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License Renewal Application
Environmental Scoping Process
Public Meeting - Afternoon Session

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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R. E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS

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PUBLIC MEETING - AFTERNOON SESSION

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WEDNESDAY,

NOVEMBER 6, 2002

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WEBSTER, NEW YORK

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The meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. at the Betty Rissberger Community Room, Webster Public Library, 980 Ridge Road, Webster, NY, Chip Cameron, Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

CHIP CAMERON, FACILITATOR

JOHN TAPPERT

ROBERT SCHAAF

RUSS ARRIGHI

FRANK GILLESPIE

KENNETH KOLACZYK

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(1:35 p.m.)

FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Chip Cameron, I'm the Special Counsel for Public Liaison, in the Office of General Counsel at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

And I would like to welcome you to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's public meeting this afternoon. And our topic for today is the scope of the NRC's environmental review on the request of Rochester Gas and Electric, to renew the license for the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant.

And it is my pleasure to serve as your facilitator today, and my main responsibility in that role will be to try to help all of you have a productive meeting this afternoon.

I just wanted to briefly cover some items about the meeting process, before we get to our first substantive item of discussion. And in terms of our objectives for today's meeting, and you will be hearing more about this from the NRC staff, we have two primary objectives.

One is to clearly explain to you the NRC's evaluation process for an application to renew a

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1 license, and specifically the environmental review
2 portion of the NRC's evaluation process.

3 And the second objective, and the most
4 important one, is to hear your recommendations, your
5 advice, on what the NRC should consider in its
6 environmental review, what types of information should
7 we look at, what types of environmental impacts, what
8 types of alternatives should be looked at.

9 Now, we are taking written comments on
10 these issues, and the staff will tell you the process
11 for submitting those written comments. But we wanted
12 to be here, in person, with you today to meet you, and
13 to talk with you.

14 Our format for the meeting matches the
15 objectives. Basically we are going to do this in two
16 parts. One is to give you information and context on
17 the NRC's evaluation process, and we will have a
18 couple of short presentations, and then go out to you
19 to answer any questions that you might have on the
20 process.

21 The second part of the meeting will be
22 devoted to listening to you and we will give you an
23 opportunity to come up here, to the microphone, and to
24 give us some formal comments on these issues.

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1 In terms of ground rules, if you have
2 anything to say, a question or a comment, during the
3 first part of the meeting, just signal me and I will
4 bring you this talking stick. Give us your name and
5 affiliation, if appropriate, so that we can get that
6 on the transcript.

7 We are taking a transcript of the meeting,
8 and that will be publicly available for anybody who
9 wants to get a copy, and it is our record of what was
10 said this afternoon.

11 I would ask that only one person speak at
12 a time, not only so that we can get a clear transcript
13 to identify who is speaking. But, more importantly,
14 so that we can all give our full attention to whomever
15 has the floor at the time.

16 The third ground rule is, as much as
17 practicable try to be concise in your comments. I
18 know that that is difficult, sometimes, on these types
19 of issues. But we do want to make sure that everyone
20 who wants to talk this afternoon has an opportunity to
21 talk.

22 So if you try to be brief then that will
23 help us to try to meet that goal. When we go to the
24 second part of the meeting where we ask you to come up

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1 and make formal comments, I would ask you to follow a
2 guideline of five minutes.

3 Nothing terrible will happen, obviously,
4 if you go over five minutes. But try to keep it to
5 that time frame, so that we can get everybody on who
6 wants to talk. And we have several people signed up
7 already.

8 And in terms of the agenda, so that you
9 know what we are going to do, and who is going to be
10 talking to you, what I would like to do is just go
11 over the agenda, and introduce some of the NRC
12 speakers.

13 I asked John Tappert, from the NRC, to
14 give you a short welcome after I'm done, because he is
15 -- and this is John Tappert right here, John is the
16 section leader of the Environmental Section in the
17 License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program at
18 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

19 And that program is within our Office of
20 Nuclear Reactor Regulation. John's staff are
21 responsible for doing all of the environmental reviews
22 for any plant, nuclear power plant, that comes in for
23 license renewal, and other environmental projects that
24 the NRC has to do on nuclear reactors.

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1 He has been with the Commission for
2 approximately 11 years, he was a resident inspector at
3 operating nuclear power plants. He has a bachelor's
4 degree in ocean and aerospace engineering, and a
5 master's degree in environmental engineering from
6 Johns Hopkins University. And we will go to John in
7 a minute.

8 The next speaker from the NRC will be Russ
9 Arrighi, who is right here. And Russ is going to give
10 you an overview of the license renewal evaluation
11 process, generally, so that you can see the whole
12 picture and schedule for what is going to be
13 happening.

14 Now, Russ is the project manager for the
15 safety evaluation on the Ginna license renewal
16 application. And he will tell you what goes into that
17 safety evaluation.

18 Like John Tappert he has been a resident
19 inspector at operating nuclear power plants. He also
20 worked at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. He has a
21 bachelor's in chemical engineering from the University
22 of Rhode Island.

23 And after Russ is done, we will go out to
24 you for questions on the overall process. Then we are
25 going to go to the final NRC presentation, which is

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1 going to be done by Mr. Robert Schaaf, Bob Schaaf, who
2 is right here.

3 Bob is the project manager on the
4 environmental review side of the Ginna license renewal
5 application. So he is responsible for making sure
6 that the environmental review is completed, and he
7 will tell you about that process.

8 He has been with the NRC for about 12
9 years. He has been a project manager for various
10 operating reactors around the country. He also worked
11 at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. He has a bachelor's
12 degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech.

13 And I do want to make one final
14 introduction, because we do have part of the NRC
15 senior management team here, Mr. Frank Gillespie, who
16 is the Deputy Director of the Division of Regulatory
17 Improvement Programs. I'm not sure I got that right.

18 But that is the division, within our
19 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, where the
20 License Renewal and Environmental Impacts branch is,
21 and Frank is with us today.

22 I would just thank all of you for being
23 here to help us with this important decision that the
24 NRC has to make, in terms of whether to renew the
25 license. I would encourage you, after the meeting, to

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1 take the opportunity to talk to the NRC staff that are
2 involved in this.

3 We also have some expert consultants in a
4 number of scientific areas of expertise that are
5 relevant to the environmental review, that are with
6 us, and they will also be available.

7 And with that I would turn it over to John
8 Tappert, to just say a few words to us. John?

9 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip. Good
10 afternoon, and welcome.

11 As Chip said, my name is John Tappert, and
12 I'm the chief of the Environmental Section in the
13 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. And on behalf
14 of the NRC I would like to thank everyone for coming
15 out today, and participating in our process.

16 As Chip said, there are several things we
17 would like to cover today. I would like to briefly go
18 over the purpose of today's meeting.

19 First of all we want to provide a brief
20 overview of the entire license renewal program, and
21 this includes both the safety review, as well as the
22 environmental review, which is the principal focus of
23 today's meeting.

24 Then we will give you some additional
25 information about our environmental review, we will

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1 talk about the issues that we look at, the schedule
2 that we are going to follow, and how you can
3 participate in the process.

4 At the conclusion of the staff's
5 presentation we will be happy to receive any questions
6 or comments that you may have today.

7 But first let me provide some context for
8 the entire license renewal program. The Atomic Energy
9 Act gives the NRC the authority to issue operating
10 licenses to commercial nuclear power plants for a
11 period of 40 years.

12 For Ginna that operating license will
13 expire in 2009. Our regulations also make provisions
14 for extending that operating license for an additional
15 20 years, as part of the license renewal program. And
16 RG&E has requested license renewal for Ginna.

17 As part of the NRC's review of that
18 license renewal application we will be conducting an
19 environmental impact statement, developing an
20 environmental impact statement. And as part of that
21 the first step is to conduct a scoping process.

22 In that scoping process we identify those
23 issues which will require the greatest focus during
24 our review. And the principal purpose of this

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1 meeting, here today, is to receive your input into
2 that scoping process.

3 And with that I would like to ask Russ to
4 briefly go over the license renewal portion, safety
5 portion.

6 MR. ARRIGHI: Thank you, John. As John
7 mentioned, my name is Russ Arrighi, I'm the project
8 manager for the safety review portion of the license
9 renewal application for the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant.

10 The license renewal process essentially
11 runs in two parallel paths. There is a safety review,
12 which I'm in charge of, and there is also an
13 environmental review.

14 The safety review is a review and
15 inspection of the aging management programs for
16 passive long-lived structure systems and components.
17 And the reason why the Commission felt that these
18 programs should be the focus of the regulation, is
19 because the ongoing regulatory process already ensures
20 that the current licensing basis is adequately
21 maintained.

22 And things like emergency planning, and
23 security plans are acceptably implemented. Now, there
24 are components that need to be constantly attended to.
25 However, the maintenance processes don't explicitly

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1 look at the design capability to cope with long-term
2 degradation due to aging.

3 So the renewal application focuses on
4 those inspection programs, and the maintenance
5 processes that are used to maintain the margins of
6 safety.

7 The second review process is the
8 environmental review, which Bob Schaaf will discuss
9 later. I also want to mention that there is an
10 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS.

11 They also review, do an independent review
12 of the renewal application, as well as the staff's
13 safety evaluation. The Committee reports their
14 findings directly to the Commission.

15 As you can see from the slide, the license
16 renewal process essentially runs in two parallel
17 paths. The upper portion, we have the safety review,
18 and the lower, we have the environmental review.

19 As I mentioned earlier, the ACRS reviews
20 the staff's safety review, and the application, in
21 order to develop its independent findings. The ACRS
22 will hold public meetings, which are transcribed, oral
23 and written statements can be provided during that
24 meeting, in accordance with instructions in the
25 *Federal Register*.

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1 In parallel with the safety review, the
2 staff performs a review of the environmental impact
3 for continued operation. And, as Bob Schaaf will
4 discuss later, the staff will issue an environmental
5 impact statement on the facility, after it completes
6 that review.

7 Now, the NRC's licensing process also
8 includes a process for public involvement, and that is
9 conducted through Hearings that are conducted by a
10 panel of Administrative Law Judges, who are called the
11 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, or ASLB.

12 That process requires a petition to be
13 submitted to hold a hearing on a particular issue, and
14 that would be litigated by that Board. However, there
15 were no petitions to intervene for the Ginna
16 proceedings.

17 At the end of the review process the final
18 safety evaluation report, the final environmental
19 impact statements, the results of the staff's
20 inspections, and ACRS recommendations, are used by the
21 Agency in making the final license renewal decision.

22 Throughout the process, this license
23 renewal process, interested members of the public who
24 are concerned about nuclear safety issues can raise
25 those issues in various public meetings.

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1 There are meetings on particular technical
2 issues which are normally held in the NRC headquarters
3 in Rockville, Maryland. Some of those meetings, as
4 well as the results of the NRC's inspection findings,
5 those meetings would be held here, locally, for the
6 public to attend.

7 In addition to those meetings the staff
8 holds two sets of public meetings. The first set of
9 meetings will be conducted today, and the latter set
10 will be done during the summer, which will discuss the
11 environmental aspects of the review.

12 Essentially that is a brief overview of
13 the process. I will now take questions regarding the
14 general overview process before we proceed on the
15 environmental presentation by Bob Schaaf.

16 I do want to mention that we will be here,
17 after today's meeting, to answer questions, also.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Russ.
19 That is the overview. Does anybody have any questions
20 on the overview process? Could you just give us your
21 name?

22 DR. LOOMIS: Yes, Norman Loomis, Ontario,
23 New York. And there will be two or three more public
24 meetings, am I correct?

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1 MR. ARRIGHI: Yes, again, there will be a
2 meeting later tonight at 7 o'clock. There will be
3 another set of meetings, later this summer, for
4 environmental review.

5 We have an inspection plan, we have
6 inspectors that will be coming to the site, to look at
7 the plant, to ensure the things that they put in the
8 application. And that meeting, that exit meeting,
9 will be in the summer, also, in the June time frame.

10 Again, there are technical questions that
11 the staff asks the utility. And, again, most of those
12 meetings are normally held in our Rockville office,
13 but some of those meetings may be held down here in
14 the local area.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And if people want
16 to know about when certain meetings are going to
17 happen, there may not be a public meeting like this,
18 but as Russ mentioned, there may be a meeting with the
19 license applicant at this point, that are open to the
20 public.

21 If people want to find out about those
22 meetings, are they on the NRC website? How do people
23 find out about a meeting that you are going to, for
24 example, have on these issues with the utility?

25 MR. ARRIGHI: I'm not sure.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Let's go to John
2 Tappert.

3 MR. TAPPERT: They are on the website,
4 Chip. If it is a public meeting it will be noticed to
5 the website. And if you would like to be notified,
6 personally, we can put you on distribution for those
7 documents, as well. If you see one of us, after the
8 meeting, we can put you on that.

9 Just going back to your question of what
10 the public meetings are going to be, there are going
11 to be, as far as soliciting public comments and input,
12 we are going to have the meeting this afternoon, the
13 meeting this evening, and then next summer, as well.
14 Next August, I think it is what it is scheduled for.

15 And that will be to receive comments on
16 our draft environmental impact statement.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, John,
18 thank you, Russ. Let's go to --

19 MS. ANDERSON: Yes. My name is Bernadette
20 Anderson, I live in Webster. And I wasn't quite clear
21 on how you are going to evaluate, as part of the
22 renewal process, the long-term degradation issues that
23 are very prominent in nuclear power plants across the
24 country, Ohio being one, Virginia another one.

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1 The cracks and the various issues that
2 have surfaced and have caused great concerns in a
3 number of communities across the country, how do you
4 propose to make the public aware of the process that
5 you are going to be using in evaluating degradation?

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
7 Russ?

8 MR. ARRIGHI: In the application the
9 licensee discusses their aging management programs
10 that we will use to evaluate the status of the plant.
11 Now, with regard to some of the cracking, and issues
12 that are generic that you bring up, the licensee has
13 programs in place that inspect for those areas.

14 And the NRC has inspectors on-site that
15 would review those findings. Now, we also issue
16 bulletins, or information notices, that require the
17 fact to take certain actions. And as the on-site
18 resident staff, they will look into those issues to
19 make sure that they are in compliance.

20 MS. ANDERSON: May I have a follow-up
21 question please?

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Sure.

23 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. That is,
24 obviously fine, because that is part of the day to day
25 inspection. I'm talking about a 20 year out in the

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1 future evaluation by the NRC, how are you going to go
2 about evaluating long-term degradation on that basis?

3 MR. ARRIGHI: Well, the aging management
4 program at the facility ensures that those programs in
5 place will minimize degradation, or they monitor and
6 inspect -- excuse me.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Do we have a
8 standard review plan? For example, if someone wanted
9 to look at what the NRC looks at on the safety side,
10 if someone wanted to go and read something, is there
11 a standard review plan, or anything like that, for
12 that, Russ?

13 MR. ARRIGHI: On certain inspections that
14 the NRC performs?

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: No, on your review
16 of the safety side, the aging issues.

17 MR. ARRIGHI: Well, after the applicant
18 issues the application, NRC will review that
19 application, will develop a safety evaluation report.
20 And in that report we docket our inspection findings,
21 and our assessment of the application, to ensure that
22 those programs that are in place, they cover the
23 appropriate equipment, that those programs that are in
24 place are adequate to maintain the aging effects of
25 the components.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. So two
2 important documents, and we may not have completely
3 answered your question yet. But there is the
4 application, and there is information in there. There
5 is the NRC staff, something called the safety
6 evaluation report, that shows what we looked at, and
7 what conclusions we reached.

8 And, John, do you want to add some more to
9 this, for the question?

10 MR. TAPPERT: Yes. There is an important
11 point to make here. The license renewal we are
12 looking at aging management programs for these
13 components.

14 If things come up, during the operational
15 experience of the power plants, you are talking about
16 the Davis Besse event, which is a very serious event
17 that occurred earlier this year. When something like
18 that happens we don't wait for license renewal
19 application to come in, to take action.

20 We have issued directives to the plants to
21 conduct inspections, and to take corrective actions
22 today. We don't wait for the renewal license for 2009
23 for Ginna, we don't wait for that, we take those
24 issues on today.

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1 And that will continue in the extended
2 licensing period. If something happens in 2015, which
3 will require action, we will take action at that time.
4 So this is a review, but it is not done in a vacuum,
5 and it is not the only review that is going to be done
6 for this plant.

7 MS. ANDERSON: One last point. There has
8 to be, in my view, if you are extending a plant that
9 has an age of 30 plus years, another 20 years, if you
10 are giving approval for that, there has to be
11 something concrete, in my view, that has to be given
12 to the public, that estimates the degradation factors
13 that this plant will experience, over time, and gives
14 the public some comfort that these aging plants that
15 many, many people feel should be shut down yesterday,
16 are actually able to stay online safely for another 20
17 years.

18 What kind of comfort will you give to the
19 population, that will be the case?

20 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And we do have Frank
21 Gillespie, over here, who is going to say something.
22 Frank, will you address that? Okay.

23 MR. GILLESPIE: I'm ancient and aged.
24 I've been doing this for 31 years.

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1 The guys jumped right to a plant-specific
2 answer on you. Let me step back and say how we are
3 making sure the best science is applied to your
4 question. Let me go back to the early 1990s.

5 Our research group put together a series
6 of 150 reports that looked at things like austenitic
7 stainless steel, the specific components and materials
8 in these facilities, in the specific environment.
9 Austenitic stainless steel, in less than 140 degrees,
10 in borated water.

11 Those are summarized into a document which
12 is called the Generic Aging Lessons Learned Document.
13 The first version of that was actually put out in
14 about the mid-'90s, which covered what we thought was
15 all of the best science on how fast various materials
16 and components for their use in the specific
17 environments, in the specific plants, would degrade.

18 That further got summarized as we said,
19 what programs currently exist that already appear to
20 take care of that? And the key one we have is called
21 the Maintenance Rule that we have out, which requires
22 people, on active components, to monitor, look at,
23 inspect, break down, and maintain active components.

24 But we got to a point you are getting to
25 in that we said, you know what, we know the pump will

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1 pump water, we know the internals go around, but we
2 don't know that the case will hold pressure.

3 And so what the GALL report does is breaks
4 down these components. There were things like
5 pressure use of the primary circuit, and actually
6 differentiates how the pressure boundary will degrade,
7 versus how the internals will degrade.

8 And that document, by the way, is
9 available on our website, and it is called the Generic
10 Aging Lessons Learned document, and it has these
11 series of two series documents behind it, which led up
12 to that.

13 In relaying that, to the application, you
14 will find that the applicant, which in this case is
15 Ginna, by design they relate their systems to the
16 systems in the degradation mechanisms and the
17 environments that those components receive, that is in
18 this research document.

19 And that is what the staff is really using
20 to judge, have we covered everything we know about?
21 And so what we are trying to do is trying to take the
22 best science, and operating experience. Operating
23 experience is a very big influence in this, put it in
24 that document.

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1 There is a joint document that goes as a
2 companion to this Generic Aging Lessons Learned, it is
3 our Standard Review Plan. And what it tries to do is
4 extract, and give us what the acceptance criteria is.

5 And if an applicant doesn't meet that
6 acceptance criteria we go through a question and
7 answering process, in writing, on the record to say,
8 why aren't you doing what the best science says you
9 should do?

10 And that is, basically, all on the record.
11 So you will see, if you go out and look at the three
12 volumes, which are very tedious to look at, but you
13 will see GALL, or the Generic Aging Lessons Learned
14 Document referenced, actually, in their application,
15 to make this connection between science and practical
16 application.

17 The other thing the applicant had to do,
18 is we don't allow an application to come in before 20
19 years of operation. That is because of the unique
20 configurations of a facility could introduce unique
21 aspects of cracks, erosion, corrosion, at that
22 facility.

23 And, therefore, we want at least 20 years
24 of direct observation and monitoring on these

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1 components, before we will give credit for trying to
2 project that even further forward.

3 In Ginna's case they have over 30 years of
4 observation on components. And you will find that
5 what they are committed to, in many cases, is at least
6 a one time test to make sure that any assumptions made
7 on how fast things could erode, corrode, or crack, is
8 in their application.

9 And that is what the staff is really
10 reviewing, is the future, it is these commitments, and
11 the time scale, connected to the best science. So
12 those documents are all available on the NRC website.

13 They are very tedious, and they are very
14 thick. And I guess if you write in to John, and
15 really want a copy, he has them on CD, we could send
16 you even a CD with it.

17 Chip, I think, did I get to your question?
18 I tried. It was a bit long.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Right. That was
20 very, very helpful, Frank, in terms of what parameters
21 the NRC looks at. Let's go back here.

22 MR. JUDSON: My name is Tim Judson, I'm
23 with the Citizens Awareness Network. And just for
24 clarity's sake, I wanted to sort of test this.

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1 It seems like the answer to this woman's
2 question is that, no, the NRC isn't, as part of the
3 relicensing process, going to do a systemic review of
4 the aging and degradation of the reactor.

5 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I think we better --
6 it is important to clarify that, because I'm not sure
7 that is the case. John, you heard, and Russ, you
8 heard Tim's question. Can you address that, before he
9 goes on?

10 MR. ARRIGHI: The utility has programs --

11 MR. JUDSON: I understand that. I mean,
12 what I'm saying is, you know, it seemed like the
13 question was whether as part of reevaluating the
14 relicensing application, whether NRC does, you know,
15 an actual material condition inspection review, to
16 determine whether this reactor could safely operate
17 for another 20 years.

18 And didn't this used to be included as
19 part of the relicensing process? And there were
20 certain reactors that were preparing their
21 applications, that determined that the reactor was
22 already too degraded, like Yankee Rowe?

23 MR. ARRIGHI: We are going to perform
24 inspections at the facility, they will be walking down

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1 various systems, but it is essentially to look for
2 what components and systems are in scope.

3 We do have inspectors there on a day to
4 day basis that look for the -- look over the general
5 condition of the plant, look at the surveillances that
6 the utility performs to make sure the equipment is
7 running properly on a day to day basis.

8 But, no, that is not a part of the license
9 renewal inspection, to my knowledge.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Anybody else, from
11 NRC, want to comment on Tim's question? Tim, do you
12 have some further point?

13 MR. KOLACZYK: My name is Ken Kolaczyk,
14 I'm the senior resident inspector of the Ginna
15 station. I would like to try to answer your question.

16 As part of the utility's Appellant to
17 renew their operating license for another 20 years,
18 they had to do a study to determine if their reactor
19 vessel is safe for another 20 years.

20 So in partial answer to your question,
21 yes. And as part of their analysis of whether they
22 can operate the plant for another 20 years they had to
23 extrapolate, just assuming normal wear and tear, would
24 the vessel maintain its integrity.

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1 It is also important to realize that the
2 utility, as part of its ongoing maintenance program,
3 has performed various non-destructive examinations of
4 parts of the reactor vessel internals. So that gives
5 us confidence that the reactor vessel is, in fact,
6 safe.

7 I live and work in the local area, so I'm
8 very concerned about the integrity of the reactor
9 vessel at Ginna. So, to answer your question, yes.
10 There have been many studies concerning some of the
11 reactor vessels that you deal with, that have
12 determined that they were safe to possibly operate
13 another 20 years.

14 I hope that answers your question.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And thanks, Ken. I
16 should point out that Ken is our senior resident at
17 the Ginna power plant. Thank you very much, Ken.
18 Susan? And please tell us your full name.

19 MS. GATELEY: Susan Gateley, Lakeshore
20 Environmental Action. A quick question, just to
21 clarify that process of the generic aging reviews.

22 Back and forth between the NRC and the
23 licensed operator of the plant, is any of that very
24 technical information ever reviewed by outside parties

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1 that are not directly tied to the industry, or the
2 government?

3 And if so how could we get their
4 interpretations of it? Because it is so technical for
5 citizens to try to wade through a six-inch thick
6 volume, or whatever?

7 MR. ARRIGHI: There is the Advisory
8 Committee of Reactor Safeguards, which is on that flow
9 chart, there. And they review the application, as
10 well as the Staff's safety evaluation report. And
11 they make the recommendation to the Commission, should
12 we approve this license renewal process.

13 And the ACRS, they are, some of those
14 members are, they are recognized experts in their
15 field. Some may be former utility employees, they
16 also could be professors, and what not. I don't know
17 all their particular expertise. But not all of them,
18 necessarily, are from the utility, but they are
19 recognized experts.

20 MS. GATELEY: Are they a government, how
21 are they funded, or what are they? Are they part of
22 the NRC? I don't quite understand.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: They are an advisory
24 committee that is a statutory, in other words, it was
25 mandated, the creation of this advisory committee, to

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1 advise the NRC. They are not NRC employees, they do
2 make an independent recommendation.

3 Their budget, I believe, is part of the
4 total NRC budget package. And I believe -- Russ, the
5 Advisory Committee will be issuing its own report on
6 the license renewal application, and do they, in some
7 cases they do come to the locality around the plant,
8 to have one of their meetings? Is that correct, Russ?

9 MR. ARRIGHI: Yes.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. So they will
11 be here, and you can participate in that meeting. In
12 terms of other independent groups, I would only say
13 that I would, maybe impose upon Tim Judson to -- in
14 terms of some of the national groups, like Union of
15 Concerned Scientists, I think on their website they
16 may have various reports on plant aging issues.

17 And, Tim, can you give us any information
18 on that? I think you know what Susan is looking for,
19 I don't know if you can.

20 MR. JUDSON: On plant aging issues?

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Yes. I mean, are
22 there national groups, non-profits, that will look at
23 some of these generic aging issues, and post
24 information on their website?

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1 Of course we couldn't vouch for that, but
2 just trying to get information for Susan.

3 MR. JUDSON: Well, basically, the
4 information that groups, I think the national groups
5 like UCS have, is basically NRC documents that they
6 boil down and synthesize for the public. But I think
7 what Susan is asking is something different about
8 whether there is, you know, independent technical,
9 scientific, agencies or organizations, that review the
10 data themselves, first-hand, and make evaluations of
11 it.

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: That would be the,
13 I think the closest we have to that is the Advisory
14 Committee on Reactor Safety.

15 Before we go on to the environmental
16 review process, are there any other questions on the
17 overall process, before we move on? And if you think
18 of something, later on, we can answer it also, then.
19 So this isn't your last opportunity.

20 (No response.)

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Russ, thank you very
22 much. And now we are going to go to Bob Schaaf, who
23 is the environmental project manager on the Ginna
24 license renewal application, and he is going to talk,

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1 specifically, about the environmental review.

2 Bob?

3 MR. SCHAAF: Thank you, Chip, thank you
4 Russ.

5 My name is Bob Schaaf, I'm the
6 environmental project manager for the Ginna license
7 renewal application. I'm going to spend the next 15
8 minutes, or so, discussing the environmental review
9 process, and how you can participate in that process.

10 The National Environmental Policy Act, or
11 NEPA, was enacted in 1969, and requires all federal
12 agencies to use a systematic approach to consider
13 environmental impacts during certain decision-making
14 proceedings.

15 NEPA is a disclosure tool which involves
16 the public. It involves the process in which
17 information is gathered to enable federal agencies to
18 make informed decisions. And then, as part of that
19 process, we document that information and invite
20 public participation to evaluate it.

21 The NEPA process for license renewal
22 results in an environmental impact statement, also
23 called an EIS, which describes the results of the
24 detailed review we do to evaluate the environmental

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1 impacts of a proposed action that may significantly
2 affect the quality of the human environment.

3 As part of our review, we also consider
4 the environmental impacts of alternatives to the
5 proposed action. These alternatives include the no-
6 action alternative, which means simply not approving
7 the license renewal request, in this case, and
8 construction and operation of replacement power
9 generating facilities.

10 The NRC considered the environmental
11 impacts of renewing nuclear power plant operating
12 licenses for up to 20 years, in the Generic
13 Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of
14 Nuclear Plants.

15 NUREG-1437, also known as the GEIS, or
16 commonly referred to as the GEIS. In the GEIS the
17 Staff identified and assessed 92 environmental issues
18 related to license renewal.

19 With regard to these issues the Staff
20 concluded that the environmental impacts for 69 of
21 these issues, referred to in the GEIS as category 1
22 issues, were adequately addressed for all plants, and
23 would not need to be addressed for individual license
24 renewal applications.

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1 Additional plant specific review is
2 required for the remaining 23 issues, and for any
3 category 1 issue for which new and significant
4 information is identified.

5 New and significant information can be
6 identified by the applicant, by the NRC, or through
7 public comments. These plant specific reviews are to
8 be included in a supplement to the GEIS.

9 At this point we are in the process of
10 gathering information we need to prepare that
11 document, the supplement. In particular, at this
12 stage, we are performing what we call scoping.

13 The NRC is having this meeting as part of
14 our scoping process for the purpose of providing you,
15 and other government agencies, with an opportunity to
16 provide us with any information that you believe may
17 have some bearing on our environmental evaluation.

18 In particular we are looking for
19 information that may not be readily available, or
20 environmental concerns that you might have, that may
21 not have been addressed by the licensee in their
22 application.

23 This slide describes the objective of our
24 environmental review. As stated here the Staff is
25 trying to determine whether the adverse environmental

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1 impacts of license renewal, for R.E. Ginna, are so
2 great, that preserving the option of license renewal
3 for energy planning decision makers would be
4 unreasonable.

5 That is what it says in the regulations.
6 To paraphrase, we are trying to determine whether or
7 not renewing the Ginna license for an additional 20
8 years is acceptable from an environmental standpoint.

9 I want to emphasize that if we decide, in
10 the end, that license renewal is acceptable from an
11 environmental perspective, all that means is that R.
12 E. Ginna will have the option to operate Ginna for up
13 to an additional 20 years.

14 The NRC doesn't determine whether they
15 actually operate for those additional 20 years. Those
16 decisions will be made by RG&E, and by State
17 regulators. It is possible that the utility could
18 determine, after all of this, that it is not
19 economically feasible to continue operating the plant.
20 That is their decision.

21 This slide gives a little more detail on
22 the schedule time line of our environmental review
23 process. RG&E's application was received on August
24 1st. On October 10th we issued a notice of our intent
25 to perform scoping, which we are doing now, and our

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1 intent to develop an environmental impact statement
2 for the proposed action.

3 We are currently in a data gathering phase
4 to determine the environmental impacts of renewing the
5 license. After that we will develop a draft of the
6 environmental impact statement, which we expect to
7 issue for public comment in June of next year.

8 We will come back to this area in August
9 of next year for another public meeting, to talk about
10 the results of our review, and to give you an
11 opportunity to provide us any comments you may have on
12 our preliminary conclusions and evaluation.

13 After receiving and evaluating those
14 comments, we will then develop the final environmental
15 impact statement, which we expect to issue in January
16 of 2004.

17 Yesterday we went to the site to get
18 familiar with the lay of the land, examine features of
19 particular interest, and observe first-hand how the
20 site interacts with the environment.

21 This week we are gathering information for
22 evaluation from a number of different sources, as
23 indicated here, including the documents sent to us by
24 RG&E.

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1 We also are meeting, and corresponding,
2 with Federal, State, Tribal, and local government
3 officials, and interested people from the local
4 community, who may have information that will help us
5 in our environmental evaluation.

6 We will also consider all comments
7 received from the public during the comment period,
8 which is open until December 11th.

9 Our team focuses on many environmental
10 topics. This slide shows the range of areas we are
11 reviewing. Impacts considered include everything from
12 air quality to water use and quality, to effects on
13 plants and wildlife.

14 We also look at what we call
15 socioeconomics, how does the plant affect people's
16 lives economically. And we consider environmental
17 justice, which focuses our attention on the question
18 of whether there are minority, or low income
19 population groups, that may be disproportionately
20 impacted by the proposed license renewal.

21 To prepare for the review we have
22 assembled a team of NRC staff with backgrounds in the
23 specific technical and scientific disciplines required
24 to perform these reviews.

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1 In addition, and to supplement the
2 technical expertise of the staff, we have engaged the
3 assistance of four national laboratories to ensure
4 that we have a well-rounded knowledge base to perform
5 our review.

6 We have put together a team of about 15
7 people to conduct this review. And many of them are
8 here today to hear what you have to say, and to be
9 available to answer any questions you have.

10 To summarize a few key dates from an
11 earlier slide our schedule is to complete the scoping
12 process by December 11th, when the public comment
13 period ends. After that, as I indicated, we will
14 issue our draft environmental impact statement in June
15 of 2003, and we expect to issue a final document in
16 January of 2004.

17 If you would like a copy of these reports
18 sent directly to you, be sure and leave your name and
19 mailing address with the registration desk, by putting
20 your name and address on one of the blue cards.

21 This slide provides my phone number in
22 case you have additional questions after you leave
23 today. I'm the designated point of contact, within
24 the NRC, for the environmental portion of the license
25 renewal review.

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1 Russell Arrighi, who spoke previously, is
2 project manager for the safety evaluation report.
3 Although I'm providing my phone number here, and I'm
4 available to receive your comments, or receive your
5 questions and respond to those, we still need to get
6 your specific comments that you want considered as
7 part of the record, in a form that we can document,
8 either in writing, or as Chip has indicated, through
9 comments given here at this meeting, which is being
10 transcribed. The transcript will become the written
11 record of your comments.

12 Arrangements have been made for the
13 documents associated with the environmental review to
14 be available to you locally. These documents are
15 located at the Ontario and the Rochester public
16 libraries.

17 Also documents are available through our
18 document management system, known as ADAMS, which can
19 be accessed on our internet webpage. After this
20 meeting comments can be submitted by mail, in person,
21 or by email.

22 You can send specific written comments to
23 us at the address shown. You can stop by in person,
24 if you happen to be in the Rockville, Maryland area.
25 Not too many people take advantage of that option, but

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1 it is available. You can also submit comments by
2 email to the address indicated.

3 This concludes our formal presentation on
4 the review processes. In closing I would like to
5 thank you for your attention during our presentations,
6 and for your attendance at today's meeting.

7 Public participation is an important part
8 of the license renewal process, and it is especially
9 important for our environmental review, as your
10 knowledge of the area can provide valuable insights.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
12 Bob. We are going to do a little variation.
13 Something unexpected came up for one of our public
14 commenters, and we do want to hear your comments, so
15 we are going to give Mr. Jon Greenbaum an opportunity
16 to say something now, before he has to leave. Jon?

17 MR. GREENBAUM: Thank you, I appreciate
18 your flexibility. If plans go as scheduled Yucca
19 Mountain will then open up as a storage facility, and
20 the waste will be trucked down 590, which is within
21 two miles of my house, which is why I have my
22 potassium iodide.

23 And even with Yucca mountain we will still
24 be left with 100 metric tons of radioactive waste.
25 And I don't know if Al Qaeda is targeting Ginna, but

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1 I do know that in the '80s the containment structures
2 were studied, and were shown to not be able to,
3 several of them, many of them, 40 percent were shown
4 not to be able to withstand a plane crash.

5 And I don't understand why we are taking
6 this risk. I don't understand why we are not talking
7 about wind generation on Lake Ontario. I just -- I
8 think we need to look at the alternatives.

9 We are subsidizing the nuclear industry.
10 Bush's energy plan calls for a 2.9 billion dollar
11 subsidy to nuclear industry, and the solar industry's
12 subsidy would be enough to build about two miles of
13 federal interstate.

14 So it seems like we need to look at the
15 alternatives. And I'm not, myself, and the hundreds
16 of members of Metro Justice, are not willing to take
17 the risk involved. Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
19 Jon. And, Jon is with the group Metro Justice.

20 MR. GREENBAUM: Yes, and we are in the
21 phone book if you want to contact us about meetings
22 about this issue.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you. I
24 think Jon raised a couple of points that maybe we

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1 should clarify, since we are in the question period,
2 now.

3 One is the point about the transportation
4 of spent fuel. And I just wanted to get a
5 confirmation from the Staff on this. Is that
6 regardless of whether there is a license renewal
7 application granted at Ginna, the issue of
8 transportation of spent fuel is still an issue. Is
9 that not correct?

10 MR. SCHAAF: Yes, that is correct, whether
11 the plant is licensed for the additional operating
12 period, or the license expires in 2009, the fuel that
13 is on-site will need to be shipped when a site is
14 available.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Bob.
16 And the other question, and it is a very important
17 one, and maybe I should ask John Tappert, at least
18 first, to address it.

19 The whole security issue, and how that
20 fits into the license renewal equation. John, could
21 you talk to us a little bit about that?

22 MR. TAPPERT: Sure, Chip. Security is
23 another one of these issues which isn't necessarily
24 tied to license renewal. It is an issue that we need
25 to deal with today.

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1 In the aftermath of the attacks on the
2 World Trade Center on 9/11, the agency did a number of
3 things to take on this issue. We staffed our
4 emergency operations center, we put the plants in the
5 highest state of alert.

6 In the time since then, we have issued
7 orders to every operating power plant to put in place
8 interim compensatory measures to increase their
9 security posture. We have also taken actions to do a
10 top to bottom security review to find out what the
11 appropriate level of security is in the new state of
12 the world.

13 So there are a number of issues that are
14 going on, independent of license renewal, to address
15 that security issue. Regarding the plane attacks,
16 themselves, we have initiated some studies to review
17 the effects of that. And that will be rolled into our
18 ongoing efforts to find out what the right security
19 posture is for these plants.

20 I also want to take on a point that
21 occurred right before Bob gave his presentation. We
22 had a question about whether any independent reviews
23 of our Generic Aging Lessons Learned, or Standard
24 Review Plans, which the Staff uses to do their
25 reviews.

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1 I would just like to point out that those
2 are published before they are used, for public
3 comment. And that operators, as well as public
4 interest groups, such as Union of Concerned
5 Scientists, and public citizens, have an opportunity
6 to comment on those, and give us their input.

7 Chip had also asked a question, does the
8 ACRS, or the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
9 have, which does an independent review of the Staff's
10 analysis, do they have meetings in the local
11 community? Or do they occasionally have meetings in
12 the local community? And the answer was yes.

13 They do not always do that, that is at
14 their discretion. So I didn't want to create an
15 expectation that there necessarily would be one of
16 those meetings up here. That will be up to them.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. And I
18 certainly -- I know the ACRS does accept public
19 comments. And, certainly, if anybody in the community
20 wanted to request that one of the ACRS meetings on
21 this subject was held in the community, you certainly
22 are free to do that.

23 Bob, do you have anything to add before we
24 go to questions on any of the points that John raised?

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1 MR. SCHAAF: Yes, just on one other item
2 regarding alternative power sources. We do look at a
3 wide range of alternatives. The standard alternatives
4 that might be considered would be the coal-fired
5 plants, or gas-fired plants. But we also discuss a
6 range of alternatives to include solar and wind power,
7 and other possible sources of replacing the power in
8 the event that we did not go forth with relicensing.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. So even
10 though Mr. Greenbaum's statement was in the form of a
11 comment, I think implicitly there was a recommendation
12 that we look at the wind power alternative?

13 MR. SCHAAF: Yes, and it will be factored
14 in as a comment in our statement.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Great. Do we have
16 other questions on the environmental review? Is it
17 clear? One of the things that often is a little bit
18 murky is that the environmental review is one part of
19 the evaluation of the license renewal application.

20 The safety review that Russ Arrighi talked
21 about is another part of that equation. And the third
22 part, I suppose, is the inspection findings. Can
23 either Bob, or Russ, can you just tell us, when do all
24 of those reviews come together, what is the ultimate

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1 schedule so that people will know when the NRC might
2 be making a decision some time in the future?

3 MR. SCHAAF: Right. I can't address all
4 of those schedule items. I do know that we list all
5 of the major milestones on the website, would be one
6 place to get that information. I covered most of the
7 major milestones for the environmental review.

8 Russ, do you want to address any of the
9 other items?

10 MR. ARRIGHI: The schedule, normally the
11 schedule is a 30 month process, from the time of the
12 application. Now, if there were no petitions to
13 intervene that process would be shortened to a 22
14 month process.

15 And at the present time we have not
16 received any petitions to intervene regarding the
17 application. So they started in August 1st, they
18 submitted their application. So 22 months from that,
19 I think that is February '04, I have to do the math.
20 But it is 22 months from August '02.

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And I guess I should
22 -- petitions to intervene is a term related to the
23 adjudicatory hearing that can be requested on this
24 type of license renewal application. I just wanted to
25 clarify that.

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1 But the important point is all of these
2 various pieces do come together, and the Staff of the
3 NRC looks at those, and makes an initial
4 recommendation to the Commission, or I'm not sure that
5 that is still the process.

6 But the Staff looks at those and makes a
7 recommendation on whether the license renewal
8 application should be granted or denied. Is that
9 correct?

10 MR. ARRIGHI: The Staff performs the
11 safety review, and we put the safety evaluation report
12 together and see that an independent review body, the
13 ACRS, makes a recommendation to the Commission,
14 whether to accept it or not.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, all right.
16 Any questions? Is this anything that you would like
17 to know about this? Yes, sir.

18 MR. GUTACKER: Andy Gutacker, Webster,
19 neighbor of the plant.

20 We touched on transporting nuclear waste,
21 and also the containment chamber safety requirements.
22 What I'm trying to say here is that back in the '80s
23 we had a way of looking, had development money to work
24 for isotope separation.

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1 Which says we can take these rods and like
2 a battery, make them over, and over again, maybe nine
3 times on the contract, but actually figure we could
4 probably get about 20 uses out of them. Which means
5 the storage goes down, and you have to have them on
6 site.

7 You can keep reusing them, and recharging
8 them. Did that whole science fall apart, or what? It
9 was funded by -- I was working on that in Los Alamos,
10 and also Lawrence Livermore had contracts for that.
11 And it looked like it had great hope. Did that ever
12 turn out to be viable?

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Let me see who might
14 want to address that, or similar concepts. Bob?

15 MR. SCHAAF: Right. Essentially it is the
16 policy of the United States government that we would
17 not pursue reprocessing in this country, of spent
18 nuclear fuel, that we would not pursue that option.

19 The concern related to proliferation of
20 weapons grade material, plutonium, separation of
21 plutonium from the fuel rods.

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Is that --
23 does anybody have any information, specifically, on
24 the project that Andy was talking about?

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1 MR. GUTACKER: This is because we are
2 using a 200 terrawatt laser to zap it, and just like
3 recharging it with a battery. But I got a feeling,
4 from -- it probably went underground, because
5 technology was being developed back in the '80s.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And I know you are
7 not referring to Yucca Mountain when you say it went
8 underground. I know, you got it in there.

9 John, do you have anything you want to add
10 to that?

11 MR. TAPPERT: As far as the technology,
12 there is technology that can allow reprocessing, which
13 I think is what you are referring to. And, actually,
14 I believe the French and the Japanese actually do
15 that, and the Russians, as well.

16 The United States is not reprocessing
17 spent fuel, and that is a decision of the utilities,
18 and -- it is primarily a proliferation concern. When
19 you separate out the plutonium, and the highly
20 enriched uranium, you don't want that to fall into
21 people's hands.

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thanks John,
23 thank you Andy. Let's go over to -- Susan, do you
24 have a question?

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1 MS. GATELEY: This might be kind of a dumb
2 question, but I'm trying to figure out the regulatory
3 process. Ninety-two issues were identified by the
4 Generic Environmental Impact Statement. The Staff
5 concluded 60 some were adequately addressed, maybe
6 about 23 might have been specific to this power plant.

7 And then we are scoping today to look for
8 more, right? Something like that?

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Yes, that is
10 correct.

11 MS. GATELEY: At what point, or where
12 would we be able to find out about the 23 issues that
13 were possibly germane to Ginna?

14 MR. SCHAAF: Well, the 23 issues are
15 discussed in the GEIS. Those are also discussed in
16 the GEIS.

17 MS. GATELEY: For Ginna?

18 MR. SCHAAF: Not for Ginna, they are
19 discussed generically. And the conclusions for those
20 23 items is that we would need to look at them.

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: So that is why they
22 are doing the review. Okay, great, good.

23 Roland, do you have a question? And
24 please identify yourself.

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1 MR. MICKLEM: Yes, Roland Micklem, of Lake
2 Shore Environmental Action. I would like to ask a
3 question of the environmental impact statement that
4 very much confuses me.

5 You say that the scope of this
6 investigation, I should say the scope of this study,
7 takes the water, the land, the air, etcetera,
8 etcetera.

9 Now, how do you determine whether or not
10 the amount of radiation that you release into the
11 lake, you obviously know what it is, how can you
12 determine exactly what impact it is going to have on
13 the ecology of the lake, given the subtleties of the
14 changes, and is it ever considered that probably a lot
15 of the deterioration of the lake environment -- I'm
16 talking about now only of the internal motors, I'm not
17 talking about the air, or anything of that.

18 The deterioration of the lake environment
19 may be due, partially of course, to nuclear plants,
20 but also to all the other discharges. And I don't see
21 how you can make that kind of adequate evaluation.

22 I will just say one more thing, and then
23 I will shut up. There used to be a species of snail
24 that was very prominent on the shores of Lake Ontario.

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1 And in my more studious days I remembered the
2 scientific name, I don't any more.

3 All I know is that once it did exist, and
4 now it doesn't. Okay, so we have nuclear plants, and
5 we have a lot of other things. I don't quite see how
6 you can get an adequate environmental impact statement
7 on -- without really taking the whole framework of the
8 ecology there.

9 MR. MASNIK: I'm Mike Masnik from the NRC.
10 The interesting thing about radiation is that we know
11 quite a bit about it. We have been studying it, and
12 its impacts, on organisms and people for probably 60,
13 70 years, earnestly.

14 And we know a great deal about what the
15 impact of radiation is on aquatic species. The
16 licensee is required to operate the plant within
17 certain limits, and they can release certain amounts
18 of radiation to the lake, but those are very carefully
19 controlled, and they are very small amounts of
20 radiation.

21 To date we haven't seen any impacts
22 associated with release of radiation on aquatic
23 organisms, here or at other nuclear power plants.
24 What we have determined is that the human -- humans

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1 are probably the most radio sensitive organism that we
2 routinely deal with.

3 So if the requirements are safe enough for
4 humans, we've determined that they are safe enough for
5 the environment. Now, the Great Lakes have had a long
6 history of environmental insults, over-fishing and
7 pollution. And, certainly, there have been rather
8 significant changes in the lakes, and introduced
9 species have had profound effects.

10 But to date, based on our work, and work
11 of the licensees, and other organizations, we haven't
12 found any relation between release of radioactive
13 materials and the environment within the lakes.

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Mike. And
15 you might want to check back in with Roland, after the
16 meeting, to make sure that we captured all of his
17 questions, there. Let's go to Tim Judson.

18 MR. JUDSON: This is Tim Judson, again.
19 I guess, I mean, I have two questions at this point.
20 One is, I guess, directly pertaining to this issue,
21 whether the NRC has compiled, as part of this review,
22 basically a summary of the total radiological
23 effluence that Ginna has released into the
24 environment.

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1 I mean, I know from 1974 to '83,
2 Brookhaven National Lab summarized that there was, I
3 think, about 2,500 curies of radioactive waste that
4 have been ejected into the water, and about 25,000
5 curies that have been released into the air.

6 I wonder if the NRC has compiled an up to
7 date list over the last 33 years for Ginna?

8 MR. SCHAAF: I don't know whether we've
9 got a current compilation. The licensee is required
10 to submit effluent monitoring reports on an annual
11 basis, and yes, there is a biological sampling
12 program, as well, as part of their annual report.

13 The data could be compiled from those
14 reports, I don't know that we've done that for an
15 extended period, recently.

16 MR. JUDSON: I mean, 2,500 curies into the
17 lake is more than a little bit of radioactive
18 effluent.

19 But my other question is more in terms of
20 the relicensing issue, and whether in your
21 understanding, or any of the NRC representatives
22 understanding, if Ginna is relicensed, whether that
23 creates a larger window of opportunity for RG&E, or
24 some other owner of Ginna, to build a new reactor,

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1 without having to go through a site permitting
2 process?

3 MR. SCHAAF: On the site?

4 MR. JUDSON: On the Ginna site, yes.

5 MR. SCHAAF: Any action of that nature
6 would be required to undergo a separate review and
7 licensing process.

8 MR. JUDSON: I understand that they would
9 need to get a new reactor license. But when they
10 built Ginna, or when they build a new reactor on a new
11 site, that is currently unused for nuclear reactor
12 operation, that there is a site permitting process
13 that has to take place.

14 And whether, you know, if Ginna's license
15 were to expire in 2009, without a renewal, whether
16 that would make it any more challenging for a new
17 operator, or RG&E to build a new reactor on-site,
18 rather than do it under an extended license for Ginna?

19 MR. SCHAAF: Maybe you could restate the
20 question?

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Well, I think that
22 the idea is that does either approval of the
23 application to renew the license, or disapproval, does
24 that have any implications in terms of early site
25 permit. And we will go to John Tappert for that.

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1 MR. TAPPERT: And the answer is no. I
2 mean, if they were to decide to build a new reactor
3 there it would require a new site permit, a new
4 operating license. So there are completely separate
5 issues associated with the relicensing of the current
6 plant.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you,
8 John. Yes?

9 MS. ANDERSON: I'm Bernadette Anderson,
10 Webster. And my question is, there are a number of
11 nuclear power facilities on the New York side of Lake
12 Ontario. Canada has 12

13 When you do the environmental impact
14 statements do you then also take into consideration
15 what is the impact of this conglomerate of plants that
16 exist in this area?

17 MR. SCHAAF: Part of NEPA requires an
18 assessment of cumulative impacts. So that is
19 something that we consider.

20 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And is that -- NEPA
21 requires us to look at cumulative impacts, and based
22 on prior experience, and doing these types of
23 environmental impact statements for license renewal,
24 have we looked at that specific type of cumulative
25 impact?

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1 In other words, a number of nuclear power
2 plants in the vicinity? And we will put that, that
3 definitely will be considered, obviously, a comment as
4 something that you are suggesting that we do look at,
5 at a minimum.

6 Have we ever had any experience with those
7 types of situations?

8 MR. SCHAAF: I want to say the licensing
9 efforts, the relicensing efforts, we've gone through
10 to date, it has been different situations as far as
11 the bodies of water.

12 I don't know, did you want to touch on
13 that, Mike?

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: This is Mike Masnik,
15 again.

16 MR. MASNIK: Yes. You know, under NEPA we
17 are required to look at cumulative impacts. And we do
18 look at, you know, multiple units at a site, for
19 example, their impact.

20 And if there are other sources of impact
21 we have to factor that into our assessment. So your
22 comment is a good one, and we certainly will look at
23 the cumulative impacts of all the units around the
24 lake.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Great, thank you for
2 the comment. Tim, did you have another --

3 MR. JUDSON: Sure, it is just a follow-up
4 to my previous question. Because, you know, this is
5 sort of a convoluted process that I feel that we are
6 going through with the relicensing, as well as other
7 regulatory issues.

8 But I guess one of the things I'm
9 wondering is, if Ginna were not to receive a license
10 extension, then it would have to shut down in 2009.
11 And prior to that, you know, initiate a decommissioning
12 and site cleanup process, you know, through preparing
13 plans for how they were going to do that, that they
14 would have to submit to NRC and begin preparing, you
15 know, the reactor complex and the site for that.

16 And would that complicate, in any way, the
17 submission of an early site permit application to
18 build a new reactor on site, or to begin that kind of
19 preparation, has that ever happened before, and what
20 is the anticipation?

21 MR. MASNIK: Mike Masnik, again. Yes,
22 we've had licensees that have permanently ceased
23 operation at a location, but have not proposed a new
24 nuclear plant, but have proposed alternative energy
25 sources.

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1 For example, a fossil plant of some sort.
2 We would certainly require, or we certainly require
3 oversight, and we provide oversight of the
4 decommissioning. And if there was any other power
5 facility planned for the location we would have to
6 consider both the impact of that power facility on the
7 decommissioning, and if a licensee chose to put a
8 nuclear plant there, we would have to consider the
9 impact of the decommissioning on the construction of a
10 plant.

11 But as John Tappert mentioned earlier,
12 they are separate processes. That is a fairly small
13 site. And, you know, I think it would certainly
14 require a good hard look by our agency, on any
15 proposal to build another plant there.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Tim, let's get one
17 more question.

18 MR. JUDSON: So would those considerations
19 be in, you know, the NRC's regulation of the
20 decommissioning, or would it have to also do with the
21 consideration of the site permit application to build
22 a new reactor?

23 MR. MASNIK: We are getting very
24 hypothetical here. But, again, the decommissioning, as
25 you decommission a facility, you have to be concerned

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1 with other activities that occur around it. And under
2 the license for the facility, under the license of the
3 decommissioning facility, there are certain
4 requirements to make sure that activities in the
5 vicinity of the plant are done in such a manner that
6 it doesn't jeopardize the decommissioning plant, and
7 vice versa.

8 It would be of concern during the
9 construction of a new facility, if it was proposed.
10 But I think, you know, I think we are really getting
11 hypothetical. I certainly would talk to you about it
12 after the meeting, if you want.

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: The short answer
14 seems to be that it would have to be considered from
15 either perspective, as Mike pointed out.

16 Let's move on to -- thank you very much,
17 Bob. Let's move on to hear from some of you more
18 formally. And usually what I like to do is to hear
19 from local officials first, and then give the utility,
20 in this case, a chance to just briefly explain what
21 their vision is behind their application.

22 And I just want to check, is Cathryn
23 Thomas here? Okay, we are going to go to Michael
24 Havens, who is the school superintendent for the Wayne
25 Central School District.

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1 And, Michael, if you could join us up
2 here? Probably would hopefully be convenient for all
3 of us.

4 MR. HAVENS: Good afternoon, and first let
5 me thank the NRC for giving us this opportunity to
6 comment on the possible relicensing of the Ginna
7 Nuclear Power Plant.

8 My comments this afternoon are going to be
9 fairly general, and probably pretty brief. Again, my
10 name is Michael Havens, I'm superintendent of the
11 Wayne Central School District.

12 Wayne Central educates about 2,900
13 students, and is located in the towns of Ontario,
14 Walworth, parts of the towns of Webster, Marion,
15 Williamson, and Pennfield.

16 The Ginna Nuclear Power Plant is located
17 within our school district, and so you can see that we
18 have considerable interest in its future. And, in
19 fact, it is approximately six miles from the main
20 campus where we have two elementary schools, a middle
21 school, and a high school.

22 So understand where we are coming from.
23 And let me say, with that, that provided that Energy
24 East maintains the level of support for the Ginna
25 Nuclear Power Plant, that has been demonstrated by

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1 RG&E, I am in support of relicensing the nuclear power
2 plant.

3 And I say that for three primary reasons.
4 First of all, it has been an excellent corporate
5 neighbor. Secondly it provides a substantial tax base
6 for the school district. And, thirdly, it provides a
7 good standard of living for our families, and to my
8 students.

9 Let me talk about the first, which is the
10 economic tax base. And I do not put this in any
11 particular order of importance.

12 The power plant has provided approximately
13 15.8 million dollars in revenue over the last five
14 years. It provided 3,182,172 dollars to the tax base
15 just last year; 29.9 percent of the local taxes that
16 we collect come from Ginna.

17 Consequently the loss of Ginna would be an
18 economic disaster for the school district, and
19 taxpayers.

20 Secondly, it has been a good corporate
21 neighbor for us who live here in the Wayne Central
22 School District. And I live approximately eight miles
23 from the nuclear power plant.

24 And while I must admit that the thought of
25 a emergency at the plant is frightening to all of us,

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1 particularly to me who is responsible for the safety
2 of those 2,900 children, I also realize that Ginna is
3 recognized as one of the best run power plants in the
4 nation.

5 I have confidence in the plant manager,
6 Joe Widay, and his people who run the site. We also
7 are comfortable that it is a secure site, especially
8 with the addition of the National Guardsmen, more
9 recently.

10 The Wayne Central School District
11 practices annual emergency drills and we feel
12 confident we are prepared to deal with an emergency,
13 should there be one.

14 I would also say that the plant has been
15 a good neighbor. Mr. Biendenbach and his people have
16 allowed us to use their manor house for training, to
17 house some of the programs for our special needs
18 children.

19 When we have a need RG&E has always been
20 there. After 9/11 when all of us were very concerned
21 about the safety of the plant, Rick Wyatts, Joe Widay,
22 others volunteered to come to the school and run
23 programs for us. They have been a good corporate
24 neighbor to us.

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1 Thirdly, it has to do with the standard of
2 living for my children. Ginna provides approximately
3 500 RG&E jobs at its plant. In addition there are
4 about 300 related jobs through private contractors.

5 Now, most of those people live in my
6 school district, and they are parents of my
7 schoolchildren. My children live in decent homes, and
8 have middle class values, and middle class
9 opportunities because of Ginna.

10 Because of this we believe we can offer
11 the best of both worlds. We live in a pleasant rural
12 community, but we have the benefits of a suburban type
13 school district.

14 So, in conclusion, Ginna has been good for
15 the Wayne Central School District, its community, and
16 its children. And as long as Energy East maintains
17 the existing level of care, we are supportive of its
18 relicensing.

19 We look forward to a continued long
20 relationship with RG&E, its partner Energy East, and
21 the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant. Thank you.

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
23 Superintendent Havens.

24 Now I'm going to ask Bob Mecredy, from
25 Rochester Gas and Electric, to tell us a little bit

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1 about their rationale, their vision behind the license
2 renewal application.

3 Bob is the site vice president at Ginna.
4 Bob?

5 MR. MECREDY: Thank you. Good afternoon,
6 and welcome. I'm Bob Mecredy, I'm vice president of
7 nuclear operations for RG&E and responsible for the
8 operation of Ginna.

9 Ginna began operation in 1969 and has been
10 a reliable part of the RG&E system and the state's
11 power supply, ever since. The plant's output is about
12 half of RG&E's retail customers, what they use
13 annually.

14 The mission of everyone who works at, and
15 who supports Ginna, is simple; safe, reliable, and
16 economical operation, with the safety of the public
17 and our workers being our number one priority.

18 And our core values include being a good
19 neighbor and a good steward of the environment in
20 which we operate. Since start-up our focus has been
21 to continuously improve in all aspects of our
22 operation, the performance of our people, the
23 processes and procedures, and the plant design and
24 equipment.

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1 More than 500 people at Ginna are highly
2 experienced, well trained, and committed to that
3 mission. Visitors at Ginna regularly comment on the
4 teamwork and commitment that is demonstrated by our
5 employees and all who work at Ginna.

6 Without exception every employee at Ginna
7 that is provided with training is subjected to testing
8 to ensure that we can maintain the plant's exemplary
9 performance.

10 We continue to improve our training based
11 on improvements in technology, benchmarking and best
12 practices that we bring back from others in the
13 industry, and feedback from our workers as they
14 identify better ways to gain the skills and knowledge
15 that they need to do their job.

16 We have a simulator that is an exact
17 duplicate of the main control room, and we use that to
18 train our operators, and other members of our staff.
19 The operators, for example, spend one week in every 7
20 in training, every single year.

21 And that is after an extensive initial
22 qualification program of over a year that is required
23 for an operator to earn his or her NRC license. We
24 have extensive processes and procedures that cover
25 virtually every aspect of our operation.

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1 We have almost 5,000 procedures that cover
2 operations, maintenance, inspection, engineering,
3 training, independent assessment, security, as well as
4 abnormal and a wide range of emergency, unlikely
5 emergency response scenarios.

6 These also are improved on a continuous
7 basis, based on our experience, and others in our
8 industry, and elsewhere. People, processes, and
9 procedures come together in emergency preparedness.

10 Our emergency response is conducted in
11 accordance with a formal plan, and is thoroughly
12 tested by Federal agencies. We have drills several
13 times each year to test ourselves.

14 The emergency preparedness plan has been
15 continuously improved. But emergency planning at
16 Ginna is not done in a vacuum, it is very much a team
17 effort. Our partners include Wayne and Monroe
18 Counties, and the state of New York, among others.

19 All total about 1,000 people are part of
20 our emergency response team. When we drill the plan
21 we have to meet rigorous standards set by the NRC and
22 FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. And
23 our record is good.

24 We, and our partners, constantly
25 demonstrate our ability to protect the health and

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1 safety of the public. The emergency plan has only one
2 focus, and that is safety.

3 We began operation in 1969 with a robust
4 plant design, and proven equipment. And over the
5 years we have performed extensive maintenance on that
6 equipment to ensure continued reliable operation.

7 At our refueling and maintenance outages,
8 conducted every 18 months, we perform over 1,000
9 individual maintenance activities, and many more
10 inspections. And this is in addition to the ongoing
11 maintenance and inspections that are performed between
12 the refueling and maintenance outages.

13 Our goal is to provide our operators with
14 the right equipment performing flawlessly. Over the
15 years we have improved and replaced a wide range of
16 equipment. Most notable, at least from outside the
17 plant, we replaced the two steam generators in 1996,
18 taking advantage of improved materials and technology,
19 and ensuring continued reliable operation.

20 We have also replaced heat exchangers,
21 pumps, and motors. We have taken advantage of
22 technology in replacing our plant process computer,
23 instrumentation, and the like.

24 We replaced the computer that powers our
25 control room simulator, the one the operators train

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1 on, with a PC based technology. This has allowed us
2 to expand the range of training we provide the
3 operators, and to take that PC based system into the
4 classroom, for other training.

5 And it is instructive to talk about the
6 reactor vessel head, in terms of inspections and
7 replacements. In the early 1990s, based on French
8 experience, we began to perform additional
9 inspections, visual inspections, on our reactor vessel
10 head.

11 In 1999 we took the opportunity, with our
12 extended ten year end service inspection to do
13 detailed, non-destructive examinations, and visual
14 inspections, of our vessel head.

15 In each of those cases we saw no
16 degradation, no defects. We performed additional
17 inspections, both non-destructive examinations, and
18 visual inspections, in our most recent refueling
19 outage, in 2002. And, again, saw no degradation, and
20 no defects.

21 Nevertheless, looking to the future, even
22 just to 2009, we reached the conclusion to replace
23 that reactor vessel head to provide us an economic
24 benefit, and to give us additional margin and

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1 assurance. That vessel head will be replaced in the
2 fall of 2003, our next refueling outage.

3 Security at the plant has received
4 additional scrutiny and attention since the tragic
5 events of September 11th, 2001. RG&E has over 30
6 years experience in nuclear plant security. The
7 approach has never been relaxed, nor has it been
8 static. It has been continually improved, continually
9 advanced, and continually toughened, from the day the
10 plant started into operation.

11 And since September 11th we have devoted
12 several million dollars in additional resources and
13 equipment. Our security force is numerous, it is well
14 armed, and it is supported by sophisticated technical
15 surveillance, and intrusion detection systems.

16 Plant security is founded on a sound, very
17 conservative, plant design. The reactor containment
18 is a steel reinforced concrete structure that is three
19 feet thick.

20 And more recent testing, and analysis,
21 seems to indicate that these designs would, indeed,
22 withstand aircraft impacts. We have multiple safety
23 systems that support the security and the safety of
24 the plant.

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1 And just as with emergency preparedness,
2 plant security is conducted with a formal plan, which
3 is thoroughly reviewed by the Nuclear Regulatory
4 Commission, supported by others.

5 We communicate frequently, and work
6 closely with a wide range of law enforcement and
7 governmental agencies, including county law
8 enforcement, state police, the FBI, the Coast Guard,
9 the National Guard, and others.

10 And to ensure the reliability and
11 trustworthiness of the workforce, everyone who works
12 at Ginna is subject to detailed background checks
13 before they are granted plant access.

14 We do take security seriously. And
15 security at Ginna, and all other nuclear plants is
16 under constant review and evaluation. We cooperate,
17 fully, with these reviews, because we believe any
18 system can be improved.

19 The care and attention that we pay to our
20 people, our processes, our procedures, and our
21 equipment, does make a difference. It has enabled us
22 to achieve continuing improvements, and safety and
23 reliability of our operation.

24 Last year we set a new record for longest
25 continuous period in operation. And since start-up

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1 from our refueling and maintenance outage this past
2 spring, we have been online, and serving our
3 customers, for over 200 days, without interruption.

4 Based on this record of solid performance,
5 and on the research we conducted while preparing our
6 application for the renewal of Ginna's operating
7 license, for the additional 20 years, we submitted the
8 application and asked the NRC for its approval.

9 We believe it is important to retain the
10 option to operate the plant for the extended period,
11 thereby contributing to the overall power supply in
12 the state and, importantly, to the energy mix in the
13 state.

14 As I mentioned at the beginning of the
15 presentation, Ginna is one of the key providers of
16 energy for the consumers in the RG&E service
17 territory. Its 490 megawatts are important for
18 moderating energy prices in this region and, indeed,
19 in the state.

20 Virtually every new power plant in New
21 York depends on natural gas as the fuel of choice.
22 And as we have learned, in the past several years, the
23 price of natural gas can fluctuate greatly. This
24 means that the price of electricity from gas fired
25 power plants, would also correspondingly fluctuate.

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1 To further complicate matters, even for
2 those new plants receiving siting approval, plant
3 developers are finding it difficult, to impossible, to
4 obtain financing.

5 The New York state power plant siting law
6 is scheduled to expire at the end of this year. And
7 a number of older plants may need substantial new
8 investment, if it is available, to meet new
9 environmental standards.

10 If Ginna's baseload output is removed from
11 the inventory of available capacity and energy, the
12 result could be a significant upward pressure on
13 electric prices.

14 But Ginna is more than a power plant
15 operated by highly skilled workers. We are, indeed,
16 as Mr. Havens has commented, part of the community.
17 Ron Fellows, one of our operations control room
18 supervisors, and the president of the plant branch of
19 the American Nuclear Society, will make some comments
20 on that contribution.

21 But beyond that our employees give back to
22 the community in a variety of ways. They serve on
23 school boards, and town boards, as Scout leaders and
24 sports coaches, they support day care centers, and

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1 senior centers. They serve on ski patrols, and they
2 train guide dogs.

3 Our employees raised money to donate a
4 defibrillator to the Ontario Volunteer Ambulance
5 Service. We partner with the Wayne Central School
6 District by providing them with the space for their
7 Eagles Ventures program, a program for those students
8 who can benefit from an alternative educational
9 program, and setting.

10 We continue to participate, on an annual
11 basis, in the science and exploration days of the St.
12 John Fisher College, contributing to interest in
13 science on the part of the young people in the
14 community, and we participate in the Annual Day of
15 Caring, among others.

16 Let me speak, now, to the environmental
17 aspect of our operation. It is our goal to have a
18 minimum impact on our environment. Most visibly is
19 the way we have worked from the days of initial design
20 and construction to blend into our environment.

21 It is difficult to hide a 480 megawatt
22 power plant, but we are proud of the apple orchards,
23 the red barns, the flowers, and the wooded settings,
24 that do help us blend into the countryside.

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1 Just as we do at home we minimize the
2 impact that our waste stream can have, so an active
3 recycling program for paper and cardboard products.
4 Surplus lumber and paint have been donated to the
5 Habitat for Humanity.

6 We work at minimizing all aspects of
7 solid, gaseous, and liquid waste, setting a variety of
8 improvement goals each year. Overall we have seen no
9 adverse impact, over the years, on wildlife and
10 aquatic species.

11 In conclusion we remain committed to
12 operating safely, reliably, and economically through
13 the current period and, if approved, into the extended
14 period. But we will only operate if the plant is
15 safe.

16 We remain committed on being a good
17 neighbor, and a good steward. I, and the rest of the
18 people at Ginna, look forward to serving you and
19 meeting the needs of our community in the years to
20 come. Thank you.

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
22 Mr. Mecredy. We are now going to go to Ivette Torres,
23 who is going to read a couple of statements, I
24 believe, from some local officials.

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1 And Ivette is a public affairs specialist
2 with Rochester Gas and Electric.

3 MS. TORRES: Good afternoon, my name is
4 Ivette Torres, public affairs specialist at Rochester
5 Gas and Electric.

6 The first letter comes to us from Mr.
7 Frank J. Guelli, supervisor, town of Woolworth. Mr.
8 Guelli addresses the letter to Mr. Robert G. Schaaf,
9 Office of Nuclear Regulatory Regulation.

10 Dear Mr. Schaaf: I am the town supervisor
11 of the town of Woolworth, located in Wayne County, New
12 York, near the R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant, owned
13 by Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.

14 I'm writing you in support of RG&E's
15 application for an operating license extension. The
16 plant has been operated safely and reliably for more
17 than 30 years. It is a responsive neighbor to my town
18 and county.

19 The plant is a substantial taxpayer in my
20 county, and provides several hundred jobs. I have
21 confidence in the management of the plant. I believe
22 this operating record is worthy of relicensing.
23 Sincerely, Mr. Frank Guelli, Supervisor, town of
24 Woolworth.

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1 The second letter is from Mr. Channing H.
2 Philbrick, Supervisor, Town of Penfield. It is
3 addressed to Mr. Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director,
4 License Renewal and Environmental Program.

5 Dear Mr. Kuo: Although I'm not able to
6 attend the public Hearing at the Webster, New York
7 public library, on Wednesday, November 6th, 2002, I
8 wanted to convey my thoughts on the RG&E application
9 for renewal of its facility operating license for the
10 Ginna Nuclear Power Plant for an additional 20 years.

11 The town of Penfield has had an excellent
12 working relationship with RG&E, and they have always
13 been very responsive in dealing with questions and
14 concerns that we may have.

15 Continuing to provide service from the
16 Ginna plant for an additional 20 years is important to
17 our community, and we strongly support this
18 application.

19 It is important to note that nearly half
20 of the power provided through RG&E comes from the
21 Ginna plant. It has proven to be a safe and
22 dependable source of electricity for our community.

23 The impact on the environment has been
24 negligible. I visited the plant on at least two
25 occasions, and have been impressed with the

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1 professional management of the site, and the high
2 level of security maintained for this facility.

3 Again, I'm sorry that I'm not able to
4 personally attend the hearing on the 6th, but wanted
5 to convey my strong support for this application to
6 extend the operating license for the Ginna Nuclear
7 Power Plant for an additional 20 years. Sincerely,
8 Channing H. Philbrick, supervisor, town of Penfield.

9 Thank you.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very
11 much, Ivette.

12 Next we are going to go to Susan Gateley,
13 and then we will hear from Roland Micklem, and then
14 from Tim Judson. Susan? And Susan is from Lakeshore
15 Environmental Action.

16 MS. GATELEY: I guess I will read, because
17 I'm not a very good speaker. I'm a freelance writer,
18 and I do better writing than I do trying to talk.

19 I guess the purpose of the scoping meeting
20 is to identify significant issues. A number comes to
21 mind. I will concentrate on only a few of them.

22 The world is a very different place than
23 it was back in the early 1960s, when Ginna was built.
24 Cold War pressures which prompted our government to

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1 fund the research and engineering for power plants
2 like Ginna have given away to terrorism concerns.

3 Commercial nuclear power plants once seen
4 as vital to our national security, are now seen as
5 vulnerable to terrorist attacks. And today there are
6 more efficient, cleaner, and safer ways to make
7 electricity.

8 When Ginna was built there was no such
9 thing as the National Environmental Policy Act, the
10 legislation that mandates the environmental impact
11 statements that we just heard about for the last half
12 hour.

13 And if Ginna were being considered, today,
14 in this place, it might not be built under that
15 legislation. Lake Ontario is now home to 16 nuclear
16 plants, a tritium recovery facility, a uranium
17 refinery, and at least two low level radioactive waste
18 dumps at Lewiston and Port Hope.

19 Most of these plants were built after
20 Ginna. Ginna is one of the oldest plants on the lake.
21 That is a big cumulative impact on the lake. It is
22 used by more people every year, as a water source.

23 I understand Newark may be expanding the
24 water district that will now tap into Lake Ontario
25 water. I could be wrong, but I do know that more and

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1 more municipalities are depending on Lake Ontario
2 water.

3 All of these plants, when they are
4 operating, all of these facilities, release some
5 radioactivity. Some of it has a very short half-life
6 of days or weeks, some of it, like tritium, has a
7 longer half-life of 12 years, some is very long-lived.

8 That brings me to point number two. When
9 the plant was new, we did not have 40 years of
10 radiation being released. Radiation exposure has
11 cumulative health effects. That is why most skin
12 cancers show up later in life.

13 As power plants operate they expose the
14 population, and the environment, to an ongoing burden
15 of exposure. And just as an aside to this, outside of
16 scoping, many scientists do not accept threshold dose
17 and hormises as valid, no matter what the HPs say.

18 So the longer these plants operate
19 basically the more dose, cumulative, the population
20 receives. Population around Ginna, number three, is
21 much higher than it was when the plant was built.
22 This is no longer a rural area, it is now a suburban
23 area.

24 Even without increased population many
25 people believe the present emergency ten mile

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1 evacuation zones should be expanded, because of other
2 concerns, such as the terrorism issue.

3 Ginna should not be relicensed until this
4 is done. When the plant was built there was no spent
5 fuel on the site. It was supposed to be removed.
6 Politics and logistics are leading other nukes to use
7 dry cask storage on-site. Will this plant, how long
8 will it be there, what about security for it?

9 Terrorist concerns, we hear how safe and
10 secure the nuclear plants are with their guards, and
11 lights, and fences, and bunkers. But there have been
12 failures of plant security, and warning devices, at
13 Ginna since September 11th.

14 Sirens failed tests. A contract worker
15 apparently tested positive for drugs last spring.
16 Many experts feel that the danger of attack lies from
17 within the plant. There have been at least two cases,
18 that we know of, since September 11th, where employee
19 background checks failed to catch workers who
20 falsified information and omitted felony information.

21 Also the spent fuel pool is not in a
22 hardened containment structure, it is more in
23 something like a pole barn. It could be attacked and
24 breached with a relatively small projectile, and there
25 is plenty of radiation in it.

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1 Another very big change since Ginna was
2 built is deregulation. This is changing the way these
3 plants are operated. Ginna is coming up on 40 years
4 now. Some of its components were designed to last its
5 licensed life.

6 So it does need more care and monitoring.
7 However, both the NRC and industry are trying to
8 streamline regulation and reduce costs. Pressures to
9 reduce costs to industry, along with possibly a little
10 complacency, are what led to that hole in the reactor
11 head at Davis Besse. That could have been a very
12 serious accident on Lake Erie.

13 There have been many other age related
14 failures besides this one. Nine Mile core shroud,
15 that steam generator rupture in 1982 at Ginna was not
16 anticipated; embrittlement of the reactor vessel,
17 these all surprised the experts. There are probably
18 going to be more surprises as these plants age.

19 One more change since the good old days of
20 the AEC, the regulatory Atomic Energy Commission of
21 the 1960s. Today the NRC must function in a political
22 environment that stresses deregulation and less
23 government spending.

24 The NRC has been like other agencies, it
25 has been pressured to become more efficient. And for

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1 several years it has endured reduced funding, and a
2 shortage of skilled technical workers.

3 In a speech two years ago, I don't know
4 what the situation is now, but two years ago the NRC
5 chairman said, despite efforts to hire new engineers,
6 we have experienced a net loss of engineers over the
7 past five years, about 8 percent of their workforce,
8 engineering workforce.

9 We are losing expertise, and along with
10 it, valuable institutional knowledge. That is a
11 direct quote from his speech. The net effect of this,
12 and failures to catch things like that Davis Besse
13 hole in the head, is that there is less trust of
14 institutions like the NRC, than there was of the AEC,
15 40 years ago. And I think we see a little bit of that
16 in this room today, less trusting public.

17 Finally, the world of energy production
18 has changed since 1960. We really don't need nuclear
19 plants any more. There are cleaner, safer ways to
20 produce power. Denmark now gets about ten percent of
21 its power from wind. Their goal is half by 2030.

22 California just passed a renewable energy
23 requirement of 20 percent in 20 years. We could do
24 this in New York. There have also been huge
25 improvements in cogeneration technology, which is very

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1 much more efficient than the large centralized plants.

2 Ginna should not be relicensed. I would
3 just add, I scribbled this down during the meeting,
4 and then it was brought up by someone else, that a
5 good environmental impact statement does consider
6 alternatives. I'm glad to hear that they will be
7 considering alternative ways of producing electricity.

8 Also an environmental impact statement
9 does, or should, consider what they call secondary
10 impacts. Which are something like you build a
11 shopping mall, and then you attract other businesses
12 to set up alongside it, so that the initial traffic
13 load from the mall becomes greater 20 years down the
14 road because of other things.

15 And that may be some of what Tim is
16 driving at. By relicensing the plant you might
17 encourage a future usage of that site, not necessarily
18 another nuclear plant, but some other industrial usage
19 of this slightly contaminated site that might not be
20 compatible with the environment, or with the
21 residential area.

22 So I'm concerned about thinking about
23 those secondary impacts, what this woman referred to,
24 those 20 year out impacts. Is my time up? I've got
25 one more paragraph.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Go ahead.

2 MS. GATELEY: We should also, as a
3 condition, I would like to see this done. We should
4 have easier access to the radiation release data for
5 the entire lake, not just Ginna, all the other
6 facilities.

7 Winds of radiation do not respect boundary
8 lines. I would like to see a database, a good
9 compilation of this information, that would be in an
10 easy to access format, and it should be sent to each
11 town hall, and to each library within 25 miles of each
12 of these power plants, not just Ginna.

13 The governments of the U.S. and Canada do
14 not make it easy to get this data now. I think
15 somebody asked a question about that, and I think the
16 fellow said it could be compiled. But has it been
17 compiled, or do we have to do this as citizens? That
18 is not an easy process to do.

19 In fact I think Tim mentioned that a lab,
20 a technical institution used to compile this data for
21 Ginna, but apparently it is no longer available. I
22 think that definitely should be a condition of
23 relicensing.

24 I spent about 20 minutes, all right, 10
25 minutes, maybe 20 is an exaggeration. But I spent

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1 quite a while looking at the NRC website the other
2 day, trying to figure out when and where this meeting
3 was. I'm sure it is posted on there, but I had a hard
4 time finding it.

5 Okay, our elected officials and public
6 health people should have the information about
7 radiation releases, it should be in an easy to use
8 database, it should be available to the public. This
9 is important as these plants get older.

10 And one other thing I haven't heard
11 anybody talking about, Canada is also undergoing
12 deregulation of their public utilities. This should
13 be factored in as part of the impact of keeping this
14 plant going.

15 I'm almost done. I guess it was about 40
16 years ago, time goes by, that I heard my father, Lee
17 Peterson say at the dinner table, we used to live
18 about a mile from the plant, that nuclear plants are
19 a really complicated way to boil water.

20 They are complicated, they are inherently
21 dangerous. That is why we have security guards down
22 there. And they are relatively inefficient compared
23 to newer technology.

24 That is why we are so concerned with
25 relicensing and regulating them. There might be

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1 alternatives here. There is a very smart fellow that
2 designs green buildings, and he says that regulation
3 is a result of design failure.

4 Nuclear power is one of the more regulated
5 industries around. The solution is not to deregulate
6 it, or to extend it, or relicense it, but to eliminate
7 it, to phase it out, like they are doing in Sweden and
8 Germany. We could do it right here, we could start
9 right here in Wayne County.

10 And as far as that tax base concern there
11 could be other things, perhaps even another generating
12 facility, that would be safer and cleaner, that could
13 pick up some of that economic and tax concern, and it
14 could even enhance the area's economic activity.

15 So, thank you.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
17 Susan. Roland? Roland is also with Lakeshore
18 Environmental Action.

19 MR. MICKLEM: I'm not going to attack
20 nuclear power plants so much as the whole concept of
21 development. And most of it seems to be driven by
22 economics.

23 And I'm not talking about -- I know that
24 the presence of a power facility, good corporate
25 neighbors, makes the economics of it, people --

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1 supplies people with jobs. We can relate to the
2 schools, the whole works.

3 But I think that my concern is that
4 nuclear power, along with a lot of inventions of the
5 20th century, was just simply opening a Pandora's box.
6 And we never looked down the road to see what the
7 consequences of them were going to be.

8 Right now, the automobile, we didn't
9 realize that it would be one of the things that was a
10 prime suspect in causing global warming, just as we
11 didn't realize that nuclear power plants, for all of
12 their advantages, have one flaw, which to me is the
13 most serious one of all.

14 And I don't know a lot of statistics, I
15 can't quote a lot of this, but my big concern is what
16 happens to the waste from all of the thousands of
17 nuclear power plants around the country, that we keep
18 accumulating the waste, and keep piling it up, and
19 keep stockpiling it with half-life of thousands of
20 years, without any concern for what is going to happen
21 to the people in the future that will have to deal
22 with it.

23 Even though right now it seems like the
24 main thing that is driving it is economics, that if
25 money weren't involved, if power plants, if you

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1 weren't going to lose money by making various and
2 sundry changes, then it wouldn't be such a large
3 issue.

4 So I guess my concern is we shouldn't let
5 the economics drive the picture. But we need to look
6 at the consequences, the health and welfare
7 consequences, not only of this generation, but future
8 generations.

9 That is about it.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
11 Roland. Next we are going to hear from Tim Judson of
12 Citizens Awareness Network.

13 MR. JUDSON: Thanks. My name is Tim
14 Judson, and I'm with the Citizens Awareness Network.
15 We are a grass roots volunteer group of people who
16 live in reactor communities, mostly in the northeast.

17 And I live in Syracuse. I work, I'm in
18 Oswego, so I'm much more affected, myself, by the Nine
19 Mile and Fitzpatrick reactors. So, you know, so
20 coming here I realize that I'm not part of the host
21 community.

22 And I want to thank the NRC for answering
23 our questions today, for attempting to do that. But
24 with all due respect, to the NRC representatives here,
25 I believe, and CAN believes, that the NRC's review of

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1 this question of extending Ginna's operating life for
2 another 20 years is really inadequate to protect the
3 public health and safety.

4 And that is because of some of the
5 questions that we've asked today, such as, you know,
6 whether -- it is important what the material condition
7 of the reactor is at this point. You know, it sounds
8 really scientific, we got a lot of really scientific
9 answers to that, how it is going to be dealt with.

10 But, essentially, the NRC supports
11 relicensing of reactors as a policy. And the NRC, the
12 Nuclear Regulatory Commission appointed by the
13 President, has given directives to the NRC staff to
14 facilitate the relicensing, and the construction of
15 new reactors, and revised the rules on the relicensing
16 process to make that more possible, to make it easier.

17 And so what we are stuck with is this
18 process in which it is really difficult for the public
19 even to challenge the relicensing of a reactor at this
20 point. It is really difficult for the public to even
21 intervene in this process, with all the issues that
22 are really relevant, like the questions that people
23 have been raising today.

24 So in that sense, you know, it doesn't
25 seem like this is the place to have our concerns

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1 addressed. And there is a number of groups here who
2 are going to be appealing to the Public Service
3 Commission in New York state to be involved in this
4 process, and to oppose the relicensing.

5 And I know that when we are opposing the
6 relicensing, essentially what we are saying is that
7 the reactor should shut down. And, you know, I live
8 in Syracuse, I work in Oswego county, I understand the
9 terrible impact that people can conceive of when we
10 talk about shutting down plants in this region.

11 Fulton, I don't know if people realize it,
12 but Fulton is losing another 500 jobs, because of the
13 closing of the Nestle Plant. And it is really painful
14 to see that.

15 We also realize that, you know, nuclear in
16 many ways is a special case. And right now what we
17 have to deal with, inevitably, is the reality that
18 nuclear power plants in this country are potential
19 targets for terrorist attacks on civilians in America.

20 And that is an issue that I didn't even
21 want to really look at, until 9/11. My concerns about
22 nuclear power were, after having grown up in reactor
23 communities, living in one, had to do with just the
24 day to day consequences of having a reactor in the
25 community, and the way that it divides people, the way

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1 that people suffer from illness around reactors, and
2 the ways in which it corrupts the political system in
3 the community.

4 With 9/11 it is sort of the trump card,
5 and the threat of terrorism. People talk about the
6 increase in security at Ginna. It is true, you know,
7 people are hiring a few more security guards. In New
8 York we have the National Guard providing some extra
9 service, which is another subsidy, to deal with the
10 inadequacy of the industry's ability to deal with the
11 security problem.

12 But the truth is that security isn't an
13 adequate response to it. The reactor sites,
14 themselves, are structurally vulnerable. People,
15 there is a lot of focus on whether the containment at
16 Ginna could withstand an airliner impact, you know,
17 whether or not the plane goes through the containment,
18 there is a lot of collateral damage that could cause
19 a severe accident.

20 But, you know, the high level waste, the
21 irradiated fuel, the spent fuel on site is in an
22 unprotected building. It is not -- there is no
23 containment around the spent fuel pool, and that has
24 more radioactive material in it than the reactor ever
25 has.

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1 So when you conceive of the fact that the
2 NRC's estimates from 1982, just for a meltdown, were
3 that 2,000 people in the immediate vicinity could die,
4 and that 28,000 people within 40 miles could be
5 hospitalized, and that there could be, you know, 63
6 billion dollars in property losses to the surrounding
7 area, you know, this is really incredible.

8 And to think that, you know, that there
9 aren't people who realize the damage that that could
10 cause to our economy, and to our society, is not worth
11 it to keep it going.

12 And what actually, you know, what is
13 afforded to us at this point is the fact that Ginna,
14 you know, if it doesn't get relicensed has seven years
15 to plan for a shutdown.

16 And while as an anti-nuclear person it is
17 hard for me to say, you know, keep it running for
18 another seven years. It affords us an opportunity to
19 plan for the phase-out, and to plan for what is going
20 to happen in terms of jobs, and in terms of property
21 taxes, and in terms of the economy.

22 And we would all be a lot safer. Whether
23 or not you think that, you know, Ginna should be
24 relicensed or not, nobody can deny that we would be a
25 lot safer if, you know, the nuclear power plants were

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1 shut down, and the nuclear waste that was on-site was
2 secured.

3 We would all be a lot safer, there is no
4 doubt about that. So why not take the chance that we
5 have now, rather than let R. E. Ginna go forward, and
6 charge the repairs for the process of relicensing this
7 reactor, for any retrofits that it goes through, and
8 deal honestly with the question of whether RG&E is
9 going to sell this plant.

10 I mean, RG&E is the subsidiary of a
11 corporation that doesn't invest in generation at this
12 point. And the pattern in the RG&E, sold its other
13 nuclear power plant to a private operator.

14 The truth is that if RG&E wants to sell
15 this reactor, and get the liability off its hands, it
16 has to relicense it. Nobody is going to buy a nuke
17 that has only 7 years left on its license.

18 And that is the truth, that is the reality
19 that we are faced with at this point. And whether,
20 you know, RG&E to give them credit, has been a better
21 neighbor than a lot of, than the other nuclear
22 operators in this state.

23 But the companies that are coming in and
24 taking over these reactors aren't. And Oswego is
25 already having problems with property taxes going up,

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1 because the new companies can't afford to pay the high
2 bills that they paid in the past. And they are, you
3 know, preparing to reduce the size of the workforce.

4 This is the future coming. And it makes
5 sense, right now, to take a proactive stance in this
6 situation, to make sure that the future of what
7 happens with Ginna is a positive one for the
8 community, rather than stretching this out in an
9 ongoing experiment. Thanks.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you. We
11 are going to next hear from Cathryn Thomas. And
12 Cathryn is the town supervisor for the town of
13 Webster. Cathryn?

14 MS. THOMAS: Thank you, and welcome to the
15 Webster Library. Thank you for holding your meeting
16 here at what we think is our really great facility
17 here.

18 As I have been introduced, I'm the town
19 supervisor right here in Webster. And I don't feel
20 comfortable, to tell you the truth, getting into the
21 whole debate about whether or not we should have
22 nuclear power, and have nuclear power plants.

23 But -- and I'm sorry that I had a conflict
24 at another meeting, and I wasn't here. I just got
25 here a short while ago and I'm going to have to leave

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1 after this, because I have a really tight schedule
2 these days.

3 And I know I might be repeating some of
4 the comments. I certainly know that Channing
5 Philbrick, who is the Penfield supervisor, one of my
6 colleagues, had sent a letter.

7 And I probably don't need to go through
8 all the pros, also, in the sense of some of the
9 advantages that we do have, as I say, not talking
10 about whether we should have nuclear energy or not, a
11 plant.

12 But a lot of things, talking about the
13 jobs, and talking about the economic impact. I just
14 can't imagine taking a facility with the assessed
15 value that that plant has out of a town just like
16 Webster, and what the impact would be.

17 I mean, we could probably sit down and
18 even crunch numbers, but it would be significant. And
19 it would be even more significant, would be my guess,
20 from my -- what I see as a relative relationship
21 between what the town of Ontario is like, and what the
22 town of Webster is like.

23 So certainly you are going to have an
24 impact there with that reduced assessed value should
25 that not have a plant, or some facility there. And,

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1 of course, the job impact too. And I don't think we
2 can really minimize it, in the economy these days.

3 The jobs, I know a lot of people right
4 here in Webster, and in the surrounding area, do work,
5 rely on their jobs at the plant. So there certainly
6 are the economic factors that are a certainty would be
7 negative.

8 But what I can really talk about with you
9 is the experience that I have had working with the
10 people at RG&E, running the plant, in the town right
11 adjacent to the town of Webster. And all of those
12 experiences have been very positive, and I only view
13 all of those people as very, very professional, and
14 very caring, and very interested in running, I think
15 there was an admission about the people that are there
16 now, in RG&E, and how they run the Ginna facility, and
17 how well they have done.

18 And they really do an exemplary job, and
19 I'm just telling you that that has been my personal
20 experience. They -- after 9/11, and as I say, we
21 think about things a lot differently now than we did,
22 there were extra meetings right out at the plant to
23 look at -- and they don't reveal everything to me,
24 just like they are not going to, to the general
25 public, which is obvious.

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1 But to give us some additional level of
2 assurances of the security factors in place, really
3 that had been in place for an extended period of time,
4 for the history of the plant, up until 9/11, and
5 additional measures that had been thought of since
6 that event.

7 And that was very reassuring, and I'm
8 regularly communicated to from representatives of RG&E
9 about what is going on, and any updates, and anything
10 that I need to know, and that my community,
11 potentially, needs to know I'm aware of.

12 I have never been surprised, and all of a
13 sudden read something in the paper, or heard a rumor,
14 or anything like that. They are very good at letting
15 us know everything that we need to know, when we need
16 to know it.

17 And I, in turn, feel that is important in
18 representing the people, that I then let the people of
19 Webster know, when I pass that along to them, and I
20 always check my facts with RG&E before I do that, so
21 I make sure I have everything going out correctly to
22 the public.

23 So, as I say, you know, the plant is
24 there, and I know people have very strong feelings on
25 either side of whether or not we should have that

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1 energy. I don't know, I know it would be a very big
2 impact, also, to replace all of the energy that is
3 generated by the plant.

4 You know, we are very fortunate in New
5 York state that we have had the capacity that we have
6 had, that all of the energy suppliers have been able
7 to supply, with a very large increase in demand, as
8 time goes on, with technology and electricity, and a
9 lot of those issues.

10 And you heard about, a couple of years
11 ago, how terrible it was to live out in California,
12 and be a resident, and try to run a business out there
13 with the rolling blackouts, or brownouts, or whatever
14 they were having, and we have not had any of those
15 types of experiences, at least in this part of New
16 York state, and not that I'm very widely aware of,
17 throughout our state.

18 And to think that we would have to find
19 something to replace that. And if we were not to
20 relicense a lot of these facilities around the state,
21 and the country, we would have to find a whole lot of
22 things to replace a lot of that energy that is being
23 created, that is just another side of what is to be
24 looked at.

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1 But very specifically all of the
2 experiences that I have had dealing with the people,
3 that is the core of what RG&E is, the people who
4 specifically run the plant out there.

5 And we have very good people, not speaking
6 about myself personally, but on the government side,
7 with the office of emergency preparedness. And I
8 don't know the people in Wayne County, but I do know
9 Muffy Misenthal, and Sandy McCluso are two of the top
10 people in the Monroe County Office of Emergency
11 Preparedness, and they work even much more closely
12 than I do with the Ginna people as far as putting
13 together all the plans, and then we are trained to
14 follow the plans, and what is involved in all of them.

15 So, as I said, it is a very professionally
16 run operation, and they have given me every assurance
17 that they are -- you know, these people live here,
18 too, in this area, and they don't want anything to
19 happen to their facility as much as everyone else
20 doesn't.

21 Does that mean that absolutely positively
22 nothing could ever happen to it? Of course not, that
23 would be naive. But absolutely anything could happen
24 anywhere, any time, as we really did experience on
25 9/11 that I'm sure no one had even imagined anything

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1 as tragic as happened on that date would, might have
2 ever happened anywhere, and it did.

3 So -- but you have to weigh all of the
4 practical realities of what do we need, do we need
5 this energy, is it good to have the jobs, is it good
6 to have the economic impact of having a plant there,
7 against all of the things that a lot of the other
8 people spoke about.

9 You know, we talked about -- somebody just
10 mentioned political corruption, I don't know exactly
11 what that reference was to, but as I said, all the
12 people that I work with from RG&E have been good and
13 professional people. And I do trust the people who
14 have a lot more expertise in this area, at the higher
15 levels of our state government.

16 I don't know to what role the PSE in New
17 York state would ever play in this, but then you have
18 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and those are the
19 people that have the expertise, and that I will rely
20 on to make the right decision.

21 Long-term is it a good idea to make the
22 licensing, but if they are making their decision, or
23 a part of their decision is based on historically how
24 has the facility run, and what is the impression of
25 people about it, my impression is that the facility is

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1 run in a very excellent manner, and the people that we
2 deal with to run it are very good, and caring, and
3 professional people.

4 And I can just tell you that because that
5 has been my experience with them, so I wanted to pass
6 that along. Thank you very much.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Cathryn.
8 And next we are going to go to Ron Fellows, and then
9 we are going to hear from Joel Van Schaffel, Ron
10 Behan, and Dr. Loomis. Ron Fellows.

11 MR. FELLOWS: Thank you very much. I was
12 asked by RG&E to provide you, the audience, the few
13 examples of how our society, the American Nuclear
14 Society Ginna plant branch interrelates with the
15 immediate communities around Ginna, and Monroe
16 Counties.

17 As Bob Mecredy introduced me, my name is
18 Ron Fellows. I hold a senior reactor operator's
19 license for the Ginna facility, where I'm a control
20 room supervisor.

21 I've worked with RG&E since 1985, and I'm
22 currently the American Nuclear Society's Ginna Plant
23 branch chair. I've been in that position for
24 approximately three years.

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1 A little bit about the American Nuclear
2 Society. The American Nuclear Society is a not-for-
3 profit international, scientific, and educational
4 organization. It was established in the 1950s by a
5 group of individuals who recognized the need to unify
6 the professional activities within the diverse fields
7 of nuclear science and technology.

8 The American Nuclear Society's Ginna plant
9 branch falls under the northeastern section of the
10 American Nuclear Society. Back in the early 1990s,
11 when deregulation was the topic in the utility
12 business, a bunch of us in the industry had a grave
13 concern for questions that were being raised by
14 members of the community.

15 Today you witnessed some of those concerns
16 that have been brought up by concerned citizens, and
17 I applaud them for bringing forth their grave concerns
18 to ensure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is
19 going to take under consideration when they decide to
20 renew the, or deny the renewal, of the RG&E Ginna's
21 facility.

22 We had to come up with a goal for the
23 plant branch outside of the American Nuclear
24 Society's, and the plant branch goal at Ginna is to

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1 increase the awareness of the general public about the
2 aspects of nuclear power.

3 We decided to do that through three
4 committees, public information, and education, and
5 recognition. Since early 1992, when we were formed,
6 we have been asked by various community organizations,
7 such as PTAs, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, 4H
8 groups, various universities, St. John's Fisher
9 College, the University of Rochester, just to name a
10 few, to provide guest speakers on the topic of nuclear
11 power and the atom.

12 We've also provided to the community, with
13 support of RG&E, tours to our facility, mainly
14 elementary, middle school and high school students,
15 but as well as other professional organizations.
16 Thousands of students have visited Ginna's training
17 center, where we've covered various topics, radiation
18 exposure to how we ensure the safety and health of the
19 general public, through a system that we call safety
20 in depth.

21 Students have been able to try on the
22 little canary outfits you might be familiar with, from
23 news organizations, we call them anti-contamination
24 clothing, which they got a kick out of, to have a

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1 better understanding of how we prevent the spread of
2 contamination.

3 We've had students visit the Ginna
4 simulator, which was referenced earlier. It is an
5 actual mockup of the control room, a facility that
6 operators such as myself train on, periodically, and
7 annually given a rigorous exam to maintain our license
8 proficient.

9 Ginna had just completed, successfully,
10 their annual exam for the operators at Ginna. We also
11 participate in New York state's Adopt A Highway
12 Program, the American Nuclear Society's Ginna Plant
13 Branch is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness
14 of areas on Route 104 between Knickerbocker and North
15 Slocum Road. It is about two and a half miles.

16 We have been doing that for pretty much 11
17 or 12 years, and we meet about three times a year to
18 maintain that area clean.

19 A lot of support in that from the
20 communities and businesses along the highway. They
21 have come out and personally thanked me for our
22 efforts in maintaining that clean.

23 One of my biggest accomplishments for the
24 American Nuclear Society's Ginna plant branch is an
25 excellent SCRAM. If you visit our display table

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1 outside you will see where we proudly display a plaque
2 in the plant that shows the recipients of that award.

3 For the last nine years, this will be the
4 tenth in December, we have awarded a local school,
5 elementary, middle or high school, a thousand dollar
6 grant to be used for various school supplies otherwise
7 not covered by their budgets.

8 To be nominated they must be nominated by
9 a plant branch member. They are then invited to fill
10 out an application specifying what they plan on doing
11 with the funds, and then when we receive those, we
12 invite them to attend a day long workshop that we
13 normally have held at the Ginna nuclear facility.

14 After September 11th we did hold one final
15 workshop at Ginna, and we did not bring any of the
16 teachers, unfortunately, on site as we did in years
17 past. There is a lot of interesting concerns teachers
18 have.

19 They have a hard time explaining the
20 nuclear waste. It is an issue, and it is of
21 importance. But what they are fascinated in seeing is
22 that it is very minimal in quantity.

23 Now, I didn't come to debate the aspects,
24 pros and cons, obviously I'm biased. But what this
25 excellence grant does is educates the educators, so

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1 that they can take back to the classroom resources
2 that they can present, in an unbiased fashion, to
3 their students so that they can make their own
4 rational decisions as to what we are going to do.

5 Electricity is a commodity, in my opinion
6 we shouldn't deregulate it. Electricity is a
7 commodity that we rely on in our daily lives, from the
8 time you get up in the morning to the time you go to
9 bed at night.

10 I know my kids love it with their
11 Nintendos, and their computers, and their remote
12 control, that I never had, their satellites, I can
13 talk forever.

14 So the excellence grants, I'm proud to
15 say, that is a major accomplishment of the Ginna plant
16 branch. We have awarded it for the last nine years.
17 The funds come from membership dues, various fund
18 raising events, and personal donations.

19 This year, in December, we are
20 collaborating with the central New York Health
21 Physicists Society, where we plan on having speakers
22 from nuclear medicine, and the fission project at the
23 University of Rochester.

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1 I was told I only had five minutes to
2 speak, so I close. I can talk forever, if you would
3 like.

4 I'm 41 years old, I live 11 miles due
5 south of the plant. I actually have, I have a
6 teenager, a 16 year old daughter, and a 13 year old
7 boy. Those are not fun years, if anyone has ever been
8 there before.

9 But I've got a family, I've got friends.
10 I have been the PTA president for my school district,
11 I've been a Boy Scout leader, I've been a coach. A
12 lot of members of our plant branch are volunteer
13 firemen.

14 We participate in various fundraisers. On
15 Sunday -- there is a young gentleman, this past
16 summer, who passed away at the age of 10, and we are
17 having a fundraiser for the individual, in his name,
18 and we are having a volunteer firemen versus the
19 Ginna, the football coaches, a flag football game. I
20 invite you all out to participate, of course there is
21 a small contribution requested.

22 But it is things like that, that make me
23 proud to be part of Ginna, and the community. We've
24 got nothing but full support from the members of the
25 community. We've talked in great detail with

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1 concerned scientists on the subject, and a very open
2 minded, unbiased logic, train of thought.

3 And I hope that with the concerns they
4 bring up today, the society becomes more intelligent
5 in making decisions that the Nuclear Regulatory
6 Commission has to make on the renewal of Ginna's
7 license.

8 And, in closing, the American Nuclear
9 Society's Ginna Plant Branch is obviously in favor,
10 and fully supportive of extending Ginna's license for
11 20 years. Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very
13 much, Ron. Let's go to Mr. Van Schaffel.

14 MR. VAN SCHAFFEL: My name is Joel Van
15 Schaffel, I represent Millwrights Local 1163. We've
16 had the opportunity to work very closely with RG&E at
17 the Ginna station on their turbine decks, as well as
18 in their maintenance shops, over the years, including
19 the building of the place.

20 The membership in my local has been there
21 from day one, pretty much. So we have been through all
22 the refuels, and it has been a good time there. We've
23 seen a lot of changes with Ginna, we've seen the
24 updates they've done, they've done a very good job

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1 protecting the workers there, along with the
2 surrounding areas.

3 The people always seem to come home in
4 good shape, they have learned a lot, they've been well
5 educated while they were there. Thank you.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very
7 much, Mr. Van Schaffel. And let's go to Mr. Behan.

8 MR. BEHAN: Good afternoon, my comments
9 will be very brief. My name is Ron Behan, I'm
10 President of the Rochester Building and Construction
11 Trades Council.

12 Rochester Building Trades represents over
13 15,000 working families in the Rochester area. I'm
14 here today to speak in favor for the renewal of the
15 operating license for the Ginna Nuclear Power Plant.

16 The reason is very simple for us, it is
17 jobs for our members who live in this community.
18 Since the plant was built the Rochester Building
19 Trades have been involved with the building of the
20 plant, and supplementing the RG&E personnel when it
21 comes to maintaining this plant.

22 During shutdowns at the plant RG&E has
23 always made sure that subcontractors have hired local
24 craftsmen to do their work. This has provided good

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1 paying, safe jobs for the people that live in this
2 community.

3 I wish more corporate citizens would take
4 the time to do due diligence to make sure that their
5 work goes to the people that work in the community.

6 I want to end by saying that I have worked
7 at Ginna nuclear power house, I have worked at Indian
8 Point, I have worked in Seabrook, I've worked in Nine
9 Mile 2, I have worked in the Fitzpatrick plant in
10 Oswego.

11 And I think we all should realize, and
12 appreciate what a well-rounded efficient plant that
13 RG&E has at Ginna. And I can only say that I hope
14 that the NRC goes through with the licensing, it would
15 mean a lot to this community. Thank you.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.
17 Behan. And next Dr. Loomis.

18 DR. LOOMIS: Thank you for the opportunity
19 to participate in the first ever public hearing
20 regarding Ginna outside of the town of Ontario.

21 I'm a family doc, now retired, bought an
22 old cobblestone house on Lake Road in Ontario. Almost
23 immediately after we signed, got our mortgage, RG&E
24 bought the property on three sides of us. So I think

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1 we have the distinction of living the closest, of
2 anybody, to the Ginna plant.

3 We lived there 32 years. And this, by the
4 way, is a co-generated report, my wife and myself.
5 She was on the town board. I had all sorts of reasons
6 to be very concerned about safety at this plant.

7 One had to do with the personal nature,
8 two I was town health officer and remain the town
9 health officer for the town of Ontario. And I had
10 some real concerns early on.

11 We raised three kids, enjoyed the rural
12 setting. We found RG&E to be a good neighbor. We
13 now, I tell people we got scared, we moved a mile away
14 downwind from the plant.

15 One of the concerns we talked about
16 alternative sources of power. One of our major
17 concerns, after RG&E bought it, was not the nuclear
18 side of things, but were they going to put gigantic
19 piles of coal about 600 or 800 feet behind our house.

20 And then I found out, in some of the early
21 stuff, that it generated more radiation than did the
22 plant. So we were supporters at the start. And I
23 did, for the town, a great deal of work regarding the
24 safety of all this.

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1 One of the early concerns was, well, was
2 the plant going to blow up? That was a real concern.
3 Secondary is what happens to the waste products. We
4 were assured, by the Federal government, I don't
5 recall it was -- I believe it was the AEC at the time,
6 that this material would be trucked away.

7 And indeed, for a while, I believe it did
8 go to West Valley, until its closure. We believe the
9 license should be renewed because the positive factors
10 outweigh the negative.

11 On the plus side we need energy for our
12 homes, and for our places of employment. We do not
13 want to have brownouts here. Ginna provides jobs for
14 our local residents. RG&E, now Energy East, is a
15 significant contributor to the tax base in the town of
16 Ontario.

17 This has enabled Ontario to maintain a
18 reasonable tax rate, and we hope this continues. RG&E
19 has been a good neighbor. They have been sensitive to
20 the immediate neighborhood by keeping the rural
21 setting of orchards and acres of green space.

22 Being an immediate neighbor, they were
23 responsive to our questions and concerns. And we
24 found them always to be very up front. My major beef
25 was what I call light pollution. And on cloudy

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1 nights, particularly in the winter, the snow is
2 orange, but it hardly has to do with the safety.

3 At a professional level I participated in
4 the development of emergency planning, participated in
5 drills, and had the opportunity to observe, first-
6 hand, the management team, some of whom are here
7 today, and their attentiveness to safety and health
8 physics departments, and to their consultants.

9 Energy East must be observed by regulatory
10 agencies to see that the advice of these valuable
11 employees continues to be carefully considered. Both
12 to their benefit, and to the town of Ontario, Bear
13 Creek Harbor was improved to provide public access to
14 Lake Ontario, and to the fishermen who, in the past,
15 loved to fish the warm waters off Ginna.

16 We have three concerns on the negative
17 side. When Ginna started this operation, in 1970, the
18 spent nuclear waste was trucked out of this area to
19 West Valley. This was changed several years ago and
20 the waste is now stored on-site.

21 We believe that the local citizens should
22 know when this spent fuel will be removed from the
23 present site. The answer to this issue should be part
24 of the permitting process.

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1 The Federal government has the
2 responsibility for this, and has committed billions of
3 dollars to the proper storage of spent nuclear fuel.
4 When will this happen?

5 In the past there has been a problem in
6 establishing an assessed value of Ginna for local
7 property tax purposes. Although this is a local and
8 state issue, the relationship between Energy East and
9 the town of Ontario is a key factor in establishing a
10 fair assessed value.

11 Although the ultimate assessed value of
12 the property lies with the local assessor, it is hoped
13 that the good relationship with the town established
14 by RG&E will continue.

15 Energy East, albeit a new arrival, has yet
16 to establish its credentials as a good neighbor, with
17 commitment to the health and welfare of Ontario, and
18 the surrounding area.

19 In closing, we ask two questions. Why
20 wasn't there much notice of this local meeting here
21 today? And I would -- well, why was the hearing not
22 held in the town of Ontario? We have facilities that
23 range between 100 people and 1,400 if they are
24 necessary.

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1 And I asked the question earlier, were we
2 going to have additional meetings. I would hope that
3 if you do, that you do it in the town of Ontario,
4 where local residents can participate easily. Thank
5 you very much.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Dr.
7 Loomis. And your last two comments on notice and
8 location of the meeting will -- we are going to take
9 that into serious consideration.

10 And it just reminds me that we do have
11 something called a -- it is called a feedback form,
12 but it is an evaluation form of NRC meetings. And if
13 you could just take a few minutes to give us your
14 thoughts, criticism, in terms of notice, or whatever,
15 things that we did well, we would appreciate that.

16 And I think that is the end of the
17 speakers for this afternoon's session. And I would
18 just like to thank you, from my perspective, for your
19 excellent questions and your excellent comments. And
20 I guess I would just ask John Tappert, even though we
21 have senior management here with us, this is usually
22 his show.

23 Do you have anything, John, that you want
24 to close out the meeting?

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1 MR. TAPPERT: No, just to echo Chip's
2 thoughts. We appreciate people taking time out today
3 to come out here and participate in the process. It
4 is an important part of our scoping review, and we
5 a p p r e c i a t e y o u r t i m e .

6 And the Staff will be staying after the meeting
7 if you want to talk to anyone on a one on one basis.

8 (Whereupon, at 4:00 p.m. the above-
9 entitled matter was concluded.)

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