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License Renewal Application
Public Hearing

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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VIRGIL C. SUMMER NUCLEAR STATION

LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY,

DECEMBER 11, 2002

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JENKINSVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

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The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the White Hall Fellowship at 8594 State Highway 215 South, Jenkinsville, South Carolina, Chip Cameron, Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

CHIP CAMERON, FACILITATOR

JOHN TAPPERT

RAJ AULUCK

GREGORY SUBER

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FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good evening everyone.

My name is Chip Cameron. I'm the special counsel for the public liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I would just like to welcome all of you to the NRC's meeting tonight.

The subject that we're going to discuss is the scope of the NRC's environmental review on the application that we received from South Carolina Electric & Gas to renew the operating license at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station.

It's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator tonight. And in that role, I will try to make sure that you all have a productive meeting.

I just wanted to cover a couple of things about the meeting format and agenda tonight before we get into our substantive discussions. In terms of format, there is going to be two parts to the meeting, basically, and those match up with the objectives that we wanted to achieve tonight.

One thing we want to do is to make sure that we clearly explain to all of you what the license -- NRC's license renewal process is all about, and, specifically, what type of environmental review we do on a license renewal application, such as the one that we

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1 received from South Carolina Electric & Gas. So we're
2 going to have a few presentations, brief, and answer any
3 questions that you might have about our process. Then
4 we're going to go to the second part of the meeting, and
5 our objective there is to listen to any of you who wish
6 to speak to us on these license renewal issues. So we
7 will ask you either to come up to the podium to talk, or
8 if it's easier to use this talking stick, you're welcome
9 to do that, also.

10 We are taking written comments, as you will
11 hear from the NRC staff tonight, but we wanted to be
12 here with you in person tonight, and anything that you
13 say to us tonight will have the same weight as any
14 written comments that are given to us.

15 Ground rules are simple: If you have
16 something to say, just give me a wave, and I will bring
17 you this talking stick, and please tell us your name and
18 affiliation, if appropriate.

19 We are taking a transcript of the meeting.
20 Lisa is our stenographer over here. So that I would ask
21 you let's only have one person at a time talking so that
22 we can get a clear transcript, but also so that we can
23 give our full attention to whomever has the floor at the
24 time.

25 Although I don't think we need to worry too

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1 much about it, when we get to the formal comment part of
2 the meeting, usually I ask people to try to keep their
3 comments down to approximately five minutes. If you go
4 a little over that, that's fine, but try to be at least
5 a little bit mindful of that, so that we can make sure
6 that everybody has a chance to talk tonight.

7 In terms of the agenda and speakers, first of
8 all, we're going to start out with Mr. John Tappert, who
9 is right here from the NRC staff, and he's going to
10 provide just a brief welcome and overview to you.

11 John is the chief of the Environmental Section
12 of the license renewal and Environmental Impact Program
13 at the NRC. John and his staff do all of the

14 environmental reviews for reactor projects, whether it's
15 license renewal or a license amendment or a new plant.

16 John has been with the NRC for about 11 years.
17 He was a resident inspector at some plants that the NRC
18 licenses and regulates. And the resident inspectors --
19 we have two resident inspectors at the Summer plant, for
20 example. They're the NRC's eyes and ears at the
21 facility, and they live in the community. John was a
22 resident inspector. He has a bachelor's degree in
23 aerospace and oceanographic engineering from Virginia
24 Tech and a master's degree in environmental engineering
25 from Johns Hopkins University.

1 After John gives his brief welcome, we're
2 going to have Raj Auluck. Raj, if you could identify
3 yourself. Raj is the project manager for the safety
4 evaluation on this license renewal application. And I'm
5 emphasizing safety evaluation because there's two parts
6 to the NRC's review, two primary parts. One is safety,
7 and Raj is going to tell you about that, as well as the
8 overall license renewal process.

9 Raj has been with the agency for a long time,
10 over 20 years. He's not only worked in the licensing of
11 nuclear power plants, but he's also worked on developing
12 the rule-makings that set the safety standards for the
13 operation of nuclear power plants. And Raj has a
14 master's and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, I
15 believe, in -- is it mechanical?

16 MR. AULUCK: Mechanical.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Mechanical engineering.
18 Then we're going to get to the real focus of the
19 meeting, which is the NRC's environmental review on this
20 license renewal application.

21 We have Mr. Gregory Suber right here. Greg is
22 the project manager on the environmental review. He's
23 only been with the NRC a short time, for two years now.
24 Before that, he worked for the Bechtel Power
25 Corporation. He has a master's degree from Duke

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1 University in environmental science, and a bachelor's in
2 mechanical engineering from Howard University.

3 So we have a lot of good people, qualified
4 people, working on this project. Besides the three
5 speakers, there are other people from the NRC here. And
6 just as importantly, we have some expert consultants on
7 various scientific disciplines who are here with us.

8 So after the meeting, please feel free to, if
9 you have questions, talk to them or ask your questions
10 during the meeting, of course, and I would just thank
11 all of you for being with us tonight, taking the time
12 out of your evening to help us with this important
13 decision.

14 And before we go to John Tappert, it's a real
15 pleasure to have Reverend Cannon here from the church.
16 We really appreciate the use of the meeting space, and I
17 was just going to ask Reverend Cannon if he would say a
18 few words for us.

19 REVEREND CANNON: Good evening. And although
20 I'm the pastor of this church, I'm going to keep my
21 minutes down to five minutes, also.

22 (Laughter.)

23 REVEREND CANNON: First of all, we want you to
24 know that we are blessed. We are blessed, and we are
25 happy to have good neighbors. And it's good when you

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1 have good neighbors. You are welcome at any time to our
2 church, and you have been a blessing to our community.
3 We wish you success and we hope that you will continue
4 to be a vital part of this community. Let this
5 community work with you and you work with it, so that
6 you can continue to be a vital part in the State of
7 South Carolina and throughout the world.

8 And again, thank you for coming and using our
9 facilities, and we're glad to be good neighbors. Thank
10 you and welcome.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
12 Pastor.

13 REVEREND CANNON: To our staff, my wife, and
14 of course, our own members that are present.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you for making us
16 feel very welcome.

17 With that, let's go to John Tappert for a
18 welcome.

19 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip. Good evening
20 and welcome. As Chip said, my name is John Tappert.
21 I'm the chief of the environmental section in the Office
22 of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. On behalf of the Nuclear
23 Regulatory Commission, I would like to thank you for
24 coming out here tonight and participating in the
25 process.

1 As Chip said, there are several things we
2 would like to accomplish this evening. I would like to
3 briefly go over the purposes of today's meeting.

4 First of all, we would like to give you a
5 brief overview of the entire license renewal process.
6 This includes both a safety review, as well as an
7 environmental review, which will be the principal focus
8 of today's meeting.

9 For that environmental review, we will assess
10 the environmental impacts associated with extending the
11 operating license for V.C. Summer Nuclear Power plant
12 for an additional 20 years. I would like to explain the
13 process that we're going to follow, the issues that
14 we're going to look at, the schedule that we're going to
15 keep, and the opportunities that you will have to
16 participate in that process.

17 At the conclusion of staff's presentation, we
18 will be happy to receive any questions or comments that
19 you may have this evening. But first, let me provide
20 some general context for the license renewal program.

21 The Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the
22 authority to issue operating licenses to commercial
23 nuclear power plants for a period of 40 years. For the
24 V.C. Summer plant, that operating license will expire in
25 2022.

1 Our regulations also make provisions for
2 extending that operating license for an additional 20
3 years. As part of a license renewal program, SCE&G has
4 requested license renewal for the Summer plant.

5 As part of the NRC's review of that
6 application, we will do an environmental review, assess
7 the impacts associated with extending the operation.

8 We're in the early phase of that review right
9 now, something called the scoping process, where we seek
10 to identify those issues, which will require our
11 greatest focus during our review. That is really the
12 principal reason for the meeting here tonight, is to
13 receive your input into that scoping process.

14 With that, I would like to ask Raj to give a
15 brief overview of the safety portion of that review.

16 MR. AULUCK: Good evening. As John mentioned,
17 I'm Raj Auluck. I'm the project manager for the safety
18 review of the application for license renewal for the
19 V.C. Summer Nuclear Station.

20 The NRC's requirements for the renewal of the
21 operating license are contained in Title 10 of the Code
22 of Federal Register, Part 54. The license renewal
23 process essentially runs in two parallel paths and is
24 very similar to the original licensing process in that
25 it involves a safety review, an environmental impact

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1 evaluation, and plant inspections.

2 The safety review is focused on the review and
3 inspection of aging management programs for passive
4 long-lived system, structures and components. The
5 reason that the commission felt that these programs
6 should be the focus of the license renewal regulations
7 is because ongoing regulator processes already ensure
8 that the current licensing basis is maintained, and that
9 things like emergency planning and security plans are
10 acceptably implemented.

11 There are components and systems that need to
12 be constantly attended to. However, those maintenance
13 processes do not explicitly look at the plant's design
14 capability to cope with longterm degradation of
15 equipment due to aging effects.

16 So the license renewal application focuses on
17 those inspection programs and maintenance practices that
18 are used to maintain the margins of safety in the plant
19 safety equipment.

20 The second review path involves the
21 environmental review, which Gregory Suber will discuss
22 shortly.

23 I also want to mention that there is an
24 independent review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor
25 Safeguards, or ACRS. The ACRS is a group of scientists

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1 and nuclear industry experts who serve as a consulting
2 body to the NRC Commissioners. The ACRS reviews the
3 renewal application, and the staff's safety evaluation,
4 and reports its findings and recommendations directly to
5 the Commission.

6 This figure illustrates the entire license
7 renewal process. The upper path describes the safety
8 review, and the lower path shows the environmental
9 review.

10 The safety review involves the staff's review
11 of the technical information in the application to
12 verify, with reasonable assurance, that the plant can
13 continue to operate safely during the extended period of
14 operation. The staff's review is documented in a safety
15 evaluation report.

16 As I mentioned earlier, the ACRS reviews this
17 report, as well as the application, in order to develop
18 its independent findings. The ACRS holds public
19 meetings, which are transcribed. Oral and written
20 statements can be provided during the ACRS meetings in
21 accordance with the instructions described in the notice
22 of their meetings in the Federal Register.

23 In parallel with the safety review, the staff
24 performs its review of the environmental impacts of
25 continued operation. As Gregory Suber will discuss

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1 later, the staff will issue an environmental impact
2 statement on the facility after it completes its review.

3 The NRC's licensing process also includes a
4 formal process for public involvement through hearings
5 conducted by a panel of administrative law judges who
6 are called Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, or ASLB.
7 That process requires a petition to be submitted to hold
8 hearings on particular issues, which would be litigated
9 by the board. However, there were no petitions filed to
10 intervene on the Summer proceedings.

11 At the end of the process, the final safety
12 evaluation report, the final environmental impact
13 statement, the ACRS recommendation and staff inspections
14 will be used by the Agency in making the final license
15 renewal decision.

16 Throughout this process, interested members of
17 the public who are concerned about nuclear safety issues
18 can raise those issues during the various public
19 meetings that the NRC will hold to discuss the
20 V.C. Summer application.

21 Meetings on particular technical issues are
22 usually held at the NRC headquarters in Rockville,
23 Maryland. However, some technical meetings and meetings
24 to summarize the results of the NRC's inspection
25 findings will be held near the plant site in a place

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1 which is accessible to the public.

2 In addition, the staff holds four public
3 meetings on the environmental aspects of the review, two
4 on the scope of the review, and two on the results of
5 the review during which the public can provide comments.

6 This is a brief overview of the license
7 renewal process. I will now take questions regarding
8 the renewal process before we proceed to the
9 environmental review process presentation.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Raj. Do we
11 have questions from anybody on the overall review or
12 what type of aging issues the NRC looked at or any
13 questions generally about what or who the NRC is, what
14 the responsibilities are?

15 Okay. Let's go on to the environmental review
16 presentation. Thank you very much, Raj.

17 MR. SUBER: Thank you, Chip.

18 First of all, I would like to thank everyone
19 for coming out. Public participation is important to
20 the NRC, and I'm glad that you came out to take part in
21 this process.

22 My name is Gregory Suber. I am the
23 environmental project manager for the V.C. Summer
24 license renewal. I'm going to take a few minutes to
25 discuss the environmental review process and how you can

1 participate in that process.

2 The National Environmental Policy Act, also
3 known as NEPA, was enacted in 1969 and signed into law
4 in January of 1970. NEPA requires that all federal
5 agencies use a systematic approach to consider
6 environmental impacts during certain decision making
7 proceedings. It is what we call a disclosure tool that
8 involves the public. That means that the NRC uses this
9 process to, number one, let the public know what
10 information we are using in our regulatory decisions.

11 We disclose and demonstrate to the public what
12 issues we are considering, and then we invite the public
13 to participate and evaluate the process and the
14 information. That's the reason we're here today.

15 The product of the NEPA process for license
16 renewal is an environmental impact statement, also known
17 as an EIS. An EIS describes the results of the detailed
18 review that we conduct to evaluate the environmental
19 impacts of a proposed action that may significantly
20 affect the quality of the human environment.

21 As a part of our review, we also consider the
22 environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed
23 action. These alternatives include replacement power
24 sources, conservation measures, and the no-action
25 alternative, which means simply not approving the

1 license renewal for V.C. Summer.

2 In the Generic Environmental Impact Statement
3 for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, also known as
4 NUREG-1437 or what we call the GEIS, the NRC considered
5 the environmental impacts of renewing nuclear power
6 plant operating licenses for up to 20 years.

7 In the GEIS, the staff identified and assessed
8 92 environmental issues related to license renewal. The
9 staff reached generic conclusions related to
10 environmental impact on 69 of these issues referred to
11 in the GEIS as Category 1 issues. By generic, we mean
12 that the conclusion of these environmental impacts are
13 common for all operating plants.

14 The remaining 23 issues require plant-specific
15 review, in addition to any Category 1 issue for which
16 new and significant information is identified. This new
17 and significant information can be identified by a
18 variety of sources. Number one is the applicant, SCE&G,
19 the NRC, other agencies, or through public comments.
20 These plant-specific reviews are to be included in the
21 supplement to the GEIS.

22 At this point in our process, we are gathering
23 information that we need to prepare the supplement to
24 the GEIS. Specifically, we are performing what we call
25 scoping. We are having this meeting as part of our

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1 scoping process to provide you, the public, and other
2 government agencies with the opportunity to provide us
3 with information that you believe may have some bearing
4 on our environmental evaluation.

5 In particular, we are looking for information
6 that may not be readily available or concerns that you
7 may have that are not addressed in the licensing
8 application.

9 As stated in this slide, the objective of our
10 environmental review is to determine whether, The
11 adverse impacts of license renewal for V.C. Summer are
12 so great, that preserving the option of license renewal
13 for energy planning decision makers would be
14 unreasonable.

15 That's the way it's written in our
16 regulations. So to paraphrase, we are simply trying to
17 determine whether renewing the V.C. Summer license for
18 an additional 20 years is acceptable from an
19 environmental standpoint.

20 I want to emphasize a point, that if our
21 review determines that license renewal is, in fact,
22 acceptable from an environmental perspective, all that
23 means is that SCE&G will have the option to operate an
24 additional 20 years. That decision will be made by
25 SCE&G and by state regulators, which in this case would

1 be the South Carolina Public Service Commission.

2 It is possible that, after receiving a renewed
3 license that the utility could determine that it is not
4 economically feasible to continue plant operation.

5 On this slide, we present a more detailed
6 timeline of our environmental review process. The
7 licensee's application was received on August the 6th of
8 2002. On October the 25th, we issued a notice of intent
9 to prepare an environmental impact statement and conduct
10 a scoping process, which is what we're doing right now.

11 The scoping process, which you all are an
12 instrumental part of, is a data-gathering phase. The
13 information that we collect is used to develop a draft
14 of the environmental impact statement, which we will
15 issue for public comment in July of next year.

16 We will come back to Jenkinsville in September
17 of 2003 for another public meeting to talk with you
18 about the results of our review, and to give you an
19 opportunity to provide us with any comments or any
20 information that you may have at that time.

21 After receiving and evaluating those comments,
22 we will then develop the final environmental impact
23 statement, which we expect to issue in February of 2004.

24 Yesterday, we went to the site to get familiar
25 with the lay of the land, to examine features of

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1 particular interests, and to observe firsthand how the
2 site interacts with the environment.

3 This week we are gathering information for our
4 review from a number of different sources, including
5 documents sent to us by SCE&G. We are also compiling
6 information from federal, state, tribal and local
7 officials and interested people from the local community
8 who may have input that will help us in our
9 environmental evaluation.

10 We will also consider all comments received
11 during the comment period, which expires on January the
12 6th. So if you speak at the meeting and later have
13 other comments that you want to add to the record, or if
14 you would just like to see those comments, you have up
15 until January the 6th to do that.

16 Our team focuses on many environmental issues.
17 This slide shows the range of areas included in our
18 review. Impacts considered include everything from
19 radiological effects to air quality, from water use and
20 quality, to effects on plants and wildlife.

21 We also look at what we call socioeconomics,
22 where we ask the question, what type of economic effect
23 does the plant have on the lives of people here in
24 Fairfield County and in the surrounding counties.

25 We also consider environmental justice.

1 Environmental justice focuses our attention on the
2 question of whether there are minority or low-income
3 populations that may be disproportionately impacted by
4 the proposed action in which it gets its license
5 renewal.

6 To prepare for our review, we have assembled a
7 team of NRC experts who have expertise in specific
8 technical and scientific disciplines required to perform
9 our reviews.

10 In addition, to supplement our technical
11 expertise of our staff, we have engaged the assistance
12 of National Laboratories to ensure that we have a
13 well-rounded knowledge base to perform our review. We
14 have put together a team of about 15 people, many of
15 whom are here today to hear what you have to say.

16 Let's summarize a few key points. Our
17 schedule is to complete the scoping process by the end
18 of the public comment period, which is January the 6th.
19 After that, we will issue a draft environmental impact
20 statement in July of 2003. And we expect to issue the
21 final document in February of 2004.

22 If you would like a copy of these documents
23 sent to you, we will need your name and your mailing
24 address at the registration desk through this door.
25 Fill out one of the blue cards. It has to be one of the

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1 blue cards, and not the yellow cards, if you would like
2 to document.

3 Here we provide contact information. In case
4 you have additional questions when you leave today, my
5 telephone number is listed on this slide. I am the
6 designated contact within the NRC for the environmental
7 portion of the review. Mr. Raj Auluck, who spoke
8 earlier, is the contact for the engineering aging
9 management portion of the review.

10 Although my telephone number is on this slide,
11 we still need to get your specific comments in some form
12 that we could document, either in writing, or as Chip
13 has indicated, through oral comments given at this
14 meeting. Oral comments are important because this
15 meeting is being transcribed, and the transcript will
16 become the written record of your comments.

17 Arrangements have been made for documents
18 associated with this review to be available to you
19 locally at the Fairfield County Library, located at
20 300 Washington Street in Winnsboro, South Carolina, and
21 the Thomas Cooper Library located at 1322 Greene Street
22 in Columbia, South Carolina on the USC campus.

23 Also, documents will be available through our
24 documents management system known as ADAMS, which you
25 can reach on our website at www.nrc.gov.

1 After this meeting, you can still submit
2 comments. You can submit them by mail, in person or by
3 email. You can mail specific written comments to us at
4 the address shown here, which is also included on one of
5 the handouts that we have in the hallway, so you don't
6 have to write it down right now. You can also stop by
7 our Rockville, Maryland office to submit comments, or
8 you can submit comments by email to the address shown on
9 the slide, and that same address is also shown on the
10 handout that is on the table there.

11 That concludes the formal portion of our
12 presentation. Once again, I would like to thank all of
13 you for taking the time out and for coming here. We are
14 generally interested in hearing what you have to say.
15 Now we get an opportunity to listen to you.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
17 Greg.

18 I know we gave you a lot of information to
19 think about. Are there some questions on any of the
20 things that you heard? Any of the presentations?

21 MS. PEARSON: Let me --

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I think this is
23 Ms. Pearson.

24 MS. PEARSON: It sure is. Are 20 years up
25 already for the first part of the V.C. Summer Nuclear

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1 Plant?

2 MR. SUBER: Yes.

3 MS. PEARSON: When are they up?

4 MR. SUBER: The initial license was for
5 40 years, and they reached the 20-year point on August
6 the 6th of this year, at which time they submitted an
7 application for license renewal for an additional
8 20 years, which will put their new license, if they are
9 granted license renewal, out to 2042.

10 MS. PEARSON: Thank you.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Does anybody else have a
12 question about the process or NRC?

13 Okay. Thank you, Greg.

14 Well, let's go to the part of the meeting
15 where we hear from you. Usually what I like to do is to
16 ask local officials, local government, employees to
17 start out, and then we're going to hear from some of the
18 South Carolina Electric & Gas officials to tell us what
19 their vision is with the license renewal application,
20 and then hear from others in the community and community
21 leaders.

22 I'm going to ask Miriam Sprott, who is the
23 School-to-Work coordinator for the Fairfield County
24 School System to talk to us first.

25 MS. SPROTT: Thank you. It's really a

1 pleasure for me to be here tonight. I've been with the
2 school system for 25 years. I have two master's and
3 have worked my way up to the district office, and my job
4 really is School-to-Work. That's one of them. I also
5 do professional development and do empty the trash and
6 things as it comes up. When you're at the district
7 office, that happens.

8 But I started off as a business education
9 teacher, then got into cooperative vocational education.
10 From there it led to School-to-Work. So all of that
11 time, we've been working with the station all the way
12 through. I want to tell you that I have literally
13 worked with 100 or so businesses, at least. Not even
14 here, but in the Columbia area, as well. And you can
15 tell when the atmosphere is there, all set up
16 for people -- we can tell that they're committed to
17 community service and to helping education.

18 I can tell by working with Jeff Archie, which
19 I will get into, that he is very committed to work
20 together with the schools, very committed to make sure
21 that is going to grow and be successful this year.

22 Anyway, I'm just going to read through what I
23 have and won't take up too much time.

24 V.C. Summer Nuclear Power Station has worked
25 with Fairfield County Schools since its beginning.

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1 They've had employees who have served on craft
2 committees at Fairfield Career and Technology Centers.
3 The station has provided work sites for business
4 education, cooperative vocational students, and provided
5 work sites for welding interns. They have provided
6 tours for students. Our electricity, welding and
7 business education students have toured there. They are
8 willing to provide tours to the nuclear training station
9 for middle and high school students, as well.

10 They have also worked in partnership with
11 Central Midlands Career Partnership. That's our
12 School-to-Work partnership here in this area, with two
13 graduate courses. One -- I took this one. The
14 course -- part of it included business tours, and one of
15 the tours was to help someone -- that's when they could
16 go and tour the station itself.

17 Then they joined up with the same group again,
18 the Central Midlands Tech Career Partnership Consortium,
19 helping us to offer another class, and that was called
20 Teachers in the Workplace. In that class, they hired a
21 teacher, and that teacher was Chris Blackwelder, a
22 Fairfield County teacher, to work over the summertime.
23 Not only was she paid for her work, but she also
24 received graduate credit. Then she was able to carry
25 back what she had learned from the work experience and

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1 share that with her colleagues and also with her
2 students.

3 SCANA in a partnership with South Carolina
4 Downtown Development, which the downtown development --
5 the Department of Education sponsored Downtown in the
6 Classroom. Our students participated for several years
7 in this. Some of their projects included painting a
8 mural in the downtown area, printing a walking tour of
9 downtown Winnsboro for students, and a booklet about
10 downtown Winnsboro for Fairfield County Literacy
11 Council. Another project included interviews with local
12 merchants.

13 In 1999, Mr. Gerald Trowell, the eighth grade
14 history teacher at Fairfield Middle School, and his
15 students received the superintendent service learning
16 award for the Winnsboro walking tour and booklet. That
17 has been so successful, Terrie Vickers, our chamber
18 director just ran out -- she has asked Gerry Trowell to
19 repeat that project because it just -- it was a great
20 success in handing them out. So our students are going
21 to do that again this year.

22 Support through financial donations have
23 included teacher of the year, Students Against Violence,
24 Fairfield Central High School, and National Fire Safety
25 Council, which provided materials for students to learn

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1 about fire safety.

2 Our station here has donated computers to the
3 school district. At McCorey-Liston Elementary School.
4 The station employees have volunteered as tutors in the
5 afternoon homework center, and they are currently junior
6 achievement teachers. The employees serve as mentors
7 for -- two employees, Steve Craft and Matt Smith, they
8 donated their time at McCorey-Liston.

9 Employees at the station made donations to
10 Gordon Early Childhood Development. The V.C. Summer
11 employees have made safety city presentations at
12 McCorey-Liston, Fairfield Intermediate and Geiger
13 Elementary Schools.

14 In addition, Geiger Elementary School heard an
15 employee presentation on nuclear power. Kathy Walker, a
16 teacher at the McCorey-Liston, is partnering with the
17 V.C. Summer Station to design a reading program where
18 employees will read for one hour once per month. Our
19 V.C. Summer employees donated school supplies and served
20 as judges at Fairfield Middle School science fairs.

21 Jeff Archie is currently serving as the chair
22 of Communities and Schools of Fairfield County, where he
23 is my boss and tells me what to do right now.

24 This nationally-known program provides an
25 afternoon program for at-risk children at Fairfield

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1 Middle School.

2 I also want to let you know a secret. We are
3 nominating you guys, V.C. Summer Nuclear Power Station,
4 to be our business partner, our school of the year --
5 our business of the year, and good luck with that. You
6 might hear about it tomorrow. Good luck with everything
7 that's going to be going on and thank you for letting me
8 be here.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Miriam, for
10 the comment. We're going to listen to some officials
11 from the station. First, we're going to hear from
12 Mr. Steve Byrne, who is a senior vice president at the
13 V.C. Summer Nuclear Station. Then we're going to hear
14 from Steve Summer, the environmental coordinator at the
15 station, and then from Mr. Robin White, who is with the
16 South Carolina Public Service Commission. Steve?

17 MR. BYRNE: Thank you, Chip. I don't like the
18 term senior vice president. It makes me feel old.

19 As many of you are likely aware, we operate
20 the station not only for ourselves, but we own
21 two-thirds of the V.C. Summer Station. But the state
22 actually owns one-third of the V.C. Summer Station
23 through the South Carolina Public Service Authority, and
24 Robin White is going to talk about that relationship in
25 a few minutes.

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1 We have operated V.C. Summer safely for the
2 past 20 years. As you heard, we went online in 1982.
3 So 2002 marks 20 years of service for us. And we look
4 forward to being a part of this community and this
5 county for another 40 years, and obviously we can only
6 do that with an extension.

7 This state, South Carolina, is a very
8 nuclear-rich state, derives a lot of benefit from
9 nuclear power. There are seven operating plants in
10 South Carolina, all of which have applied for plant life
11 extension, at least three of which have been granted
12 already.

13 Those seven plants provide 60 percent of power
14 that South Carolinians use. When you compare that to
15 the national average, the nation uses like 21 percent.

16 This company, South Carolina Electric & Gas,
17 opened its first facility in this county in 1914, the
18 Parr hydro plant. That facility is still operating
19 today. When you combine the 15 megawatts at Parr hydro
20 with the 525 megawatts that we get from the lake that we
21 built, plus the 1,000 megawatts from the V.C. Summer
22 Plant, you've got over 1,500 megawatts of power
23 generated from this one location in Fairfield County.
24 The largest of those is the nuclear plant at 1,000
25 megawatts or a little over 1,000 megawatts.

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1 We make enough power for about 650,000 homes.
2 We also are the largest employer in the county now.
3 Mack Truck used to have that distinction. Since Mack
4 Truck has closed, we're the largest employer in the
5 county.

6 About 625 SCE&G jobs are located here, and in
7 excess of 100 permanent contractor jobs are located
8 here.

9 Aside from being the largest employer, we're
10 also the largest taxpayer. Prior to Mack's closing, we
11 were 67 percent of the tax base. I'm not sure what it's

12 going to end up being once they figure out the loss in

13 tax revenue from Mack Truck. But for example purposes,

14 Mack paid just under a million dollars a year in
15 property taxes to the county. V.C. Summer pays about
16 17-1/2 million dollars a year in property taxes to the
17 county.

18 In addition to energy, jobs and taxes, things
19 that are very tangible, things that everybody talks a
20 lot about, we also provide a number of intangible
21 benefits to the county. For example, you just heard a
22 discussion about schools. I'm not going to try and
23 recant everything Miriam said. She did a good job. She
24 did a much better job of schools. Shadowing programs,
25 strategic planning, career days, school supplies,

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1 donation of 100 computers. Those are some of the things
2 we have done. And this is not something we have just
3 done in the last couple of years. We've always been a
4 partner in schools.

5 Haven for wildlife. On our site, you will
6 hear a little bit more about this, but you will find
7 deer, turkeys, obviously fish, eagles and more buzzards
8 than I can count, and an occasional arrowhead.

9 Recreation. In addition to fishing, which I
10 understand is very good on our lake, the recreation lake
11 lands was donated by SCE&G. We have a nature trail, and
12 we also donate the land for the county park. When I say
13 donated, I think it costs a dollar a year for the county
14 to lease the land.

15 And community service, you've heard a little
16 bit about the community service that we do. Aside from
17 having somebody in the chamber every year for the last
18 ten years, we have been in leadership positions in three
19 of the last five years. We've always had somebody
20 involved with the United Way campaign in this county.
21 If you try to raise money in this county, it's very
22 difficult to do. I can tell that you that from
23 firsthand experience. We have chaired the United Way
24 campaign in this county for the last three out of five
25 years. Jeff Archie was the chair this year, as well as

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1 the Communities and Schools Board. I'm starting to
2 wonder if we should be paying Jeff or not.

3 We were also a part of the campaign to raise
4 capital funds to build a new substance abuse center.
5 Fairfield County Substance Abuse has been renamed
6 Fairfield Behavioral Health Services. I have the
7 distinction of being the chair on their capital
8 campaign, and SCANA has just announced they're putting
9 \$30,000 towards that campaign.

10 A little bit about security. We have always
11 taken security very seriously at this station. Long
12 before September 11th, we've had security officers,
13 weapons and plans, as well as deterring measures for
14 things like bombs.

15 We are occasionally tested by the NRC. In the
16 last test that we had, the leader from the Nuclear
17 Regulatory Commission, they also involved the SWAT team
18 in Fairfield County. In fact, the SWAT team leader from
19 Fairfield County spent two weeks in the plant prior to
20 the evaluation, just trying to figure out how he was
21 going to penetrate our security forces, and we passed
22 our last evaluation with flying colors.

23 Since September 11th, we have enhanced our
24 security plans. We have added equipment, we have added
25 security officers, and we have moved our defensive

1 perimeter further back. The downside to that is we're
2 not giving tours of the plant any longer, unfortunately.
3 Perhaps one day we will be able to do that again. We do
4 take security very, very seriously. In fact, we had a
5 drill last month that involved a terrorist attack in
6 combination with SLED, South Carolina Law Enforcement
7 Division, and Fairfield County Sheriff's Office. When
8 we debriefed that drill, we got favorable comments from
9 both Fairfield County Sheriff and from SLED. They were
10 very comfortable that we have a very safe facility, and
11 they are not concerned with us.

12 In closing, I just want to say that on behalf
13 of SCE&G, V.C. Summer Station, and our employees, we
14 appreciate the opportunity to serve this county for the
15 last 20 years. We think we have been a good neighbor in
16 this county for the last 20 years, and we would like to
17 go on being a good neighbor for the next 40 years.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Steve. Next
19 we have Steve Summer, the environmental coordinator on
20 the license renewal application.

21 MR. SUMMER: I'm Steve Summer, and I'm the
22 environmental coordinator for the license renewal
23 project, the environmental part. I'm actually an
24 employee of SCANA Services. Back earlier in the year,
25 the company decided that certain portions of the company

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1 needed to be in a separate organization, and they moved
2 us into SCANA services, but it really didn't change my
3 job any.

4 Nearly 25 years ago, I came to work at Summer
5 Station in the environmental surveillance laboratory.
6 The plant was still under construction. The lake had
7 just been filled.

8 Over the ensuing years, my career has been
9 closely tied to Summer Station. I spent 14 years in the
10 plant's environmental section, conducting radiological
11 environmental monitoring and overseeing the
12 nonradiological environmental monitoring program.

13 For the past 10-1/2 years, I've been in the
14 company's corporate environmental services department,
15 where I've continued to provide environmental support
16 for the plant. When the opportunity came up, I was
17 happy to become involved in the license renewal process.

18 Summer Station's environmental performance has
19 been very good, as evidenced by the lack of news
20 coverage for environmental problems in the plant for the
21 last 20 years.

22 The creation of the Summer Station and its
23 companion generating plant, Fairfield Pumped Storage
24 Facility, have provided an environment which has been
25 conducive to the expansion of the bald eagle population.

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1 It was a rare event in the early years of the plant's
2 operation to see a bald eagle. Today it's commonplace,
3 with eagles raising their young in the Parr Reservoir
4 and the Monticello Reservoir area.

5 SCE&G, the operator of the Summer Station, has
6 made positive environmental strides in recent years.
7 Some steps are small, such as the installation of perch
8 guards on distribution poles where bird electrocution is
9 a problem. Some steps are major, such as the
10 installation of additional pollution control equipment
11 on fossil hydro fossil plants, the conversion of two
12 coal-fired units to natural gas at Urquhart Station on
13 Savannah River, and the set-aside of river bottom
14 wetlands in a conservation easement at Cope Station.

15 SCE&G has funded scientific research into
16 striped bass population dynamics in the Santee River
17 drainage and will fund a study of avian vacuolar
18 myelinopathy, a disease that affects bald eagles -- and
19 I challenge any of you to say that -- on Lake Murray.

20 SCE&G is a member of the Robust Redhorse
21 Conservation Committee, which is an organization
22 dedicated to recovery of a rare fish which is found only
23 in Georgia and the Carolinas.

24 SCE&G hired a consulting firm, Tetra Tech NUS,
25 to work with us in preparing the environmental report

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1 and to guide us through the environmental review
2 process. Tetra Tech NUS has been involved in the
3 preparation of several environmental reports and is a
4 leader in this area.

5 Development of the report required
6 interviewing numerous employees, contact with county,
7 state and federal agencies and review of applicable
8 regulations.

9 In conjunction with the environmental report,
10 a threatened and endangered species survey was conducted
11 on the site, and also associated transmission corridors.
12 This survey found no evidence of threatened or
13 endangered species on the plant site or the transmission
14 corridors, with the exception of the eagles that are not
15 nesting on the site now, but they do come onto the site.

16 I have been involved with Summer Station's
17 environmental impacts and monitoring their impacts,
18 evaluating its environmental performance, and providing
19 environmental support since the facility began
20 operation, and now have been directly involved in the
21 environmental assessment for license renewal.

22 I believe that Summer Station will continue to
23 provide electricity in an environmentally sound manner
24 for many years to come. I also believe that the Nuclear
25 Regulatory Commission, when their review is complete,

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1 will find that the environmental impacts from the
2 operation of the Summer Station are not significant, and
3 that extension of the operating license by 20 years is
4 prudent. I believe that nuclear power, and Summer
5 Station, in particular, has a place in our society and
6 this community today and in the future. Thank you.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Steve. Next
8 we're going to hear from Mr. Robin White from the South
9 Carolina Public Service Authority.

10 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Cameron. Good
11 evening. My name is Robin White. I'm the nuclear
12 coordinator for the South Carolina Public Service
13 Authority, most recognized by its corporate name,
14 Santee Cooper.

15 Santee Cooper has a one-third non-operating
16 interest in the Summer Nuclear Station. We pay
17 one-third of the expenses and receive one-third of the
18 electric production. SCE&G operates the plant on Santee
19 Cooper's behalf.

20 I have been employed by Santee Cooper for
21 12 years, and I've worked for the Summer Station the
22 entire 12 years. My job is to conduct oversight of all
23 aspects of the station's operation to ensure that Santee
24 Cooper's interests are protected.

25 Prior to my joining Santee Cooper, I spent 22

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1 of my 30 years in the Navy directly involved with the
2 Navy Nuclear power program. I commanded two submarines,
3 inspected more than 80 nuclear-powered vessels, and
4 directed operational material control to a group of
5 nuclear-powered submarines.

6 I believe my background qualifies me to
7 ascertain safe operation of a nuclear facility. As my
8 office is at the station, I have unfettered access to
9 all areas of the station, as well as the ability to talk
10 to all employees and review documentation on a continual
11 basis.

12 Another prime method of oversight is my
13 membership in the Nuclear Safety Review Committee, a
14 body established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in
15 technical specifications. This committee reviews, on a
16 regular basis, all aspects of nuclear safety. Thus,
17 from both daily observation and the Nuclear Safety
18 Review Committee reviewing audits, I have found the
19 operation of Summer Station to be found on a strong
20 safety culture.

21 On several occasions in the last 12 years,
22 management of the station has elected to shut down the
23 plant when there was a question of proper operation of
24 critical equipment. This selection was done at
25 management's discretion, not by any requirement. The

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1 last time was in 1998. One of the emergency diesel
2 generator governors exhibited abnormal characteristics.
3 Even though the other diesel engine was operating
4 normally, management elected to shut down the plant to
5 investigate and repair the abnormal operating governor,
6 and verify that the other diesel would not be subject to
7 the same conditions.

8 As stewards of the environment, the management
9 of Summer Station has reduced the tri-annual cycle
10 volume of low-level radioactive waste by 90 percent over
11 the last six cycles for '18 years, recycling items
12 previously disposed of and training the workforce to
13 exercise prudent utilization and materials have
14 accomplished the significant reduction.

15 Santee Cooper is pleased with the safe
16 operations of the Summer Station and wholly supports
17 license extension. The continued operation of Summer
18 Station is in the best interest of Santee Cooper's
19 customers, the people of South Carolina. Reliable
20 operation of Summer Station, a non-greenhouse gas
21 emitter, precludes the requirement to use greenhouse gas
22 from any generation and is economical for our customers.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to present these
24 remarks.

25 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,

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1 Mr. White. I had mentioned that we're going to hear
2 from community leaders, and I would like to ask
3 Ernestine Rabb to talk to us at this time.

4 MS. RABB: Thank you very much. I have talked
5 with several persons here tonight, and many of you I did
6 not meet, but I want to say hello to those of you who I
7 have not spoken with.

8 I want you to know that V.C. Summer is very
9 dear to our heart, my husband and myself. Many years
10 ago, many years ago, there was a team of surveyors who
11 roamed the area seeking, asking and wanting to know who
12 had property where and who did it belong to.

13 And my husband's family -- I don't want to say
14 they become a victim to the sale of property, because we
15 don't feel that way. We did not stop progress. We
16 didn't even try to. My grandfather lived in that area.
17 So as you well know, that property, having belonged to
18 us, is very dear to us still.

19 We love the property. We love the plant. We
20 love the people. I worked there for 19 years, and I
21 can't say I had a bad day, because I worked with a
22 family of people who were caring people.

23 I wanted to thank Mr. Jeff Archie, because he
24 invited me to speak. Thank you, Mr. Archie, for
25 inviting me to my church.

1 (Laughter.)

2 MS. RABB: And I do live here, and that was my
3 pastor that spoke to you earlier. There are many things
4 I could touch on that SCE&G has done in this community,
5 but just to give you an overall picture of how they
6 became our neighbors and how good they are and the
7 things that they have done. My husband had a vision
8 many years ago for a fire department. And I didn't say
9 anything because I thought, how can you get a fire
10 department in this community? But he never gives up on
11 anything. When he has an idea, it just stays there.

12 So with the help of some other community
13 workers and with officials from SCE&G, they got together
14 and they talked about it. And so SCE&G said, No
15 problem, we will come up with the building. They didn't
16 tell us how we could get the truck. It was a struggle.
17 But they gave us the building, and we struggled. And
18 through the county council, we got a new truck. And
19 it's operating, in good condition.

20 Then came EMS, which is a vital part of the
21 community, very much needed, through SCE&G. They saw a
22 need for that to be a part of the V.C. Summer Station as
23 well as the Jenkinsville community. Then they became
24 customers of the Jenkinsville Water Company, very good
25 customers, for that we appreciate. They keep us going,

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1 they keep the post office going, because we're a small
2 community. We're just thankful for the things that they
3 have done.

4 There is a big tax check that keeps our
5 schools going. Thanks to SCE&G for meals on wheels that
6 was served here in this very dining area from Monday
7 through Friday every week. And we were struggling with
8 that, too, because we had senior citizens carrying meals
9 to senior citizens, and that didn't work, because the
10 people who congregate here during the day, they're not
11 able to get in a car and drive to carry someone else a
12 meal, but they did. Then SCE&G saw the need to let some
13 of their employees come three days out of the week, and
14 they rotate their times, and they carry these meals in
15 the community. And we are thankful for those favors.

16 Those are things that you don't find many
17 companies doing; but because they are such good people
18 and they're such good neighbors, they saw a need to
19 reach out and help us.

20 Many years ago, they gave the seniors here a
21 treat, and I will have to tell you about that. They
22 sent a bus here to pick up our seniors from here. They
23 were going to Dutch Square. Many of you may not know
24 where I'm talking about, but they went to the mall, and
25 they were given a meal ticket to go to what was then

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1 Morrison's Cafeteria, and it has since changed the name.
2 But they were delighted. They got a bus trip to
3 Columbia, and they laughed and they talked all the way,
4 and they got in the line with their little tickets, and
5 they were like kids in a candy shop. Our only
6 centurion, who was funeralized here two weeks ago, he
7 was so overwhelmed with the treat, that when he got in
8 the line, he wanted two desserts and two meats. He
9 could not understand this is not -- this is a treat for
10 you, but this is not for you to have everything. But
11 that was a highlight and one of the things for the
12 senior citizens of this community, and we look forward
13 to maybe one day that we can get together and do that
14 again, and I'm sure that they will comply.

15 But they have been such a helping hand to us.
16 We hope -- the community of Jenkinsville and this church
17 hope that everything goes well with your review,
18 everything goes well with your findings, and everything
19 will go well with the V.C. Summer plant. We would hate
20 to lose them. They have been here so long. We can't
21 get the property back, so we will settle for
22 V.C. Summer.

23 (Laughter.)

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Yes, Ernestine.

25 Yes, ma'am. Do you want to come up here? If

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1 you can, or I can pass this over to you. If you can
2 just tell us who you are.

3 MS. CALDWELL: I'm Ms. Caldwell, born and
4 raised right here in this community of Jenkinsville, and
5 a retired teacher of 37 years in the classroom, I
6 taught. So wouldn't you know you had to come by
7 somebody like me.

8 I see so many well-educated people here. I
9 am, too. Believe it or not, after having retired from
10 teaching, I spent eight years on the school board. I'm
11 not on there now, and I'm grateful for that. And I will
12 work -- and everything Ms. Rabb has said, believe it or
13 not, I am a part of it. Even to come out now at my age
14 and to the senior dinner, and enjoy every moment of it,
15 and I love it.

16 You have done much for the community and for
17 Fairfield County, and have helped us in the schools. So
18 I know all about that, having been in it and on the
19 board.

20 We want something to happen on this western
21 side of Fairfield County other than McCrory's, and we
22 support that. I have asked long ago for a civic center
23 on this side of Fairfield County. I am a trained person
24 in Christian education for my church, the Episcopal
25 church right down the road there. That's where I am a

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1 member of. I worked hard there and helped train
2 children, gone out, finished college, got and their
3 master's and some of them, almost, their doctorates.
4 But we came up in a need. And in my work on the school
5 board, I was lucky to get a track center, a track area
6 at the McC Corey-Liston School. I asked for that, and the
7 superintendent -- because we had children on this side,
8 and it's too far to take them to Winnsboro. Even if we
9 would, when we get there, we couldn't get on the track
10 field there. We need something on this side.

11 When you started in this community and you
12 opened up nuclear here, they were talking about an
13 oversight here, and they wanted to put it over near
14 there or something, and I asked that. We don't go that
15 far over, so they put it right up here on 215.

16 Now, we are hard workers. We are dedicated
17 and good Christian people. You are in a good community,
18 a beautiful community. We believe in working and owning
19 and having what we can in our own community.

20 Now, this civic center, if we could get it --
21 I remember asking an SCE&G man about that once, and it
22 was down at Glen's. Well, I think he's passed since
23 then. So I see all of you here, all of this wealth
24 here, wealthy. I'm talking about it. Well-educated.
25 So I know you will remember me when you see me again.

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1 I believe that is all I have to say. I did
2 see this one civic center in Anderson, South Carolina.
3 I went up there to a convention at the Episcopal church,
4 and they had built one, a beautiful one, at that time.
5 When I went back again, it was surrounded by fine homes
6 and everything. But it was something nice. And that's
7 you need on this side. Thank you very much, and I just
8 love seeing you.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Ms. Pearson
10 has something to say.

11 MS. PEARSON: Ms. Caldwell has got the --
12 (Inaudible) -- and you're welcome to it.

13 MS. CALDWELL: What did you say? I didn't
14 hear you.

15 MS. PEARSON: Send me somebody to talk to.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Ms. Pearson
17 and Ms. Caldwell.

18 Does anybody else have anything to say or any
19 questions at all for us? I would just encourage you all
20 to -- Gregory has put his phone number up. It is on the
21 slides. If you didn't get it the first time, please
22 write it down, and if you have any questions or any
23 concerns at all, just call us, because we really work
24 for all of you, and we will try to be responsive to any
25 concerns or questions that you all have.

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1 We're going to end a little bit early tonight,
2 so there is plenty of time to talk to the NRC staff or
3 some of the experts that we have here in areas such as
4 archeology, land use, air quality, water quality. If
5 you have questions in those areas, just please ask us,
6 and we will tell you who the experts are to talk to.

7 Any other comments before we close at all?
8 Okay. I'm going to ask John Tappert, who is the chief,
9 as we call him, to close it out for us.

10 MR. TAPPERT: Thanks again for taking time out
11 of your evening and coming out to our meeting. As Chip
12 said, we will have our staff stay after the meeting, if
13 you have any additional questions.

14 Also, you have should received a meeting
15 feedback form. We're always looking to improve our
16 performance. So if you have any comments to help us
17 have a better meeting, that's fine. Please give us your
18 comments. Thanks again for coming.

19 (Proceedings concluded at 8:07 p.m.)
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