I am
12 thoroughly satisfied with the safety measures that the
13 NRC has in place at the Fort Calhoun Station, but I am
14 also more impressed with the extra steps that Fort
15 Calhoun Station has chosen to go above and beyond the
16 minimum NRC standards. NRC and Fort Calhoun provide
17 a very safe neighbor for me and my children. Thank
18 you very much.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Pook. And
20 let's go to Mr. Hummel, Terry Hummel.

21 MR. HUMMEL: Good afternoon, many thanks
22 to the NRC for hosting this public forum. I'm Terry
23 Hummel. I represent the Pottawattamie County, Iowa
24 Emergency Management Agency and the other public
25 safety agencies in that county. I have served as the
26 Pottawattamie County Emergency Management Coordinator
27 for eight years and during that period hardly a month

1 has gone by where some form of interchange has not
2 transpired between the Security and Emergency Planning
3 Department and other nuclear operations staff at the
4 OPPD, Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station and the Public
5 Safety Staff in Pottawattamie County.

6 The referenced activities included
7 quarterly emergency communications drills, unannounced
8 communications checks, written correspondence
9 involving improvements in emergency plans and training
10 in many forms to include four FEMA evaluated
11 radiological emergency preparedness exercises.

12 Other joint training activities included
13 OPPD staff involvement and annual training of our
14 county radiological emergency response organization
15 and our joint quarterly off-site training meetings.
16 The bottom line in our realm of experience, the staff
17 at the OPPD and Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station is
18 thoroughly professional and meticulous in attention to
19 detail concerning their approach to public safety. In
20 short, they are fully integrated and a key member of
21 our public safety team and in view of their
22 professional performance and contributions to our
23 community, I and we, support the OPPD's application to
24 continue operating at Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station for
25 another 20 years. Thank you.

26 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Hummel.
27 That's the last of the speakers that we had that

1 signed up. Is there anyone else who wants to say
2 anything to us this afternoon before we adjourn?

3 Yes sir? Do you want to come up here,
4 please? Great.

5 MR. SCHLESINGER: Thirty years ago, I
6 participated in the --

7 MR. CAMERON: Sir, could you just give us
8 your name. I'm sorry to interrupt you, but just give
9 us your name for the record.

10 MR. SCHLESINGER: Alan Schlesinger. I am
11 a retired college professor, Creighton University,
12 Department of Biology. Thirty years ago in 1970, a
13 little more than 30, I participated as a paid
14 consultant and I would like to rapidly say that it's
15 been 20 years since I received a check from OPPD.

16 (Laughter.)

17 But at that time I participated in the
18 writing of the environmental impact statement for Fort
19 Calhoun Station. In the following 10 years, due to
20 the mandated pre- and post-operational studies that
21 were associated with the granting of the original
22 license, I participated in a very large number of
23 reports, data gathering, information exchanges, which
24 involved people from an entire community that sprang
25 up at that time. These were the individuals who had
26 expressed concerns about environmental effects of the
27 plant.

1 They were the investigational groups from,
2 for example, the University of Nebraska, Nebraska Game
3 and Parks Commission, EPA, States of Missouri, Iowa,
4 a whole community of interested people began studying
5 the Missouri River and it's that particular area that
6 I would like to bring to the attention of the people
7 who will be making decisions concerning the
8 environmental impact.

9 The volume of productivity at that time
10 was astronomical. It was absolutely an unprecedented
11 outpouring of investigation on a stretch of a river
12 that up to that time had received practically no
13 attention. The period prior to that has given rise to
14 a misconception. I would guess that if you were to
15 ask an academic anywhere in this area what is known
16 about the Missouri River, the answer would be nothing.

17 There is a confusion, a lack of
18 information, that has become embedded in what we might
19 refer to then as the common wisdom, that the Missouri
20 River is a desert in terms of investigational
21 enthusiasm that nobody knows anything about it and
22 therefore the conclusion might rapidly be drawn that
23 any activity on the river will have a variety of
24 unforeseen effects because if you don't know what is
25 there, you obviously cannot figure out what might
26 happen.

27 Well, my remarks today are designed to

1 eliminate that misconception. The river is thoroughly
2 understood in a variety of ways. To start off with
3 fisheries. The fisheries have been investigated over
4 a period of approximately 50 years, starting off
5 slowly, but then building at an enormous level of
6 investigational studies. If you're interested in
7 zooplankton, phytoplankton, macroinvertebrates, insect
8 larvae, if you like larval fish, the distribution of
9 eggs, from upstream hatchery areas down the river, if
10 you are fascinated by impingement, entrainment, any of
11 the things that you can think of, they have been done.
12 They have been done in enormous detail.

13 I'm assuming that those of you who are
14 specifically charged with this, know all the
15 documents. However, there is a shortcut to getting to
16 them if you do not know them all. I said that a
17 community of investigators had sprung up. We met one
18 another constantly at hearings, at meetings, at
19 exchanges of information over a period of 12 years.
20 People from Nebraska, Creighton University, University
21 of Nebraska, a variety of other agencies. And met one
22 another and typically they were in adversarial
23 positions.

24 These were people who took opposite sides
25 on practically everything. At the end of that period
26 of time we were all sitting down at lunch and I said
27 isn't it a shame that at the end of this, this

1 enormous amount of investigation is going to disappear
2 into file cabinets, internal documents, rarely seen
3 publications and none of it will ever have been pulled
4 together.

5 We agreed, there were five of us, who
6 agreed to do the heavy lifting. We said we will meet
7 and we met over a period of three years weekly in the
8 library of Nebraska Game and Park Commission Office in
9 Lincoln. The "we" incidentally if you're interested
10 in names were Larry Hesse, Gary Hargenradar, Howard
11 Lewis, Steven Reeds and myself.

12 We pulled together all of that information
13 and asked the people who had done the work over that
14 period of time to write and it came out to be 11 or 12
15 chapters on all the various subdivisional portions of
16 the investigation.

17 Thermal plume effects. We asked the Corps
18 of Engineers to give us a chapter on the structural
19 changes that have been brought about by the levy
20 construction, dike construction. We asked them to
21 pull out all of the information that would be critical
22 to comprehending cross channel distributions, rates of
23 flow and then put into those figures the
24 distributional patterns for such things as larval fish
25 drifts and so on.

26 If you think that you can drop a hoop net
27 some place in the river, pull out a sample, and

1 extrapolate to the distribution, just multiply your
2 figure out by a cross-section, you're wrong. You're
3 wrong by so much that you probably will be embarrassed
4 by somebody who knows that there is a stratification,
5 both vertically and horizontally, throughout every
6 portion of the river.

7 The organisms do not follow the malted
8 milk mixing pattern. They are very specifically
9 distributed.

10 All of that stuff is available. It's in
11 a book; we put out a book. It's called The Middle
12 Missouri River. It's available in every library in
13 this area, most of the universities. I've called it
14 to your attention. It'll make your life a lot easier
15 if you take some time to look at what was done 30
16 years ago.

17 Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you for
19 sharing that information with us, too.

20 Is there anybody else that wants to say
21 anything before we adjourn?

22 Okay. We're going to be back for another
23 meeting tonight at 7:00, and there will be an open
24 house before that, beginning at 6:00. And, of course,
25 all of you are welcome to join us again tonight.

26 And thank you for coming out, and thank
27 you for giving us your comments and information. So

1 we're adjourned for this afternoon.

2 (Whereupon, at 2:35 p.m., the
3 proceedings in the foregoing matter were
4 adjourned.)

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