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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

THURSDAY

APRIL 10, 2003

MORRIS, ILLINOIS

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The NRC Public Scoping Meeting met at
Jennifer's Garden Banquet & Convention Center, 555
West Gore Road, at 7:00 p.m., Chip Cameron presiding.

PRESENT:

Chip Cameron

J. Tappert

T.J.Kim

D. Wheeler

B. Hovey

F. Polaski

R. Emch

B. Zalcman

A. Rodriguez

M. Dyer

R. Emch

L. Fatlan

G. Kirn

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

(7:00 P.M.)

1
2
3 MR. CAMERON: Good evening everyone. My
4 name is Chip Cameron. I'm the Special Counsel for
5 Public Liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
6 and I want to welcome you all to the meeting tonight,
7 and it's my pleasure to serve as your Facilitator for
8 the meeting tonight. And in that role, I'm going to
9 try to make sure that you all have a productive
10 meeting.

11 The Exelon Company has submitted an
12 application to the NRC to renew the licenses, the
13 operating licenses for the Dresden Nuclear Power
14 Station Units II and III and the focus of our meeting
15 tonight is to talk about the environmental review that
16 the NRC does to help it evaluate whether to grant that
17 license renewal application.

18 And in terms of format for the meeting
19 tonight, the meeting's going to be basically divided
20 into two parts. Part one is for the NRC staff to give
21 you some background on the license renewal process to
22 make sure that everybody understands it. And we'll
23 have a couple of presentations and then we'll go on to
24 you to see if there's any questions at all about the
25 process.

1 The second part of the meeting is an
2 opportunity for all of us to listen to any comments,
3 any recommendations, any concerns that you might have
4 about this process and about our environmental review
5 specifically. And several people have signed up to
6 come and speak to us tonight and if you are seized by
7 the inspiration to speak and you haven't signed up,
8 don't worry about it. We'll have you on. And during
9 that part of the meeting, we ask people to either come
10 up here to speak from the podium or if you feel more
11 comfortable just speaking where you are, I'll bring
12 this cordless mic over to you.

13 In terms of ground rules for the meeting,
14 if you do have a question, just signal me and I'll
15 bring you the microphone and give us your name and
16 affiliation if appropriate. We are making a
17 transcript. Stuart Karoubas is with us tonight, our
18 stenographer. And anything that you say tonight will
19 be treated as a comment on the scope of the
20 environmental review carrying the same weight as the
21 written comments that we receive.

22 I don't think we're going to be pressed
23 for time tonight, but I would still just like you to
24 be a little bit economical in your comments and we'll
25 use a guideline of five to seven minutes for the
26 prepared comments and that way we'll make sure that we

1 cover all the material and that everybody has an
2 opportunity to speak tonight.

3 The last thing that I want to do is to
4 give you an overview of the agenda so you know what to
5 expect and to introduce the staff, NRC staff, that
6 will be talking tonight and to give you an idea of
7 what their background is, what type of skills and
8 experience they bring to this evaluation of the
9 license renewal application.

10 John Tappert from the NRC is right here,
11 and I'm going to ask John in a minute or so to give
12 you a formal welcome. And he is the Chief of the
13 Environmental Section within the License Renewal and
14 Environmental Impacts Program at the NRC. And John
15 and his staff are responsible for doing the
16 environmental reviews on these license renewal
17 applications, as well as, other reactor licensing
18 activities that the NRC is engaged in.

19 And John's been with the Agency for
20 approximately twelve years, and he was a Resident
21 Inspector at one part of his NRC career. And our
22 Resident Inspectors are the NRC eyes and ears, so to
23 speak, at each of the reactors that we license. In a
24 few minutes, I want to introduce you to the Resident
25 Inspector for the Dresden plants.

1 But John was a Resident Inspector. Before
2 that he was in the Naval Submarine Program. He's a
3 submariner, and he has a bachelor's degree in
4 engineering from Virginia Tech and a master's degree
5 in environmental engineering from Johns Hopkins
6 University. So John will give you a welcome and a
7 brief overview of the NRC, and then we're going to go
8 to an overview of the license renewal process
9 generally.

10 And to do that for us, we have Mr. T.J.
11 Kim who is right here, also from the NRC. T.J. is the
12 Project Manager for the safety part of the evaluation
13 of these Dresden license renewal applications. And he
14 also is in the License Renewal and Environmental
15 Impacts Program but he's on the safety side. He's not
16 in John Tappert's Environmental Section. And T.J.'s
17 been with the NRC for nineteen years. He also was a
18 Resident Inspector at one point in his career, and he
19 has a chemical engineering degree from Drexel and a
20 technical management master's degree from Johns
21 Hopkins University.

22 We'll then go on to you for questions,
23 then we're going to go to the specifics of the
24 environmental review process, and Mr. Duke Wheeler is
25 right here. Duke is going to give a presentation on
26 that and he is the Project Manager for the

1 environmental part of the review on the Dresden
2 license renewal applications. And Duke has been with
3 the Agency for twenty years. Before that he was with
4 the Westinghouse Naval Nuclear Power Program. He was
5 a nuclear weapons officer in the United States Army,
6 and he has a nuclear engineering bachelor's degree
7 from the West Point Military Academy.

8 One other person I'd like to introduce
9 that's part of the environmental review, is Mr. Bruce
10 McDowell who's right here. As you'll hear Duke talk
11 about the NRC as assisted in the environmental review
12 from, by experts in various environmental disciplines.
13 And Bruce is the Task Leader for those experts who are
14 assisting us, and he's from Lawrence Livermore Lab in
15 Livermore, California. He is the Environmental
16 Assurance Manager. He's been there since 1991.
17 Before that, he was involved in renewable energy
18 activities, and he has a master's in business
19 administration from the University of San Francisco
20 and a master's in resource economics from the
21 University of California at Davis.

22 And I just want to introduce one more
23 person. We have lots of staff here, but in terms of
24 the Dresden Units key person from the NRC is Desiree
25 Smith who's right here. And Desiree is the Resident
26 Inspector there, and if you all have questions about

1 what the resident does during the meeting, we can get
2 Desiree to address that then. But thank you for being
3 here, Desiree.

4 And I just would thank all of you for
5 being here and look forward to having a good meeting,
6 and if you have questions, please ask them and we can
7 just try to be informal tonight and John Tappert?

8 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip. And good
9 evening and welcome, and welcome back to those of you
10 who attended our matinee session. As Chip said, my
11 name is John Tappert and I'm the Chief of the
12 Environmental Section in the Office of Nuclear Reactor
13 Regulation and on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory
14 Commission, I'd like to thank you for coming out here
15 tonight and participating in our process. As Chip
16 said, there's several things we'd like to cover today,
17 and I'd like to briefly go over the purposes of
18 tonight's meeting.

19 First of all, we want to give you an
20 overview of the license renewal process which is
21 composed of two parts, a safety review, as well as an
22 environmental review, which is the principle focus of
23 tonight's meeting. That environmental review will
24 identify those issues that we will be looking at as we
25 assess the environmental impacts associated with

1 extending the operating license of the Dresden Units
2 II and III for an additional twenty years.

3 We'll also give you information about our
4 schedule, and the opportunities that you will have to
5 participate further in this process. At the
6 conclusion of the staff's remarks, we'll be happy to
7 receive any questions or comments that you may have
8 about our review tonight. And that really is the
9 principle reason for this meeting today.

10 But first let me provide some general
11 context for the license renewal process. The Atomic
12 Energy Act gives the NRC the authority to issue
13 operating licenses to commercial nuclear power plants
14 for a period of forty years. For Dresden Units II and
15 III, those operating licenses will expire in 2009 and
16 2011 respectively. Our regulations also make
17 provisions for extending that operating license for an
18 additional twenty years as part of a license renewal
19 program. And Exelon has requested license renewal for
20 both Units.

21 As far as the NRC's review of that
22 application, we will be developing an Environmental
23 Impact Statement. Right now, we're in what we call
24 the scoping phase where we seek to identify those
25 issues which will require the greatest focus during

1 our review. And your questions and comments today are
2 an important part of that scoping process.

3 And with that brief introduction, I would
4 like to ask T.J. to describe the safety and overall
5 review.

6 MR. KIM: Thank you, John. As Chip said,
7 my name is T.J. Kim and I'm the NRC's Project Manager
8 responsible for the safety review of the Exelon's
9 license renewal application for both Dresden and Quad
10 Cities. Before I get into the discussion of the
11 license renewal process, I'd like to take a minute to
12 talk about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NRC,
13 in terms of what we do and what our mission is.

14 The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which is
15 the enabling legislation that authorizes the NRC to
16 regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials. In
17 carrying out that statutory authority, the NRC's
18 mission is really threefold. One, to ensure adequate
19 protection of public health and safety. Two, to
20 protect the environment and three, to provide for a
21 common defense and security.

22 The NRC accomplishes its mission through
23 a combination of various regulatory programs and
24 processes such as inspections, enforcement activities,
25 assessment of licensee performance, evaluation of
26 operating experience at nuclear plants across the

1 country, as well as foreign reactors, rulemaking
2 activities and licensing.

3 Again, these are some of the major and
4 ongoing regulatory programs and processes that are
5 designed to ensure that we are complying with the
6 statutory mission. As Mr. Tappert mentioned earlier,
7 the Atomic Energy Act provides for forty year license
8 term for power reactors, but it also allows for
9 license renewal.

10 By the way, the forty year license term
11 for power reactors, is primarily based on economic and
12 antitrust considerations rather than safety
13 limitations or technical limitations. So to address
14 the requirements and to provide for regulatory process
15 for license renewal, the Commission has promulgated
16 the license renewal rule in 10 CFR Part 54. That's
17 Title 10 of Code of Federal Regulations Part 54.
18 Title 10 by the way, is the compilation of all the
19 rules and regulations that governs NRC activities.
20 Next slide please.

21 The license renewal process as defined in
22 10 CFR Part 54, is quite similar to the original
23 licensing process for power reactors in that it
24 involves safety review, an environmental impact
25 review, confirmatory plant inspections and independent
26 review by Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards or

1 the ACRS. There is one very important distinction
2 here however, that in promulgating the license renewal
3 rule, the Commission has determined that many aspects
4 of the current licensing basis for nuclear power
5 plants, such as emergency planning and plant physical
6 security, are adequately addressed by the current
7 regulatory programs and processes such as these can
8 carry through the license renewal term. That's a very
9 important concept to remember when we further discuss
10 the license renewal process.

11 Before I move on to the next slide, I'd
12 like to make a quick comment about the role of the
13 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards or the ACRS.
14 The ACRS is basically a group of nationally-
15 recognized technical experts on nuclear safety arena
16 that functions as a consulting body to the Commission
17 itself. The ACRS performs independent review and
18 assessment of each license renewal application, as
19 well as, the staff safety evaluation reports. And the
20 ACRS then forms their own opinions and conclusions and
21 reports those directly to the Commission. Next slide
22 please.

23 This slide basically provides a big
24 picture overview of the license renewal process, and
25 as you can see from the slide, the process involves
26 two separate tracks that are obviously parallel. The

1 first process involves safety review which is depicted
2 on the top portion of the slide, and the other part of
3 the process involves environmental review, and that's
4 depicted at the bottom line down here. And let me
5 talk a little bit about the safety review process
6 first.

7 Safety review basically involves NRC
8 staff's review and assessment of technical information
9 that's contained in the license renewal application.
10 And I have a team of about thirty NRC technical
11 experts back at the NRC headquarters, who are
12 conducting this review right now. And our team is
13 supported by three different technical experts in
14 three different national laboratories including
15 Argonne, Brookhaven up in Long Island, New York and
16 Pacific Northwest up in the State of Washington.

17 So I have put together quite a team of
18 experts to conduct the safety review on license
19 renewal safety review. The safety review basically
20 involves the NRC staff's assessment of the
21 effectiveness on the proposed aging management
22 programs to ensure that the plant's safety related
23 structure, the systems and components, will maintain
24 its effectiveness throughout the license renewal term.

25 The second aspect of the staff safety
26 review, involves what's called time-limited aging

1 analyses. The license renewal rule requires each
2 license renewal applicant to basically reevaluate
3 those design basis analyses that assumes a forty year
4 life term. So the reevaluation basically involves
5 extending the life, the qualification of those
6 components from forty years to sixty years to cover
7 the license renewal period.

8 An example of time limited aging analysis
9 would be environmentally qualified equipments such as
10 electrical components or cables that are expected to
11 survive and function at the end of its design life.
12 So the license renewal application would include those
13 time limiting aging analyses that would cover the
14 license renewal period.

15 The results of the safety review then will
16 be documented in what's called Safety Evaluation
17 Report, and as I've indicated earlier, a copy of that
18 would be provided to the ACRS for their second review.
19 The safety review process also involves confirmatory
20 inspections for Dresden and Quad Cities license
21 renewal application, we have planned three such
22 inspections. One inspection will be conducted at
23 Exelon's engineering office. The second inspection is
24 planned at the Dresden site and the third inspection
25 is planned at the Quad Cities site. Each inspection
26 will be conducted by a team of seven inspectors.

1 They'll be pulled together from both NRC Headquarters
2 and the Region 3 offices.

3 At the bottom of the slide is the
4 environmental review process that involves scoping
5 activities which this meeting is a part of. It would
6 also involve preparing a draft supplement to GEIS.
7 GEIS stands for Generic Environmental Impact
8 Statement, and we'll be publishing that draft
9 supplement to solicit comments from the public and
10 then eventually we'll issue a final supplement to
11 GEIS.

12 So as you can see from this slide, the
13 final Agency decision on whether to approve or deny
14 the application, would involve all those things that
15 I just talked about, staff safety evaluation report,
16 final supplement to GEIS, as well as, the inspection
17 reports and the independent report by the ACRS. And
18 this whole process takes approximately twenty-two
19 months.

20 Now if there's a petition filed to
21 intervene in this process by an individual or a group
22 of individuals, and if they can demonstrate sufficient
23 standing, then hearings, adjudicatory hearings can
24 also be involved in the process. An adjudicatory
25 hearing is basically NRC's process that involves trial
26 type hearings.

1 That basically concludes my prepared
2 remarks. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to
3 answer them.

4 MR. CAMERON: Great. Thank you very much
5 T.J. That's the overview of the process. A lot of
6 material. Does anybody have any questions on that at
7 all? Okay, we're going to go to the environmental
8 part of the NRC review process with Mr. Duke Wheeler,
9 and then we'll come back on and see if there's any
10 questions on any of it.

11 MR. WHEELER: Thank you, Chip. I am Duke
12 Wheeler, and I am the Project Manager on the NRC staff
13 responsible for coordinating the activities of the NRC
14 staff and a team of environmental experts from various
15 national labs to develop the site-specific
16 Environmental Impact Statement for Dresden that
17 supplements our Generic Environmental Impact Statement
18 for the License Renewal of Nuclear Plants. May I have
19 the next slide please?

20 The National Environmental Policy Act of
21 1969 requires that a systematic approach be followed
22 in evaluating environmental impacts associated with
23 certain proposed Federal actions. We consider the
24 impacts of the proposed action, and we also consider
25 the impacts of mitigation in those instances where we
26 find that the impacts are significant. We also

1 consider alternatives to the proposed action.
2 Alternatives being other sources of energy such as
3 coal, natural gas are included in our consideration of
4 alternatives. We also take a look at renewable energy
5 sources.

6 One other alternative that we take a look
7 at is what we call the no-action alternative where we
8 just decide not to approve the proposed license
9 renewal. The National Environmental Policy Act and
10 our Environmental Impact Statement that is developed
11 under its provisions are a disclosure mechanism to
12 inform the public of these environmental impacts. The
13 National Environmental Policy Act specifically has
14 provisions for public participation in our process and
15 this meeting is a part of facilitating the public's
16 participation in our environmental review.

17 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has
18 determined that an Environmental Impact Statement will
19 be prepared for proposed license renewal of nuclear
20 power plants. We are now gathering information for
21 the EIS. We're collecting public comments that will
22 help us scope out, if you will, the bounds of our
23 environmental review. May I have the next slide?

24 The Environmental Impact Statement that
25 I'm going to be preparing is designed to basically
26 address one issue, standard issue, one decision

1 standard, if you will. And that basically is, we will
2 make a determination of whether or not the adverse
3 environmental impacts of the proposed license renewal
4 are so great that preserving the option of license
5 renewal for the decisionmakers becomes unreasonable.

6 The point I'd like to make is that the NRC
7 does not determine whether or not our plant will
8 actually operate for an additional twenty years. That
9 decision is made by other groups and agencies include
10 the licensee, State regulators, and so forth. We will
11 just issue an operating license presuming that we
12 determine that they have met our safety requirements
13 and the environmental requirements that we're
14 responsible for under the National Environmental
15 Policy Act. May I have the next slide?

16 A few moments ago, T.J. had a slide on the
17 screen that was similar to this one. It was basically
18 a flow process and this slide is just an expansion of
19 the bottom line of his slide that described the
20 environmental review process. We received Exelon's
21 application for the combined license renewal for
22 Dresden and Quad Cities on January the 3rd of this
23 year. On March the 14th, I issued a Notice of Intent
24 to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and
25 conduct scoping. We are now in more or less the
26 middle of the scoping period. It's a sixty day period

1 of time and at the end of the scoping period, which
2 will be on May the 14th, I will issue a scoping
3 summary report that will address all the comments we
4 receive from all sources during the scoping process.
5 And I'll address those within the framework of our
6 environmental review.

7 About two weeks ago, members of the NRC
8 staff and our team of environmental experts from
9 various national labs visited the site as part of one
10 of our information gathering activities. We walked
11 the grounds, we reviewed a lot of licensing procedures
12 and records, talked to several of their people. If we
13 determine after all of that, the scoping and the site
14 audit and paying substantial attention to the
15 environmental report that they provided us with their
16 application, if we still need additional information
17 to complete a draft of our Environmental Impact
18 Statement, then I will issue a request for additional
19 information. And I will do that no later than May the
20 30th of this year. Then I expect to get an answer
21 back from Exelon providing us that additional
22 information within about eight weeks.

23 We will then have what we need to develop
24 a draft of our Environmental Impact Statement, and I
25 will publish that in December of this year. And you'll
26 note that there's also, by the graphics here, an

1 opportunity for public participation at this stage of
2 our process. When I publish that draft, I will also
3 be starting a seventy-five day public comment period
4 on that draft Environmental Impact Statement. At the
5 end of that seventy-five day public comment period, we
6 then will take all the information that we have, and
7 I will publish a final Environmental Impact Statement
8 for the proposed license renewal, and I expect to do
9 that in July of 2004. May I have the next slide?

10 This slide just shows some of the sources
11 that we go to to gather information to develop our
12 draft Environmental Impact Statement. The big focus
13 at the moment, receiving public comments, that's what
14 this meeting is all about. But we also go to several
15 other sources of information to help us prepare the
16 draft. May I have the next slide?

17 This slide just identifies a lot of the
18 environmental disciplines that we focus on as we write
19 our draft Environmental Impact Statement. The NRC
20 staff, as has been mentioned, is supplemented by a
21 team of experts from various national laboratories and
22 we have experts in these various areas. The
23 laboratories represented on our team, Lawrence
24 Livermore National Laboratory out in Livermore,
25 California, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
26 out in Richland, Washington. We also have a couple of

1 people on our Dresden team from the Argonne National
2 Laboratory, just up the road here, and some members on
3 our team from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in
4 New Mexico.

5 One term that I'd like to focus some
6 attention on at the moment that may not be familiar to
7 everybody is this term, you see where it says
8 environmental justice? And what that means is we take
9 a look at the question of whether or not any
10 environmental impacts associated with the proposed
11 license renewal disproportionately impact low income
12 or minority segments of the local population. May I
13 have the next slide?

14 This slide just recaps a couple of the key
15 milestone dates in our schedule that I've already
16 mentioned. Note the scoping period ends on May the
17 12th and one note on that. If I receive comments
18 after May 12th, I will still give it my best attempt
19 to consider those comments in the development of the
20 draft Environmental Impact Statement. I will
21 definitely consider all comments received up until May
22 the 12th. That's a commitment that I'll make right
23 now, that I will do. If it comes in afterwards, I'll
24 give it a try, but I can't guarantee it. It will
25 depend on the comment and the timing. Again, December
26 2003 for the draft, seventy-five day comment period

1 and eventually July 2004 for the final. May I have
2 the next slide?

3 This slide just identifies myself as your
4 primary point of contact with the NRC staff for any
5 particular interests you may have. There's a
6 telephone number for me on this slide. You're welcome
7 to call at any time. I'd also like to point out that
8 very early in our process, I came out here and visited
9 a couple of local libraries to make Exelon's
10 application for license renewal, and particularly the
11 environmental report for Dresden, available. It is
12 available at the Morris Public Library and I also
13 drove over to Coal City and spoke with the staff there
14 and they were more than happy to make space available
15 for us on the reference shelf to provide, to make
16 available, a copy of the license renewal application
17 for your review. And these libraries are also on my
18 mailing list for important correspondence that leaves
19 our office to go out to the licensee or to other
20 agencies that we're dealing with and a file of this
21 correspondence will be maintained at these libraries.

22 The application can also be viewed via the
23 internet at the NRC's website, www.nrc.gov. And
24 speaking of that, one thing I'd like to point out is
25 that occasionally people run into some difficulties in
26 navigating the internet, getting what they need. If

1 for some reason you do run into some difficulties,
2 give me a telephone number, excuse me, give me a phone
3 call at the phone number that you've got and you and
4 I will sit there and go through it keystroke-by-
5 keystroke until your concerns are properly addressed.
6 May I have the next slide?

7 Now the various means by which comments
8 can be provided into our system, into our process, you
9 can certainly send written comments to the Chief of
10 our Rules and Directives Branch at the NRC and that
11 will guarantee that your comments get into our public
12 record.

13 Now another means that's available to you
14 is a person can stop by our office and provide
15 comments in person. I recognize that this far away
16 from Rockville, Maryland, that may not be practical,
17 but it's included on this slide because it is
18 something that is available to you and I have also
19 created a special e-mail address to receive your
20 e-mail comments on what you believe should be
21 considered in the scope of our environmental review.
22 That e-mail address being DresdenEIS@nrc.gov and once
23 again, if it's just not working for you, if you get a
24 message back that says undeliverable or some such
25 thing as that, get on the telephone with me and you
26 and I will talk through it.

1 That pretty much concludes my prepared
2 remarks. I would like to turn the meeting back over
3 to Chip unless there is some questions that I'd be
4 happy to answer.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Duke. That was
6 very, very helpful. Do we have any questions on what
7 you've heard tonight? Does anyone have anything at
8 all for either Duke or T.J.? All right, we're going
9 to go to the second part of the meeting which is to
10 listen to you, and I thought it would be useful to
11 hear from the Exelon Company, first in terms of the
12 rationale for their submitting the license renewal
13 application, and also some of the work that they did
14 to put that application together. And we have Mr. Bob
15 Hovey with us who is the Exelon Vice President for the
16 Dresden Station. And Bob's going to talk to us for a
17 few minutes.

18 MR. HOVEY: Thank you, Chip and good
19 evening to everyone. Thanks for being here tonight.
20 As Chip said, I'm Bob Hovey, the site Vice President
21 at the Dresden Nuclear Generating Station, and I'm
22 extremely pleased to be here tonight to talk about
23 license renewal and everything that we've done in the
24 process. This is my second opportunity to be involved
25 in a license renewal. I was involved as site Vice
26 President in charge of what turned out to be the fifth

1 plant in the United States to go through the process
2 and that's where I got to work with Chip and many of
3 the staff folks that are here with us tonight and back
4 in the various NRC offices.

5 And in reflecting on that process from a
6 couple of years ago, I found that that process was
7 very thorough, very open and very fair. And I have no
8 doubt that the process that we're going to be going
9 through for license renewal will also be very
10 thorough, very open and very fair. Dresden along with
11 our sister station Quad Cities, over on the
12 Mississippi River, will be the first nuclear stations
13 in the Midwest to go through the license renewal
14 process. License renewal is very important. It's
15 important, not only to the people at Dresden Station,
16 but to the people in the communities that surround us.
17 Dresden is the key element in the local community. We
18 employ more than seven hundred people, employees, most
19 of whom live in the surrounding communities of Morris,
20 Coal City, Channahon, and Minooka.

21 Since the plant began operations over
22 thirty years ago, we've provided a significant tax
23 base for the local communities and we continue to
24 support the communities through additional means like
25 contributions to local charities, sponsorship of
26 community events and volunteer efforts. The economics

1 are important, but I think safety is even more
2 important, and safety is my top priority and I want
3 you to understand that safety is the top priority of
4 the Dresden Station and we will continue to focus on
5 safety as our top priority as we operate that
6 facility.

7 And I think if we point to some recent
8 upgrades at the facility in the security area in the
9 post 911 era, I think that demonstrates our continued
10 support and commitment to public safety. Dresden also
11 benefits the environment. We provide safe generation
12 of clean emission-free electricity. Nuclear energy
13 itself is environmentally friendly with no hazardous
14 emissions, no depletion of natural resources.

15 One environmental benefit that you may not
16 be aware of is that the river freezes over and we use
17 a siphon from our cooling pond at strategic times
18 during the winter periods to allow warm water to be
19 diverted to the river and either prevent or break up
20 ice flows and thus prevent flooding. And Dresden is
21 also population to, is home to a healthy population of
22 deer, and for all of us that work at the facility or
23 go to or from the facility, we have to watch out for
24 the deer.

25 License renewal is an investment in our
26 future. I think the Dresden Units have undergone

1 continual operations and maintenance upgrades and
2 today they're safer and they operate better and they
3 are more productive than they've ever been in the life
4 of the plant. And I hope that you realize the
5 positive impact that Dresden has had as a generator of
6 electricity and as a good neighbor for our local
7 communities. And the only other thing I had to say
8 was I wanted to thank the NRC, Chip, everyone here,
9 for coming out and hosting this meeting, and I
10 certainly want to thank every member of the public who
11 took your time tonight to come and either listen or
12 share your views or both. So I certainly appreciate
13 that. Thank you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much
15 Bob. Bob has given us a perspective from the Dresden
16 Station, and now we're going to go to Exelon's
17 corporate manager for license renewal, Mr. Fred
18 Polaski, who's going to talk a little bit about the
19 application. Fred?

20 MR. POLASKI: Thank you, Chip. As Chip
21 said, my name is Fred Polaski and I am Exelon's
22 Corporate Manager for license renewal. I'm
23 responsible for all the license renewal activities
24 that Exelon is carrying on. That includes the license
25 renewal application for Dresden and Quad Cities which
26 we filed with the NRC and also for our Peach Bottom

1 plant in Pennsylvania which I'm very happy will be
2 receiving its new license in May of this year.

3 A little bit about myself. I've been
4 working in the nuclear business for over thirty years.
5 I spent twenty years at the Peach Bottom Station, I
6 held a Senior Reactor Operator's license there for
7 thirteen years. I've done other work with PECO Energy
8 which is one of the two companies for the company that
9 merged with ComEd to form Exelon and for the last
10 seven years, I've been working in the area of license
11 renewal. I've spent about the first three years
12 working in industry groups, working with Nuclear
13 Energy Institute, and the Nuclear Regulatory
14 Commission to form the processes for implementing of
15 the regulations for the license renewal rule about how
16 a utility prepares a license renewal application and
17 gets reviewed by the NRC.

18 Mr. Hovey talked about the reasons why we
19 decided to renew the license or pursue a renewed
20 license for Dresden. I'd like to talk a little bit
21 about the work that Exelon did in preparation of the
22 license renewal applications. We expended a large
23 amount of engineering effort in preparing the
24 applications. In 2000, ComEd decided to prepare a
25 license renewal application for both Dresden and Quad
26 Cities. The application was submitted to the Nuclear

1 Regulatory Commission in January of this year, January
2 3rd.

3 And really the application, when you came
4 in if you looked at it on the table out in the lobby,
5 there's several volumes to it. The safety application
6 is a volume about that thick. The environmental
7 report for Dresden is not quite as thick, and there's
8 a separate one for Quad Cities, but that really
9 represents a summary of the work that was done by the
10 engineers in Exelon and our contractors to come to the
11 conclusions that we needed to do and be able to submit
12 that application. And the information that supports
13 that, probably volume wise, is at least one hundred
14 times the size of those applications. We invested
15 over forty-person years in engineering work in
16 preparing those applications, so they're very
17 extensive and thorough and complete review of what we
18 needed to perform for that application.

19 I'd like to speak first about the safety
20 review. I know that's not the primary focus of
21 tonight's meeting, but we did expend a large amount of
22 effort in preparation of that. What we had to do was
23 to determine that for the safety related equipment in
24 the plant, that equipment that's needed to operate
25 under emergency and safety situations, whether that

1 equipment was being maintained properly so that it
2 would function as needed when it had to operate.

3 When Dresden was built, all the equipment
4 was brand new. It was thoroughly tested to make sure
5 it performed properly but equipment in a nuclear power
6 plant like anything else, does age with time and with
7 operation. Doesn't mean it won't work when it's
8 needed to, but because things age as they operate, it
9 means that the maintenance technicians and the
10 operators at the plant need to maintain that equipment
11 in good operating condition. And our review was
12 really looking to see whether that was being performed
13 properly, so that the plant could operate for an
14 additional twenty years.

15 We also reviewed engineering analyses that
16 were performed as part of the design of the plant,
17 that looked at safety analysis for how the plant would
18 operate and some of those analyses had involved in
19 them calculations which involved the lifetime of the
20 plant for forty years. We had to review them and redo
21 those calculations to show that those analyses were
22 valid for sixty year lifetime of the plant.

23 And what our review concluded with the
24 equipment is being maintained properly and that the
25 plant can operate safely for sixty years. And I know
26 that sometimes you know, you hear those words and you

1 wonder what in the world is a nuclear power plant with
2 chain link fences around it because of security
3 reasons and you know, what goes on behind it? There's
4 a lot of equipment in that plant. In the time period
5 we've got, it's very hard to describe and I don't want
6 to try to do that but let me give you an analogy.

7 When you buy an automobile that's brand
8 new, you drive it off the dealer's lot. It's been
9 built, it's been tested, it operates well, and when
10 you drive it off the lot it works fine for you. If
11 all you do is drive it, it's not going to last you
12 very long. You do things to maintain that and
13 maintain it in good driving condition. You have the
14 oil changed periodically, you tune-up the engine, you
15 have brakes replaced and other things. Sometimes it's
16 a more significant investment. You may have to put a
17 new transmission in a car if it wears out, but you do
18 those things to keep it operating. So even as it
19 ages, it can still operate for you, perform the way
20 you want it to and you're able to drive it safely.

21 A nuclear power plant is a lot bigger, a
22 lot more complicated, but I think the analogy is true
23 in that the people who operate Dresden have been
24 maintaining it and operating it properly so that it
25 will be able to operate safely for sixty years.

1 In the environmental area, Exelon reviewed
2 all of the aspects required by the Nuclear Regulatory
3 Commission of the impact of continued operation of
4 Dresden on the environment. And that's what you think
5 of normally is environment, the impact on cooling
6 water systems and the rivers but it's also looking at
7 things like socioeconomic impact on the surrounding
8 community, the road systems, the people that live in
9 this area. And our conclusion is that the impacts on
10 the environment are going to be small. Now small's a
11 word that, you think you know what small means but
12 really it's a regulatory term. And what it means is
13 the impact on the environment is acceptable.

14 I guess I'd like to look at it a little
15 bit differently. And the conclusion is that right now
16 there are impacts on the environment from operation of
17 Dresden. There's impacts on the environment from a
18 lot of things we do, driving an automobile. I'm sure
19 when this building was constructed, there was an
20 impact on the environment. Ground was disturbed,
21 things were dug up and the building was built. But
22 what we concluded on the continued operation of
23 Dresden, is that the impact on the environment from
24 forty to sixty years of operation, an additional
25 operating period, won't be any different than what it
26 is during the present term of operation.

1 We also had to look, as part of that
2 review, about what would be the impact on the
3 environment if the generation of 1800 megawatts of
4 electricity that's produced by Dresden would have to
5 be done by some other means. And our conclusion was
6 that any other means of generating that electricity
7 would have a larger impact on the environment than if
8 we continue to operate Dresden for an additional
9 twenty years.

10 So to conclude, Exelon has concluded that
11 it's the right thing to do to renew the license for
12 Dresden, and I personally also believe, that Dresden
13 can be safely operated for an additional twenty years
14 and it will provide 1800 megawatts of clean, reliable,
15 environmentally friendly, economic electricity that
16 will benefit this community, the State of Illinois and
17 our country. Thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you Fred and Bob
19 for giving us those facts. I'd like to go next to Mr.
20 Alfie Rodriguez and Alfie do you want to come up here
21 if it's easier for you? Go ahead.

22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good evening ladies and
23 gentlemen. My name is Alfie Rodriguez. That's not
24 the important thing here. The important thing is that
25 I'm a resident of Grundy County. I've been for the
26 past twenty-three years a resident, a neighbor, of the

1 Dresden nuclear facility. All that time, it has been
2 a pleasure to be a neighbor of the Dresden facility.
3 The Dresden facility, I live at 355 Bass Court,
4 Morris, Illinois, which is in the Goose Lake
5 subdivision or Goose Lake Village.

6 From my door to the Dresden parking lot is
7 four and a half miles. It's extremely close. During
8 all that time, I've noticed it's been nothing but a
9 great, a big asset to the community. Not only to the
10 community but to the county and to the State. Dresden
11 itself fulfills the need for employment. It has many,
12 many, many of my neighbors that are employed at the
13 Dresden facility. It also, during the shutdowns and
14 the turnarounds, employs many of the construction jobs
15 to keep that facility running safe and proper.

16 Being a business representative with the
17 sheet metal workers, I've had the opportunity to get
18 an insight into some of the safety, the rigorous
19 safety regulations of the plant itself. So really
20 ladies and gentlemen, with all the safety behind it,
21 it's with no reservation that I live so close to that
22 facility. To make a long story short, in light of
23 what the Dresden Nuclear, Dresden Generating Station
24 has shown over the years in the safety record and what
25 it's meant not only to the county, to the community
26 and to the state, it would be a travesty not to renew

1 their license. So I speak in strong support of the
2 license renewal. Duke, T.J., you said earlier if
3 there's any questions, if you guys ever get a couple
4 of weeks free, I've got questions. Thank you very
5 much.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks Alfie and please
7 Duke, T.J., take him up and find out what those
8 questions are. We do have someone, a representative
9 from local county government with us, Millie Dyer,
10 who's with the Grundy County Board. Millie, please
11 speak to us.

12 MS. DYER: Good evening. I'm a member of
13 the Grundy County Board, and the Board would like to
14 have the license extended for the Dresden nuclear
15 plant. We've been very happy with what all that's
16 gone on. I've been a resident, I was a resident when
17 it was being built. I was out of the county for a
18 while, but I know how great of an impact it does have
19 on the county. I was talking to a fellow when I was
20 coming in here and I made one comment about the high
21 cancer rate we have in Grundy County, and I don't feel
22 like it's related to the nuclear power plant, but I
23 guess I would like to see at some point in time, a
24 study made as to why there is such a high cancer rate
25 in Grundy County. It's affected many people that I

1 know and I think it would be an interesting study.
2 Thank you for your time.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much Millie
4 for that suggestion. And I think it may be useful for
5 you and everybody else if someone from the NRC staff
6 can just talk a little bit about what regulations we
7 have in place to protect the public from radiation and
8 how we ensure that those regulations are met. And I
9 guess the third piece is how these, what are called
10 epidemiology studies on cancer rates, who might be
11 responsible for those and how those are requested.
12 And we have one of our expert health physicists with
13 us, Richard Emch, from the NRC. Can you try to answer
14 those Richard?

15 MR. EMCH: I'll try. Don't oversell me
16 here.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

18 MR. EMCH: Hello folks, my name is Rich
19 Emch. As Chip said, I'm a health physicist with the
20 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I want to start
21 off, obviously cancer is a concern to all of us. I
22 mean, you know, the latest statistics I've seen show
23 that, you know, that the rate is like one out of four
24 people get, contract some sort of cancer or whatever
25 and I guess for men I guess, if we live long enough,
26 we will get prostate cancer is the statistic that I've

1 seen. So it is a concern to all of us, so I
2 understand your concern ma'am. To start to address
3 this though, I'm going to move from very general
4 information to more specific information associated
5 with the Dresden site.

6 There are many challenges to health in the
7 world. This particular challenge, radiation,
8 radioactive material, has been really studied very
9 strongly, many times. There have literally been
10 thousands of studies of the possible effects of
11 radiation on humans, and of all those studies on the
12 international scene, the national scene, none of them,
13 no credible study has shown any effects, any health
14 effects, below, and I'm going to use a term millirem,
15 ten thousand millirem. I'm using that particular unit
16 of measurement. It's a unit of measurement dose to
17 the human body and I'm going to use that measurement
18 because I'm going to talk, as I go through, you'll see
19 why that, how that comes into play as we start down
20 the ladder here.

21 So no credible effects below ten thousand
22 millirem. By comparison, as a human living on this
23 planet, each of us receives an average of say about
24 three hundred millirem per year. This is from cosmic
25 radiation and from naturally occurring radioactive
26 material in the ground or in building materials.

1 There's a certain amount of radioactive material
2 inside your body, potassium, calcium, and we receive
3 some dose from that. And then there are other sources
4 like if you go to the dentist or the doctor. The sort
5 of dose that you would get from those kinds of just
6 diagnostic x-rays is maybe ten to fifty millirem. So
7 if we're following it down, we start with ten thousand
8 as the nothing below ten thousand has been shown to
9 show effects, now we're down to each of you, each of
10 us receives three hundred, roughly three hundred a
11 year with no known effects from that.

12 Now we'll come down to what the NRC
13 regulations are for a nuclear power plant. They are
14 in Appendix I, they are in Part 20 and Part 50 of our
15 regulations. That's not important. What's important
16 is that the regulations are roughly in the five to ten
17 millirem per year range is the limitation. So we've
18 gone down from ten thousand to three hundred, now down
19 to five or ten and there have been, studies were done
20 of the health effects of cancer rates around nuclear
21 power plants and there was no increase in cancers
22 around nuclear power plants.

23 Now let's move to Dresden specifically.
24 Dresden meets the NRC regulations so they're within
25 that five to ten millirem range. Actually, unless you
26 are right at the site boundary, it's probably even

1 considerably lower than that. Some of that five to
2 ten millirem comes from, in fact we refer to it as
3 turbine shine, sky shine, which is from the N-16 in
4 their turbine. But the amount that's released in
5 their effluents is considerably smaller than that.

6 So that's kind of a walk through of the
7 issue of cancer and radiation. Now of course having
8 said that, if there's any new information, we're
9 always, I mean that's why we're here tonight is to
10 gather new information if there is any. And so if you
11 have some studies or something that were done specific
12 to this area, we'd very much like to see them because,
13 like I said, we're here to gather information. Can I
14 answer any questions?

15 MR. CAMERON: Yes, Alfie?

16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Has a study ever been --

17 MR. CAMERON: Alfie, can we get you on the
18 record?

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sure. Has a study ever
20 been made of the cancer rate for the population here
21 in Grundy County. My own wife was diagnosed with lung
22 cancer three and a half years ago but she was a smoker
23 and she survived. But to me, I don't see any higher
24 rate than anywhere else. Has a study ever been done?

25 MR. EMCH: First, we're happy that your
26 wife survived. Second, yes, Dresden and Quad Cities

1 were both part of that study that I referred to later
2 of cancer rates around nuclear power plants and no
3 increased incidences.

4 MR. CAMERON: And we can, as a follow-up,
5 sometimes the State Department of Health, okay, in a
6 particular State, will do a survey of cancer rates.
7 For example, this happened recently in South Carolina,
8 and those are the government officials who usually
9 know that. Perhaps we can find out a little bit more
10 about whether there has been a recent study.

11 And Rich, please correct me if I'm wrong,
12 there is a Federal agency who deals with these types
13 of cancer studies. The NRC does not. We, as Rich
14 pointed out, we set our regulations very
15 conservatively on what would be a safe dose for
16 release. The agency which is in Atlanta, Georgia is
17 the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.
18 There's usually the agency in the Federal government
19 who will sometimes do epidemiological studies. Rich,
20 do you have anything you can do to --

21 MR. EMCH: No, I don't really have anything
22 further.

23 MR. CAMERON: All right.

24 MR. EMCH: I will say as far as effluents,
25 you mentioned the State, any studies the State might
26 do, the State of Illinois does do some sampling,

1 groundwater sampling, water sampling from the rivers
2 and things like that. So they sort of check behind,
3 the licensee has similar programs, much more extensive
4 programs, and the State does, so to speak, check
5 behind them to ensure that they're being done properly
6 and know that there is no big discrepancy in what the
7 licensee finds and what the state finds. And then the
8 NRC inspectors also look over the program as well.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. And Duke,
10 can we find out whether there's any State contact that
11 might give some useful information to Millie, and
12 we'll get your phone number and we'll follow that up.
13 And we noted your comments, the board speaking in
14 support of license renewal also. Is there anybody
15 else that has, we know you have lots of questions.
16 Does anybody else have a question, anything that they
17 would, and thank you Rich, very, very good. Anybody
18 else want to know anything? Yes sir, and please give
19 us your name please.

20 MR. FATLAN: My name is Lee Fatlan and I'm
21 also in favor of the plant staying open. The question
22 I have is spent fuel storage. I'm just wondering if
23 we do extend the license for twenty years, and I know
24 it's been a political football as to where we're going
25 to store this fuel, what will be done with the fuel
26 that will be generated for the next twenty years?

1 MR. CAMERON: Okay, this is a question on
2 spent fuel storage from a particular facility and also
3 what ultimately might happen in terms of the disposal
4 of that waste. Who wants to, from the NRC staff,
5 wants to give a summary of that? Okay, Barry is our
6 expert on this and please introduce yourself.

7 MR. ZALCMAN: Boy, you're too easy with the
8 experts. My name is Barry Zalcmán, I'm also with the
9 staff. Let me just point out, number one, the
10 Commission reassesses the ability to manage spent fuel
11 materials and has passed judgment. It's called the
12 Waste Confidence Decision, so as part of our
13 regulations, everybody throws out parts of our
14 regulations, 10 CFR, Title 10 of the Code of Federal
15 Regulations, 51.23 addresses the spent fuel issue and
16 the Commission has confidence that even with license
17 renewal, that spent fuel can be managed safely at
18 nuclear power plants. So this is to be part of the
19 nation's resolution of the waste issue.

20 The Commission has confidence that within
21 the first twenty-five years of this century, the
22 Commission expects that a facility would exist to deal
23 with the spent fuel for the long term. But in the
24 interim, there are different ways to manage spent
25 fuel, either wet pools which is typically within the
26 facility boundaries itself or through independent

1 spent fuel insulation facilities or dry cask storage
2 which could be on-site or there's even a proposal to
3 have a remote location as an interim storage facility.
4 Additional fuel will be used during the additional
5 twenty years of operation.

6 If these facilities get their licenses
7 renewed, the Commission has faith now that that fuel
8 will be managed effectively and safely over that
9 period. And with a long term resolution still part of
10 the national goal. You may also be aware of the
11 situation with Yucca Mountain, that it has been
12 recommended to the President, and the President has in
13 fact, approved a further evaluation of Yucca Mountain
14 with the expectation that the Department of Energy is
15 charged with that responsibility, will in fact, submit
16 an application to the NRC as a separate licensing
17 action to deal with the long term disposition of spent
18 fuel. Does that help?

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you Barry. That was
20 very, very concise, very good. Rich, do you want to
21 add something to that?

22 MR. EMCH: Yeah, I just wanted to mention
23 I was out here as part of the site audit that we were
24 talking about earlier and the Dresden plant employs
25 both a spent fuel pool and they also employ dry cask
26 storage.

1 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. And I think
2 as Barry pointed out, licensees such as Exelon, for
3 nuclear power plant, have to meet the NRC regulations
4 for spent fuel storage and licensing also. Anybody
5 else? Yes, sir.

6 MR. KIRN: How safe is that plant from a
7 boat going into that plant and blowing it up? On the
8 river.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay, now I want you to
10 repeat that just so everybody could hear it clearly
11 and then we're going to answer it. I didn't catch it
12 either, but how safe is -- go ahead.

13 MR. KIRN: How safe is that plant from all
14 the boats on the river to go in there with a rocket
15 launcher and attack that plant?

16 MR. CAMERON: All right. I think we heard
17 the question. John?

18 MR. TAPPERT: I guess your question relates
19 to a terrorist attack, a potential terrorist attack on
20 the plant. These nuclear power plants in general, and
21 Dresden also, are some of the most hardened, most
22 secure facilities, civilian facilities in the country.
23 They were secure before 9/11 and after those 9/11
24 attacks, a number of safety and security improvements
25 have been made to those facilities.

1 The NRC has issued what we call Interim
2 Compensatory Measures to have them increase their
3 security posture. We have also subsequently issued
4 orders to each and every of the hundred and three
5 nuclear power plants in this country to have them, you
6 know, increased stand-off distances for potential
7 bombs and increased staffing and whatnot.

8 And the NRC is continuing to evaluate this
9 issue, to really determine what is the appropriate
10 threat that these plants need to be defended against
11 and who's going to bear that burden, whether it's
12 going to be the plants, the Federal government or
13 State and local authorities. So, to answer your
14 question in a nutshell, it's safe. We're continuing
15 to look at the issue. It's an important issue that
16 the Agency takes very seriously. But a lot's been
17 done and we're continuing to look at it.

18 And Duke's pointing out to me an important
19 point. That while the Agency is very focused on this
20 issue, you're not going to see it as part of the
21 Environmental Impact Statement that we're going to
22 issue at the end of the year. And the reason for that
23 is very simple. The security issues apply to the
24 whole one hundred and three plants in the country and
25 we're dealing with them now. We're not going to wait
26 for these plants to come in for license renewal to

1 start looking at security issues. So we've divorced
2 it from the license renewal process. It's what we
3 call a current operating issue and it's being handled
4 in that context.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you John.
6 Does that answer your question, sir? All right,
7 great. Anybody else have any questions while we're at
8 it about license renewal or NRC regulatory
9 responsibilities? Alfie, do you have anything else?
10 All right, okay. Duke, do you want to say something?
11 All right, good.

12 MR. WHEELER: One comment that I would like
13 to point out is that as Chip pointed out, we do have
14 a transcript of this meeting. It's going to be
15 prepared and when I get a copy of that transcript, I
16 will put it in the public record. All the comments
17 made will be a part of that transcript, but if anybody
18 brought any documents with them that they would like
19 attached to the transcript, give those documents to me
20 at this meeting and I will make sure that they get
21 into the transcript.

22 I would ask that you give the documents to
23 me and not just take them over and hand them to the
24 transcriber. That way if there's a problem later on
25 when the transcription does go into the public record
26 and your comments aren't there, it will be something

1 that you'll work out with me and we won't be trying to
2 contact the transcription service. So that was just
3 one point I wanted to make. In addition to your
4 comments, if you brought anything that you would like
5 attached to the transcript, I would be happy to do
6 that. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Duke. Anybody else
8 before we adjourn tonight? All right, the staff will
9 be here, our experts will be here so Desiree, our
10 Resident Inspector, will be here after the meeting, so
11 please take the opportunity to talk to them and I
12 would just thank you all for coming out. But I want
13 to turn it over to John Tappert who's in charge of
14 this, to just close the meeting out for us. John?

15 MR. TAPPERT: Okay, I would just like to
16 echo Chip's final thoughts. I want to thank everyone
17 for taking some time out of their evening tonight and
18 coming here and sharing your thoughts with us. It's
19 an important part of our scoping process and Duke and
20 T.J. will stay here as long as necessary to answer any
21 questions that you may have as well as the rest of the
22 NRC staff. So thanks again for coming and have a good
23 evening.

24 (Whereupon the above matter was concluded
25 at 8:12 p.m.)
26