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of St. Lucie Plant, Units 1 & 2
Evening Session

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PRELIMINARY

RESULTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR

LICENSE RENEWAL AT ST. LUCIE PLANT,

UNITS 1 AND 2

+ + + + +

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2002

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PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA

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The Public Meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.,
at Port St. Lucie City Hall, Council Chambers, 121
S.W. Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie,
Florida.

PRESENT:

- CHIP CAMERON, Facilitator
- NOEL DUDLEY, Safety Project Manager
- DR. MICHAEL MASNIK, Senior Environmental Project
Manager
- JOHN TAPPERT, Section Chief, License Renewal and
Environmental Impacts Program
- DUKE WHEELER, Senior Environmental Project Manager
- RUSSELL ARRIGHI, Safety Project Manager

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1 PRESENT: (CONT.)

2 S.K. MITRA, Safety Project Manager

3 JENNIFER DAVIS, General Scientist

4 ETOY HYLTON, Licensing Assistant

5 ROGER HANNAH, Region II Public Affairs Officer

6 LAURA ORR, NRC Site Secretary, St. Lucie

7 THIERRY ROSS, Senior Resident Inspector, St. Lucie

8 CASSIE BRAY, Attorney, Office of General Counsel

9 EVA HICKEY, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

10 TARA ESCHBACH, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

11 DUANE NEITZEL, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

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A-G-E-N-D-A

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

2 (7:00 p.m.)

3 MR. CAMERON: Good evening everyone.

4 My name is Chip Cameron, and I'm the
5 special counsel for public liaison at the Nuclear
6 Regulatory Commission, and I wanted to welcome all of
7 you to the meeting tonight. Thanks for coming out to
8 be with us.

9 The topic of tonight's meeting is the
10 NRC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the
11 application from Florida Power and Light to renew the
12 licenses at St. Lucie 1 and 2.

13 And it's my pleasure to be your
14 facilitator for tonight's meeting and in that role I'm
15 going to try to help all of you have a productive
16 meeting.

17 I just wanted to cover a couple of things
18 about meeting format and ground rules and agenda
19 before we get started with the discussions.

20 The format for the meeting is pretty
21 simple. We're going to do it in two parts, and those
22 two parts match the objectives of the meeting.

23 The first part we're going to try to give
24 you some background information on the license renewal
25 process and what the NRC's responsibilities are, and

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1 most importantly, go over the preliminary findings
2 that are on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
3 on the license renewal application.

4 So we're going to have four or five NRC
5 presentations. We'll try to keep them brief. And
6 then we'll go out to you after each presentation and
7 see if you have any questions, because we do want to
8 make sure that we clearly explain what our
9 responsibilities are.

10 The second part of the meeting is to give
11 those of you who might want to make a more formal
12 statement to us on the Draft Environmental Impact
13 Statement, give you a chance to come up here and talk
14 to us, and we'll be listening to what you say. We are
15 taking written comments on these issues and the staff
16 will tell you a little bit more about that in a
17 minute.

18 But we wanted to be with you here tonight
19 to talk to you personally. We have a lot of NRC staff
20 here and a lot of expert scientists who are helping us
21 with the environmental review. After the meeting is
22 over I would just encourage you to talk to them about
23 any issues you hear tonight.

24 In terms of ground rules, again, simple
25 ground rules: if you have a question, just give me a

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1 signal and I'll bring you this talking stick and if
2 you can give us your name and affiliation, if
3 appropriate, and then ask your question. We are
4 taking a transcript of the meeting that will be
5 available and that's our record of what is said
6 tonight, a record of your comments.

7 And I would just ask that only one person
8 speak at a time so that we can give our full attention
9 to whomever has the floor, whomever has the talking
10 stick at the moment. And I'll try to be concise so
11 that we can make sure that everybody has a chance to
12 talk tonight. We don't have too many people signed up
13 to make a formal statement, so we have plenty of time.

14 I did want to go through the agenda so you
15 know what to expect and also to tell you a little bit
16 about the people that are going to be talking to you
17 tonight from the NRC staff and from our group of
18 expert consultants.

19 I've asked John Tappert, who is right here
20 in the front row, to do a short welcome for you in a
21 few minutes. John is the section leader of the
22 Environmental Section in the Environmental Impacts
23 Program in our Office of Nuclear Reaction Regulation.

24 John's staff prepare or supervise the
25 preparation of any environmental review, not just for

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1 a license renewal application, but for any reactor
2 project that the NRC is involved in, and he's been
3 with us for about eleven years at the NRC. He was an
4 officer in the Nuclear Navy before that. He's been a
5 resident inspector at operating nuclear power plants
6 for the NRC.

7 And he's got a Bachelor's Degree in
8 Aerospace and Oceanographic Engineering from Virginia
9 Tech and a Master's Degree in Environmental
10 Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. So John
11 will do a welcome.

12 Then we're going to have Noel Dudley,
13 who's right here, talk to us for a little bit about
14 the license renewal process generally. Noel is the
15 project manager on the St. Lucie license renewal
16 application for the safety evaluation. You're going
17 to hear that there's a safety evaluation and there's
18 an environmental evaluation, and all of that goes into
19 the NRC's decision.

20 Well, Noel is in charge of the safety
21 evaluation. He has been with the NRC for about
22 eighteen years in various capacities. He was a senior
23 staff engineer with the Advisory Committee on Reactor
24 Safety. You'll hear a little bit more about that. He
25 also was a resident inspector. He was an officer in

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1 the Nuclear Navy and he spent a few years in the Peace
2 Corps working in East Africa teaching science and
3 physics. And he has two degrees, one a Bachelor's in
4 Engineering, the other a Bachelor's in Engineering
5 Physics.

6 After he's done we'll go out to you for
7 any questions you might have on the overall process.
8 Then we're going to start to focus in more and we're
9 going to have Dr. Michael Masnik, who's in the front
10 row here also. He's going to tell you about the
11 environmental review process. And Mike is the project
12 manager for the environmental review on the St. Lucie
13 license renewal application.

14 He's had long experience at the NRC,
15 twenty plus years there. He was the project manager
16 for the original licensing of St. Lucie Unit 2,
17 project manager for the NRC. So he knows the plant.
18 He knows the area. He also was in charge of the
19 oversight of the clean-up of Three Mile Island, the
20 accident that happened there twenty plus years ago,
21 and he's also been involved in decommissioning work at
22 the Agency.

23 Mike has a Bachelor's Degree in Zoology
24 from Cornell and a Master's and Ph.D. from Virginia
25 Polytechnic Institute.

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1 We'll see if you have any questions then
2 and then we're going to get to the heart of the
3 meeting, which is the discussion of the preliminary
4 results of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

5 We have Eva Hickey here from Pacific
6 Northwest National Lab. She has served as the team
7 leader on preparation of a lot of environmental
8 reviews on license renewal application.

9 On this particular application, she was
10 focusing on radiological issues and decommissioning,
11 but she's going to give you the total overview. Eva
12 has over twenty years experience in radiological
13 assessments, environmental reviews and emergency
14 planning on nuclear power plants, and she's another
15 Virginia Tech grad and she also has a Master's from
16 George Tech in Health Physics.

17 We have got a, what I like to call a short
18 subject, an important short subject that's part of the
19 Environmental Impact Statement, and that's something
20 called severe accident mitigation alternatives. And
21 Mike Masnik is going to come up and tell us about that
22 and then tell us about the overall conclusions, and
23 then we're going to go to you for formal comment.

24 But we really want to try to make this as
25 conversational and as interactive as possible. So

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1 after the presentations, if you have questions about
2 the process, just please ask them and we'll have a
3 discussion on that.

4 And with that, I'm going to ask John
5 Tappert to come up and talk to you and we'll get
6 started.

7 John?

8 MR. TAPPERT: Thanks, Chip. Well, good
9 evening and welcome.

10 My name is John Tappert and I'm the chief
11 in the Environmental Section in the Office of Nuclear
12 Reactor Regulation. On behalf of the Nuclear
13 Regulatory Commission, I'd like to thank you for
14 coming out tonight and participating in our process.

15 There are several things we'd like to
16 cover today and I'd like to briefly discuss the
17 purposes of today's meeting.

18 First we'd like to give you a brief
19 overview of the entire license renewal process. This
20 includes both a safety review, as well as
21 environmental review, which is the principle focus of
22 today's meeting.

23 Next we'll give you the preliminary
24 results of our environmental review, which assesses
25 the environmental impacts associated with extending

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1 the operating license of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power
2 Plants for an additional twenty years.

3 Next we'll give you some information about
4 our schedule and how you can participate in the
5 processing by submitting written comments on our Draft
6 Environmental Impact Statement.

7 At the conclusion of the staff's
8 presentation, we'll be happy to receive any questions
9 or comments that you may have today.

10 But first, let me provide some general
11 context for the license renewal program.

12 The Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the
13 authority to issue operating licenses to commercial
14 nuclear power plants for a period of forty years. For
15 St. Lucie Units 1 and 2, its operating licenses will
16 expire in 2016 and 2023, respectively. Our
17 regulations also make provisions for extending those
18 operating licenses for an additional twenty years, as
19 part of our license renewal program, and Florida Power
20 and Light has requested license renewal for both
21 units.

22 As part of the NRC's review of that
23 application, we do an environmental review to look at
24 the impacts associated with extending those licenses.
25 We held a meeting here last April to provide

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1 information on that process and also to seek your
2 input on issues to be addressed in the Environmental
3 Impact Statement.

4 As we indicated at that earlier scoping
5 meeting, we've returned here now today, to provide you
6 with the preliminary results of our review. And
7 again, the principal purpose of today's meeting is to
8 receive your questions and comments on that review.

9 And with that brief introduction, I'd like
10 to ask Noel to give us a overview of the safety
11 portion.

12 MR. DUDLEY: Thank-you, John.

13 Good evening. My name is Noel Dudley and
14 I'm the project manager for the safety review of the
15 St. Lucie Units 1 and 2 license renewal application.

16 Before discussing the license renewal
17 process and the staff safety review, I'd like to talk
18 about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and its role
19 in licensing and regulating nuclear power plants.

20 The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 authorizes
21 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to regulate the
22 civilian use of nuclear material. The NRC's mission
23 is threefold. One, to ensure the adequate protection
24 of public health and safety; two, to protect the
25 environment; and three, to provide the common defense

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1 and security.

2 The NRC consists of five commissioners and
3 the NRC staff. One of the commissioners is designated
4 as the NRC's chairman. The regulations enforced by
5 the NRC are issued under Title 10 of the Code of
6 Federal Regulations, commonly called 10 C.F.R.

7 The Atomic Energy Act provided for a forty
8 year license term for power reactors, but it also
9 allowed for license renewal. That forty year term is
10 based primarily on economic and anti-trust
11 considerations, rather than safety limitations.

12 Major components were initially expected
13 to last up to forty years; however, operating
14 experience has demonstrated that some major
15 components, such as the steam generators, will not
16 last that long. For that reason, a number of
17 utilities have replaced major components. Since
18 components and structures can be replaced or
19 reconditioned, plant life is really determined
20 primarily by economic factors.

21 License renewal applications are submitted
22 years in advance for several reasons. If a utility
23 decides to replace a nuclear power plant, it can take
24 up to five to ten years to plan and construct new
25 generating capacity to replace that nuclear power

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1 plant.

2 In addition, decisions to replace or
3 recondition major components can involve significant
4 capital investment. As such, these decisions involve
5 financial planning many years in advance of the
6 extended period of operation.

7 The Florida Power and Light Company has
8 applied for license renewal under 10 C.F.R., Part 54,
9 and thereby requested authorization to operate St.
10 Lucie Units 1 and 2 for an additional twenty years.

11 Now I would like to talk about license
12 renewal, which is governed by the requirements of 10
13 C.F.R., Part 54, or the license renewal rule. This
14 part of the Code of Federal Regulations defines the
15 regulatory process by which a nuclear utility such as
16 Florida Power and Light applies for license renewal.

17 The license renewal rule incorporates 10
18 C.F.R., Part 51, by reference. This part provides for
19 the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement,
20 and the discussion of that Impact Statement, which is
21 now in a draft form, is what we'll be talking about
22 tonight.

23 The license renewal process defined in
24 Part 54 is very similar to the original licensing
25 process, in that it involves a safety review and

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1 environmental impact evaluation, plant inspections and
2 review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor
3 Safeguards, which is also known as the ACRS.

4 The ACRS is a group of scientists and
5 nuclear industry experts, who serve as a consulting
6 body to the five commissioners. The ACRS performs an
7 independent review of the license renewal application
8 and the staff's safety evaluation, and reports its
9 findings and recommendations directly to the five
10 commissioners.

11 This next slide illustrates two parallel
12 processes. You will see one on the top of the slide,
13 the other towards the bottom. The two parallel
14 processes are the safety review process and the
15 environmental review process. These processes are
16 used by the NRC staff to evaluate two separate aspects
17 of the license renewal application.

18 The safety review, which is seen on the
19 top part of the slide, involves the staff's review of
20 the technical information in the application for
21 renewal to verify with reasonable assurance that the
22 plant can continue to operate safely for the extended
23 period of operations.

24 The staff assesses how the applicant
25 proposes to monitor or manage the aging of certain

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1 components that are within the scope of license
2 renewal. The staff's review is documented in a safety
3 evaluation report, which is provided to the ACRS. The
4 ACRS reviews the safety evaluation report, holds
5 public meetings and prepares a report to the
6 Commission, documenting its recommendations.

7 The safety review process also involves
8 two or three inspections, which are documented in NRC
9 inspection reports. In its decision to renew an
10 operating license, the NRC considers the safety
11 evaluation report, the ACRS report, the Region II NRC
12 Regional Administrator's recommendations, and the
13 inspection reports.

14 At the bottom of the slide is the other
15 parallel process, the environmental review, which
16 involves scoping activities, preparation of the draft
17 supplement to the Generic Environmental Impact
18 Statement, solicitation of public comments on the
19 draft supplement, which is what we're doing tonight,
20 and then the issuance of a final supplement to the
21 Generic Environmental Impact Statement. This document
22 also factors into the agency's decision on that
23 application.

24 In the safety evaluation report, the staff
25 documents its assessment of the effectiveness of the

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1 applicant's existing or proposed inspection and
2 maintenance activities to manage aging effects
3 applicable to passive long lived structures and
4 components.

5 Part 54 requires the applicant to
6 reevaluate those design analyses that assumed forty
7 years of plant operations. The reevaluation extends
8 the assumed operating period to sixty years.

9 An example of that is electrical cables
10 were initially evaluated for forty years to ensure
11 their integrity, and the time limited aging analyses
12 will redo that evaluation, but for a sixty year
13 period, to ensure that the cables will withstand aging
14 in the environment for sixty years of operation.

15 And again, these reevaluations are called
16 time limited aging analyses, also called TLAA's.

17 Current regulations are adequate for
18 addressing active components, such as pumps and
19 valves, which are continually challenged to reveal
20 failures and degradations, such that corrective
21 actions can be taken.

22 Current regulations also exist to address
23 other aspects of the original license, such as
24 security issues and emergency planning issues. These
25 current regulations will also apply during the

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1 extended period of operation and are not part of the
2 review for license renewal.

3 In January, 2002, the NRC issued a Federal
4 Register notice to announce its acceptance of the
5 Florida Power and Light Company's application for
6 renewal of the operating licenses for St. Lucie. This
7 notice also announced the opportunity for public
8 participation in the process.

9 This concludes my summary of the license
10 renewal process and the staff's safety evaluation
11 report, and I'll turn it over to Chip again.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you very much,
13 Noel.

14 Are there any questions about the safety
15 evaluation part of this license renewal process that
16 Noel just talked about, or the overall process?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay, let's go on to the
19 environmental review part of the process, and if you
20 have questions that you think of later on that apply
21 to the safety side, Noel is here and we'll take them
22 up at that time.

23 Mike?

24 DR. MASNIK: Thank-you, Chip, and good
25 evening.

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1 My name is Mike Masnik. I'm the
2 environmental project manager for the St. Lucie
3 license renewal project. I'm responsible for
4 coordinating the efforts of the NRC staff and our
5 contractors from the National Lab to conduct and
6 document the environmental review associated with
7 Florida Power and Light's application for license
8 renewal at St. Lucie.

9 This first slide deals with NEPA. NEPA is
10 the National Environmental Policy Act which was
11 enacted in 1969. It's one of the most significant
12 pieces of environmental legislation that has ever been
13 passed in this country. It requires all Federal
14 agencies to use a systematic approach to consider
15 environmental impacts during certain decision-making
16 proceedings requiring major Federal actions.

17 NEPA requires that we examine the
18 environmental impacts of the proposed action and
19 consider mitigation measures, which are things that
20 can be done to reduce impacts when the impacts are
21 severe. NEPA requires that we consider alternatives
22 to the proposed action and the impacts of those
23 alternatives need to be evaluated as well.

24 Finally, NEPA requires that we disclose
25 all of this information to the public and we also

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1 invite public participation in the process.

2 The NRC has determined that we will
3 prepare an Environmental Impact Statement associated
4 with renewal of the operating licenses for plants for
5 an additional twenty years. Therefore, following the
6 process required by NEPA, we have prepared a Draft
7 Environmental Impact Statement that describes the
8 environmental impacts associated with operating St.
9 Lucie for an additional twenty years. And this is
10 the document that we prepared. Copies of this
11 document are available here tonight outside the door.
12 If you so desire, you can pick one up as you leave.

13 This Environmental Impact Statement was
14 issued late October of this year, and the meeting
15 today is being held to receive comments on this
16 document.

17 This slide describes the objective of our
18 environmental review, and this is the language out of
19 our regulations, which unfortunately is kind of
20 convoluted and maybe a little difficult to understand.
21 But simply put, we're trying to determine whether the
22 renewal of the St. Lucie license is acceptable from an
23 environmental standpoint.

24 Now whether or not the plant actually
25 operates for an additional twenty years will be

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1 determined by others, such as Florida Power and Light
2 and State Regulatory Agencies, and it will also depend
3 in a large measure, on the results of the safety
4 review.

5 This slide shows in a little bit more
6 detail the environmental review process that Noel
7 showed you in a previous slide just a few minutes ago.
8 We received the application from Florida Power and
9 Light to renew the license last November in 2001. We
10 issued a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register in
11 February of this year, informing the public that we
12 are going to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement
13 and give the opportunity for the public to provide
14 comments on the scope of this review.

15 This past April, during the scoping
16 period, we held two public meetings here in Port St.
17 Lucie, in fact, in this very room, to receive public
18 comments on the scope of issues that should be
19 included in the Environmental Impact Statement for the
20 St. Lucie license renewal.

21 Also in April, we went to the St. Lucie
22 site with a combined team of NRC staff and personnel
23 from our two national labs that have backgrounds in
24 specific technical and scientific disciplines. They
25 were brought to the site to perform the environmental

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1 audit.

2 We familiarized ourselves with the site,
3 we met with the staff from Florida Power and Light
4 Company to discuss the information submitted in
5 support of the license renewal. We reviewed
6 environmental documentation maintained at the plant
7 site, and we examined Florida Power and Light
8 Company's evaluation process.

9 In addition, we contacted various Federal,
10 State and local agencies, as well as local service
11 agencies to obtain information on the area and on the
12 St. Lucie plant.

13 At the close of the scoping comment
14 period, we gathered up and considered all the comments
15 that we had received from the public and from the
16 State and Federal agencies, and many of these comments
17 ultimately contributed significantly to the document
18 that we're here today to discuss.

19 Now in May we issued requests for
20 additional information for Florida Power and Light
21 Company to respond to, to ensure that any information
22 that we relied on that had not been included in their
23 formal submittal, be submitted to the NRC. We put
24 that information on our docket and it is publicly
25 available.

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1 At the end of October, we issued a Draft
2 Environmental Impact Statement for public comment.
3 This is Supplement 11 to the Generic Environmental
4 Impact Statement that I showed you a few minutes ago.
5 This report is a draft, not because it is incomplete,
6 but rather because we are at an intermediate stage in
7 the decision making process.

8 We're in the middle of the public comment
9 period to allow you and other members of the public to
10 take a look at the results and provide any comments
11 you might have on the report at this time.

12 After we gather these comments and
13 evaluate them, we may decide to change portions of the
14 Environmental Impact Statement based on those
15 comments. The NRC will then issue a final
16 Environmental Impact Statement related to license
17 renewal at St. Lucie by July, 2003.

18 Any questions?

19 MR. CAMERON: Questions about the
20 environmental review process?

21 Mike talked about submitting written
22 comments, and I just wanted to emphasize that any
23 comments that we hear from you tonight will be treated
24 with the same weight as any written comments we get.

25 Anybody have a question out there on this

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1 before we go into the results of the environmental
2 review?

3 Yes?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you receive
5 any written copies --

6 MR. CAMERON: Let me get you on the
7 transcript, and just tell us your name, sir.

8 MR. BARRY: My name is Vincent Barry, and
9 my question is, did you get any comment, written
10 comments from the public?

11 MR. MASNIK: During the scoping process?
12 Yes, sir, we did. We got quite a number of them.

13 In fact, those comments that are within
14 the scope of our review are reprinted in one of the
15 appendices in this document, so you can look to see
16 what the comments were that the public raised on the
17 relicensing.

18 MR. CAMERON: Does that take care of it?

19 MR. BARRY: Yes.

20 MR. CAMERON: All right.

21 Anybody else?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. CAMERON: All right, let's go to Eva
24 Hickey.

25 MS. HICKEY: Thank-you and good evening

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1 everybody.

2 My name is Eva Hickey and I'm going to be
3 filling in for Charlie Brandt this evening, because he
4 wasn't able to join us. Charlie is actually the
5 Pacific Northwest National Laboratory task leader for
6 this effort, but unfortunately he was not able to come
7 to sunny Florida and he is stuck in the cold and fog
8 of Washington State.

9 I am here with several of my other team
10 members, however, and we are glad to answer any
11 questions that we can on the St. Lucie SEIS.

12 I assisted in this review looking at
13 radiological issues, uranium fuel cycle and
14 decommissioning, but I have participated as a task
15 leader in several other license renewal efforts.

16 Our team is multi-disciplinary and we come
17 from two national laboratories. I will spend a few
18 minutes today talking about the process that we used
19 for our environmental evaluation and then I'll spend
20 the rest of the time going over some of the more
21 important or interesting findings that we had.

22 First let me describe how we characterize
23 the environmental impacts that we were looking at.
24 NRC has defined the impacts in three ways. They're
25 small, moderate and large, and this usage is

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1 consistent with the guidance of the Council on
2 Environmental Quality for a NEPA analysis.

3 A small environmental impact is one where
4 the effect is not detectable or it's too small to
5 de-stabilize a resource. I'm going to give you an
6 example of that.

7 One of the things we look at is the intake
8 structures and we look at the loss of adult or
9 juvenile fish in the structures. If the loss of fish
10 is so small that it's not noticeable and it cannot be
11 detected in relation to the total population of fish
12 in the river and in the ocean, then the impact would
13 be considered small.

14 The next impact level is moderate and this
15 is where the effect is sufficient to alter noticeably,
16 but not de-stabilize the attribute of the resource.
17 So looking at our example again, in this case you
18 would see the loss in the fish population. It would
19 actually decline in the river or the ocean, but it
20 would stabilize at a lower level, and we would call
21 this impact moderate.

22 And finally we have a large impact, and
23 here the effect is clearly noticeable and sufficient
24 to de-stabilize important attributes of the resource.

25 Each issue that we looked at was evaluated

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1 and assigned an impact level.

2 So let me take just another minute to
3 describe the approach that we used in our
4 environmental analysis.

5 We used the Generic Environmental Impact
6 Statement for license renewal, NUREG-1437. In this
7 document it identifies ninety-two environmental issues
8 that are evaluated for license renewal. Sixty-nine of
9 these issues are considered generic or Category 1.

10 And here we discuss Category 1 issues. A
11 Category 1 issue means that the impacts are the same
12 for all reactors or the same for all reactors with
13 certain plant features, such as a plant with cooling
14 towers.

15 There are twenty-three additional issues
16 referred to as Category 2. Category 2 issues, NRC
17 found that the impacts were not the same among all the
18 sites and therefore, when we do a review for license
19 renewal, we look at these issues on a site specific
20 basis.

21 So the Category 1 issues are considered
22 generic and the Category 2 issues require site
23 specific analysis.

24 When we look at all the issues there's
25 another aspect that we look at, and this is whether

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1 the plant design is actually related to the issues.
2 And so there are a number of issues that we did not
3 look at at St. Lucie because the plant design was
4 different.

5 Finally, for the Category 1 issues, we
6 look to see if there is any new information related to
7 this issue that's been observed or referenced since
8 the NUREG-1437 was published and whether that's of
9 significance.

10 For site specific issues related to St.
11 Lucie, we performed a site specific analysis.

12 During the scoping period we asked the
13 public if they had any information on site specific
14 issues, and the review team looked for new and
15 significant issues during our review in April and we
16 also discussed new and significant with the licensee.

17 Now to talk a little bit about the actual
18 report itself and some of the environmental impacts
19 that we observed.

20 Chapter 2 of the Draft Supplemental
21 Environmental Impact Statement discusses the plant and
22 the environment around the plant, and this is the
23 basis for the environmental review. Chapter 4
24 actually looks at the environmental impacts --
25 actually Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 7 address the actual

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1 environmental impacts.

2 Today I'm going to talk primarily about
3 the Category 2 issues that we looked at related to
4 cooling system, transmission lines, socioeconomics,
5 groundwater use and quality, and threatened and
6 endangered species. I'm going to talk about
7 radiological impacts, although they are Category 1.

8 First, related to the cooling system.
9 There are a number of Category 1 issues, that if
10 you're interested, you can look in the draft SEIS at
11 the beginning of Chapter 4, but there's three Category
12 2 issues that we looked at.

13 The first is entrainment, which happens
14 when fish eggs and larvae pass through the intake
15 screens, and we found from our review that there was
16 less than two hundredths of a percent mortality of
17 fish eggs and larvae passing by the intake, so we
18 considered this impact small.

19 The second Category 2 issue relating to
20 cooling system is impingement. Impingement occurs
21 when fish and shellfish get trapped on the intake
22 screens. We found in our review that there's less
23 than four pounds per day of fish impinged and less
24 than two pounds per day of shellfish impinged. And
25 this is also considered small impact.

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1 And finally, we looked at heat shock.
2 Heat shock occurs when the cooling water is discharged
3 and thermally alters the water near that discharge.
4 We looked at the impacts from heat shock and we found
5 that Florida Power and Light St. Lucie plant complies
6 with the Florida Water Quality Standards. So all
7 these impacts were considered small.

8 Next we looked at transmission lines, and
9 there are two Category 2 issues here. St. Lucie has
10 eleven miles of corridors covering 766 acres and we
11 found that the impacts from these transmission lines
12 were small.

13 The second Category 2 issue is electric
14 shock from electromagnetic fields, and then there's a
15 third issue that is not -- we look at on a site
16 specific basis, but it's not actually considered a
17 Category 2 item, and it's health effects of chronic
18 exposure to electromagnetic fields.

19 Now, radiological. As I said, all of the
20 radiological issues are considered Category 1;
21 however, because the public is often concerned about
22 radiological issues, I wanted to talk just a little
23 bit about the review that we performed at St. Lucie.

24 We looked at the gaseous releases and the
25 liquid releases that go from the plant, and we also

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1 looked at the solid waste management, or the Rad waste
2 processing, packaging and shipment of waste from the
3 plant.

4 And then we also look at the environmental
5 monitoring program, and we assess how the utility
6 complies with the NRC regulations for limiting dose to
7 the public. And what we found from our review is that
8 over the license renewal period on an annual basis,
9 the dose to the public is not expected to increase.
10 So annually those releases will not increase
11 significantly, they will vary from year to year
12 depending on operation, but they will not increase
13 significantly during the license renewal period, and
14 in fact, the emissions from the plant are way below
15 regulatory limits. So the impacts from radiological
16 issues are considered small.

17 Socioeconomics has four Category 2 issues
18 that we look at, housing and public utility impacts
19 during operation. We found that there will be no
20 discernible change in the availability of housing, the
21 value of houses or rental units during the license
22 renewal period. Likewise, there will not be a
23 significant increase in water usage, and where there
24 is, it's expected that we will be able to -- the
25 licensee will be able -- there is appropriate existing

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1 capacity for any additional water use. So the impact
2 is considered small.

3 We look at off-site land use and
4 transportation. St. Lucie expects to have up to
5 additional -- sixty additional workers during the
6 license renewal period. This is not considered to be
7 a large impact for land use or for transportation.
8 And tax payments are considered to be small relative
9 to county revenues. So the impacts would be small.

10 Historic and archeological resources.
11 There's no known historic or archeological resources
12 at the site. However, during the license renewal
13 period, if there's an ground disturbance, a survey
14 will be performed for that ground disturbance.

15 And finally, we looked at environmental
16 justice, and this issue is also considered small.

17 Ground water use and quality is a Category
18 2 issue. At St. Lucie the potable and service water
19 used is about 132,000 gallons per day and this is less
20 than ten percent of the county supplies. This issue
21 is considered -- the impacts from this is considered
22 small.

23 Now finally I'd like to take a minute to
24 talk about threatened and endangered species. St.
25 Lucie has a unique habitat and a considerable number

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1 of both Federally and State listed threatened and
2 endangered species.

3 For over twenty years the NRC staff have
4 been involved in the protection of endangered sea
5 turtles as well as other species and the habitats that
6 these threatened and endangered species live in.

7 When the discussion of license renewal for
8 St. Lucie came up, the staff contacted the National
9 Marine Fisheries Service and the staff was informed
10 that no additional consultation is necessary at this
11 time with regard to license renewal. However, as
12 necessary over the course of the operating and license
13 -- during license renewal, there will be continuous
14 informal and formal consultations regarding the sea
15 turtles until either they are de-listed or the plant
16 permanently ceases operation.

17 Likewise, with other species of plants,
18 birds, small mammals and manatees, the staff
19 determined that the license renewal would have no
20 impact on these species, and the U.S. Fish and
21 Wildlife Service concurred with this conclusion.

22 Therefore, we find that our preliminary
23 conclusion is that impacts on license renewal for
24 threatened and endangered species would be small.

25 I talked around about potential new and

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1 significant information for all the Category 1 issues.
2 We looked for new and significant information and we
3 did not uncover any, and therefore, we accept the
4 conclusions in NUREG-1437 of the license renewal GEIS.

5 Now one of the other areas that we looked
6 at and did an extensive review is looking at
7 alternatives to renewing the St. Lucie operating
8 license.

9 The alternatives that we considered --
10 I've got several listed here, first starting with no
11 action. This would mean that St. Lucie would operate
12 until its license expired, the plant would cease
13 operation and it would be decommissioned, with no
14 other analysis of energy to replace St. Lucie.

15 We looked at other alternative energy
16 sources such as coal, natural gas and new nuclear. We
17 looked at purchasing electrical power and a
18 combination of alternatives. This review that we did
19 on alternatives covered the same environmental impacts
20 and issues that we looked at for continued operation
21 of St. Lucie. And so if you look in Chapter 8 you
22 will see that review. It's fairly extensive.

23 In addition, we looked at other
24 alternative energy sources, such as wind power,
25 geothermal energy, fuels and we looked at conservation

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1 of energy as one of the potential alternatives for
2 license renewal.

3 From this review we found that the
4 impacts, the environmental impacts for the
5 alternatives would range from small to large. We
6 determined that the current site prevents any
7 alternative generation there. And if we look at other
8 alternative sites for one of the other types of
9 energy, there would be high socioeconomic impacts,
10 we'd have more land ecology disturbances, higher
11 atmospheric emissions and potential aesthetic impacts.

12 That concludes my discussion on the
13 environmental impacts. I'd be glad to answer any
14 questions.

15 MR. CAMERON: Great. That was a very
16 comprehensive overview, a lot of information there.

17 Yes, sir?

18 MR. HENSLEY: My name is Carl Hensley.

19 Under transmission lines, what did you do
20 to determine how they impacted the environment?

21 MS. HICKEY: Okay. That's a good
22 question.

23 What we looked at is how the land under
24 the transmission lines is controlled, what the utility
25 does to keep down vegetation, the type of herbicides

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1 that they might apply or what they would do to cut
2 down trees. That's the type of impacts that we were
3 looking at.

4 MR. CAMERON: Does that answer it?

5 MR. HENSLEY: Yes.

6 MR. CAMERON: All right.

7 Any other questions? Alternatives?
8 Radiological impacts?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay, great.

11 We're going to go to another aspect of the
12 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and thank-you
13 very much, Eva.

14 This is severe accident mitigation
15 alternatives. Mike Masnik is dealing with this
16 tonight. He's going to talk to us about that.

17 Mike?

18 DR. MASNIK: Thank-you, Chip.

19 Due to a personal emergency, Mr. Rubin,
20 who is listed on tonight's agenda as the speaker for
21 this topic, was unable to attend today's public
22 meeting, and I will give Mr. Rubin's presentation on
23 SAMAs.

24 Section 5.0 of the Draft Supplement to the
25 GEIS for St. Lucie is entitled Environment Impacts of

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1 Postulated Accident. The GEIS evaluates two classes
2 of accidents, design basis accidents and severe
3 accidents.

4 Design basis accidents are those accidents
5 that both the licensee and the NRC staff evaluate to
6 ensure that the plant can withstand normal and
7 abnormal transients from a broad spectrum of
8 postulated accidents without undue risk to the public.

9 The environmental impacts of design basis
10 accidents are evaluated during the initial licensing
11 process and the ability of the plant to withstand
12 these accidents has to be demonstrated before the
13 plant is granted a license.

14 Most importantly, a licensee is required
15 to maintain an acceptable design and performance
16 capability throughout the life of the plant, including
17 any extended life operation.

18 Since the licensee had to demonstrate
19 acceptable plant performance for the design basis
20 accidents throughout the life of the plant, the
21 Commission has determined that the environmental
22 impact of design basis accidents are of small
23 significance, because the plant was designed to
24 successfully withstand these accidents.

25 Now, neither the licensee nor the NRC is

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1 aware of any new or significant information on the
2 capability of the plant to withstand design base
3 accidents that is associated with the license renewal
4 of the St. Lucie Units 1 and 2. Therefore, the staff
5 concludes that there are no impacts related to design
6 basis accidents beyond those discussed in the GEIS.

7 Now the second category of accidents
8 evaluated in the GEIS are severe accidents, and severe
9 accidents are by definition accidents that are more
10 severe than design basis accidents because they could
11 result in substantial damage to the reactor core,
12 whether or not there are serious off-site
13 consequences.

14 The Commission found in the GEIS that the
15 sequence -- that the consequences of the severe
16 accident on atmospheric releases, fall-out onto open
17 bodies of water, releases to groundwater and societal
18 impacts are small for all plants. Nevertheless, the
19 Commission determined that alternatives to mitigate
20 severe accidents must be considered for all plants
21 that have not done so already.

22 We refer to these alternatives as severe
23 accident mitigation alternatives, or S-A-M-A, or we
24 call it SAMAs for short.

25 Therefore, if a plant has not had an

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1 assessment of severe accident mitigation alternatives,
2 the licensee and the NRC need to perform one. This
3 assessment is a site-specific assessment and is a
4 Category 2 issue, as explained earlier in this
5 presentation by Eva.

6 St. Lucie had not had a SAMA evaluation
7 conducted prior to the one conducted in support of
8 their license renewal application. The SAMA review
9 for St. Lucie Units 1 and 2 is contained in Section
10 5.2 of the Environmental Impact Statement.

11 Now the purpose of doing the SAMA
12 evaluation is to ensure that plant changes with the
13 potential for improving severe accident safety
14 performance are identified and evaluated. The scope
15 of potential improvements that are considered include
16 a whole host of areas, including hardware
17 modifications, changes to procedures, changes to the
18 training program, as well as a number of other areas.

19 The scope included SAMAs that would
20 prevent core damage. They are sometimes referred to
21 as preventative SAMAs as well as SAMAs that improve
22 containment performance given a core damage event
23 might occur. These are termed mitigative SAMAs.

24 Evaluation is basically a four step
25 process. The first step is to characterize overall

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1 plant risk and the leading contributors to the risk.
2 This typically involves the extensive use of a plant
3 specific safety assessment study, also known as a PSA.
4 The PSA identifies the different contributors of
5 system failures and human errors that would be
6 required for an accident to progress to either core
7 damage or to containment failure.

8 The second step in the evaluation is to
9 identify potential improvements that could further
10 reduce the risk. This information from the PSA, such
11 as dominant accident sequences, are used to identify
12 plant improvements that would have the greatest impact
13 in reducing risk. Improvements identified in other
14 NRC and industry studies as well as SAMA analysis for
15 other plants are also considered in this process.

16 So first you quantify overall plant risk;
17 second, you identify potential improvements, and then
18 the next is to quantify the risk reduction potential
19 and the implementation cost for each of these
20 improvements. The risk reduction and implementation
21 costs are typically estimated using a bounding
22 analysis.

23 Risk reduction is generally over-estimated
24 by assuming that the plant improvement is completely
25 effective in eliminating the accident sequence, and

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1 the improvement is intended -- that the improvement is
2 attended to address.

3 The implementation costs are generally
4 under-estimated by neglecting certain cost factors,
5 such as maintenance costs or surveillance costs
6 associated with the plant modification.

7 These risk reduction potentials and
8 implementation cost estimates are used in the final
9 step, which is to determine whether implementation of
10 any of the improvements are justified.

11 In determining whether the improvement is
12 justified, the NRC staff looks at three factors.
13 First, whether the improvement is cost beneficial. In
14 other words, is the estimated benefit greater than the
15 estimate implementation cost of the SAMA.

16 The second factor is whether the
17 improvement provides a significant reduction in total
18 risk. For example, does it eliminate a sequence or
19 containment failure mode that contributes to a large
20 fraction of plant risk?

21 The third factor is whether the risk
22 reduction is associated with aging effects during the
23 period of extended operation, in which case, if it
24 was, we would be looking at implementation as part of
25 the license renewal process.

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1 The preliminary results of the St. Lucie
2 SAMA evaluation are summarized on this next slide.
3 One hundred sixty-nine candidate improvements were
4 identified. Based on a qualitative screening of the
5 initial list of SAMAs, twenty-nine were not found
6 applicable to the St. Lucie plant because of the
7 design of the facility. Ninety had been either
8 already implemented at the plant or the plant design
9 met the intent of the SAMA. That left fifty for
10 further evaluation.

11 The licensee then quantified the risk
12 reduction potential or benefit against the
13 implementation cost or costs for each of the fifty
14 remaining candidates. Of the fifty SAMAs, twenty-nine
15 were eliminated for further evaluation because the
16 cost of the improvement exceeded the maximum
17 attainable benefit value. The maximum attainable
18 benefit value is a calculated dollar amount associated
19 with completely eliminating severe accidents at St.
20 Lucie.

21 Now each of the remaining twenty-one SAMAs
22 was -- it was also eliminated on the basis of their
23 implementation cost, because the implementation cost
24 exceeded twice the estimated benefit for the specific
25 SAMA.

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1 The end result was that no specific SAMA
2 candidate was found to be cost beneficial. This
3 preliminary conclusion is consistent with the low
4 residual level of risk as indicated in the St. Lucie
5 PSA, and the fact that St. Lucie has in fact already
6 implemented many of these plant improvements.

7 To summarize, the NRC staff's preliminary
8 conclusion is that additional plant improvements to
9 further mitigate severe accidents are not required at
10 St. Lucie Units 1 and 2.

11 Any questions?

12 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Mike.

13 Questions?

14 Yes, sir.

15 MR. HANKENSON: David Hankenson.

16 Was a terrorist attack ever considered in
17 your evaluation?

18 DR. MASNIK: No. This particular review
19 looked at changes to the facility and its associated
20 change to the core damage frequency and the
21 possibility of a containment failure.

22 However, terrorist attacks are considered
23 as an operating concern and we have done a
24 considerable amount of assessment over the last,
25 obvious year and a half, since 9/11.

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1 MR. CAMERON: John, do you want to add
2 anything to what Mike said about how the terrorist
3 considerations are being considered by the Commission
4 and implications for license renewal?

5 MR. TAPPERT: Yeah. The -- as far as the
6 SAMA analysis -- as far as the SAMA evaluation is
7 concerned, terrorism or other safeguard issues were
8 not considered as part of these reviews.

9 However, the whole security situation has
10 been and is continuing to be evaluated by the agency
11 as a result of the 9/11 attacks.

12 Now even before then, nuclear power plants
13 tried to secure civilian facilities in the United
14 States, and of course since the 9/11 attacks, we've
15 even strengthened this further.

16 The agency has done a number of things.
17 They've issued orders to each of the hundred plus
18 nuclear operating power plants to enhance their
19 security profile. They've added additional guards.
20 They increased stand-off distances for potential land
21 bombs, and they've done a number of other things which
22 are more sensitive.

23 The agency has reorganized itself to
24 create a whole new office to address these concerns
25 and we're working closely with the new Office of

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1 Homeland Security, and we're doing a top to bottom
2 review of all the securities requirements for these
3 facilities to see which of those need to be upgraded
4 in light of the world situation.

5 So while none of this is tied to license
6 renewal, you know, it applies to all hundred plus
7 plants, not just the ones applying for license
8 renewal. It is a very real threat and one that we're
9 taking seriously.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, John.

11 Does that answer your question?

12 MR. HANKENSON: Sort of.

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

14 If you have anything further, we'll be
15 available to talk later, unless you want to add
16 anything now.

17 MR. HANKENSON: No.

18 MR. CAMERON: All right.

19 Any other questions on severe accident
20 mitigation alternatives?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Mike, do you want to
23 go to overall conclusions and process?

24 DR. MASNIK: This next slide is a summary
25 of the staff's conclusions as presented in the draft

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1 SEIS. The impacts of license renewal at St. Lucie are
2 small for all impact areas.

3 In comparison, the impacts or alternatives
4 to license renewal range from small to large.

5 Therefore, the staff's preliminary
6 conclusion is that the adverse impacts of license
7 renewal at St. Lucie are not so great that preserving
8 the option of license renewal for energy planning
9 decision makers would be unreasonable.

10 I'd just like to provide a quick recap of
11 the current status.

12 We issued the Draft Environmental Impact
13 Statement for St. Lucie license renewal this past
14 October. We are in the middle of the public comment
15 period that is scheduled to close on January 15, 2002
16 and we expect to address public comments, including
17 any necessary revisions to the Draft Environmental
18 Impact Statement for license renewal and issue the
19 final Environmental Impact Statement by July of 2003.

20 This next slide provides information on
21 how to access the St. Lucie Environmental Impact
22 Statement. You can contact me directly at the phone
23 number provided and I'll mail you a copy. You can
24 view the document at the public library here at the
25 Indian River Community College, and the several copies

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1 of the document are available in the back on the table
2 outside the doors here. And we also have the document
3 on our web site.

4 This last slide gives details on how to
5 submit comments on the Draft Environmental Impact
6 Statement. You can submit the comments in writing at
7 the indicated address, or by E-mail or by regular mail
8 at the addresses given. You can bring them in person
9 to the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. But
10 remember, I would appreciate it if you would submit
11 your comments by the deadline which is January 15,
12 2003.

13 That concludes our presentation at today's
14 meeting. Are there any questions on the
15 presentations?

16 MR. CAMERON: And before we go into
17 hearing from you, are there any questions on any of
18 the topics that we covered?

19 All right.

20 MR. HENSLEY: My name is Carl Hensley.
21 Under the socioeconomics, Category 2, one of the
22 topics was environmental justice. What does that
23 contain?

24 DR. MASNIK: I would have to check the
25 date, but a number of years ago there was an Executive

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1 Order that was issued that basically looked at -- it's
2 a -- it refers to a Federal policy that requires
3 Federal agencies to identify, address, as appropriate,
4 disproportionately high and adverse human health or
5 environmental effects of its actions on minority or
6 low income populations.

7 In other words, if the particular action
8 in the local area would have a disproportionately high
9 impact on minority or low income populations.

10 MR. CAMERON: Do you want to do a
11 followup?

12 MR. HENSLEY: No.

13 MR. CAMERON: Does that answer your
14 question?

15 MR. HENSLEY: Yes.

16 MR. CAMERON: All right.

17 Is there another -- does someone else have
18 a question over here?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, yes.

20 I was interested in --

21 MR. CAMERON: Your name?

22 MR. HANKENSON: David Hankenson.

23 I'm interested in the -- it's going to be
24 extended for sixty years if they accept the license
25 renewal. Can it be extended again for after the sixty

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1 years?

2 DR. MASNIK: Well, it, it -- they've come
3 in and requested a twenty year extension. They
4 already have a forty year license. So it would be
5 allowed to operate for a total of sixty years.

6 There is nothing in the regulations that
7 prohibit the licensee from coming in and doing this
8 again in the middle of the twenty year renewal period.
9 But again, you know, they would have to do the same --
10 they would have to be subjected to both the same
11 safety and environmental reviews and inspections.

12 MR. CAMERON: All right. Any other
13 questions?

14 (No response).

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you, Mike.

16 We're going to start off the public
17 comment segment of the meeting by hearing from Florida
18 Power and Light, and I'd like to ask Don Jernigan to
19 come up. Don is the site vice-president at St. Lucie.
20 And then Tom Abbatiello is going to come up and talk
21 to us, and Tom is the environmental lead on the
22 license renewal application.

23 Don?

24 MR. JERNIGAN: Thanks, and good evening.

25 And again, thank-you, Mr. Cameron.

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1 My name is Don Jernigan. I'm the
2 vice-president of Florida Power and Light Company,s
3 St. Lucie nuclear power plant.

4 I appreciate this opportunity to speak to
5 you today about Florida Power and Light's application
6 for renewal of the St. Lucie operating licenses, and
7 assisting me tonight is Tom Abbatiello, who is our
8 license renewal project environmental lead, who will
9 also address more specifically some of the findings
10 contained in the Draft Supplement Environmental Impact
11 Statement.

12 I'd also like to thank the Nuclear
13 Regulatory Commission for arranging and holding this
14 meeting today.

15 FPL strongly supports the openness of this
16 process, and in fact during the last two years we have
17 been involved in dialogue with the community
18 surrounding the St. Lucie plant. In fact, we have met
19 with more than one thousand home owners, community
20 groups and government officials.

21 Our purpose was to simply share
22 information about license renewal and plant
23 operations. We believe that the community interest
24 and the priorities should be incorporated not only
25 into our license renewal at the St. Lucie plant, but

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1 also into our overall plant operations.

2 Community input is an integral part of a
3 license renewal process. The application that we
4 prepared consists of two parts, as discussed earlier,
5 a safety analysis and an environmental report.

6 The application has been open for public
7 review for some time and the NRC has in fact requested
8 comments and received comments from interested
9 parties.

10 Just as the process has been open in
11 reviewing the environmental aspects of license
12 renewal, the safety analysis is also following a
13 parallel path. There are open public meetings and the
14 NRC is currently going through an intensive review of
15 plant systems to ensure safe operation of the plant
16 for an additional twenty years.

17 A public meeting on the scoping of the
18 NRC's environmental review over license renewal
19 application was held here last April in this very
20 room.

21 Today's meeting continues that open
22 process of seeking public input on license renewal,
23 and we welcome this opportunity to gain additional
24 community input on the environmental aspects of our
25 license renewal.

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1 I want to thank the members of the
2 community that are represented here today for taking
3 time out of your busy schedule to share your views and
4 ideas of this draft report with the NRC. They're very
5 important. And we appreciate the support that has
6 been provided to us by the local communities.

7 I'd also like to thank the NRC staff and
8 members of the National Laboratory Review Team for
9 their work in preparing a Supplement Environmental
10 Impact Statement for St. Lucie license renewal.

11 I believe that the report reflects a
12 comprehensive assessment of the environmental impacts
13 of license renewal. And as vice-president of St.
14 Lucie, I want to state that my first and my primary
15 focus is the health and safety of my family, my St.
16 Lucie employees and this community, and their
17 well-being comes before anything else.

18 When I look at the evidence that is
19 presented in this Supplemental Environmental Impact
20 Statement and the other license renewal documents, I
21 am assured of the plant's safety and the positive
22 impact on our environment. I believe that the case
23 for continued operation of the St. Lucie plant is
24 strong.

25 Let me address four areas. I want to talk

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1 about our performance, the economics of St. Lucie
2 electricity, our environmental stewardship and our
3 community presence.

4 The first thing I want to talk about is
5 that the performance of our plant is top notch, thanks
6 to our employees, many of whom are actually here in
7 this audience tonight to support this very important
8 process. It is their time, their effort, and their
9 dedication that have resulted in making the St. Lucie
10 plant consistently recognized as one of the safest and
11 one of the most reliable and one of the most efficient
12 plants in the United States.

13 It is our employees who have worked
14 diligently through effective maintenance programs to
15 sustain this option for continued plant operation well
16 beyond the four year license period.

17 Not only does the Nuclear Regulatory
18 Commission monitor our performance, but there are
19 other independent agencies who also agree that our
20 plant operations are safe and that they have no
21 adverse impact on the surrounding community. This
22 includes the State of Florida's Department of Health,
23 which conducts monitoring and sampling of the areas
24 surrounding the St. Lucie plant.

25 Another important factor to consider in

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1 this process is our ability to help meet Florida's
2 energy needs. As we have talked about here today,
3 Florida's electric growth is averaging two percent a
4 year. The St. Lucie power plant can help sustain the
5 economic growth of our and maintain our current
6 quality of life. This plant is strategically located
7 in the FPL generating system.

8 The St. Lucie plant is among the lowest
9 cost producers of electricity in the FPL system. So
10 that helps keeps electric bills low, and that's good
11 news for our customers.

12 From an environmental standpoint the St.
13 Lucie plant remains a guardian of our natural
14 resources. Our outstanding sea turtle programs have
15 been recognized throughout the . In fact, the
16 Governor has recognized the St. Lucie plant for this
17 environmental stewardship this year.

18 In addition, we continue to produce clean
19 electricity without air pollution or greenhouse
20 gasses.

21 Finally, what does the St. Lucie plant
22 mean to our community? So we asked our neighbors and
23 they told us that we are an important economic factor
24 in this community, one that they want to see remain as
25 a viable contributor, payroll for around eight hundred

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1 employees, tax dollars, property taxes, purchases, and
2 the contributions to local United Way agencies help in
3 this area.

4 But the most important part, more than the
5 economics, is the role that our employees play in this
6 local community. Our employees are active in their
7 churches, in Scout organizations, in PTA's, Little
8 Leagues, Pop Warner football leagues, and even in
9 local government.

10 And as a testimony to our community role,
11 many members of the local community have spoken to us
12 in support of the St. Lucie plant, not only this
13 afternoon, but also last April during a public scoping
14 meeting on the NRC's environmental review of our
15 license renewal application.

16 In summary, I believe that renewal of the
17 licenses of FPL St. Lucie nuclear power plant is in
18 the best interest of our community in continuing to
19 provide safe, clean, reliable and low cost electricity
20 to our customers.

21 I would like to ask that our license
22 renewal project environment lead Tom Abbatiello
23 provide some additional details on FPL's license
24 renewal efforts and comments on the Draft Supplemental
25 Environmental Impact Statement.

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1 Tom?

2 MR. ABBATIELLO: Thanks, Don.

3 Good evening everyone. It's an honor to
4 be here today to share my thoughts with you about the
5 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the
6 St. Lucie license renewal.

7 As Don said, my name is Tom Abbatiello and
8 I am the environmental lead for the St. Lucie license
9 renewal project.

10 The Supplemental Environmental Impact
11 Statement for the St. Lucie license renewal provides
12 a thorough examination of the ninety-two environmental
13 issues addressed in the regulations. This very broad
14 approach has been thoughtfully designed and is
15 intended to cover the wide spectrum of issues that
16 might be raised by members of the public or
17 governmental review agencies.

18 The Supplemental Environmental Impact
19 Statement concludes that the environmental impacts
20 from operating St. Lucie for an additional twenty
21 years would be small. This conclusion is based on
22 detailed analysis of impact areas.

23 I agree with this conclusion. In fact, it
24 is the same conclusion that was made in FPL's
25 environmental report which we prepared as a part of

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1 our application.

2 But another reason I believe that St.
3 Lucie should operate for an additional twenty years is
4 to be able to continue the award winning conservation
5 work that was initiated almost twenty years ago. FPL
6 is proud of the work we do, preserve and protect the
7 environment. We believe in our responsibility to
8 operate in harmony with the environment. St. Lucie's
9 unique location successfully combines modern
10 technology with a strong commitment to the
11 environment.

12 As Don alluded to in his talk, on October
13 8th of this year, Governor Bush and the Florida
14 Cabinet presented FPL with a 2002 council for
15 sustainable Florida environmental award. This award,
16 which was on display in the foyer, recognizes FPL's
17 program at the St. Lucie plant for the preservation
18 and education of endangered sea turtles. The sea
19 turtle protection and preservation program will
20 continue during the license extension period.

21 The renewal of the St. Lucie licenses is
22 important in meeting the energy needs of South
23 Florida, and as was previously mentioned, we are
24 growing at about two percent a year and electricity
25 consumed per customer is also increasing. Because of

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1 this increasing demand, FPL must plan and provide
2 power plants to assure ample supply of electricity,
3 and to that end, a robust network of generation is
4 best sustained by the use of diverse fuels.

5 The renewal of the St. Lucie operating
6 licenses permits FPL to continue to provide over 1700
7 megawatts of environmentally clean and low cost
8 generating capacity, free from dependence on foreign
9 oil.

10 The St. Lucie employees want to remain a
11 part of this community. As your neighbors, safe and
12 reliable operation of the St. Lucie nuclear plant is
13 our top priority. We believe license renewal makes
14 good business sense for both FPL and its customers,
15 and in light of the current situation in the world, we
16 also believe it is the right thing to do for our
17 country.

18 Thank-you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Tom,
20 and thank-you, Don.

21 We're going to go to Mr. Vince Barry now,
22 who I believe is from Wonderful Wednesday.

23 Vince?

24 MR. BARRY: Good evening.

25 My name is Vincent Barry. My wife

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1 Lorraine and I have lived in Port St. Lucie for
2 fourteen years, moving here from Lafayette, Indiana.

3 During that time we have relied on Florida
4 Power and Light and the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant to
5 supply us with low cost, safe and reliable
6 electricity. They have never failed to fulfill that
7 responsibility.

8 Over the same period, I have checked the
9 cost of electricity with our growing children living
10 in several other States, and have confirmed that
11 Florida Power and Light and the St. Lucie Nuclear
12 Plant does indeed have economical rates.

13 We also have enjoyed great credits, by
14 participating in the Florida Power and Light on-call
15 program. With this program our water heater and our
16 air conditioning system are wired such, that during
17 peak loads Florida Power and Light can remotely
18 disrupt our service for short periods of time. To
19 date, if they have activated the system, we are
20 unaware of it, and it has caused us no inconvenience.

21 With regard to safety and reliability,
22 long before coming to Florida I was aware of the
23 excellent reputation in quality that Florida Power and
24 Light enjoyed and of the high standards they employed
25 in their facilities.

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1 I have long known of the stringent quality
2 and safety systems demanded and employed by Florida
3 Power and Light. However, it was not until my wife
4 and I became involved in Vicky Spencer's energy
5 encounters and the Wonderful Wednesday program she
6 administers, did we realize that those stringent
7 standards were ratcheted up tenfold at the St. Lucie
8 Nuclear Plant.

9 I learned about the safety and the back-up
10 systems, about the detailed procedures for every
11 process that must be followed and how the operators
12 are trained and retrained to follow these quality and
13 safety procedures to the letter without deviation.

14 There is no question in my mind that
15 safety is the top priority at the St. Lucie nuclear
16 Plant and their safety record bears this out.

17 In addition to being a reliable supplier
18 of safe, low cost electricity, the St. Lucie Nuclear
19 Plant is a good neighbor, contributing aggressively to
20 our local community, both economically and with
21 countless civic activities. The plant and its
22 employees are involved in everything, from Little
23 League, to United Way, to Habitat for Humanity, and
24 impacts this community with more than eighty million
25 dollars annually.

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1 I recently became aware of the splendid
2 programs that the St. Lucie plant Energy Encounters
3 Program conducts. These programs offer hands-on
4 science programs for school, offering free three day
5 work shops to teachers for teaching skills and
6 training credits, free science field trips for
7 elementary and middle school children, as well as
8 continually donating computers and supplies to the
9 local schools.

10 Adding to their economic and civic
11 achievements, the St. Lucie nuclear plant has always
12 maintained a strong commitment to the environment.
13 Their emphasis on the South Florida Echo System have
14 resulted in designing and maintaining a facility that
15 compliments a friendly relationship of the two.

16 Through the twenty-five year existence of
17 the plant, the State of Florida has monitored the
18 environmental conditions around the St. Lucie nuclear
19 plant. They have continually found both the air and
20 the water surrounding the plant meets their standards
21 and those of the Federal Government.

22 In conclusion, the twenty-five year
23 history of the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant has been
24 excellent for the community, for the environment and
25 its wildlife, and for the people. We have got

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1 something very good here and when you have something
2 good you stick with it.

3 Florida Power and Light and the St. Lucie
4 Nuclear Plant have more than proved they are worthy to
5 have their license renewed.

6 I thank you for allowing me to voice my
7 support for the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant license
8 renewal and for sharing with you my views for that
9 support.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Mr.
11 Barry.

12 Next we're going to go to Mr. Larry
13 Bullington.

14 MR. BULLINGTON: Thank- you. I'd just
15 have some comments that I'd like to make.

16 First of all, thank-you to the NRC
17 findings. I'm a health physics technician at St.
18 Lucie since all the way back January 10th of '83. I
19 have some years of experience.

20 But those that I'm sitting around, or the
21 reason I'm here tonight, because they represent IBEW,
22 and present, Rick Curtis, and these are my Union
23 brothers.

24 As has been stated before, the Boy Scouts,
25 Big Brothers, Hospice, United Way, is contributing

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1 from these fellows and also many -- in the area, many
2 hours put together for these gentlemen.

3 So I thank you. The ladies and gentlemen
4 here are part of the neighborhood of St. Lucie,
5 Martin, Okeechobee and Indian County.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Larry.

7 Next we're going to go to Karen Knapp,
8 United Way.

9 MS. KNAPP: Good evening.

10 My name is Karen Knapp and I'm the
11 President of the United Way of St. Lucie County, and
12 it is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Florida
13 Power and Light Company, and the people it employs,
14 and their relationship with the United Way.

15 The United Way is the leader in charitable
16 giving. Over the past forty years the local United
17 Way has allocated millions of dollars to give to
18 health and human service organizations to help people
19 in need right here in our community.

20 In order for us to be successful in
21 accomplishing our goals, we need helping hands,
22 volunteers and the generosity of contributors.
23 Volunteers govern the United Way. They help raise
24 needed funds, and the volunteers review all requests
25 for funds and make financial -- or final decisions on

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1 where the dollars will do the most good.

2 Our volunteers are a vital resource to our
3 organization. For many years now the folks at FP&L
4 have played and continue to play an important role in
5 the operation of our United Way. Year after year
6 Florida Power and Light, and the IBEW Local 627
7 supports us by giving of their time and energy.

8 FP&L allows their employees to help us in
9 so many ways. They sit on governing boards of the
10 United Way. They allow their employees to become loan
11 executives. They chair our United Way campaigns.
12 Volunteers help us not only with their own campaign
13 inside the nuclear plant, but they also help us
14 conduct many outside throughout the community.

15 These volunteers go above and beyond and
16 they give from the heart. They have never said no to
17 a request for help from the United Way, whether it be
18 constructive huge goal signs in the community or
19 sitting on decision-making panels. The company and
20 its employees are dedicated to improving the quality
21 of life for those less fortunate in our community.

22 They have proven themselves to be good
23 citizens of this community, the true friend to United
24 Way and an asset to our entire community and I would
25 like just to take this opportunity to thank Mr.

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1 Jernigan and the employees here present for all that
2 they do for the United Way.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you, Karen.

4 I believe that's the last speaker that we
5 had signed up.

6 Before we close, does anybody else have
7 anything to say or any issues we can clear up for you?
8 Any questions?

9 Yes, sir?

10 And just please give us your name for the
11 transcript.

12 MR. BOGACKI: My name is Charles Bogacki,
13 and just to stay on the topic of environmental impact,
14 I just want to let you know the posted radioactive
15 material settlement pond that is on the FP&L site
16 outside of the radiation control area -- and FP&L is
17 doing a great job on the St. Lucie site -- but I would
18 like to see the settlement pond that is open to all
19 the wildlife, have some attention to make this
20 settlement pond de-posted as radioactive material area
21 that is open to the wildlife, and adhere to the
22 environmental issues that may impact that.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank-you, and if
24 the NRC staff needs to clarify anything about that,
25 they'll talk to you after the meeting, okay, just to

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1 make sure that we understand everything that you're
2 saying on that.

3 Anybody else have a question or comment
4 that they want to make before we close for tonight?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. CAMERON: I would just thank all of
7 you for taking the time to be with us tonight and
8 giving us your comments.

9 Anybody?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. CAMERON: All right. I'm going to
12 ask John Tappert, who's our senior person here, to
13 just close the meeting for us.

14 John?

15 MR. TAPPERT: Thanks again for coming.
16 We appreciate all the comments that you gave us. The
17 NRC staff will remain after the meeting if you have
18 any additional questions or comments.

19 Thank-you.

20 (Whereupon, at 8:55 o'clock, p.m., the
21 public meeting was adjourned.)

22

23

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