

# **Official Transcript of Proceedings**

## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Title:** Environmental Scoping Process for  
Grand Gulf Early Site Permit Application  
Public Meeting

**Docket Number:** 52-009

**Location:** Port Gibson, Mississippi

**Date:** Wednesday, January 21, 2004

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**Pages 1-141**

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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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4 PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS  
5 ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS  
6 FOR GRAND GULF EARLY SITE  
7 PERMIT APPLICATION

8 + + + + +

9 Wednesday

10 January 21, 2004

11 + + + + +

12 The above-entitled matter came on for Public  
13 Meeting, pursuant to notice, at 7:00 p.m., on the 2nd  
14 Floor of the Port Gibson City Hall, 1005 College  
15 Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi.

16 PRESENTING:

17 FRANCIS X. CAMERON

18 JOHN TAPPERT

19 Chief of the Environmental Section, NRR

20 JIM WILSON

21 Environmental Project Manager  
22  
23  
24

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

(7:00 p.m.)

MR. CAMERON: Good evening everyone. My name is Chip Cameron, and I am the Special Counsel for Public Liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NRC, and I just want to welcome you to the NRC's public meeting tonight.

Our subject tonight is going to be the NRC's environmental review that we are doing on an application for an early site permit that we received from the Entergy Company for the Grand Gulf site.

And one important part of the NRC evaluation process on this application is the environmental review. It is my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for the meeting tonight, and in that role. I am going to try to help all of you to have a productive meeting.

I just wanted to say a couple of words about the meeting process before we get to the substance of tonight's discussions, and I wanted to talk about the format for the meeting, and the ground rules.

The format is basically going to be a two-part format for the meeting, and the two parts match the NRC's objectives here tonight for the meeting with

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1       you.

2                   In the first part, we want to give you  
3       clear information of the NRC's evaluation process for  
4       one of these applications for an early site permit;  
5       what is involved in the process, and what types of  
6       information do we look at in making a decision on  
7       whether to grant the early site permit, and how the  
8       public can participate.

9                   We are going to have a couple of brief NRC  
10       presentations on those topics, and then we will go out  
11       to all of you for any questions that you might have  
12       about the process so that we make sure that we clearly  
13       explain it.

14                   The second part of the meeting is for us  
15       to listen to you, and to hear some more formal  
16       comments from anybody who wants to talk on any  
17       concerns, suggestions, recommendations, that you might  
18       have on what the NRC should look at when it prepares  
19       its environmental impact statement, or comments on the  
20       early site permit process in general.

21                   You are going to hear from the NRC staff  
22       that we are also asking for written comments on these  
23       issues, and you may hear information here tonight from  
24       people in the community, from the NRC speakers, that  
25       stimulates you to send in a written comment, or

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1 provide information that may illuminate your written  
2 comments.

3 But I want to emphasize that whatever you  
4 say tonight carries just as much weight as a written  
5 comment, and let me talk a little bit about the ground  
6 rules. They are very simple.

7 When we get to the question and answer  
8 portion of the meeting and we want to get there  
9 quickly so that we can have more of a discussion with  
10 you, just signal me if you have a question, and I will  
11 bring you this cordless microphone, and introduce  
12 yourself to us, and give us an affiliation if that is  
13 appropriate, and we will try to answer your question.

14 We are taking a transcript tonight. We  
15 have Lonnie Helmer with us. She is our stenographer,  
16 and so that anything that is said is on the record,  
17 and that transcript will be available, publicly  
18 available, to whomever wants a copy of it.

19 And the first ground is that I would ask  
20 you to only have one person speaking at a time so that  
21 not only can Lonnie get a clean transcript so that she  
22 will know who is talking, but more importantly so that  
23 we can give our full attention to whomever has the  
24 floor at the moment.

25 I would also ask you and encourage

1       brevity, some conciseness to your questions and  
2       discussion, for the important purpose that we want to  
3       make sure that we hear from anybody who wants to talk  
4       tonight; to ask a question, to make a comment.

5               So that if we are all brief, and I will  
6       try to follow that rule myself, we can ensure that we  
7       get everybody on. For the formal comment part of the  
8       meeting, usually we ask people to come up here to the  
9       podium.

10              If you feel more comfortable speaking from  
11       where you are, I can bring you this microphone. I am  
12       asking that everyone follow a 5 to 7 minute guideline  
13       tonight in your comments, because we do have a lot of  
14       people signed up to talk.

15              So we want to try to move through people.  
16       If you have a written statement, we will attach that  
17       to the transcript for you, and so if you could just  
18       sort of summarize that for us.

19              And I just want to introduce the NRC  
20       speakers to you. We are going to go to a more formal  
21       welcome and overview first to Mr. John Tappert from  
22       the NRC staff. And John is the Chief of the  
23       Environmental Section in our Office of Nuclear Reactor  
24       Regulation.

25              John and his staff are responsible for

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1 doing the environmental reviews of not only early site  
2 permit applications, but applications for the renewal  
3 of an operating license at a nuclear reactor, or any  
4 reactor activity that requires an environmental  
5 review, John and his staff do that.

6 And John has been with the NRC for about  
7 13 years, and he has been a resident inspector, and  
8 these are the NRC staff that are actually stationed at  
9 each nuclear power plant to make sure that NRC  
10 regulations are followed.

11 Before he joined the NRC, he was in the  
12 nuclear Navy, and he has a Bachelors degree in  
13 Aerospace and Ocean Engineering from Virginia Tech,  
14 and a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering  
15 from Johns Hopkins University.

16 Next we are going to go after John's brief  
17 comments, we are going to Mr. James Wilson, and Jim is  
18 right here. He is on John's staff. He is the project  
19 manager for the environmental evaluation of this early  
20 site permit application, the Grand Gulf early site  
21 permit application.

22 And Jim as a project manager is  
23 responsible for seeing that the environmental impact  
24 statement is prepared, and he will tell you a little  
25 bit more about how we do that. He has been with the

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1 NRC for about 28 years.

2 He was a project manager for the licensing  
3 of various nuclear reactors. He was in the advanced  
4 reactor design certification program, and he has a  
5 Bachelors in Biology, and a Masters in Zoology, from  
6 Virginia Tech.

7 And I just wanted to thank all of you for  
8 being here tonight, and I especially wanted to thank  
9 Mayor Arnold for letting us use this beautiful  
10 facility today, and obviously thanks to the City of  
11 Port Gibson for allowing us to use the facility, and  
12 we will just get started with John Tappert.

13 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip. And good  
14 evening everyone. As Chip said, my name is John  
15 Tappert, and on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory  
16 Commission, I would like to thank you all for coming  
17 out there tonight and participating in this process.

18 I hope that the information that we will  
19 share with you tonight will be helpful, and we look  
20 forward to receiving your comments, both tonight and  
21 in the future, as we seek your input as we develop  
22 an environmental impact statement as part of our  
23 review of the Grand Gulf early site permit.

24 I would like to start off our  
25 presentations tonight by briefly going over the

1 context of the early site permit process itself. Next  
2 slide, please. Well, 15 years ago the NRC issued new  
3 regulations to provide an alternate process to license  
4 nuclear reactors.

5 This figure depicts that process, and the  
6 regulations themselves can be found in Part 52 of  
7 Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or 10 CFR  
8 Part 52.

9 In order to obtain approval to construct  
10 and operate a nuclear power plant under this new  
11 process, an applicant would have to apply for a  
12 combined license.

13 According to the regulations, and under  
14 different situations, a combined license application  
15 can reference a previously-approved reactor design, or  
16 previously-approved early site permit, or both, or  
17 neither.

18 Now, obviously the NRC review of a  
19 combined license that references a previously approved  
20 design, and a previously approved site, will be  
21 streamlined as many of the issues would have been  
22 resolved during the earlier reviews.

23 At the present time the NRC has certified  
24 three designs, and is currently reviewing a fourth.  
25 And we have indications that as many as six additional

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1 designs may be submitted to the agency for review.

2 As far as early site permits, there are  
3 currently no approved early site permits, and the  
4 Grand Gulf application is the third of three that we  
5 are currently reviewing. The other two are in  
6 locations in Virginia and Illinois.

7 Now, if the early site permit is approved,  
8 then the permit holder could subsequently request a  
9 combined license, referencing the early site permit in  
10 a standardized design.

11 In such a case the technical issues that  
12 were resolved as part of the design certification, and  
13 the siting issues that were resolved as part of the  
14 early site permit review, would be considered resolved  
15 for the combined license.

16 Now, Jim Wilson will talk about some  
17 exceptions to this a little bit later in his  
18 presentation. If the NRC issues a combined license,  
19 the license holder would have NRC approval to  
20 construct a plant.

21 The NRC would monitor and inspect  
22 activities during the construction of the facility,  
23 and verify key attributes before the plant could be  
24 allowed to operate. Next slide, please.

25 The key participants in the licensing

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1 review include the NRC, the applicant, and the public.  
2 As we go further into the process discussion, you will  
3 see how and when the public can play its important  
4 role.

5 Members of the public may be able to shed  
6 light on issues unique to the region, or to help the  
7 NRC staff focus on the most important issues. So your  
8 involvement in this process is both integral and  
9 important.

10 If the NRC approves an early site permit,  
11 then that means that we have determined that the  
12 proposed site is suitable for construction and  
13 operation of a nuclear power plant. It is not,  
14 however, authorization to build such a plant.

15 Rather, it is an early step in the process  
16 that may some day reach the construction and operation  
17 of a new nuclear power plant, but as that first figure  
18 showed, much more would need to be done before that  
19 action was authorized.

20 And so, to reiterate, the focus of the  
21 early site permit review is to assess the suitability  
22 of a proposed site. Next slide. The early site  
23 permit affords an applicant the opportunity to resolve  
24 issues related to the siting of a new nuclear plant  
25 and early stage.

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1           And as I stated earlier, if an early site  
2 permit is issued by the NRC, then the applicant can  
3 reference that early site permit in a subsequent  
4 combined license application.

5           And with few exceptions, issues that have  
6 been resolved as part of the early site permit review  
7 will be considered resolved for the combined license.

8           Now, what this means is that if an early  
9 site permit is approved, then it gives the permit  
10 holder a piece of land with most siting issues  
11 resolved for up to 20 years, and having these issues  
12 resolved only reduces the uncertainty that an  
13 applicant might face if they pursue the construction  
14 of a new reactor.

15           And when a company considers an investment  
16 as large as that required to site, construct, and to  
17 bring into an operation a new power plant of any kind,  
18 then those activities that reduce uncertainty in the  
19 process and planning schedule are important.

20           This figure outlines the major steps in  
21 the review process for an early site permit  
22 application. Significant times for public involvement  
23 are indicated by the yellow stars.

24           And as reflected here, the first  
25 opportunity for public involvement occurred even

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1 before we received the application. We came here in  
2 November a year ago, in 2002, to explain this early  
3 site permit process in a public meeting.

4 Now, the early site permit application was  
5 submitted to the NRC in late October, and that  
6 initiated the current review. There are two major  
7 branches in this figure, because this review involves  
8 the implementation of two major Federal statutes; the  
9 Atomic Energy Act, and the National Environmental  
10 Policy Act.

11 The upper portion shares the review  
12 related to safety issues under the Atomic Energy Act.  
13 This part of the review involves an evaluation of site  
14 safety issues and emergency planning, along with NRC  
15 inspections related to site safety attributes.

16 After the NRC staff develops its safety  
17 evaluation report, that report will be reviewed by the  
18 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards or ACRS. The  
19 ACRS is an independent body of experts in the nuclear  
20 field that advises the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

21 The ACRS will hold public meetings during  
22 its review for the safety evaluation report, and a  
23 report from the ACRS will be provided to the  
24 Commissioner and considered in the Commission's final  
25 decision on the early site permit application.

1           The lower portion of the figure reflects  
2           the NRC's environmental review which implements the  
3           requirements of the National Environmental Policy  
4           Act.

5           Now, early in the review process we  
6           conduct an activity called scoping, where we seek to  
7           identify those issues which will require the greatest  
8           focus during our review, and this meeting here tonight  
9           is part of that scoping process.

10          The public will also have an opportunity  
11          to comment on our draft environmental impact  
12          statement, and Jim Wilson will provide you some more  
13          details about the process and schedule for our  
14          environmental review.

15          In addition to the Staff's safety review,  
16          and environmental review, a formal adjudicatory  
17          hearing will be held to consider this application for  
18          an early site permit.

19          The hearing will determine whether the  
20          site is suitable for the plant to be constructed and  
21          operated without undue risk to the public health and  
22          safety, and whether the environmental review  
23          requirements have been satisfied, and as you can see  
24          in this figure, the public has an opportunity to  
25          participate in that hearing, and persons wishing to

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1 participate need to file a written petition.

2 Now the deadline for that written petition  
3 is February 17th of this year, and even if there are  
4 no petitions to intervene the hearing will still be  
5 held, and the Board will determine whether the  
6 application and the review of the application by the  
7 Commission staff (documented in a final safety  
8 evaluation report and final environmental impact  
9 statement) has been adequate to support the necessary  
10 findings.

11 Now, a copy of a Federal Register notice  
12 detailing the hearing process and requirements is  
13 available outside. Next slide.

14 Now, the focus of this meeting is the  
15 NRC's environmental review, and for the sake of  
16 completeness, we would also like to share some  
17 information about the safety review as well.

18 The key aspects of the safety review are  
19 the evaluation of site characteristics as they relate  
20 to the safety of a plant and emergency planning.

21 The NRC will determine whether the site is  
22 suitable for the siting of a new nuclear plant  
23 independent of a specific design. In addition, the  
24 NRC will determine whether there are any significant  
25 impediments to the development of an emergency plan.

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1           The two primary regulations associated  
2 with a site safety review are Part 52, which I touched  
3 on earlier, and Part 100, which covers reactor site  
4 criteria and its evaluation factors.

5           The results of the NRC staff's site safety  
6 review and emergency planning review will be  
7 documented in a draft and then in a final safety  
8 evaluation report.

9           The NRC staff will conduct several site  
10 visits to probe safety issues as part of its review,  
11 and will document these visits in trip reports, which  
12 will be made publicly available. The NRC staff will  
13 also conduct a quality assurance inspection next  
14 month, and will document the results of its findings  
15 in an inspection report.

16           And additional inspections may be  
17 scheduled as necessary to resolve any outstanding  
18 issues. In order to enhance openness in the  
19 regulatory review process, and to engage stakeholders,  
20 as I said, we held a meeting here a year ago last  
21 November to discuss the ESP process.

22           The staff expects to hold additional  
23 public meetings with the applicant on safety issues,  
24 and during these meetings the public can observe the  
25 discussions and will be afforded an opportunity to

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1 make remarks.

2                   However, it is the hearing, which will be  
3 held later, that affords the principal opportunity for  
4 members of the public whose interests are affected by  
5 this action to raise concerns associated with a safety  
6 review.

7                   Okay. Now, that concludes the brief  
8 overview of the process, and now Jim Wilson is going  
9 to tell you a little bit more about the environmental  
10 process, and then we will take questions.

11                   MR. CAMERON: All right. And I know that  
12 it is hard for people to read some of the slides that  
13 have the little boxes on it, especially for people who  
14 can't even see the front of the screen. So we do have  
15 copies of the slide here if anybody needs them, and  
16 you can follow along with these, and we will go to  
17 questions as soon as Jim is done. Jim.

18                   MR. WILSON: Okay. Slide 11. My name is  
19 Jim Wilson, and I am the Environmental Project Manager  
20 for the NRC's review of the application for an early  
21 site permit at the Grand Gulf site.

22                   I am going to spend the next 15 minutes  
23 talking to you about the environmental review process,  
24 and explaining how you can get involved. The National  
25 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, was enacted in

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1 1969, and requires Federal Agencies to use a  
2 systematic approach to consider environmental impacts  
3 during certain decision making proceedings.

4 NEPA is a disclosure tool that involves  
5 the public, and it invokes a process whereby  
6 information is gathered enable Federal decision makers  
7 to make informed decisions, and then as part of that  
8 process, we document the information and invite public  
9 participation to evaluate it.

10 In accordance with NEPA, an environmental  
11 impact statement is required for any major Federal  
12 action that may have a significant impact on the human  
13 environment. The issuance of an early site permit is  
14 such a major Federal action.

15 This next slide shows in a little more  
16 detail the environmental review process that John  
17 showed you earlier. It is the lower half of the  
18 slide, of the previous slide, and there are certain  
19 steps that we at the NRC are required to follow in  
20 performing an environmental review process that leads  
21 up to an environmental impact statement.

22 After an application is submitted the  
23 Agency issues a notice of intent, which lets the  
24 public know that we are preparing an environmental  
25 impact statement, and the notice of intent was

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1 published in the Federal Register on December 31st.

2 Part of that Federal Register notice also  
3 acknowledged that we are conducting scoping, which is  
4 an opportunity for the public to provide comments on  
5 what should be considered in the environmental impact  
6 statement.

7 And this public meeting is part of the  
8 scoping process. The public comment period is open  
9 until the 12th of February, next month. In a couple  
10 of months from now, in April, the NRC review team will  
11 be coming back to the site to conduct a site audit,  
12 and become familiar with the area, and gather  
13 information about the site for inclusion in the  
14 environment impact statement.

15 We will assemble this information back in  
16 Washington, and prepare a draft environmental impact  
17 statement which will be issued for comment. And we  
18 will have another public meeting about a year from now  
19 to receive public comments on the draft that we issue.

20 And then if it is appropriate, we will be  
21 making revisions to the environmental impact  
22 statement, and issuing a final environmental impact  
23 statement to support the decision on whether to issue  
24 an early site permit. Next slide.

25 The staff gets its information from a

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1 number of sources, including the applicant, Federal,  
2 State, and local agencies, the site audit, and the  
3 public through your comments.

4 We will look at a number of issues,  
5 including the environmental impacts of construction  
6 and operation of a proposed nuclear reactor or  
7 reactors at the Grand Gulf site, and we will look at  
8 alternatives to the proposed action, including  
9 potential alternative sites, and we will look at the  
10 impacts that could result from those alternative  
11 sites.

12 Finally, we will look at possible  
13 mitigation measures, which are things that can be done  
14 that would decrease the environmental impact of  
15 construction operation on the site. This next slide  
16 gives you an idea of the types of things that we look  
17 at during the environmental review.

18 We look at things like ecological issues,  
19 water use and water quality issues, atmospheric  
20 sciences, health and radiological issues, cultural  
21 resources, and socioeconomic impacts.

22 We will also be looking, as I said before,  
23 at alternative sites. To prepare for the review, we  
24 have assembled a team of NRC staff with backgrounds in  
25 the specific technical and scientific disciplines that

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1 are required to perform these detailed environmental  
2 reviews.

3 In addition, to supplement the technical  
4 expertise of the staff, we have engaged the assistance  
5 of experts from the Pacific Northwest National  
6 Laboratory to ensure that we have a well-rounded  
7 knowledge-base to perform the review.

8 Our review team is made up of  
9 approximately 20 people, and some of them are here  
10 tonight to hear what you have to say. The entire team  
11 will be in the area again in April to prepare for the  
12 site audit. Next slide.

13 The regulations identify some issues that  
14 need not be considered in the environmental review of  
15 an early site permit application, including the need  
16 for power and the cost of power. Also, the Commission  
17 has determined that alternative energy sources do not  
18 need to be considered at this stage. Now that doesn't  
19 say that these issues will not be reviewed before a  
20 plant is built and constructed.

21 It just means that we won't consider them  
22 during the early site permit review process. If SERI  
23 chooses to apply for a license to actually build and  
24 operate a plant, those issues would be addressed as  
25 part of that review.

1                   These are the key dates of our  
2 environmental review schedule. The scoping period  
3 continues until the 12th of February, and you may  
4 submit comments on the scope of the environmental  
5 review up until that date. I will talk more about how  
6 to do that later in another slide.

7                   On January 16th, last Friday, the staff  
8 issued a notice of an opportunity petition for a  
9 hearing related to this review. Any individual who  
10 wishes to formally take part in the hearing process  
11 must respond to this notice by the 17th of February.

12                   Copies of the Federal Register notices for  
13 the notice of intent to prepare an EIS and for the  
14 opportunity to petition for a hearing are available  
15 out at the registration table in the lobby, and you  
16 can get a copy of them. They have more information on  
17 how to participate in those two activities.

18                   About a year from now, we expect to issue  
19 a draft environmental impact statement... in about  
20 February of 2005. When we do so, there will be  
21 another public comment period on the draft  
22 environmental impact statement.

23                   Sometime during the comment period we will  
24 be coming back and, in the middle of that comment  
25 period, we will have a public meeting here in this

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1 location.

2 At that meeting, we will explain the  
3 results of our environmental review, and the  
4 environmental impact statement, and give you an  
5 opportunity to give us comments on how we did on the  
6 results of our review.

7 If necessary, we will make appropriate  
8 changes to the EIS and issue a final environmental  
9 impact statement in about October of 2005. The formal  
10 hearing will occur after both the environmental impact  
11 statement and the safety evaluation report are  
12 completed.

13 We estimate that the hearing will take  
14 about a year. After that, the Commission will make a  
15 decision, scheduled for around November or October, of  
16 2006. And, in all, we believe it will take about 3  
17 years to conduct the review, produce the  
18 documentation, have the hearing, and get to a decision  
19 point by the Commission.

20 So you can see that we are very early in  
21 the process at this point. To summarize, this slide  
22 tells you how you can participate in our environmental  
23 review. You can participate at the two public  
24 meetings that we will be having; this meeting here and  
25 the one on the draft environmental impact statement.

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1  
2 And you can petition to participate in the  
3 hearing that will be held on the Grand Gulf early site  
4 permit. Again, the deadline to petition to intervene  
5 is the 17th of February.

6 The environmental meeting that we are in  
7 tonight is part of a process to collect comments from  
8 the staff, or from the public rather, on what the  
9 scope of the environmental review should be. And  
10 again, scoping comments can be provided up until  
11 February 12th of this year. Next slide.

12 This slide provides information on how to  
13 submit comments. You can provide comments at the  
14 meeting tonight, and they will be transcribed and made  
15 a part of the record.

16 You can send comments by mail to the  
17 address given, to the Chief of the Rules and  
18 Directives Branch of the NRC. You can also provide  
19 them by e-mail at the address provided here,  
20 GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov.

21 Or if you want, you can drive up to  
22 Rockville, Maryland, present them in person at the NRC  
23 headquarters on Rockville Pike. Next slide.

24 I am the agency point of contact for the environmental  
25 review, and Steve Koenig -- (where is Steve -- over

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1 here) is the project manager for the safety review,  
2 including the emergency preparedness issues. Our  
3 phone numbers are provided here on this slide.

4 And there is also a web address where you  
5 can access information about the Grand Gulf early site  
6 permit application and the staff's review. Chip, I  
7 think that does it for me.

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay. I want to thank you  
9 all for your presentation, and to thank you for your  
10 patience, and now we will go to questions.

11 MS. HARDEN: (Off microphone) My name is  
12 Monique Harden, and I am here on behalf of Advocates  
13 for Environmental Human Rights, and I have a question  
14 about the current slides that showed (inaudible) on  
15 the first page. I want to know why the NRC has shown  
16 that the (inaudible) process.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Monique. John, do  
18 you understand the question?

19 MR. TAPPERT: Yes, that was just a cartoon  
20 to kind of show the basic parts of that. It is a flow  
21 chart, but it just simplifies what is in the rule.  
22 Obviously a potential outcome of the application is  
23 not granting a permit, and then of course there will  
24 be no construction as a result of that.

25 One outcome is to grant a permit and the

1 applicant doesn't exercise the right to seek a  
2 subsequent combined license, and there will be no  
3 construction. So there is no inevitability from this  
4 process that is going to lead to a power plant down  
5 the road.

6 And if the figure was confusing, we were  
7 just trying to show the basic elements of the rules.

8 MS. HARDEN: Well, then you shouldn't put  
9 (inaudible) a change in it, basically (inaudible).

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

11 MS. WALKER: (Off microphone) Nathalie  
12 Walker, and I am an attorney for Advocates for  
13 Environmental Human Rights. You know, I think a lot  
14 of us have seen flow charts (inaudible), and it shows  
15 that it is not accepted here, and that is what  
16 happens. So it was kind of surprising to see the way  
17 that you set that (inaudible).

18 Okay. My question is why will the need  
19 for power be included? One of the (inaudible) showed  
20 that, and need is an element that NEPA requires be  
21 considered.

22 MR. TAPPERT: Right. If the plant is  
23 actually constructed and operated. There will have to  
24 be a demonstration that there is a need for power.

25 MS. WALKER: Well, how will the public

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1 then be able to (inaudible) on that need?

2 MR. CAMERON: Nathalie, we need to get you  
3 on the record.

4 MS. WALKER: And how will the public  
5 whenever that happens, how will we be able to comment  
6 on how you are assessing or analyzing need?

7 MR. TAPPERT: Right. Well, we will are  
8 looking at a site facility right now, and if the  
9 permit is granted, and subsequently the applicant  
10 says, hey, I want to use this permit, and I want to  
11 use this design, and I want to build and operate a  
12 plant, they are going to have to make another  
13 application.

14 And that would be the combined license,  
15 and when they do that, there will be another  
16 environmental impact statement, and we will be coming  
17 out here again to have another public meeting, and  
18 that will be the time to comment on the need for  
19 power.

20 MR. CAMERON: And thank you both for  
21 coming out tonight.

22 MS. WALKER: You're welcome.

23 MR. CAMERON: Let's go back here and then  
24 we will come up here, and then we will go over to the  
25 other side. Yes, sir?

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1 MR. SEGREST: I am Phil Segrest, and I am  
2 a local resident, and I would like for other people  
3 who are talking to state where they are from.

4 MR. CAMERON: And that is clearly a choice  
5 for the person who is speaking and whether they want  
6 to do that or not. So we do need your name and  
7 affiliation, if you want to give an affiliation for  
8 the transcript.

9 And if people want to identify where they  
10 are from in response to Phil's request, you can do  
11 that. Yes, sir?

12 MR. LANDRUM: (Off microphone). Hi, my  
13 name is Jerry Landrum, and I have (inaudible). But I  
14 was just wondering why is this siting being considered  
15 overall, and (inaudible)?

16 MR. TAPPERT: Perhaps the company is in a  
17 better position to comment on that. I mean, there is  
18 no -- as the regulatory agency, we are obligated to  
19 review the applications that are submitted to us.  
20 Now, before an applicant will submit that application,  
21 there is the whole business case analysis that they  
22 have gone through that they think is in their best  
23 interests to move forward with.

24 What we are going to do is make sure that  
25 the project moves forward and will be done in a safe

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1 manner, and protective of the public health. So I  
2 can't really speak to the specifics of why they chose  
3 to pursue this, but we are going to review it to make  
4 sure that it is done safely.

5 MR. CAMERON: And we are going to have one  
6 of the speakers from the company and hear what their  
7 rationale is behind filing this application, and we  
8 will just wait until then, but that is information  
9 that will be provided.

10 I will be back over this way. Anybody  
11 over here? How about here, and introduce yourself.

12 MR. Huey: My name is Landon Huey, and I  
13 live in Jackson. I wanted to know what percentage of  
14 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's budget is based on  
15 industry dollars, or is it all governmental financing?

16 MR. CAMERON: John, I think you know what  
17 the question is, and provide all the details of that.

18 MR. TAPPERT: The Nuclear Regulatory  
19 Commission has a fairly unique budgetary structure.  
20 Our budget is submitted by the President, and approved  
21 by Congress, just as it is with most Federal agencies.

22 Additionally, Congress tells us to levy  
23 users fees on our licensees to recover 90-plus percent  
24 of our budget. The other percentage is used for  
25 international activities for which the licensees

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1 receive no direct benefit.

2 The thinking is that we are providing a  
3 service, and we have an obligation to recover that  
4 money rather than the general taxpayers.

5 MR. CAMERON: And I think the important  
6 part of that, too, is that even though there is a fee,  
7 as John stated in the beginning, we go through the  
8 appropriations process that any Federal Agency gets.  
9 We don't necessarily get all the money in  
10 appropriations that we request.

11 MR. TAPPERT: Right, and we have the same  
12 budget battles as everyone else, and we are fighting  
13 for resources.

14 MR. CAMERON: All right.

15 MR. Huey: Just for a follow-up. So, 95  
16 percent of your budget is based on fees from the  
17 nuclear industry; is that correct?

18 MR. CAMERON: I don't think you can say  
19 that our budget is based on fees. Our budget is based  
20 on appropriations, but --

21 MR. TAPPERT: We do recover those monies  
22 through nuclear power plants, radiographers, any other  
23 licensee that the Agency regulates.

24 MR. Huey: That does not strike you as a  
25 conflict of interest?

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1 MR. TAPPERT: Not in my experience.

2 MR. CAMERON: It is not if we have to go  
3 through the appropriations process. In other words,  
4 there is a disconnect between the appropriations  
5 process and the fact that we recover fees. Just like  
6 -- well, I had better not use an analogy of another  
7 agency, because I don't know what I am talking about.

8 But, John, do you have anything else to  
9 say on it?

10 MR. TAPPERT: Well, just that in my  
11 experience that every NRC employee that you are going  
12 to ever talk to, his mission is public health and  
13 safety, and they are not beholding to the industry in  
14 any way, shape, or form.

15 MR. CAMERON: All right. Thank you, John.  
16 Anybody over here before we go back over to the other  
17 side? Yes, sir.

18 MR. DOSS: My name is Evan Doss. Does the  
19 NRC provide any on-site offices in any other locations  
20 (inaudible), as opposed to (inaudible)?

21 MR. CAMERON: Well, let me introduce a  
22 couple of people who can answer that more fully. We  
23 have resident inspectors, and John, I want you to chip  
24 in.

25 MR. TAPPERT: Well, he is going to point

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1       them out to you, but at every single nuclear power  
2       plant facility in the country, there are NRC employees  
3       who are permanently stationed there to provide on-site  
4       monitoring of activities at the plant.

5               They are required to rotate periodically  
6       so that they don't become too attached to the licensee  
7       to maintain their objectivity, and those individuals  
8       on-site are augmented by our four regional offices,  
9       who set up periodic inspections to look at radiation  
10      protection, or emergency planning, or maintenance, or  
11      any other activities.

12             And then we have our headquarters office,  
13      which also provides some additional oversight.

14             MR. CAMERON: And let me introduce these  
15      two residents to you.

16             MR. DOSS: The ones that are local here,  
17      or --

18             MR. CAMERON: Yes, we are going to do that  
19      right now, sir. This is Mr. Tim Hoeg, and he is our  
20      senior resident at the site, and we have Jeff Miller,  
21      who is a new resident at the site, and Tim, I don't  
22      know if you want to provide just a little capsule of  
23      what the residents do.

24             And we need to hold the mike close,  
25      because I guess it is cutting out when we hold it

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1 further away.

2 MR. HOEG: Like Chip said, I am a senior  
3 resident inspector at Randall, and I have been here  
4 for about 3 years now, and my family and I reside up  
5 in Vicksburg, and my wife works in Vicksburg. I work  
6 at the site every day, and I inspect the plant per the  
7 NRC's orders, and I process them.

8 And as pointed out earlier, there are two  
9 of us on-site, Jeff Miller and I, and basically we  
10 provide an on-site coverage for various evolutions at  
11 the site, whether it is a maintenance activity,  
12 operations, security, radiological controls, et  
13 cetera.

14 We are there 24-7 and available to respond  
15 to any emergencies. Does that answer your question,  
16 sir?

17 MR. CAMERON: Let me get you on the  
18 record, Mr. Doss. Do you have a follow-up on that?

19 MR. DOSS: I'm concerned with him  
20 providing us on how we can have access to on-site, and  
21 (inaudible) regular system energy, they don't provide  
22 that for us.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Tim, do you want to  
24 say something on that? I think you understand Mr.  
25 Doss' concern, right?

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1 MR. HOEG: We are in the phone book, in  
2 the blue pages of any phone directory for Federal  
3 agencies, and the phone number at our resident office  
4 is (601) 437-4620, and we have an answering machine if  
5 we are not on-site, and leave a message, and we will  
6 get back to you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Tim, and  
8 we have the NRC staff here from headquarters and from  
9 the regional office, and when we get to the end of the  
10 meeting, they are going to be here for anybody to talk  
11 with them about anything that you are concerned about.  
12 Yes, Ma'am?

13 MS. PULLMAN: (Off microphone) My name is  
14 Ruth Pullman, and I live in Bryar, which is just  
15 outside of Jackson. I think I missed part of what you  
16 were saying, but I understand that right now you are  
17 doing a complete environmental assessment for the site  
18 application, and the site application is valid  
19 (inaudible). and then if at that point the company  
20 decides to build a nuclear power plant, did you say  
21 that you would be doing another environment safety  
22 assessment at that time, or is the one that you are  
23 doing now valid all the way through the whole process?

24 MR. TAPPERT: Right. That is pretty much  
25 true what you said, and if the permit is granted it is

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1 going to be granted for up to 20 years, and if they  
2 come in for a combined license, there will be another  
3 environmental impact statement which will be done.

4 Now, that will look to what the work that  
5 we are doing now, and to the extent that remains  
6 valid, that won't be done again. But if things  
7 change, or if there are issues that aren't being  
8 addressed right now, like the need for power like the  
9 woman spoke of earlier, those are going to certainly  
10 be in scope.

11 So there will be another environmental  
12 impact statement, and it will be a complete  
13 environmental impact statement, but it will rely on  
14 the work that we are doing today to the extent  
15 possible.

16 MS. PULLMAN: Well, if things stay  
17 (inaudible) would you be looking at? What kind of  
18 changes?

19 MR. TAPPERT: We would look to see -- we  
20 have a concept that we talk about with new and  
21 significant, you know. If things have changed that  
22 would change our conclusions about the impacts on the  
23 water, or the air, or the endangered species, or any  
24 of those sorts of things, if the findings that we make  
25 today are not longer valid, we are going to look to

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1 that, and we are going to challenge that.

2 And if they are not valid, then we are  
3 going to reopen those issues and those are going to be  
4 looked at again or anew. To the extent that they  
5 haven't changed, and the conclusions that we make  
6 today are valid, those will not be reopened.

7 MS. PULLMAN: Well, I guess what I am  
8 asking is how do you determine if they are valid or  
9 not?

10 MR. TAPPERT: We will look at all of them.

11 MS. PULLMAN: You will look at those?

12 MR. TAPPERT: Yes, to some level to  
13 ascertain whether they are still valid.

14 MS. PULLMAN: And that will be open to the  
15 public for public comment?

16 MR. TAPPERT: Yes. Barry, do you want to  
17 add to that? I mean, you have been involved in this  
18 process.

19 MR. CAMERON: Barry, do you want to add  
20 something?

21 MR. ZALCMAN: I will reiterate what John  
22 indicated. My name is Barry Zalcmán, and also of the  
23 staff. There is a very strict structure that we have  
24 to deal with.

25 There is an objective as part of the early

1 site permit to resolve issues, and to air them, and to  
2 disclose them, and to get the public participation in  
3 the process.

4 And resolve them to a degree that we can,  
5 and if we find that an issue cannot be resolved as  
6 part of the early site permit, it will carry over into  
7 any other application that comes thereafter, and in  
8 this case, it is the combined license.

9 But to the degree that it is resolved, or  
10 the conclusions drawn by the Commission hold, and if  
11 there is no change to the conclusion, then that issue  
12 is resolved for the purposes of constructing and  
13 operating a facility, because this environmental  
14 impact statement will look at both construction  
15 impacts, and operational impacts, if this site is to  
16 be used to host a nuclear power plant. That is the  
17 going-in position.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Let's go  
19 back here. Thanks, Barry.

20 MS. WALKER: Nathalie Walker, Advocates  
21 for Environmental Human Rights. I just want to follow  
22 up on what you were saying. So if you receive  
23 comments in the next, you know, few weeks about Issue  
24 X, and then some day it is decided that the project  
25 proponents do want to go forward with construction of

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1 a facility.

2 If the NRC says, oh, on Issue X, we have  
3 determined that nothing has changed, and so we are not  
4 going back there again. Does the public have an  
5 opportunity to say, oh, we disagree with you.  
6 Something has changed. You do have to consider X  
7 again.

8 MR. TAPPERT: Absolutely, although this is  
9 not a license renewal, we have a model in license  
10 renewal, where we have made some generic findings, and  
11 one of the reasons that we have these public meetings  
12 is for people to say, hey, your genetic conclusions  
13 don't work here for Reasons X, Y, or Z.

14 Now, we will look for some specificity  
15 rather than some global opinions, but yes, that is one  
16 of the reason purposes of having these public  
17 meetings, is trying to get that sort of information.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. GUNTER: Paul Gunter, with Nuclear  
20 Information Resource Service. Just so I am clear, I  
21 would like follow-up to cite the Code of Federal  
22 Regulation, that says that you will reopen the  
23 opportunity for an adjudicatory hearing on the -- that  
24 once an issue has been so-called resolved, that I need  
25 to see -- and maybe, Chip, since you are there at the

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1 Office of General Counsel, you can tell us right now  
2 what the citation in the Code of Federal Regulation  
3 that opens the public's ability to raise contentions  
4 for issues that you have previously determined as  
5 resolved in the early site permit? I would appreciate  
6 that. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: And I think, just to clarify  
8 what Barry was talking about was in the context of the  
9 environmental impact statement, and John following up  
10 in response to that question about whether an issue  
11 could be opened up if someone brought to light new  
12 information.

13 That would be part of the environmental  
14 impact statement process, and I think your question  
15 is, is how does that play out in terms of a licensing  
16 proceeding. I would think that -- well, I don't have  
17 an answer right now to that, and I don't know if our  
18 other attorney here, if Katie has been following this,  
19 and has anything to say about that.

20 But if you do, give us a couple of minutes  
21 to research that perhaps, unless Katie, do you have an  
22 answer to Paul's question, and was his question clear  
23 to you?

24 MS. KANNLER: Your question is regarding  
25 the second EIS that would be done?

1 MR. GUNTER: For the combined operationing  
2 license.

3 MS. KANNLER: I would direct you to 52.89  
4 on the environmental review.

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And, Paul, we know  
6 your question, and we can develop some more  
7 specificity for you on that, okay? Thank you, Katie.  
8 Yes, let's go to Curtis, and please introduce yourself  
9 to us.

10 MR. JAMES: Okay. Curtis James, Fish and  
11 Wildlife Service, Jackson, Mississippi, but I live  
12 about 12 miles east of Vicksburg. This isn't really  
13 a question, but maybe this will help.

14 I think one thing that is a little shaky  
15 here, and maybe I can help, is that I am not sure that  
16 everybody understands that the second EIS looks at  
17 issues that weren't looked at in the first EIS.

18 Didn't you tell us to forget about  
19 alternate sources of fuel and costs, and so there are  
20 issues in the second EIS that weren't even talked  
21 about in the first one. Is that correct?

22 MR. CAMERON: I think that -- well, the  
23 point is that we just don't look at the same issues,  
24 because it is a different licensing action. So there  
25 may be a broader scope of issues that will be looked

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1 at. Is that right, and what you are saying, Curtis?  
2 John.

3 MR. TAPPERT: Certainly, and the ones that  
4 Jim outlined, and there are some specific things which  
5 we are not looking at now which we will certainly look  
6 at later, and of course we will revalidate the things  
7 that we looked at again.

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And thank you,  
9 Curtis, again for that clarification for us, and we  
10 will go back to Paul in a minute. Yes, sir?

11 MR. TIMMONS: When you do that  
12 environmental study do you take into consideration the  
13 security on the river and things like that?

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay Does someone want to  
15 address how security is factored into this whole  
16 process?

17 MR. TAPPERT: Yes, and certainly security  
18 is a key factor for the regulation of these  
19 facilities. It is not necessarily part of our  
20 environmental review. We don't necessarily cover the  
21 security issues in an environmental review, but there  
22 are a number of regulations which govern that, and  
23 obviously that is a very dynamic area right now.

24 And the Commission is continuing to review  
25 those and modify those regulations, and particularly

1 for the operating plants, and the Grand Gulf unit that  
2 is there right now is having its security plans  
3 modified as a result of NRC actions.

4 MR. CAMERON: So the answer is that that  
5 is an issue that is dealt with through the normal  
6 operating or normal review of operating reactors?

7 MR. TAPPERT: And as far as the early site  
8 permit context, it will be looked at with the combined  
9 license.

10 MR. CAMERON: Let's hear from Jim.

11 MR. TAPPERT: Do you want to add to that?

12 MR. LYONS: Hi, I am Jim Lyons, and the  
13 program director for the new reactors reviews from  
14 headquarters. and the security issues are addressed as  
15 part of our safety review [see Section 100.21(f)], and  
16 not as part of the environmental review.

17 And at the early site permit stage, what  
18 we are really looking at is that there are no physical  
19 impediments in the vicinity of the plant that would  
20 prevent a future applicant from developing an adequate  
21 security plan, and then at the combined license stage,  
22 that is when we would look at the complete security  
23 program and all the aspects that they would put in for  
24 security.

25 So at this stage, what we are really

1 looking at is whether there is anything in the area  
2 that would cause us to believe that an adequate  
3 security plan could be developed.

4 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Jim, and  
5 that was -- the gentleman who asked us the question  
6 was Mr. Wayne Timmons from right here in Port Gibson.  
7 Okay. Let's go back over here to Paul Gunter, who I  
8 think has another question. Paul.

9 MR. GUNTER: Yes. Again, Paul Gunter,  
10 from Nuclear Information Resource Service in  
11 Washington, D.C. Now, you had raised earlier in here,  
12 and I saw that there was a number of issues that need  
13 not be considered in the early site permit environment  
14 review.

15 Now, you all know that I have been  
16 participating in some of these earlier proceedings for  
17 North Anna, and particularly -- and I remember when I  
18 was up in Virginia, that one of the issues that was  
19 not to be considered in the early site permit  
20 environmental review regarded nuclear waste, and the  
21 accumulation of nuclear waste from the additional  
22 unit.

23 And it certainly was a concern to us in  
24 that hearing, and we raised questions, and the NRC  
25 said that it need not be considered because of the

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1 nuclear waste confidence decision.

2 I notice now that the issue is not  
3 included as an issue before the Grand Gulf site. So  
4 I just want some clarification on how it is not  
5 included here now, but was included up at North Anna.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. John.

7 MR. TAPPERT: Well, actually it is the  
8 same slide that we used in Virginia. The concern  
9 about nuclear waste and ultimate disposal, and  
10 geological repository, we never said that we weren't  
11 going to consider it. We are going to consider it as  
12 part of this review.

13 But what we said in Virginia, and what we  
14 will say again tonight, is that our review is going to  
15 heavily rely on the Commission's policy statement,  
16 which says that the waste can be safely stored on-site  
17 for the life of the plant, and that there ultimately  
18 will be a geological repository that can safely  
19 dispose of it.

20 So the impacts, the transportation, the  
21 radiological accident, all of that is going to be  
22 looked at.

23 MR. CAMERON: And just let me clarify that  
24 when John referred to a policy statement, that was the  
25 same thing that Paul referred to when he said waste

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1 confidence rule.

2 MR. GUNTER: But again, and I think that  
3 I would like some clarification on for the edification  
4 of this audience, is does -- is it your understanding,  
5 as it is our understanding that that waste confidence  
6 decision was expressly as published in the Federal  
7 Register to only address existing facilities?

8 MR. TAPPERT: That is not our  
9 understanding. It would apply to future facilities as  
10 well.

11 MR. GUNTER: But as I understand it, it is  
12 expressly noted in the Federal Register that was  
13 published in 1990, and so --

14 MR. CAMERON: What is expressly noted in  
15 the 1990 Federal Register notice? This is the waste  
16 confidence decision again that you are referring to?

17 MR. GUNTER: But it is referenced for  
18 existing facility license, as published in the  
19 September 18th, 1990 Federal Register notice. So I  
20 would think that its existing facility license is  
21 expressly included in that definition.

22 MR. CAMERON: I think we just need to get,  
23 Paul, the chapter and verse from these waste  
24 confidence decisions that it shows that.

25 MR. TAPPERT: Well, that rule was updated

1 and I believe it was in '98, or reaffirmed in '98.  
2 Chip, is that correct?

3 MR. CAMERON: I think what the Commission  
4 did is that they said that there was an original waste  
5 confidence decision. Then there was a review and  
6 update of that waste confidence decision, and then in  
7 -- I forget what year it was, but within the last few  
8 years the Commission looked at the waste confidence  
9 decision to see if there was any need at this point to  
10 do a complete update, and decided that there wasn't  
11 because we were on the pendency of seeing what was  
12 going to happen with the Yucca Mountain Repository  
13 issue.

14 But we will get you all of those cites,  
15 Paul, okay? All right. And we will go back to this  
16 gentleman in a minute. Okay.

17 MR. Huey: Landon Huey again from Jackson.  
18 I just wanted to know is nuclear waste, how is it  
19 dangerous to me? Like if I were to stand in a room  
20 with it would I be poisoned by it, and if so, when  
21 would be the first time that I could stand in that  
22 room with it, and it not have an effect on my body?

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. John, you know,  
24 answer the question.

25 MR. TAPPERT: Certainly spent nuclear fuel



1 is highly radioactive, and we would not encourage you  
2 to stand in a room with it. In fact, we have a number  
3 of regulations and controls to ensure that you will  
4 never stand in a room with it.

5 And obviously the decay half-lives of some  
6 of the nuclides are in the tens, or hundreds, of  
7 thousands of years.

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Let me go  
9 to someone who hasn't asked a question, and we will  
10 try to get back to you. Yes, sir, and please  
11 introduce yourself. thank you.

12 MR. KOCHMEYERS: My name is Koss  
13 Kochmeyers, and I live in Vicksburg, Mississippi. I  
14 am not sure that I understood one thing. Are you  
15 saying that you would grant the early site permit on  
16 the assumption that there will be a permanent  
17 geographic or geological site for the storage of all  
18 nuclear waste that is accumulating in the country?  
19 You would make that assumption?

20 MR. TAPPERT: What we are saying is that  
21 as part of the environmental review that we are going  
22 to do, an element of the construction and operation of  
23 a plant is obviously the uranium fuel cycle, which  
24 means that you have to mine your uranium, process the  
25 uranium, and use the uranium in the reactor, and then

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1       you have to dispose of the spent fuel.

2               Now, the impacts associated with that are  
3       going to be evaluated.     Now, as part of our  
4       evaluation, we are going to rely on some Commission  
5       guidance and that is what this waste confidence rule  
6       is about, and that is where they talk about this fuel  
7       can be safely stored on site, and ultimately there  
8       will be a geological repository to dispose of it.

9               And we have Yucca Mountain, and whether  
10       there is some yet unidentified site, you know, we are  
11       not going to say. But the important thing to remember  
12       there is that it is safe today. I mean, we are  
13       talking about a hypothetical reactor today, but we  
14       have 103 real reactors out there that are making waste  
15       today.

16               And the waste from those reactors is being  
17       stored safely today, and it will continue to be stored  
18       safely until there is ultimate disposal available.

19               MR. CAMERON: And the one thing that the  
20       Commission recognized when it last reviewed its waste  
21       policy decision is that obviously if there is not an  
22       application for this Yucca Mountain repository, or if  
23       the application is denied, then obviously they need to  
24       go back and revisit that waste confidence decision to  
25       consider that particular reality.

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1                   MR. MEYERS: And are you saying that you  
2 might grant this --

3                   MR. CAMERON: We need to get you on the  
4 record, sir.

5                   MR. MEYERS: Okay. I just want to be  
6 clear. Are you saying that you might grant this early  
7 site permit even if there is no safe permanent site  
8 for the storage of all this spent fuel?

9                   The people of Nevada and the Governor of  
10 Nevada are fiercely opposed to allowing this  
11 radioactive waste to be stored at Yucca Mountain as  
12 you know.

13                  MR. TAPPERT: Right.

14                  MR. MEYERS: They are fighting it. There  
15 is no place in the country to store the nuclear waste  
16 other than where it is currently being stored. For  
17 example, here in Port Gibson.

18                  Are you saying that you will grant this  
19 early site permit even if there is no site available  
20 for the storage of all this waste? You will simply  
21 make the assumption that at some future date hopefully  
22 that site will be made available? Is that what you  
23 are saying? I just want to get clear on that.

24                  MR. TAPPERT: Not exactly, but the Yucca  
25 Mountain application is supposed to be tendered by DOE

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1 at the end of this year, and that is going to be a  
2 multi-year effort.

3 If you look at the schedule that Jim put  
4 on earlier, we are going to make a decision on whether  
5 to grant this permit before that Yucca Mountain  
6 decision is going to be made.

7 So in a sense we are going to make this  
8 decision before there will be a permanent geological  
9 repository. So if that is all you are looking for,  
10 the answer is yes, we will make that decision. Now,  
11 that does not mean that we are going to grant it, but  
12 we are going to make a decision before there is a  
13 permanent repository.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's go to -- do you  
15 have a quick follow-up, or --

16 MR. DOSS: I have just this one question.  
17 Could you give us some idea of what the capacity out  
18 there for that spent fuel, and how many more years  
19 have they got with that, and whether or not if this 20  
20 year projection that you were talking about, this  
21 early site permit be given to them, then why are we  
22 looking at in terms of that?

23 MR. TAPPERT: Okay. What we are looking  
24 at now is an early site permit to build a future  
25 reactor. So, there is really -- you can't really talk

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1 about capacity when you don't know what they are going  
2 to build there, or what kind of storage facilities  
3 they are going to have.

4 Obviously, actually there is a reactor  
5 there today that is generating waste, and --

6 MR. DOSS: That's correct.

7 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Doss, we obviously have  
8 to get you on the record, okay? So let him finish and  
9 then we will go to you with the microphone.

10 MR. TAPPERT: So as far as what we are  
11 talking about here today, about the early site permit,  
12 and about the potential future reactor, I can't give  
13 you an estimate for that.

14 Perhaps the vice president of the company  
15 can tell you how much room they have left in their  
16 spent fuel pool. I don't have those numbers off the  
17 top of my head.

18 MR. CAMERON: Is that the question that  
19 you wanted answered, or do you want to clarify for us,  
20 Mr. Doss?

21 MR. DOSS: Well, that is part of the  
22 answer to it, but I guess maybe in the early site  
23 application that they have, like a lot of their  
24 information strategy is based upon co-location, and it  
25 seems to me that perhaps the documents somewhere have

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1 already been documented in order for them to use that  
2 as a strategy.

3 MR. TAPPERT: I don't have that  
4 information.

5 MR. CAMERON: And I would just ask that  
6 the company speaker, perhaps when you do speak, Mr.  
7 Williams, that if there anything on the waste issue  
8 that would help Mr. Doss, if you could just put that  
9 out at this time, and let's see if we have some other  
10 -- did you have one more follow-up? Then we are going  
11 to go to this gentleman. Yes, sir?

12 MR. WILSON: Good evening. My name is  
13 Soloman Wilson, and I am a resident here in Port  
14 Gibson, and my question or comment is that there has  
15 been some time since nuclear power plants have been  
16 ordered.

17 I think the last one was in 1974, and  
18 there was some rationale on why we stopped building  
19 nuclear power plants in this country. Could you talk  
20 something about that rationale, and then discuss what  
21 has happened now to encourage us to start again?

22 MR. CAMERON: And that is a question that  
23 we could speculate on from the NRC, because it is not  
24 really part of our regulatory purview. I think you  
25 are going to get a bit of an answer when we hear Mr.

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1 Williams from Entergy, but John, do you have anything  
2 simple to say on that particular issue?

3 MR. TAPPERT: Well, there are a lot of  
4 factors that went into that, and you are quite correct  
5 in saying that there hasn't been a lot of nuclear  
6 generation in some time. I don't think there has been  
7 a new order since sometime in the '70s, and your  
8 number may be correct.

9 That was based on economic considerations.  
10 You know, they just were becoming too expensive. In  
11 fact there has not been a lot of baseload capacity  
12 added in the last 25 years of any sort, other than  
13 natural gas.

14 It was an economic decision, and no one is  
15 really committed to building a new nuclear power  
16 plant. These three early site permits that were  
17 granted, it was like the first exploratory steps down  
18 that path, and if the companies every decide to come  
19 in with a combined license, that will be a purely  
20 economic decision that they can generate power, and  
21 sell it for more than it cost them to be the site.

22 The NRC's role in that process is to  
23 ensure that whatever they do is going to be done  
24 safely, and is protective of the public health.

25 MR. CAMERON: And we do have in addition

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1 to the company representatives who will be able to  
2 amplify on that perhaps after the meeting, or  
3 indirectly in what they say, we have other people in  
4 the audience from the nuclear industry that can give  
5 you a good or perhaps a better answer to that in the  
6 informal discussions after the meeting.

7 And let's go for one more question right  
8 now, and then go for the comments, because we do have  
9 a lot of commentors. Yes, Ma'am?

10 MS. HIND: Brenda Hind, and I am with  
11 Southern (inaudible), and I just wondering whether or  
12 not the NRC or the Entergy Corporation have conducted  
13 any health studies on the residents in Fort Gibson,  
14 especially given that the nuclear reactors release  
15 radioactivity in the air, water, and soil, that could  
16 damage human health.

17 And since you won't encourage me to stand  
18 in the room with it, would you encourage me to use  
19 those three basic necessities in light of, or  
20 especially in reference to my longevity.

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And that is a great  
22 question that has a bunch of different components to  
23 it. The ordinary releases from a nuclear power plant  
24 and how we monitor those, and regulate those, is one  
25 piece of it.

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1           The cancer incidence in a community, or  
2 health effects -- diabetes, heart disease, whatever,  
3 the State agencies in each State, like a Department of  
4 Health or something, usually deal with those, as well  
5 as a Federal Agency called the Agency for Toxic  
6 Substances and Disease Registry.

7           They are the ones who look at those, what  
8 they call epidemiology issues, but the bottom line NRC  
9 responsibility I will leave to John to describe to you  
10 right now.

11           MR. TAPPERT: There are a small amounts of  
12 radioactivity which are released from all nuclear  
13 power plants, and those releases are controlled and  
14 regulated to ensure that there is no adverse effects  
15 on the public.

16           And there are reports and monitors, and we  
17 have inspectors to ensure that those things are  
18 carried out correctly. The agency does not typically  
19 conduct epidemiological studies.

20           However, those studies have been done, and  
21 have shown that there is no increased incidents of  
22 cancer or anything else around these facilities.

23           MR. CAMERON: And if we need to -- and  
24 maybe we can give you some citations and things like  
25 that, and the material on the emissions that we will

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1 monitor, those are all public --

2 MR. TAPPERT: Those are all public  
3 reports, and there is an annual report by the utility  
4 to the Agency, which lists everything that is  
5 released.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's go for a  
7 follow-up here.

8 MS. HIND: I am Brenda Hind, and I am just  
9 wondering then whether or not the government allows  
10 for a certain number of hazards to our bodies that is  
11 acceptable, at least to the government, and whether it  
12 is acceptable to us as individuals or not?

13 MR. CAMERON: And I think that the basis  
14 of our regulations is indeed a judgment that the  
15 emissions from the plant are acceptable in terms of  
16 health effects.

17 MR. TAPPERT: Absolutely. There are no  
18 adverse health effects as a result of these releases.  
19 I mean, it is a very small fraction of what you  
20 receive normally from background radiation. I mean,  
21 radiation is part of our environment, whether you live  
22 in Port Gibson, or you live anywhere else in the  
23 country.

24 You get it from the sun, and you get it  
25 from everywhere, and it is just there.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. I am going to go to  
2 three people who have not had a chance, and then we  
3 are going to have to start with the public comment  
4 part of the meeting, and we are going to start with  
5 this gentleman here, and then we will go to Martha  
6 Ferris, and then over to Dave Ritter. Yes, sir.

7 MR. BUCK: Yes, my name is Jack Gilbert  
8 Buck, and I am a resident of Claiborne County, and I  
9 would like to know how much spent fuel do we have on-  
10 site, and what is the TLV on the escape?

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay. John, the amount of  
12 spent fuel on-site and -- okay, go ahead, Tim.

13 MR. HOEG: Again, I am Tim Hoeg, the  
14 senior resident inspector. Part of your question is  
15 similar to the question that the gentleman here had,  
16 how much spent fuel storage capacity is left on the  
17 site.

18 It is my understanding, and correct me if  
19 I am wrong, George, and Brad, and others, that they  
20 have enough capacity to 2007, which is about four more  
21 years. And I did not get the second part of your  
22 question, sir.

23 MR. BUCK: How much is that?

24 MR. HOEG: Well, there is Fueling Outage  
25 13 coming up, and they have unloaded 12 times, and I

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1 can't give you a number of fuel assemblies in the  
2 pool, but I am sure that the licensee will be able to  
3 address that when they talk.

4 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And let's go to the  
5 second part of the question, because we really need to  
6 get to public comments, and I believe that you --  
7 well, did that answer the first part of your question?

8 MR. BUCK: No.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's make sure that  
10 we answer that, which is how much spent fuel is on  
11 site.

12 MR. TAPPERT: Okay.

13 MR. CAMERON: I will tell you what. We  
14 keep putting some more burdens on you, but maybe we  
15 can get that when we hear that. We will get you  
16 answer to that.

17 The second part of the question was  
18 something about the TLD.

19 MR. BUCK: The threshold value of the  
20 escape from the spent fuel that is already on-site.

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. The threshold value  
22 for how much is actually -- how much radiation is  
23 released from the spent fuel on site. Okay. Is there  
24 a release, any release at this point, from the spent  
25 fuel on site, no matter how much is there?

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1 MR. TAPPERT: Well, I mean, if it is  
2 stored in the spent fuel pool, there should be  
3 essentially no release.

4 MR. CAMERON: So there is no release.  
5 Okay. All right. That is the second part, and we  
6 will find out how much there is when we go to the  
7 licensee. Martha, did you have a question?

8 MS. FERRIS: Yes, my name is Martha  
9 Ferris, and I live in Vicksburg, and Mr. Tappert has  
10 assured us that the studies that you have say that  
11 there are no risks to the local population, and that  
12 the emissions are safe for the population.

13 As I understand it, those studies are  
14 based on adult males, and those are not performed on  
15 the elderly, on children, on infants, not to mention  
16 developing fetuses. Can you answer that?

17 MR. TAPPERT: Yes. I mean, there have  
18 also been studies, and there are studies that talk  
19 about the standard rates, and the impacts on that, and  
20 there have also been studies that looked at  
21 populations in the counties around nuclear power  
22 plants, and they compare them to counties that are  
23 similar, but not adjacent to nuclear power plants, and  
24 they find no statistical differences.

25 I mean, you can't point to any discernible

1 helth effects as a result of these plants, and you  
2 can't.

3 MR. CAMERON: And we realize that there  
4 are differences of opinions on that. What we will do  
5 is for anybody who wants, we will give you the  
6 citations to the studies that we know about.

7 This may be a useful or a good use for  
8 Trish Milligan's piece. If you want a copy of that,  
9 I guess the best way is to just indicate it back on  
10 the sign-up table and we will send you those citations  
11 on those studies, along with a summary that I think we  
12 have of those studies.

13 And I think we really -- I am going to go  
14 to Dave Ritter, and then I think we have to get going  
15 here so that we can get out of here before tomorrow,  
16 although we are more concerned about you than us.

17 MR. RITTER: Hi, I am Dave Ritter, and I  
18 with Public Citizen, out of Washington, D.C. Two  
19 really quick questions. One goes to the one that the  
20 woman asked before about the routine radioactive  
21 releases.

22 I know that some nuclear plants have a  
23 toll free number that local citizens can call to find  
24 out about those radioactive releases that have  
25 occurred, and to get some kind of a schedule on when

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1 the next releases should occur, or plan to occur.

2 I was just wondering if there is a number  
3 for that for the Grand Gulf site for local citizens.  
4 And then just going into my second question briefly.  
5 My understanding is that the irradiated/spent fuel at  
6 Grand Gulf is stored in a facility that is  
7 considerably less robust than the reactor containment  
8 itself.

9 And that the fuel is actually several  
10 stories about ground, and keeping that in mind, I  
11 wanted to know based on the assertion that we heard  
12 earlier that as part of the waste confidence decision  
13 that the NRC claims that the nuclear waste can be  
14 safely stored on-site, does this mean that the NRC can  
15 provide some guarantee regarding the containment and  
16 isolation of that spent fuel in the event of a  
17 terrorist attack on the spent fuel storage facility?  
18 Thanks.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay. The first question in  
20 terms of an 800 number for a release.

21 MR. TAPPERT: Maybe we could add that to  
22 the list for the applicant to discuss.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

24 MR. TAPPERT: And we need to -- there are  
25 a number of questions about the operating plant there,

1 and we will try to answer those to the best of our  
2 ability, but just to kind of refocus on what we are  
3 trying to do tonight, we are talking about the early  
4 site permit application environmental review, here.

5 And that is really what the environmental  
6 impact statement is going to be about, and that is  
7 what we are looking for input on. Now, to the extent  
8 that people have questions -- I mean, we are still the  
9 regulator for the operating plant, and we are going to  
10 try to respond to those, but I just wanted to  
11 recharacterize that.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thanks. And there  
13 may be something that we don't understand yet about  
14 when there is -- on what you are referring to is when  
15 there is a release, for example, an accidental release  
16 or something like that.

17 But we will try to get that information.  
18 The second part of the question in terms of the spent  
19 fuel storage method at Grand Gulf, and again the issue  
20 of security, and spent fuel storage generally, John.  
21 Anything?

22 MR. TAPPERT: Well, again, this is back to  
23 the operating plant, and it goes back to the Agency's  
24 global approach to protecting these facilities. In  
25 the wake of the 9/11 attacks, we have had a number of

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1       enhancements.

2               They were very secure facilities before  
3       9/11, and they are even more secure afterwards. We  
4       have implemented additional requirements for security  
5       guards, and the stand-off distances for vehicle bombs  
6       and the like.

7               We have issued several orders to them  
8       about security guard training requirements, and  
9       staffing, and we are continuing to evaluate that to  
10      find out what is the threat that is appropriate for  
11      them to defend against.

12              MR. CAMERON: And I take it that the spent  
13      fuel storage facility and methods at Grand Gulf meets  
14      the -- is currently within the NRC regulations?

15              MR. TAPPERT: The guidelines, yes.

16              MR. CAMERON: All right. Well, thank you  
17      for all these questions, and I know that we could  
18      spent the whole meeting on questions and trying to  
19      answer them for you.

20              But let's hear from people who have signed  
21      up to speak so that we can get the benefit of your  
22      comments, and then we will see where we are when we  
23      are done with that.

24              And the first person that I am going to  
25      ask to speak is Mr. George Williams, who is the site

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1 vice president at Grand Gulf, and I think that there  
2 is a number of questions that were brought up tonight,  
3 factual questions about the facility itself that the  
4 company may be able to answer.

5 They may not be able to answer that right  
6 now, but we will see what Mr. Williams does, and then  
7 we are going to go on to the next speaker as soon as  
8 Mr. Williams is done.

9 And let me just give you a preview of who  
10 we are going to hear from, so that you will know. We  
11 are going to go to Mr. Curtis James after Mr.  
12 Williams, and then we are going to Landon, Landon  
13 Huey, as the first of our three speakers. Mr.  
14 Williams, thank you.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. Hopefully  
16 you can hear me here. I was listening to Chip saying  
17 it's great that we have all these questions, and I  
18 just wish I had all the answers for you here.

19 Now, first of all, I would like to say  
20 that I am George Williams, and I am the site vice  
21 president at Grand Gulf Station. One thing that I  
22 wanted to let you know is that I really appreciate,  
23 first of all, all of you being here tonight to learn  
24 more about the early site permitting process.

25 I think that is extremely important.

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1 Sometimes there are all kinds of rumors that float  
2 around, and people really don't understand what  
3 actually is taking place.

4 The way to really find out what the facts  
5 are is to be here with the experts or people who do  
6 have answers for which you are looking for. I do want  
7 to let you know that I do have several other people  
8 here with me tonight that I would like to introduce.

9 First, I have Brad Edwards, and he is the  
10 General Plant Manager at Grand Gulf Station. I have  
11 Drew Bottemiller, who is our licensing manager. I  
12 have Kenneth Hughey, who is on business development;  
13 and we also have George Zinke, who is also from  
14 business development.

15 And there are several other people here  
16 from Grand Gulf, but as you heard earlier, Grand Gulf  
17 did file for an early site permit back in October of  
18 last year, and really the important piece of that is  
19 that it allows us the option in the future that if we  
20 decide to build another unit at Grand Gulf Station,  
21 and it at least gets the process started.

22 It doesn't mean that we have any plans to  
23 go forth with building a nuclear unit. But it does  
24 allow us the option. What it does do for us is that  
25 if we actually get approval for the early site

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1       permitting process, it does allow you to get a lot of  
2       the engineering and environmental studies out of the  
3       way, such that it really shortens the lead time for  
4       actually constructing a nuclear power plant.

5               And what it does is that it reduces it  
6       from about a lead time of about 8 years down to about  
7       5 years for this plant. And it is very important for  
8       Entergy to do this, because like other utility  
9       operators, you want to make sure that you preserve  
10      your future.

11             It is projected that the generation is  
12      going to grow significantly by the year 2020, and you  
13      can either wait until that sneaks up on you, and you  
14      don't have any real options to serve your customer, or  
15      meet the energy needs.

16             Or you can plan for the future. It is  
17      very important to look strategically at what are your  
18      options. Nuclear power is clean, and it is emission-  
19      free. You can easily get a lot of large generation  
20      with one unit.

21             And early someone asked us why Grand Gulf.  
22      If you are going to build a nuclear power plant, you  
23      want to make sure that you can do it as cheaply as  
24      possible.

25             One of the things that it does provide for

1 is that it is in an area where energy is needed. You  
2 have immediate access to transmission, and so you  
3 don't have to build new transmission, which is very  
4 costly.

5 And it just makes sense from an  
6 environmental perspective. Grand Gulf has a  
7 tremendous operating record. The plant has been here  
8 for almost 20 years, and Grand Gulf has a tremendous  
9 reputation in the industry, and that is because of  
10 operating the plant soundly, and if you were to talk  
11 to anyone that actually knows about plant operations,  
12 and they were to tell you what is one of the better  
13 plants in the industry, they would reference Grand  
14 Gulf.

15 And I am not telling you that because I am  
16 the site vice president, but that just happens to be  
17 the facts. But the main thing that we wanted to do  
18 was just to preserve the option that down the road if  
19 we wanted to build a next-generation nuclear power  
20 plant that will allow us the possibility of doing  
21 that.

22 If that is not, then give us permission to  
23 go forward and build a plant at this time. So I  
24 wanted to clear that up, and with that, instead of me  
25 talking a lot, I would like to be able to answer your

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1 questions, and I may not be able to answer all your  
2 questions.

3 And if I can't answer them, maybe we can  
4 answer some after the meeting today, or we may have to  
5 follow up with you.

6 MR. CAMERON: And, George, thank you, and  
7 with you and your staff, I think you had indicated  
8 that if anybody wants to talk to them about any issues  
9 that you would be available after the meeting?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: That is correct. So that  
11 I don't end up consuming the entire meeting. I would  
12 like to answer a couple of questions that were brought  
13 forward. I guess there was one question about spent  
14 fuel capacity.

15 The spent fuel capacity at Grand Gulf is  
16 capable of storing fuel in the spent fuel up until  
17 2007. Now, what happens after that, and this  
18 technology has already been used at several of our  
19 sites, and across the company, utilities have moved  
20 towards dry cask storage.

21 That is a technology that has been used  
22 for the low radiation fuel bundles, bundles that have  
23 been out of the reactor for a significant period of  
24 time, such that the dose is relatively low.

25 And these bundles can be safely stored in

1 a dry cache storage facility on the site. It is still  
2 on the site location, and many utilities use that  
3 already. But with that technology, we can store fuel  
4 for as long as it takes to have an alternate main  
5 storage for fuel elsewhere, such as Yucca Mountain.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And I think the other  
7 question was also related to spent fuel, which was how  
8 much spent fuel is stored on site now, and I guess the  
9 usual terms of measurement, which I am not even sure  
10 what that is, but do you know what that is?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure. We currently have  
12 between 3,000 and 3,500 spent fuel bundles stored on  
13 site.

14 MR. CAMERON: And is there a metric tons  
15 number with that?

16 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't know the metric  
17 tons number. Mike, do you happen to know that number?  
18 That is not a number that I have off the top of my  
19 head.

20 COMPANY STAFF: Each bundle weighs or is  
21 about 800 pounds.

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay. We are just going to  
23 put on the record each bundle is about 800 pounds. So  
24 I guess you do the math, but after the meeting perhaps  
25 we could have more of a discussion between the company

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1 staff and people who want to know about spent fuel.

2 And, George, did you want to add anything  
3 else at this point?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: No, but there was one other  
5 question, but I can't remember exactly. There was one  
6 other question.

7 I know that our information is public  
8 record, in terms of the releases, but I did not know  
9 of an 800 number that people could call to find out  
10 about our releases. I am not aware of that at all.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,  
12 Mr. Williams.

13 MR. WILLIAMS: You are quite welcome. And  
14 we are going to go to Mr. Curtis James right now from  
15 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and then  
16 we will go to Landon Huey.

17 MR. JAMES: Well, fortunately this won't  
18 take long at all, because it is so early in the  
19 planning process, but we wrote to the NRC today, and  
20 of course we have two concerns or responsibilities.

21 Well, wetlands, and I don't even know if  
22 wetlands, since it is on this site, would even be  
23 involved, but that would be a concern to the Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service.

25 And then of course Federally-listed



1 species, and those would include the endangered  
2 Interior least tern, the endangered pallid sturgeon  
3 found in the lower Mississippi River.

4 The threatened Bayou darter, and I am not  
5 saying -- I am saying that these would be species that  
6 we would be concerned with and inform the NRC. The  
7 threatened bald eagle, and the Federally-listed  
8 threatened Louisiana black bears.

9 But here again like I said, these comments  
10 don't take long because it is so early in the process  
11 that we have just alerted the NRC that these are areas  
12 of concern for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

13 MR. CAMERON: So these are recommendations  
14 for issues that the NRC should look at in preparing  
15 the draft environmental impact statement.

16 MR. JAMES: For the very early comments on  
17 the site review, and not of course the other EIS for  
18 the actual plant.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,  
20 Mr. James.

21 MR. JAMES: Particularly secondary impacts  
22 to threatened and endangered species. You're welcome.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Landon.  
24 This is Landon Huey, from the Mississippi Green Party,  
25 or the Green Party of Mississippi, I guess.

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1 MR. Huey: My name is Landon Huey, like  
2 Mr. Cameron said. Anyway, I am here representing the  
3 Green Party, but I am also here as a concerned  
4 citizen. When I was a child, there were three things  
5 that were important to our family, and they were God,  
6 family, and country.

7 And God gave us this great earth that we  
8 live on, and I am just appalled that the NRC, and  
9 Entergy, all these people can work together, and you  
10 told me that if I were to stand in a room with nuclear  
11 waste that it would poison me.

12 And Mr. Tappert said that it would be  
13 poisonous for thousands of years. It is supreme  
14 hubris to believe that any government or any agency  
15 will be around when this is still poisonous, or not  
16 poisonous, and I was coming up this morning, or before  
17 I came up here today, and I cried, because I was so  
18 sad that there is a possibility that we are going to  
19 be adding another nuclear plant.

20 It's like let's double the amount of  
21 poison that we are going to give to our children as  
22 their inheritance. I mean, this is supposed to be  
23 Mississippi, where family is important, and it just  
24 boggles me that if family is so important, why are all  
25 these people who have families, supporting something

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1       that is so devastating.

2               I think it is quite obvious that common  
3       sense is not being taken into account. You know,  
4       Yucca Mountain, that's a dream. That is something  
5       that is not going to happen. If it does happen, it  
6       will be a disaster.

7               I think that all nuclear plants should be  
8       closed and stand as a monument to human stupidity.  
9       Thank you.

10              MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,  
11       Landon, for those remarks. We are going to go to  
12       Paul. Paul, are you ready?

13              MR. GUNTER: Sure.

14              MR. CAMERON: Paul Gunter from Nuclear  
15       Information Resource Services.

16              MR. GUNTER: I am surprised that there are  
17       so many people here. Thank you. My name is Paul  
18       Gunter, and I am with, again, Nuclear Information  
19       Resource Services in Washington, D.C.

20              Well, I would like to just start by saying  
21       that I really appreciate this opportunity. It has  
22       been a long time since I have been from Mississippi.  
23       I was born over in Philadelphia, over in Chuba County,  
24       and longer still since I have been back.

25              But I was here last May in this very room,

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1 and my concerns -- I would like to focus my concerns  
2 tonight on this process, the National Environmental  
3 Policy Act. And as has been explained, it is a full  
4 disclosure document for the Federal Government.

5 And it is a little like -- you know, if  
6 you were to be asked tonight to invest your future in  
7 stocks and bonds, you would want to know -- and be  
8 fully disclosed to you what you are investing in and  
9 what that means.

10 And the NEPA or National Environmental  
11 Policy Act, basically is an action-forcing provision  
12 and procedure designed to assure that all Federal  
13 agencies plan and work together to provide a healthy  
14 and balanced environment, and that is what we are all  
15 interested in tonight.

16 I first would like to say that one of our  
17 major concerns here is that we have been talking about  
18 nuclear waste, and I know that is a big issue. If I  
19 recall, there were 3,500 assemblies, and 800 pounds  
20 per assembly. That is over a thousand tons there at  
21 Grand Gulf sitting in that pool with an uncertain  
22 future.

23 And now we are talking about increasing  
24 the amount of nuclear waste that could be generated  
25 there. And it will be where it is if there is no

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1 other place for it to go, and you should be  
2 considering that, and certainly the environmental  
3 impact statement that we are talking about here is to  
4 address that.

5 Also, if we talk about concerns the  
6 existing facility, clearly the existing facility and  
7 the potential impact on a new facility, is of concern.  
8 Let's remember that the designs that are being  
9 considered are these so-called advanced, inherently  
10 safe, facilities.

11 And they are designed to basically in a  
12 stripped-down version of what is currently out there  
13 on the market. For example, the designs that we have  
14 seen, and the designs that have been verified before  
15 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and in my  
16 discussions with the Union of Concerned Scientists  
17 Nuclear Engineering, indicate that the control rooms  
18 at these new designs have far less protection than the  
19 control room at this existing facility here at Grand  
20 Gulf.

21 So when you put a facility that has been  
22 pretty much stripped down, at least as these new  
23 certified designs would indicate, next to an existing  
24 facility, it does raise questions with regard to how  
25 that existing facility, if there were an accident

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1       there, could potentially impact this new and stripped  
2       down facility.

3               And primarily that stripping down as I  
4       understand is to make the construction more  
5       affordable, and this is one of the ways that the  
6       industry and the Federal agency are thinking about  
7       making it more affordable.

8               But let me get to some of our immediate  
9       concerns about what this environmental impact  
10      statement should be considering as we believe. First  
11      of all, all the impacts on the Mississippi River  
12      arising from any increased intake of cooling water for  
13      the operation of any new proposed nuclear power units  
14      should be included.

15              Now, Grand Gulf right now operates on a  
16      cooling tower, and that does provide some reduced  
17      impact on the Mississippi as it were -- and like most  
18      other units draw directly from the water source, and  
19      they discharge directly into the water source.

20              But we don't know for a fact that this new  
21      design won't in fact use a once-through cooling  
22      system, which might be taking in as much as 2-1/2  
23      billion gallons of water a day out of the Mississippi  
24      River.

25              And because we are not being provided with

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1 a specific design, we don't really know what the water  
2 intake is. So in fact again all the potential impacts  
3 on the Mississippi River arising from that need to be  
4 incorporated into this environmental impact statement.

5 Also, all the impacts associated with the  
6 possibility of flooding of the Mississippi River on  
7 the safe operation of this proposed facility, as well  
8 as the existing facility, but clearly we have seen  
9 indications that the flooding and the river itself can  
10 change.

11 So clearly an environmental impact  
12 statement needs to take into account and closely study  
13 how changes in the Mississippi River might affect  
14 future operation.

15 All impacts on the aquatic environment of  
16 the Mississippi River arising out of any increase in  
17 thermal discharge into the river from cooling water  
18 need to be addressed from these additional units.

19 All impacts on the Mississippi River  
20 arising from the increased impingement and  
21 entrainment, or the sucking in and pinning of fish or  
22 fish spawn, or other aquatic life and nutrients  
23 arising out of increased reactor cooling water intake.

24 All impacts on the Mississippi River  
25 arising from the increase of routine discharge of

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1 chemicals, heavy metals, cleaning solvents, biocides,  
2 and radioactive isotopes into the Mississippi River  
3 arising from the operation of additional nuclear  
4 units.

5 We also want to know about all impacts  
6 arising from the additional accumulation of high level  
7 radioactive waste generated and indefinitely stored on  
8 the Grand Gulf nuclear site as I originally discussed.

9 And this is clearly a concern from a  
10 security point of view as it becomes a more and more  
11 attractive target in this new day of the potential of  
12 terrorism that is intent on causing catastrophic  
13 horror to our nation.

14 All impacts on public health and  
15 environment arising out of the increase in routine or  
16 accidental releases of radioactive gas, and  
17 particulate to the air and to our water as it settles  
18 on to our land and our agricultural soil as the result  
19 of the operation of additional units.

20 Clearly, this analysis should be taken in  
21 the most vulnerable of our population, not the most  
22 robust, and so we need to be looking at the impact of  
23 increased bioconcentration of radioactive isotopes.

24 So while they say that the impact is  
25 small, and the releases are minute, we need to realize

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1       that there are isotopes that are being routinely  
2       released by this plant, like Cesium 135, that has a  
3       half-life of over 2 million years.

4               So every day that that plant operates, and  
5       that one isotope, and dozens of isotopes gets out in  
6       the environment, it is going to persist in the  
7       environment for -- well, an effective half-life.

8               And if you want to really get rid of all  
9       the hazardous life, you multiply that half-life figure  
10      by 10, and that will give you some idea of how long  
11      that isotope can be accumulating in the environment,  
12      and biomagnifying up through the food chain, and  
13      getting through mother's milk, or through the uterus,  
14      or in any other number of ways and accumulate.

15              And so all this environmental impact  
16      statement needs to be looking at is all and new  
17      published data that looks at the epidemiological  
18      impact of the routine and accidental emissions.

19              All impacts on public health and safety  
20      arising out of a severe accident, including the  
21      impacts of the accident itself, sheltering,  
22      evacuation, radiation exposure, treatment, and  
23      reoccupation, or relocation of populations, entire  
24      communities, and as we have seen in the accident that  
25      happened at the Chernoble Power Station.

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1 All impacts arising from the simultaneous  
2 operation of existing and the aging Grand Gulf Nuclear  
3 Power Plant as it might impact this advanced reactor  
4 design, and I did talk about that.

5 All impacts arising from increased  
6 security risks and tasks associated with the proposed  
7 site expansion of Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Station  
8 given that the Federal Government has already  
9 acknowledged that the threat to these stations by  
10 terrorism can be delivered in part or in combination  
11 from the air, from the water, or by land.

12 Clearly, we need to be looking at all the  
13 airfields around this site, and that includes the air  
14 fields that are used for spray planes, commercial  
15 aviation fields, as well as cargo fields basically.

16 All potential impacts, socio-economic  
17 impacts from the elevated national security  
18 requirements and countermeasures to protect a larger  
19 target from terrorism with the expansion of the  
20 nuclear power station, such as including the  
21 indefinite and possible permanent closure of the  
22 Mississippi River to public access for commercial,  
23 recreational, and other means of economic livelihood.

24 We are seeing right now a number of lakes  
25 up in Illinois, for example, around the Clinton

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1 Nuclear Power Station, have been permanently closed to  
2 public access because the plant relies on cooling  
3 water from that facility, and because of the  
4 vulnerability and security risk that the access by  
5 water presents to that plant.

6 So clearly the environmental impact  
7 statement should be looking at the -- let's say we go  
8 to Code Red tomorrow with another attack. That could  
9 very well impact traffic on the Mississippi River  
10 going by the Grand Gulf Nuclear Facility.

11 And we need to be looking at that, and  
12 that needs to be included. And finally all of the  
13 above need to be considered as environmental justice  
14 issues given that the risks and the hazards associated  
15 with Grand Gulf site expansion disproportionately  
16 impact the people of Claiborne County, given that the  
17 county is 84 percent African-American, with 34 percent  
18 living under the poverty line, with a per capita  
19 income of \$11,000 annually, and that is from the  
20 Census data from 2000. Thank you very much.

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Paul, and  
22 as I mentioned at the beginning, this part of the  
23 meeting is our opportunity to listen to all of you and  
24 we thank you for your comments.

25 And our legal counsel noted that the

1 citation we gave you earlier, the regulation, 10 CFR  
2 52.89, should really be read also in conjunction with  
3 10 CFR 52.81, and we just wanted to get that on the  
4 record.

5 And our next three speakers are Mr.  
6 Garner, and then we are going to go to Soloman Wilson,  
7 and then to Rose Johnson. Is Mr. Garner --

8 MR. GARNER: Yes, I am here.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Garner.

10 MR. GARNER: First of all, let me start by  
11 saying good evening. I am a person who is a citizen  
12 of Claiborne County. By the way, he said Garner, and  
13 my name is A.C. Garner, and I am sure that some people  
14 can identify with me here, okay?

15 I am here as a citizen and I am also here  
16 representing the Claiborne County Branch of the NAACP,  
17 okay? Because one of the things that has taken place  
18 is that over the years, and even up until now, there  
19 have been some problems that has been beginning to  
20 rise in this particular community.

21 But first of all, we will just mention a  
22 few that came recently. We are concerned about  
23 terrorism, and we are concerned about security, and we  
24 are concerned about safety, and we are concerned about  
25 protection.

1                   And this is around the Grand Gulf Nuclear  
2                   Station. Let me back up a little bit, because I am  
3                   sure that somebody understands some of the things  
4                   especially concerning me.

5                   I was the Director of Emergency Management  
6                   here in this county for 13 or 14 years, okay? And  
7                   most of the time that I was in that position,  
8                   Claiborne County was receiving all of the tax monies  
9                   that came to this county.

10                  Well, sometime during that particular  
11                  period, it was decided that the monies needed to be  
12                  redistributed, okay? And what happened was that  
13                  Claiborne County ended up receiving just a small  
14                  portion, and the rest of it was distributed to other  
15                  counties.

16                  Right now I just want to sort of bring you  
17                  up to date on some of the things that have taken place  
18                  in Claiborne County, and the reason why that we are  
19                  concerned.

20                  We have in this county fire stations in  
21                  every district, and right now Claiborne County can  
22                  only afford to operate one fire station. That is  
23                  something that I think we should be concerned about.

24                  For example, the Sheriff's Department has  
25                  the responsibilities of taking care of law enforcement

1 throughout Claiborne County, and if there is an  
2 incident or accident at Grand Gulf, it is the  
3 responsibility of the Sheriff's Department to take  
4 care of certain things.

5 If there is terrorism there, it is their  
6 responsibility to go there, arrest, protect, or what  
7 have you, that needs to be done there, okay? And  
8 right now if you talk to the Sheriff, and here in  
9 Claiborne County, he will tell you that he does not  
10 have enough personnel, that he do not have enough  
11 vehicles.

12 So therefore the protection factor falls,  
13 okay? And that is one of the reasons why we are  
14 concerned about some of the things that has taken  
15 place. The redistribution of funds to something that  
16 Grand Gulf in a sense initiated, not only initiated,  
17 but supported the redistribution of funds.

18 I am very concerned about Entergy when  
19 they talk about doing an application for a second  
20 site, because I just wonder to myself since now that  
21 I am -- well, I am retired, but I do have  
22 grandchildren here, and they intend to stay here, and  
23 I have properties that is within a mile of Grand Gulf  
24 Nuclear Station.

25 And I am very concerned and the citizens

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1 here are concerned, and so we feel like as being a  
2 chapter of the National Association for the  
3 Advancement of Colored People, that it is important  
4 that we speak out.

5 At the same time, we do have a write-up  
6 that we would like to leave with whoever is necessary,  
7 probably the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Would  
8 this be the lady right here who would take that or who  
9 will take this write-up that we have?

10 MR. CAMERON: We will give that to put  
11 with the transcript.

12 MR. GARNER: Absolutely. So one of the  
13 things right now that I would like to say before I go  
14 to my seat, is that we take the position that we  
15 cannot at this time support a second unit until our  
16 issues, some of them anyway, are cleared up; whereas  
17 that some things would take place as far as Grand Gulf  
18 Nuclear 1 is concerned.

19 So at this time, that is our position, and  
20 we appreciate having the time to say so.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. A.C. Garner.  
22 And I am going to ask the staff to just talk to A.C.  
23 after the meeting to just make sure that we know what  
24 created the redistribution of funds so that we can  
25 consider that fully when we develop the draft

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1 environmental impact statement. Mr. Soloman Wilson.

2 MR. WILSON: Good evening again. My name  
3 is Soloman Wilson. My name is Soloman Wilson, and I  
4 am a resident here of Claiborne County, and just live  
5 just outside of Port Gibson.

6 I was speaking earlier to a young lady  
7 from Vicksburg, and I gave her an example of  
8 something, and I was debating about whether I was  
9 going to get up and speak or not. So I am going to go  
10 ahead and use that example, and she may have mentioned  
11 it if I had not spoke to it.

12 I moved away from here about 25 years ago,  
13 and stayed away, and recently came back here to Port  
14 Gibson and Claiborne County. Now, this is my  
15 childhood home, and I am saying this so that you can  
16 get an appreciation for just living here.

17 And I know that you talked about an  
18 environmental impact study, and these are the things  
19 that I would kind of like to have you consider as you  
20 are doing that. I moved back here, and as I said this  
21 is my childhood home, after being away for about 25  
22 years or so.

23 Now, there is a creek right there in the  
24 neighborhood where I grew up. When I was a child, I  
25 would go to that creek and I would kick over rocks,

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1 and I would walk it, and I would fish out of it. So  
2 when I got back, I went to the creek again.

3 And I went down and I picked up a rock.  
4 Now, years ago when I picked up a nice-sized rock, I  
5 would find nice little crawly things under it.  
6 Sometimes just little crawling things under it.

7 But when I came back this time, I picked  
8 up a rock, and I looked, and there was nothing there.  
9 And then I thought that nuclear power plant. Now, I  
10 have gotten back and I like to fish on a boat, and I  
11 go by that nuclear power plant to that port down there  
12 next to the river, and I go across the river, and then  
13 there is a shift that you can go through over there in  
14 Louisiana.

15 When I passed by the nuclear power plant,  
16 I seen the steam coming up, and I noticed the storage  
17 there, and I wondered if I was going to get zapped  
18 going by here today or not.

19 In my community here, I am talking to  
20 people sometimes, and they have an ailment, and a lot  
21 of them went to a lawyer, and you know, I didn't have  
22 all these things happening, you know, and I wonder if  
23 it is that nuclear power plant.

24 My point is this. You are doing an impact  
25 study, and for these just general things that I have

1 mentioned, I would like to emphasize the need to truly  
2 look at all those things, and then as you do the  
3 impact study, to make sure that we are informed in a  
4 very meaningful way on whether or not when I catch a  
5 fish over there in Louisiana that has a funny look on  
6 it, and got a little growth on it, I think nuclear  
7 power plant, and I need to know that it is not.

8 And the same thing with the little creepy,  
9 crawly things under the rocks. I need to know that  
10 those things are not being caused by that nuclear  
11 power plant. So that is the emphasis that I would  
12 like for you to have in this environmental study.

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,  
14 Mr. Wilson. Next, we are going to hear from Rose  
15 Johnson from the Sierra Club. And, Rose, we will see  
16 if we can keep the microphone there, but if we need to  
17 raise it, we will.

18 MS. JOHNSON: I'm Rose Johnson, State  
19 Chair of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club opposes  
20 nuclear power because it is the most dangerous and  
21 environmentally harmful way to produce electricity  
22 that exists.

23 Once again in Mississippi, low income  
24 African-Americans are being placed at the greatest  
25 risk of harm so a greedy corporation can make big

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1 profits. Nuclear power produces extremely hazardous  
2 waste from the cradle to the grave.

3 There is dangerous radiation waste from  
4 mining uranium, from processing it into fuel, and then  
5 from waste material left over after it is used to make  
6 power.

7 To place another nuclear reactor in  
8 Claiborne County doesn't make any sense when there is  
9 already concerns about the present plant. This is a  
10 crime and blatant example of environmental racism.

11 Claiborne County is 84 percent African-  
12 American, with 34 percent living below the poverty  
13 line. One point that is very important is that this  
14 nuclear plant is not needed to produce electricity for  
15 Mississippi.

16 The State already has far more capacity to  
17 produce electricity than is needed now. If this  
18 proposed nuclear plant expansion is so safe, then why  
19 not site it in an affluent white community.

20 But the fact is that it is not safe.  
21 Radioactive release remains very toxic to all life for  
22 thousands, to millions, of years. A longer time than  
23 we can conceive.

24 Nuclear releases are not the legacy that  
25 we want to leave for our children, and our

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1 grandchildren. Shame on you, Entery, trying to hold  
2 the Claiborne County residents hostage because of job  
3 shortages.

4 What good are jobs if you don't have the  
5 health. The Claiborne County residents want what any  
6 other community desires; their god-given right to  
7 breath clean air, and drink clean water.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Rose.  
9 Next, we are going to Evan Doss, then Nathalie Walker,  
10 and Alexander Martin.

11 MR. DOSS: My name is Evan Doss, Junior,  
12 and I am a life-long resident of this community, and  
13 I wouldn't have it no other place but here in  
14 Claiborne County.

15 I am really concerned in terms of the  
16 SERI, System Energy Resource Incorporation, who is the  
17 applicant. My comments are very serious, and I  
18 address the NRC in a way that perhaps they would take  
19 these comments very seriously for the seriousness of  
20 the citizens of Claiborne County.

21 Apparently SERI have taken the position of  
22 using as a co-location strategy in order to obtain an  
23 early site permit. They are trying to attempt to use  
24 existing related documents. They are trying to use  
25 previous unwebbed screening and evaluation process in

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1 establishing the suitability of the site.

2 Also, they tried to use program procedures  
3 and arrangements that have been established and in  
4 place for Grand Gulf Unit 1, a facility with State and  
5 local agencies covering emergency planning and  
6 discharge permits.

7 A site that SERI has selected is  
8 approximately 1,200 feet west and a thousand feet  
9 north of the center of the containment of the existing  
10 Unit 1 site.

11 From an environmentalist standpoint for us  
12 to build a second site in close proximity of the first  
13 unit, and we are talking about over a period of years;  
14 whereas, beginning from day one some 20 years ago when  
15 Entergy first built the site, they have refused to put  
16 one penny into a study to even conduct studies in  
17 terms of any help related that perhaps may have come  
18 from that site.

19 I don't see us getting into without some  
20 kind of commitment based upon some studies here for  
21 the local residents, and here with an increase in  
22 cancer, or the increase in other various kinds of  
23 disease that could have been related to the site, and  
24 without any of that, I don't see us proceeding with a  
25 second Grant Gulf unit here.

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1           SERI is asking the NRC to provide no  
2           significant impact, setting aside the Grand Gulf site.  
3           There has got to be incidents that have already  
4           happened, and I would like to incorporate by  
5           requesting that the NRC raise those issues in terms of  
6           the new comparison of the new site.

7           And also make those documents available to  
8           the local citizens here as well. Another thing that  
9           I have here is that the liaison with the community  
10          that they are asking for is very important, and they  
11          have not been over the period of the 20 years of the  
12          first site that even the people from the site have  
13          even come to this community and sit down in a town  
14          hall meeting that we can intelligently ask and discuss  
15          our questions about the site.

16          This is very important if we are going to  
17          consider a second site that something that should be  
18          instilled in this process for the suitability of this  
19          site that they be required to come here, and sit down  
20          with or in town hall meetings, and explain and hear  
21          our concerns as well.

22          They have not had a liaison from the  
23          officials of that site with any kind of town hall  
24          meetings here within this community. I respectfully  
25          ask that you would allow me to put all my comments in

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1 writing as to the environmental impact that I believe  
2 would certainly affect us here.

3 I would like for you to address, and also  
4 I would like to address here, we are talking about the  
5 suitability of the first site, and we are talking  
6 about an emergency plan that can be impacted from the  
7 environment if we have to evacuate the area.

8 What if the local plan does not go  
9 through? What plan does the system or SERI have from  
10 the standpoint of that plant out there in evacuating  
11 people. I don't know of one that they have.

12 They totally rely upon the local community  
13 to evacuate here, and our big concern here would be  
14 what plan would they have to put in effect to do that.  
15 I certainly would think what is important is  
16 establishing a better communication with SERI in terms  
17 of this with the local community. Thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Doss, and we  
19 certainly would welcome your written comments on those  
20 issues also, and you gave us some comments for us to  
21 consider, and also some comments directed to the  
22 company, too.

23 So thank you very much for that, and is it  
24 Nathalie?

25 MS. WALKER: It is Nathalie. Nathalie

1 spelled without an H is the Italian spelling; and with  
2 an H is the French spelling, and it is still Nathalie  
3 either way.

4 MR. CAMERON: Wow, we are learning a lot  
5 tonight.

6 MS. WALKER: I am Nathalie Walker, and I  
7 am an attorney with Advocates for Environmental Human  
8 Rights. Over the years I have had the privilege of  
9 representing several groups in Mississippi; African-  
10 American communities, and others.

11 And I must say that it really has been a  
12 privilege. You have very involved, very bright, very  
13 active citizens in your State who really care about  
14 your State. It has been quite a privilege for me over  
15 the years.

16 The proposed project that we are talking  
17 about tonight raises several quite enormous issues  
18 that have to be considered in the NEPA process. And  
19 chief among these enormously important issues that  
20 have got to be considered in the NEPA process is  
21 certainly environmental justice.

22 With this project once again we are  
23 talking about an African-Community that is basically  
24 going to receive all of the burdens of this proposed  
25 project, and very few of the benefits.

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1                   And that is environmental racism, and it  
2 fits the pattern that has been established, and well  
3 established, and not just by universities, but also by  
4 our own government. They have done studies long ago  
5 establishing this pattern.

6                   These kinds of facilities that are  
7 potentially very dangerous do get sited in our  
8 communities of color predominantly. With respect to  
9 these burdens and these benefits, I want to talk about  
10 some of the burdens because they are quite  
11 significant.

12                   With respect to the facility that  
13 currently exists, there are very few Port Gibson  
14 residents that have jobs at that facility. It is a  
15 small percentage, and it is a small portion.

16                   With respect to the tax revenues generated  
17 by the facility, and you have heard a little bit about  
18 that already tonight, and I understand that could be  
19 a huge issue.

20                   And if you are getting huge tax benefits  
21 and you want to take the attendant risks, I am not  
22 here to judge you. But that is not the situation that  
23 you are in.

24                   Claiborne County receives a very small  
25 portion of the tax revenues generated by the facility.

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1 That was not true at first, but soon after the  
2 facility began operating, it all changed. So that  
3 there are now 48 counties that share the tax revenues  
4 generated by the facility.

5 The facility is not in 48 counties, It is  
6 in this county, and since that change happened, we are  
7 basically talking about somewhere in the neighborhood  
8 of \$200 million that should have come to this county.

9 But it hasn't since the decision was made  
10 to send it out to all 48. This is a huge burden and  
11 this is a burden that other communities that have  
12 nuclear facilities don't have to bear. At least they  
13 get all of the tax revenues.

14 There is another burden. All of the tons  
15 of toxic radioactive waste that have been produced at  
16 Grand Gulf are sitting right here on the site. A lot  
17 of people don't know that everywhere the county that  
18 if you have a nuclear reactor, you have got all of the  
19 tons, and tons, and tons of waste that they have  
20 produced right there on site, and that is not going to  
21 change.

22 It is not going to change. The proposed  
23 Yucca Mountain repository for all this nuclear waste  
24 that has been talked about for years, and years, and  
25 years, and years, is not going to be available for

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1 years, and years, and years, if at all.

2 There are well respected scientists who  
3 have been weighing in on Yucca Mountain saying that in  
4 essence, in layman's terms, what, are you nuts? You  
5 can't put nuclear waste there.

6 And let's just assume for a minute that  
7 Yucca Mountain ever becomes a reality, what you all  
8 need to know in this community is that Yucca Mountain  
9 would already be full when the current Grand Gulf  
10 facility reactor reaches the end of its operating  
11 life.

12 So this pipe dream out there about Yucca  
13 Mountain, which I think is a total pipe dream, and if  
14 you don't want to believe the pipe dream, fine. But  
15 even if it is not a pipe dream, it is not going to be  
16 available for the waste from what you have here now,  
17 and any additional waste that you get in the future.

18 Let's talk about another burden.  
19 Residents of Port Gibson are exposed to radiation from  
20 the existing facility, and obviously now more exposure  
21 is proposed, because we are talking about another  
22 facility, another facility that has in fact the  
23 capacity for 2 or 3 reactors, and that is possible.

24 Nobody can deny that scientists have  
25 documented that radiation exposure increases the risk

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1 of cancer and all kinds of serious health problems;  
2 birth defects, still births, and the science is there,  
3 absolutely.

4 We have also touched on a concern earlier  
5 tonight, which I know that we all feel. 9/11 is a  
6 reality that we have to deal with. Now, the Grand  
7 Gulf proposal that we are considering tonight is going  
8 to make the Port or going to make the existing  
9 facility an even bigger terrorist target.

10 It is not me saying it. Your government  
11 and the Office of Homeland Security has said, whoa,  
12 nuclear facilities are a big target, and we are  
13 talking about a nuclear facility that is in a pretty  
14 remote area, and now we are making it huge.

15 So if you wanted to attack a nuclear  
16 facility, why not pick a really big one in a really  
17 remote area. That is an incredible burden. And  
18 this facility site is not really remote. I mean, it  
19 is really easily accessible, especially from the  
20 river.

21 These are only a few of the burdens, but  
22 they are significant. And as the Nuclear Regulatory  
23 Commission held in the Louisiana Energy Services case  
24 just a few years ago, which I did litigate,  
25 environmental justice is used such as these have to be

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1 considered as part of the NEPA process.

2 So all of these issues that I have  
3 mentioned tonight, they need to be discussed, and they  
4 need to be discussed thoroughly in the NEPA documents.

5 Furthermore, all of these burdens must  
6 also be adequately analyzed as costs, as part of the  
7 cost benefit analysis that NEPA also requires. And  
8 finally just let me comment that regardless of ending  
9 any finding, past, present, or future, by the  
10 Commission about what could happen with waste, as a  
11 matter of law the cumulative impacts of the additional  
12 radiation exposure and the additional tons of waste  
13 that will be stored at this site pursuant to this  
14 proposal if it goes all the way through, do have to be  
15 considered.

16 A cumulative impacts analysis is a  
17 fundamental and critical part of NEPA, and it can't be  
18 trumped by any agency or commission.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
20 Nathalie, and we are next going to go to Alexander  
21 Martin. Alexander.

22 MR. MARTIN: Thank you. For the record,  
23 I am Alexander Martin, and I am a local resident. I  
24 didn't know what to expect when I came here tonight,  
25 and did not have any idea as to who would be here, and

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1 I am glad to see people from across the Nation, and  
2 across this State, come here to address their  
3 concerns.

4 But I think that it is more important that  
5 people from this community express genuine issues. I  
6 am glad to know that other people would have been here  
7 for me had I chose not to appear tonight.

8 I first want to say that I hope that this  
9 is not an exercise in futility. As I observed the  
10 process, I could not help but think that some of the  
11 manner in which the questions were responded to and  
12 the approaches taken were condescending in nature.  
13 But I would simply hope that this is serious and that  
14 our comments will be heard.

15 I want to say that I heard a lot that made  
16 me think, and I guess the most disturbing thing that  
17 I heard was the reality of how close the year 2007  
18 actually is. It makes me wonder what if, and what is  
19 going to happen in 2007.

20 I want to echo the sentiments of the local  
21 people who talked about environmental racism. That is  
22 a genuine issue that must be considered when this  
23 application is being reviewed, and why Claiborne  
24 County, Mississippi, and why Grand Gulf Nuclear  
25 Station.

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1                   As    our   African-American   population  
2                   continues to thrive, and our caucasian population  
3                   diminishes, 20 years from now what will the population  
4                   be. As we study demographics across the Nation, we  
5                   already know that we can project what the population  
6                   in this community will be, and we just reiterate those  
7                   comments regarding environmental racism.

8                   And I call upon the governing body of this  
9                   county tonight to be ever mindful of the tax inequity  
10                  that exists, and I don't know if this is an NRC  
11                  problem, or a State of Mississippi problem, or what.

12                  But there is a tremendous tax inequity  
13                  that currently exists with regard to the distribution  
14                  of tax dollars. And this should not be about money,  
15                  and I hope that we don't sit down and say that if all  
16                  of the tax dollars could come here, then we should be  
17                  for the approval of this permit.

18                  But certainly the reverse is that why  
19                  should we assume the risk and distribute those funds,  
20                  those resources, across the State of Mississippi to  
21                  people who are less at risk than we are.

22                  Let's keep that in mind, and I direct  
23                  those comments specifically to the residents of  
24                  Claiborne County, and ask that we constantly call upon  
25                  our elected officials to do everything possible to see

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1 that the NRC and this application process is taken  
2 seriously, and to see that those tax dollars are  
3 returned to Claiborne County if there is going to be  
4 a second site here.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Martin. For  
6 our next three speakers, we are going to first go to  
7 Becky Gillette, and then Martha Ferris, and then Scott  
8 Peterson.

9 MS. GILLETTE: Hello. My name is Becky  
10 Gillette, and I drove 5 hours to get here today, and  
11 I came from the Gulf Coast. I think I went in the  
12 wrong direction.

13 But I am the Conservation Chair for the  
14 Mississippi Chapter of the Sierra Club, and I am also  
15 a native of Idaho, and you might say, well, what do I  
16 have to say about that. Well, Idaho. Arco was the  
17 first nuclear powered city in the U.S.

18 And I remember when I was growing up there  
19 how proud I was of that, and how much faith that we  
20 had that we were going to use technology to do all  
21 these wonderful things.

22 Well, now there is a nuclear test site in  
23 that part of Idaho, which is a very sparsely populated  
24 desert, and now the underground aquifer in that region  
25 is contaminated with radioactive material. That is a

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1 huge concern out there.

2 And so when we are talking tonight, we are  
3 talking more than just about one new site. We are  
4 talking about reviving an entire industry that has  
5 been basically dead, or as far as new permits has been  
6 dead for decades.

7 And so I think when we look at that, I  
8 think you would have to look at these issues about  
9 from the cradle to the grave, and the impact that this  
10 industry has all the way through the chain.

11 About 3 years ago, I attended an  
12 environmental justice workshop that was put on by the  
13 government, ATSDR, and other agencies, in Weblin,  
14 Mississippi. At that meeting, there were chiefs of  
15 some Indian nations that came to speak about the  
16 contamination of their sacred lands by uranium mining.

17 They talked about how difficult it was to  
18 tell their people to not eat the fish out of the  
19 stream. Do not eat the deer. They are contaminated.  
20 Well, these are their sacred lands, and these are the  
21 lands that have supported them for many generations,  
22 and now they can't use them anymore.

23 Well, I will tell you the thing that was  
24 the most chilling to me about that conference is the  
25 people whose names were on the agenda to speak and

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1 tell their stories, and who are not able to come  
2 because they were too sick.

3 And the problem with people being active  
4 on that issue is that a lot of them were getting  
5 cancer and dying off, and so it was difficult for the  
6 environmental movement to organize and keep people  
7 coming because of those types of issues.

8 So I am saying that this is not just a  
9 local issue. It is a global issue. Chernoble gave  
10 off radiation 2,000 miles away, and so anything that  
11 happens here could contaminate a good portion of the  
12 world.

13 And when you are looking at the costs  
14 here, one cost that you have to look at is the Gulf of  
15 Mexico. If there is an accident at this plant, and it  
16 goes down the Mississippi River, you will destroy the  
17 seafood industry that now creates hundreds of millions  
18 of dollars in revenue and food for people to eat.

19 So I think that you really need to look at  
20 that issue. Regarding the site, this is on the  
21 Mississippi River. We know now that global warming is  
22 a real phenomena, and that one of the consequences of  
23 that is increased storm events, severity of  
24 hurricanes, and flooding.

25 So I think that that is something that

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1 needs to be factored into, especially when you are  
2 talking about that this permit could be good for 20  
3 years, and then I guess recycled again for 20 years  
4 after that.

5 One point that I wanted to make about  
6 rocket science and this idea that I had as a kid that  
7 that nuclear power was wonderful, and it was going to  
8 solve a lot of problems, and it was going to be a peak  
9 hour for the universe or whatever.

10 Well, you know, we have learned better  
11 now. Now, what about Creosote, and one time we  
12 thought that was great, great stuff to use to treat  
13 poles, and now we are spending like -- and again  
14 African-American communities have gotten the most  
15 burden.

16 They are the ones who have the most pre-  
17 soak plants, and one case alone in Columbia, a  
18 hundred-million dollar settlement recently for  
19 Creosote contamination. We have the same problems as  
20 a number of other communities.

21 We know now that Creosote is not good for  
22 you, and we are not using it anymore. Well, Creosote  
23 at least can be treated. It can be remediated. It  
24 doesn't last for thousands of years.

25 You can use different processes to break

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1 it down to make it non-toxic, and compared to  
2 Creosote, nuclear waste, or rather nuclear waste  
3 compared to Creosote, Creosote is cotton candy.

4 We are talking about something that is  
5 toxic for so very long that we really can't even  
6 imagine the amount of time that it is, and it is  
7 simply irresponsible of us to take this path when  
8 there are other known and safer methods to generate  
9 power.

10 The Native Americans believe that you  
11 should take no action that is going to harm the  
12 seventh generation, and when they are looking at their  
13 actions, they are looking at seven generations down  
14 the road.

15 We are doing things right here today that  
16 are affecting this generation with the nuclear power,  
17 and that simply is not acceptable. We do not need a  
18 resurgence of this industry. Thank you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
20 you, Becky, and thanks for driving a long distance to  
21 give us those comments, too. Martha, and then we are  
22 going to go to Scott Peterson after Martha Ferris.

23 MS. FERRIS: I am going to be very brief  
24 because so many people who have preceded me have been  
25 so eloquent on the concerns that the prospect of a

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1 second nuclear reactor raises for us here, the  
2 citizens of Claiborne County, and Warren County were  
3 I am from.

4 And as I have said at other public  
5 meetings here, I look out from the window of where I  
6 got to every work every day in my studio in Warren  
7 County, and I see on the horizon the cooling tower,  
8 and I am reminded of how close I am.

9 Mr. Tappert, you said earlier tonight that  
10 this process, this early site process, and this step  
11 of the process that public involvement was integral  
12 and important to it.

13 I wondered in light of that why this  
14 meeting in a small Southern town, knowing that you  
15 want to involve the public, would be held on a  
16 Wednesday night when most people are in church.

17 I also wondered at the visuals that we  
18 were shown tonight, which you described as cartoons  
19 would simplify a process that is extremely  
20 complicated, and that we deserve much more intense and  
21 regulatory explanations about.

22 I am not interested in generic findings.  
23 I am interested in hearing from people like Mr.  
24 Wilson, who has come back after 25 years, and there  
25 are no longer creepy crawleys under the rocks that he

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1 is picking up.

2 I am interested in hearing stories of  
3 people who go fishing and are finding fish belly up.  
4 I think another thing that I wanted to mention in  
5 terms of emergency preparedness, which I believe is an  
6 environmental issue, and I think that everything is an  
7 environmental issue.

8 But the whole notion of emergency  
9 preparedness is a big issue in a town where cell  
10 phones don't generally pick up; and where the hospital  
11 is not fully staffed 24 hours a day.

12 I think all of these issues deserve a lot  
13 more consideration and that the people of this county  
14 and this State, in light of everything that has been  
15 raised tonight, deserve a lot more timely  
16 investigation and appreciation. So that is what I  
17 have to say.

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very  
19 much, Martha.

20 MS. FERRIS: You're welcome.

21 MR. CAMERON: Scott Peterson.

22 MR. PETERSON: Thank you, Chip. My name  
23 is Scott Peterson, and I am vice president at the  
24 Nuclear Energy Institute in Washington, D.C. We have  
25 about 250 members that are involved in the energy

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1 industry in the university community to study nuclear  
2 engineering and other applications of nuclear  
3 technology; the medical community, which uses nuclear  
4 technology in one of every three medical diagnostic or  
5 treatment applications; and many, many other members.

6 And it is a pleasure for me to be here  
7 with you today, and it is a pleasure to see so many  
8 people here participating in this process, because  
9 part of the value of the early site permitting  
10 process, and in fact the entire new regulatory process  
11 for building new plants in this country is that there  
12 is meaningful public participation that is frontloaded  
13 in the process, and that will continue throughout the  
14 process.

15 So that the public can be informed and the  
16 public can participate, and make decisions on their  
17 own based on facts, and I just wanted to thank  
18 everybody for being here tonight.

19 I have some remarks that I did prepare  
20 that I would ask to be included in the transcript, but  
21 rather than go through those, I really just wanted to  
22 address maybe 5 or 6 questions that people had, and  
23 either give you some answers from our perspective, or  
24 at least give you places to go to look for answers.

25 I want to start really with a comment made

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1 by the woman from the Sierra Club, who drove from the  
2 Gulf to be here on global warming and climate change,  
3 and really global warming and climate change -- and  
4 this, in part, answers your question also, Mr. Wilson  
5 -- is one of the reasons why not only the United  
6 States, but nations all around the globe, are looking  
7 at nuclear energy again.

8 We are looking at here in the United  
9 States at a 45-percent increase in the demand of  
10 electricity that we will need between now and 2020.  
11 That is a lot of electricity when you stop and think  
12 about how much electricity we use in this country.

13 At the same time that we try to meet that  
14 demand for electricity, and trying to balance all the  
15 fuel sources that we use, whether it is nuclear, coal,  
16 hydro, renewables to nuclear, we have an imperative to  
17 future generations to preserve the air quality that we  
18 have and the environment from global warming.

19 The only ways to do that in the  
20 electricity industry are nuclear energy, renewables,  
21 and hydro. That's it. Everything else produces  
22 emissions.

23 So if you look at our mix today, we have  
24 got about 20 percent nuclear, and about 8 percent  
25 hydro, and 2 percent all renewables combined. If we

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1 are going to meet that 45 percent increase in  
2 electricity demand by 2020, and we are going to do it  
3 in a way that protects our air quality, here is the  
4 analysis that we have looked at based on the  
5 Department of Energy figures, looking out to 2020.

6 Even assuming a doubling of renewable  
7 energy, which we think is possible in the United  
8 States, assuming no new hydro power, because companies  
9 are not building hydro. Rather, hydro is being torn  
10 down.

11 That leaves nuclear as the only other  
12 emission-free source of electricity generation that we  
13 have to meet our growing economy. I have two teenage  
14 sons, and they have insatiable appetites for  
15 electricity at my house every day, all day. If they  
16 are not out playing basketball, or doing something  
17 athletic, they are using electricity in my house.

18 And those applications are growing, and so  
19 the only other option we have is an expansion of  
20 nuclear energy using advanced technologies. The smart  
21 way to approach that, and this is what Entergy is  
22 looking at, and this is what Virginia power, Dominion  
23 Energy is looking at in Virginia, and it is what  
24 Exelon in Illinois is looking at, is maximizing the  
25 value of sites that we have today.

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1                   Now, that is good land management in my  
2 book, okay? This land is already being used for a  
3 power plant, and it has additional land available to  
4 maximize the resources that we have, and the power  
5 lines are there, and the transmission is set up.

6                   All we have to do is add another reactor  
7 there, and that is good land management, rather than  
8 taking it to a whole new site, and building another  
9 facility.

10                  To add nuclear energy to meet that  
11 emission-free portfolio in 2020, we need 50,000 more  
12 megawatts of nuclear energy to add to that, doubling  
13 your renewables.

14                  So that is about 50 large plants by 2020.  
15 We are not going to get there. We simply could not  
16 build that many nuclear plants in that short a time in  
17 this country, but we need to start, and that is the  
18 kind of prudent decision-making that Entergy and those  
19 other companies are looking at now; how to best serve  
20 their customers with low cost, reliable energy, that  
21 at the same time protects the environment.

22                  Another speaker raised the issue of  
23 advanced reactor designs, and I think called them  
24 stripped-down versions of today's designs. I would  
25 look at that in another way. We have got the best

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1 engineers in the country, really globally, and in some  
2 joint partnerships with other countries, looking at  
3 new reactor designs.

4 They are smaller, the same way that our  
5 computer mainframes that used to fit in this room now  
6 fit in a box. You have got technological advances,  
7 and you have got the use of gravity rather than pumps.

8 So that there is less mechanical failures,  
9 or at least the chance of mechanical failures, in  
10 these designs. So it is not stripped-down and it is  
11 the using of advanced technology that like everything  
12 else in our world is getting smaller, and smaller, and  
13 smaller.

14 The overall environmental impact. Let's  
15 face it. All of our electricity sources have  
16 environmental impacts. Every single one of them. The  
17 chemicals that they use in the solar industry are  
18 toxic, and arsenic is one of them. It never goes  
19 away.

20 So they all have drawbacks, every single  
21 one of them. Nuclear and wind, when you look at the  
22 total lifecycle of these facilities, have the least  
23 environmental impact, and they are right there  
24 together.

25 There have been studies done in Europe,

1 and there have been studies down in Japan, and when  
2 you look at the cradle-to-grave application of nuclear  
3 and wind, they are by far the lowest. We have those  
4 independent studies on our website if you would like  
5 to see them. It is [www.nei.org](http://www.nei.org).

6 Those are the kinds of choices that we  
7 have to make in terms of looking at what we want to  
8 add to our electricity system in the years ahead. And  
9 what we have to do is learn the lessons of relying on  
10 a single fuel over the course of specific time  
11 periods.

12 For the last 5 years, this country has  
13 added power plants almost exclusively fueled by  
14 natural gas. The impact of that is rising natural gas  
15 prices, both for industries that use natural gas as a  
16 feed stock -- the chemical industry, the fertilizer  
17 industry -- and our home heating bills for those of us  
18 who use natural gas for heating.

19 So there is an impact, a secondary impact,  
20 to an over-reliance on any single fuel source. We are  
21 blessed in this country with diversity of fuel supply  
22 options for electricity, and we have to continue to  
23 use all of them.

24 One point that I wanted to make on used  
25 fuel management. There has been a lot of discussion

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1 about can I stand in a room with spent fuel, and is it  
2 dangerous. What was not said about used fuel. I have  
3 been in a room with used fuel several times.

4 I have taken tours of reporters and policy  
5 makers into a used fuel storage room. The fuel is  
6 under 30 feet of water, which is a shielding agent for  
7 the radiation, and so you can go in this room with the  
8 appropriate radiation monitors on, and you can stand  
9 in there and look at the pool.

10 You don't want to stand in there a long  
11 time, but you are perfectly safe to go into this  
12 facility and look at the fuel. The same thing with  
13 the dry storage containers that Mr. Williams  
14 referenced.

15 These containers are safe, and they are  
16 approved by the NRC as safe. You can walk up to one  
17 and stand there, and you will not get any health  
18 impacts by standing next to one of these containers.  
19 About 28 companies already have gone from using pool  
20 fuel storage to these dry storage containers.

21 They are made of concrete and steel, and  
22 as one speaker said, you take the oldest fuel out of  
23 your fuel pools, and put it in these containers, and  
24 you store these on-site with security added to that  
25 facility.

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1           So this is a technology that has been  
2 proven, and it is proven not only here, but it is  
3 proven internationally, and it is an alternate step  
4 until a facility at Yucca Mountain is ready.

5           On the issue of stopping construction on  
6 nuclear plants. Mr. Wilson, I think you raised this,  
7 in the '70s. A couple of factors at play there.  
8 There was the construction of nuclear plants that were  
9 stopped, and more construction of coal plants were  
10 stopped at the same time.

11           More than 100 coal plants were stopped;  
12 for two-fold reasons; the inflationary period of the  
13 1970s that drove our economy in the tank, and  
14 electricity growth stopped. So all of a sudden there  
15 was an electricity curve going like this, and it went  
16 like that.

17           So just about every large nuclear power  
18 plant in this country, no matter what the fuel source,  
19 was canceled, and we are now just getting to the point  
20 where we need to start looking again at bringing large  
21 power plants back on line to serve our electricity  
22 needs of the future.

23           With that, I will stop, and I will be here  
24 after the meeting if anybody else has other questions,  
25 and I will be glad to address those. Thank you, Chip.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Scott. We  
2 are going to go to Mr. Segrest, Phil Segrest. And  
3 then we are going to go to Monique Harden, and then to  
4 Jerry Landrum. Phil.

5 MR. SEGREST: I am Phil Segrest, and as I  
6 said earlier, I am a resident of Claiborne County, and  
7 I would like to address some of the same things that  
8 some of the other residents here have, but maybe in a  
9 little different light, Mr. Garner being one of them.

10 First off, I would like to say that I  
11 don't know of anyone in this community, be it directly  
12 or indirectly, who has not benefitted from the Grand  
13 Gulf Nuclear Plant.

14 We are far better off with it than without  
15 it. I think that Mr. Garner brought up a good point  
16 when he talked about the tax inequities. I moved back  
17 here like Mr. Wilson did after being gone for a number  
18 of years, and I am a local businessman here now, but  
19 my background is in engineering, and I started off on  
20 the Apollo Space Program.

21 But back to the tax issue. The money was  
22 divvied up by the Legislature to the other counties,  
23 and their rationale was that the people from the other  
24 counties were paying an electric bill that came from  
25 Grand Gulf, and therefore they ought to benefit some

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1 back from it.

2 Well, I think that we ought to take that  
3 same thing and I think we ought to challenge our  
4 political leaders in the county here, and in the city,  
5 to go back to the Legislature and say our people go to  
6 the gaming facilities in Vicksburg, and we want our  
7 share of that money.

8 Our people, about the same time that they  
9 took the money away from Claiborne County, they built  
10 a big mall in Jackson by the name of Metro Mall, and  
11 a mass exodus of our people leaving this county and  
12 going up there with their dollars and spending them at  
13 the Metro Mall, and we didn't get any of that tax  
14 benefit back.

15 So if we are going to fight that, we ought  
16 to go fight it, and some of the legal people who are  
17 environmental something or another that they were, and  
18 the lady who was up here before brought that up, and  
19 if she would like to come and give us some free legal  
20 help on that, I am sure that the county would  
21 appreciate that, too.

22 A comment to the gentleman that talked  
23 about the lesser control room, and the last speaker  
24 who talked some about the technology changes, the  
25 computers that did all the checkouts for the Apollo

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1 spacecraft, the launch of the Apollo spacecraft, fill  
2 up a room about 10 times this size.

3 Each one of them being a tower taller than  
4 I am, and each one of those towers now is superseded  
5 in power by the laptop that is sitting in front of the  
6 young lady here at the table that is putting on the  
7 Powerpoint.

8 So lesser controls doesn't mean lesser  
9 capacity or lesser capabilities. There has been a lot  
10 of talk about alternative fuels, and there is a lot of  
11 talk right now about fuel cells being one of the  
12 alternative fuels.

13 Fuel cells is what blew up Apollo 13, and  
14 so like the gentleman before me said, there are  
15 inherent dangers in everything that we try, and we  
16 just have to be able to manage the risk, and I think  
17 that as you look back at the nuclear industry in the  
18 United States, we have been highly regulated.

19 Don't try to compare apples to a slice of  
20 bread like people have done, where they have brought  
21 up Chernoble in the Soviet Union, an entirely  
22 different setting, other than it is an isotope. There  
23 is a sign back here that got my attention when I first  
24 walked in, and it says better active now than  
25 radioactive later.

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1 Well, I have lived back here for 10 years,  
2 and the most radiation that I have gotten has been a  
3 couple of medical tests that I have had, where I have  
4 had radioactive treadmill tests, and a lung scan with  
5 radioactive material.

6 All radioactive material is not bad. In  
7 fact, none of it is bad if we harness it and use it  
8 properly. There are tax benefits here even though the  
9 tax money, a large portion of it, was taken away from  
10 the county, and I think that Mr. Doss, who was a tax  
11 collector here and assessor for a number of years,  
12 could attest to this.

13 But I paid taxes in four different  
14 counties around here, and I have got a business in  
15 Claiborne County, and one in Warren County, and  
16 essentially the same business, and I pay \$600 in  
17 Claiborne County, and I pay \$8,000 in Warren County.

18 I have got land in Claiborne on the  
19 Claiborne-Jefferson County line, and I pay a dollar an  
20 acre in Claiborne County, and I pay \$6 in Jefferson  
21 County, and I pay \$3 in Copiah County. So we do have  
22 some tax benefits, even though it has been greatly  
23 diminished.

24 We have talked about the poverty level,  
25 and the poverty level here is because we don't have

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1 enough industry, and that's why I say can anybody  
2 really say that we have not all benefitted from what  
3 Grand Gulf has brought to this county.

4 I would hate to think where we are now or  
5 where we would be now if we had not had the benefits  
6 from Grand Gulf. Tax money though is not everything,  
7 and I will draw the analogy between Claiborne and  
8 Jefferson County, where the racial mix is  
9 approximately the same, and maybe a little more black  
10 than white down there in percentage.

11 But about the same, and in Claiborne  
12 County is one of the better funded school systems in  
13 the State, in terms of per capita funding. Jefferson  
14 County is one of the poorest ones yet, and yet the  
15 children in Jefferson County score higher on the  
16 standardized tests that they get every year.

17 So we need to address education and how  
18 our money is being spent, more than how much more  
19 money we need, although I do agree that we need more.

20 Someone mentioned something about a big  
21 target in a rural area. Terrorism thrives on fear,  
22 and you can't create fear by killing a few people.  
23 You have got to kill a lot of people, and that is why  
24 9/11 was so effective.

25 They hit a big target in a big city, with

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1 a lot of people. They hit other targets, and  
2 fortunately that they didn't hit. But there again I  
3 am not saying that Grand Gulf couldn't be a target.  
4 It certainly could, but it is something that is lesser  
5 a target here than say a nuclear plant in a populated  
6 New England area. I think that is probably enough.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thanks, Mr. Segrest.  
8 Monique.

9 MS. HARDEN: Good evening, and I am going  
10 to make my comments brief, because it is getting late  
11 in the evening. I wanted to begin my comments by  
12 focusing on the Louisiana Energy Services case. It  
13 was in this case that two African-American communities  
14 in Louisiana, the communities of Forest Grove and  
15 Cedar Springs, were successful in stopping the  
16 licensing of a uranium enrichment facility on  
17 environmental justice grounds, and the decision maker  
18 was the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

19 In that case the Nuclear Regulatory  
20 Commission was compelled to set up a very important  
21 national environmental justice precedent, and in that  
22 decision I quote the Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
23 held, and I quote, that this great impact analysis is  
24 our principal tool for advancing environmental justice  
25 under the National Environmental Policy Act. The

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1 NRC's goal is to identify and adequately weigh and  
2 mitigate the effects on low income and Marthaity  
3 communities that become apparent only by considering  
4 factors peculiar to those communities.

5 Now, I question at this point in time the  
6 NRC's commitment to upholding its own decision in this  
7 environmental justice case, because if the staff of  
8 the NRC were truly serious about identifying the  
9 effects of Entergy's proposed nuclear reactor  
10 facility, it wouldn't hold this meeting on a Wednesday  
11 night when many of the residents in Port Gibson and  
12 Claiborne County are busy with all of the daily  
13 obligations and responsibilities that they have.

14 And therefore are precluded from coming  
15 and presenting their comments at this meeting. The  
16 issue for the NRC is not to look at this proposed  
17 reactor in a vacuum. It has got to look at this  
18 reactor and connection with the existing reactor that  
19 is in Port Gibson here.

20 And at the reactor site and the area  
21 surrounding it, people are concerned about cancer, and  
22 the growing rates of cancer, and what we know that it  
23 is a scientific fact that nuclear radiation causes  
24 cancer, period.

25 And Entergy's nuclear reactor, the

1 proposed one that we are now talking about, would  
2 definitely increase radiation levels as part of its  
3 routine operation.

4 You would not have to wait for a  
5 catastrophe to happen at the reactor to have radiation  
6 emissions. These reactors are not as was said earlier  
7 emission free, and as part of their daily routine  
8 operations, they are leaking and emitting  
9 radioactivity into our air, land, and water.

10 How can we even consider adding another  
11 nuclear reactor when Entergy has failed to deliver on  
12 its 25 or so year old promise of job creation in this  
13 area. What happened, and why is there now double-  
14 digit unemployment in this area, which is one of among  
15 the highest in the State of Mississippi.

16 And in addition to the unemployment, you  
17 have to add to that is the situation that you have a  
18 situation where the young people who work here move  
19 away. Why? Because they don't have the kinds of job  
20 opportunities that they would be interested in  
21 pursuing and they work elsewhere.

22 I believe that the NRC must consider all  
23 of these impacts, and not piecemeal these impacts in  
24 these little cubby holes and these categories of,  
25 well, this is for safety, and this is for environment,

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1 and this is for health.

2 It is about people's lives in this area,  
3 and all of these impacts are all important. And it  
4 can't be treated in this bureaucratic fashion of  
5 slicing and dicing these priority impacts, because  
6 they are all important.

7 Again, let me just say that the comments  
8 that I made earlier regarding the flow chart that was  
9 shown in the open house session of this meeting is  
10 extremely telling about the direction that the NRC  
11 Commission has taken with regard to Entergy's nuclear  
12 energy reactor.

13 You have heard all of the comments up to  
14 my point, up to mine, and you have heard that people  
15 have serious concerns, and raising objections about  
16 this facility. But yet you presented as part of your  
17 open house on how you operate under a Federal  
18 environmental law that following the hearing that  
19 construction happens.

20 It doesn't have to be that way, and we  
21 showed them in Louisiana that we can stop licensing of  
22 dangerous and hazardous facilities in our African-  
23 American communities, and we will show them again.  
24 Thank you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thanks, Monique, and

1       thank you, and also Martha Ferris for reminding us  
2       about Wednesday being church night. And we have three  
3       speakers at this point, and this is Jerry. Please  
4       introduce yourself to us.

5                   MR. LANDRUM: (Off microphone)       Good  
6       evening, and my name is Jerry Landrum, and I am from  
7       (inaudible) Mississippi, and I want to thank everybody  
8       for all of your intended comments. I learned a lot  
9       and that is what I came up here for. Just a couple of  
10      quick points.

11                   One, I am a little bit alarmed at this  
12      cozy relationship that appears to exist between  
13      industry and the regulatory agency again, and I see  
14      that a lot. Ike warned us about the military  
15      industrial complex, and I see sort of an industrial  
16      government complex at work here, and with this funding  
17      arrangement, that sounds sort of Arthur Anderson-ish  
18      a little bit.

19                   And I understand even that perhaps even  
20      some of the funding to do the site application may  
21      have come through the government. Is that correct?

22                   MR. CAMERON: The Department of Energy.  
23      I don't know what the facts are on that, and that may  
24      well be true.

25                   MS. LANDRUM: But if the Federal

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1 Government and the Department of Energy have finally  
2 gotten the idea of global warming and the concerns of  
3 that, then I think that is great. As to which is the  
4 most noxious (inaudible) effects, they brought in  
5 fossil fuels, or the nuclear energy, I am not sure.  
6 They are both pretty bad.

7 What I would like to suggest, and which  
8 has not been brought out, was to put in a plug for  
9 energy conservation. They have these sprinkle  
10 replacement light bulbs that you can screw in and  
11 replace a 60 watt light bulb and it gives just as much  
12 light on about 13 watts, and it costs about two bucks  
13 a piece now, \$2 to \$3, and it pays for itself in about  
14 a month in just the energy saving there.

15 But it is even more so in the summer time  
16 because I have to have air-conditioning to pump out  
17 all of that extra heat that is given off of it, and so  
18 that is just one of many.

19 And the Federal Government sponsored this  
20 energy star program, and we need to have more of that,  
21 and it is a great program, and the new freezers and  
22 refrigerators are much thicker and you can save a lot  
23 of energy there.

24 A couple of other things. There are good  
25 things going on. One thing that is missing, I don't

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1 think that the Mississippi Power Company has the  
2 arrangement yet to where they will buy electricity  
3 back from a small time producer, and that needs to be  
4 in place, because that way you use the grid as the  
5 battery to store the excess off of, and I really  
6 believe -- and I think we could also alter our  
7 consumption in about half, and you are talking about  
8 a 42 percent increase, and I think just energy saving  
9 and doing things that don't really hurt your standard  
10 of living that much.

11 It would just about account for this  
12 increase, and living without any more power  
13 generation, period. Thank you very much.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Jerry. We  
15 have two final speakers, and one is Ruth, Ruth Pullen.  
16 And then we are going to go to David Ritter.

17 MS. Pullen: My name is Ruth Pullen, and  
18 I live in Bonner, Mississippi, and I didn't come  
19 prepared to make any comments, and so I hope that you  
20 will bear with me as they might be kind of rough, but  
21 there are a few issues that I wanted to address.

22 And one is that I just absolutely believe  
23 that no more nuclear waste should be generated, and if  
24 that is not supposed to be dealt with at this point in  
25 the process, then it shouldn't be, because I don't

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1 think when you generate these deadly wastes that are  
2 going to be around for tens of thousands of years,  
3 that that is an issue that should be dealt with before  
4 anything else is considered.

5 I mean, we have billions of dollars in  
6 superfund sites now that have not been cleaned up, and  
7 in decades have yet to be cleaned up, and we are  
8 depending on the government for that, and they aren't  
9 funding it, and I think that this is the same kind of  
10 situation.

11 If you can't deal with it, and if you  
12 can't store it, and if you can't get rid of it, then  
13 you shouldn't produce it. And I guess the main thing  
14 that I wanted to talk about that some people have kind  
15 of referred to, but I would like to go into a little  
16 more detail, is the issue of the contamination of the  
17 Mississippi River in the case of catastrophic accident  
18 or a high release of nuclear waste.

19 I think Becky addressed the issue of the  
20 fisheries, but if this river was contaminated many of  
21 the communities the length of the river from here down  
22 depends on the river for water, and there is an  
23 industrial corridor from Baton Rouge to New Orleans  
24 that depends on the river water for all their  
25 industrial usage.

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1           New Orleans itself depends on the river  
2           for drinking water, and there is also the issue of  
3           wetlands, which have been used for water purification  
4           and hurricane mitigation.

5           There is the fisheries, and also the  
6           current could potentially carry this waste from  
7           Florida to Texas. So you are talking about just  
8           incomprehensible damage if this whole area was  
9           contaminated, and I think that is something that  
10          really needs to be considered.

11          I don't think not only in the human costs,  
12          but I don't think you can separate environmental  
13          issues from economic issues. I think the gentleman --  
14          and I am not sure who it was, but who was talking  
15          about the waste issue would be dealt with in this  
16          current EIS based on the life of the plant, the life  
17          of the nuclear facility, which I am not sure now, but  
18          it used to be 20 years, and maybe it is 40 years now.

19          And I don't believe that at that point  
20          that there will be a facility to store this waste, and  
21          concrete and metal dry casks do not last tens of  
22          thousands of years. So I think there is a lot of  
23          considerations that need to be dealt with.

24          The other thing that I noticed, and that  
25          is not part of this meeting, but since these issues

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1 were brought up about alternative energy, the  
2 gentleman that spoke before me I thought raised a lot  
3 of good points.

4 But there are also a lot of studies that  
5 show that we could go now to viable alternative energy  
6 and produce, and satisfy all of our energy needs. And  
7 I agree that every energy source has its advantages  
8 and disadvantages, but I think those kinds of things  
9 should definitely be considered.

10 The other thing, also architectural  
11 standards, and there is lots of things that you could  
12 do with conservation that have not been dealt with.

13 But I just have to make the point, and I  
14 know that you made the point that your sons have an  
15 insatiable need or appetite for energy, and I just  
16 really want to make the plea that that is not funny.  
17 That is extremely irresponsible.

18 But we all have to be responsible in our  
19 energy use. I mean, which would you rather have, cut  
20 down a little bit on your energy usage, or have Grand  
21 Gulf, and you are talking about people that maybe --  
22 I don't know how far the grid here goes, but you are  
23 talking about people that have an insatiable appetite  
24 for energy that are not going to be affected if there  
25 is a discharge that is at Grand Gulf.

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1           It is the people in Claiborne County and  
2           the people down river that are going to be affected.  
3           So sorry to bring that up, but since it was  
4           incorporated, I really hope you would consider that  
5           and that there are major issues.

6           MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,  
7           Ruth, and I know that we could have a month long  
8           series of meetings about how to get teenage boys to  
9           comply with any common sense suggestions. But maybe  
10          another month from now, but thank you, Ruth. Our last  
11          speaker is David Ritter.

12          MR. RITTER: Good evening everyone. My  
13          name is Dave Ritter, and I am a policy analyst with  
14          Public Citizen, the critical mass energy and  
15          environment program, in Washington, D.C. I have a  
16          little bit of ground to cover, and I might speak  
17          through quickly to get us out of here that much  
18          sooner, and everybody can race to the bathroom.

19          But I concur with the comments of -- you  
20          know, the opponents that have gathered here tonight,  
21          and the organizations and individuals that are  
22          opposing the early site permit at Grand Gulf, and  
23          Public Citizen will be filing a petition for  
24          intervention regarding this early site permit.

25          And some of the issues that have been

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1 brought up tonight, I would like to reiterate that  
2 they are crucial and need to be addressed immediately.

3 The distribution of tax revenues, and who  
4 bears the risks, and who reaps the benefits; and  
5 existence and/or adequacy of the emergency evacuation  
6 plans; and environmental justice issues, and this is  
7 huge, and class and race issues and they must be  
8 addressed.

9 Impacts on plant and animal life, and the  
10 fish in the Mississippi, and everything that is  
11 revolving in that biosphere surrounding Grand Gulf and  
12 that biosphere generally and we humans that live in  
13 it.

14 Also, and I hear this at every NRC meeting  
15 that I go to practically, even if it is not about  
16 reactors, because I deal a lot with low level nuclear  
17 waste, and not the stuff that will kill you in like 5  
18 minutes if you were next to it, and it wouldn't be in  
19 the water, but the stuff that would give you cancer  
20 within 10 years or 30 years, and so forth.

21 And that is about radiation and how it is  
22 a fact of daily life. We have heard a lot about how  
23 the NRC has deemed that the routine releases from  
24 plants are safe and pose no substantial health risks  
25 to humans.

1                   We are told that we live with radiation  
2 all around us every day, and that radiation is just  
3 another fact of life, but an important distinction to  
4 make here is that between radiation exposures that  
5 people can't reasonably avoid, unless a person becomes  
6 a very desired lifestyle, and wants to avoid the sun  
7 completely, and never fly in an airplane to visit  
8 relatives on the other side of the world, it is true  
9 that there is a lot of radiation out there in nature  
10 that is difficult to avoid.

11                   But ionizing radiation that comes from a  
12 nuclear reactor is an entirely different matter, and  
13 that has to do with activities of mankind and how we  
14 deal with technology.

15                   So it creates a whole other issue that  
16 needs to be addressed and if you have exposure to  
17 radioisotopes that are in your drinking water, and in  
18 the soil, and in the air, that is a whole other matter  
19 than a little bit of radiation that may be in a  
20 banana.

21                   So I just think that it is time to put  
22 that to rest, and the whole idea that it is a  
23 radioactive world and so let's just throw some more  
24 into it. It is time for -- you know, that is kind of  
25 absurd.



1                   And the best solution found for the waste  
2                   being just throwing it in a hole in the ground is  
3                   disturbing. Let's see. The myth that nuclear is a  
4                   clean air energy, and there is a lot to say here, but  
5                   the proponent of nuclear energy would like us to  
6                   believe that uranium fuel rods simply and magically  
7                   appear in a nuclear reactor's core.

8                   This is not the case, and the process is  
9                   neither simple nor magic. From the front end to the  
10                  back end of the uranium fuel cycle, there is a  
11                  considerable reliance on fossil fuels. Uranium mining  
12                  and uranium milling, processing, and fuel fabrication,  
13                  all require fossil fuel use in order to deliver fuel  
14                  rods to the reactor.

15                 And, of course, this does not even begin  
16                 to cover the unfathomable amounts of energy to create  
17                 a Yucca Mountain, and/or to ship the nation's high  
18                 level waste from the reactors across the country to  
19                 the site, or in this case to the sites if we need more  
20                 than one.

21                 And this brings me to an MIT report, a  
22                 2003 study done by the Massachusetts Institute of  
23                 Technology, the future of nuclear power, and the  
24                 global growth scenario for nuclear power necessary to  
25                 have any impact on greenhouse gas production would

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1 require the construction and operation of 1,000 to  
2 1,500 reactors of 1,000 megawatt capacity each by  
3 2050, in addition to the 444 reactors currently  
4 operating worldwide.

5 By MIT's account, this would mean locating  
6 and building additional geological nuclear waste sites  
7 like Yucca Mountain, the proposed Yucca Mountain,  
8 every 3 to 4 years, and equivalent to the Yucca  
9 Mountain size.

10 So therefore we are talking about  
11 sacrificing areas being dotted all across the globe.  
12 Energy efficiency. Regarding our own shared  
13 insatiable use of energy, and I wouldn't put all the  
14 brunt on Mr. Peterson's kids. I think that we all  
15 bear some responsibility here, and we should share  
16 that responsibility.

17 But Mr. Peterson did brush upon the merits  
18 of wind energy, and I guess there is something on  
19 NEI's site about that, but additional benefits of  
20 wind, particularly compared to nuclear plants, include  
21 that windmills would make pretty awful terrorist  
22 targets.

23 You are not going to scare or kill many  
24 people that way, or harm them with radioisotopes, or  
25 whatever other pollutants that we are talking about,

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1 toxins.

2 Windmills don't create tons of nuclear  
3 waste every year, and they do not require a 10-mile  
4 radius evacuation zone and plan, of which I guess the  
5 one for Grand Gulf is of questionable use and value.

6 Benefits to this area briefly with 11  
7 percent unemployment for Claiborne County, and I guess  
8 within the last decade or so there has been a loss of  
9 population to the county, this is not typically  
10 interpreted as something as signs of a prosperous area  
11 when you are losing population, and you have  
12 unemployment rates like that.

13 And what about -- and this is something  
14 that I feel is important in all reactor communities,  
15 whether existing reactors or looking at new ones, but  
16 what about when the plants shut down and eventually  
17 that has got to happen at all of these, even if they  
18 do the 40 years, plus the additional 20 that nearly  
19 all of them are applying for.

20 They have got to shut them down at some  
21 point, and it will only make sense for them to shut  
22 them down instead of continuing to make repairs. You  
23 have decommissioning, and the enormous costs of that,  
24 and there was a recent GAO report that indicated that  
25 a lot of nuclear plant owner/operators were not doing

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1 their best at maintaining the funds that they needed  
2 to have built up in order to do a proper  
3 decommissioning, which of course has a lot to do with  
4 environmental issues.

5 Once they leave, are they going to leave  
6 behind a clean site that people would feel comfortable  
7 getting close to, or having a park on, or you name it.

8 Is it going to be a green site some day,  
9 and finally, and I am wrapping up here, something that  
10 as I have gone around and talked to citizens in the  
11 area, including Port Gibson, of course you hear a lot  
12 about the jobs, and that is an issue that can't be  
13 avoided by anyone that wants to take the issue  
14 seriously whether a new plant makes sense or not.

15 But I did appreciate the comments from  
16 Rose Johnson that it is a false choice or a bad choice  
17 when a community needs to choose between their health  
18 and future generation's health, and being able to have  
19 some kind of job to put the food on the table and a  
20 roof over one's head.

21 And it brings to mind something that is  
22 called the Stockholm Syndrome, which is I guess a  
23 psychological phenomena, where hostages are actually  
24 sympathizing with their captors, and I would caution  
25 this community to see other options rather than

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1 sacrifice their own health and the risks that come  
2 with nuclear plants, and of course future generations  
3 that could be jeopardized.

4 And to see other options in other nuclear  
5 reactors as a hope for this community, and try to  
6 avoid the Stockholm Syndrome, and as far as the job  
7 issue, I guess it is questionable how successful that  
8 has been as we were talking about before with the  
9 unemployment numbers and the population making some  
10 slow exodus. I guess that's it. Thanks.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Dave. I  
12 just wanted to thank all of you for your courtesy and  
13 your patience tonight, and your comments, and I  
14 mentioned that we have various NRC staff people here  
15 who are available to talk with you after the meeting.

16 There were a lot of questions for the  
17 energy company, and I believe Mr. Williams, the vice  
18 president over at Grand Gulf said that he and his  
19 staff would be available after the meeting to talk.  
20 Is that correct?

21 MR. WILLIAMS: That is correct, Chip. We  
22 want to make sure that everyone knows that we will be  
23 available and one thing I have learned tonight is that  
24 we need to do more to educate the public about nuclear  
25 power. That is one thing that I know for sure

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1       tonight.

2                   And if I can add one other comment. I  
3       just want to respond and then I will leave it at that,  
4       with the comment about the racism and where nuclear  
5       power plants are located. With 103 reactors that are  
6       in the country, a large percentage, and I would say  
7       greater than 90 percent, are located in non-minority  
8       areas.

9                   And I know that a lot of people are  
10      thinking that this is a race issue, we just need to  
11      make sure that we get the information correct, and I  
12      would say that if at all that I felt that the issue of  
13      potentially building another unit at Grand Gulf was  
14      potentially racial in nature that I would not be  
15      standing here tonight, and that is one thing that I  
16      can tell you for sure.

17                  MR. CAMERON: All right. All right. I am  
18      going to turn it over to John Tappert to close this  
19      out for tonight. John.

20                  MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip. I just  
21      want to echo Chip's thoughts and thank everyone for  
22      coming out tonight. The public is an important part  
23      of this process, and we do appreciate people taking  
24      the time out of their evening and coming and  
25      participating here.

1           We are very early in this process, and the  
2 public comment period does extend until February 12th,  
3 and so if you would like to send additional comments  
4 to us in the mail, or through our e-mail address, we  
5 would be happy to receive those.

6           As I said, we are early in our review, and  
7 we are going to produce a draft environmental impact  
8 statement early next year, and we will return again  
9 for another public meeting and you can tell us how we  
10 did, and that one will not be on a Wednesday evening.

11 Thank you.

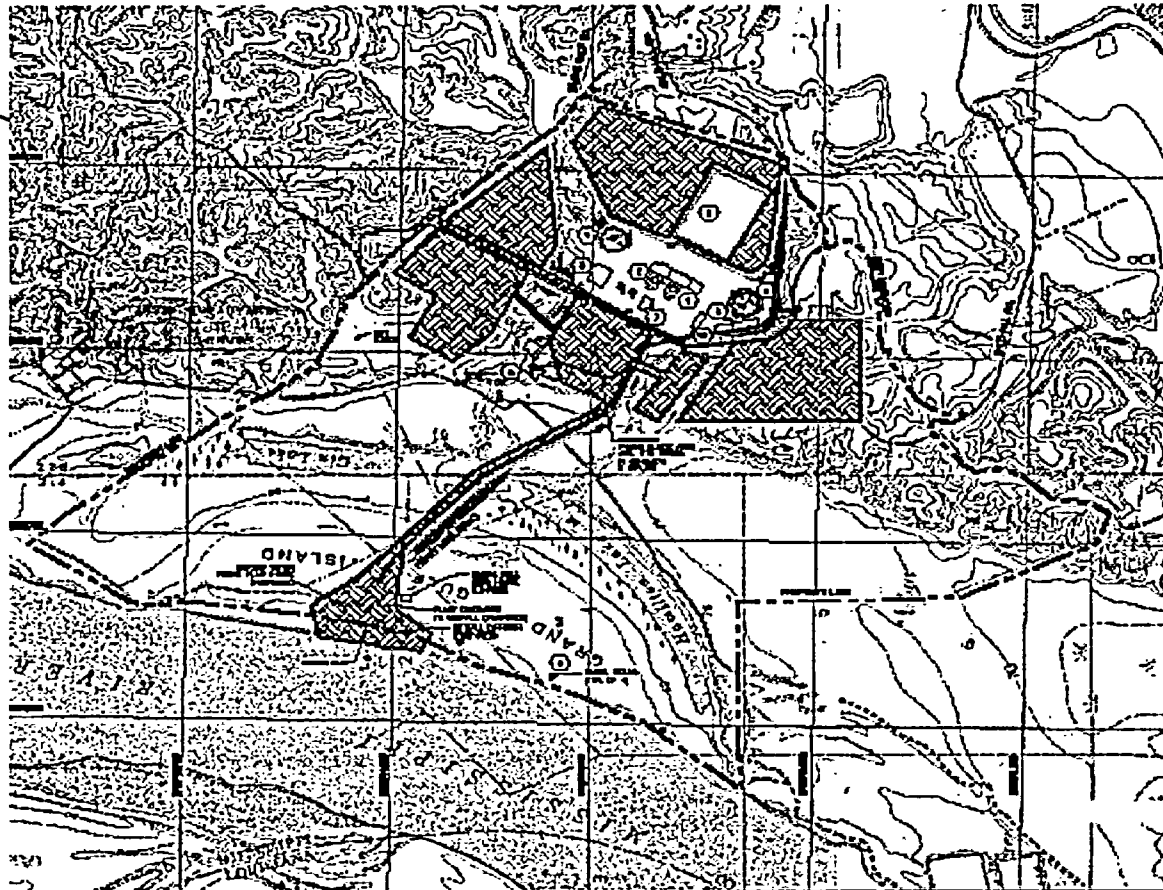
12           MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

13           (Whereupon, at 10:17 p.m., the public  
14 meeting was concluded.)  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22

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# Public Scoping Meeting on the Early Site Permit Application for the Grand Gulf Site



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
January 21, 2004





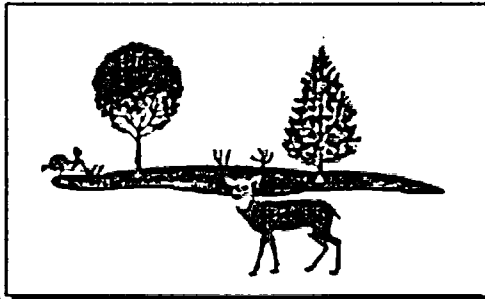
# Introduction

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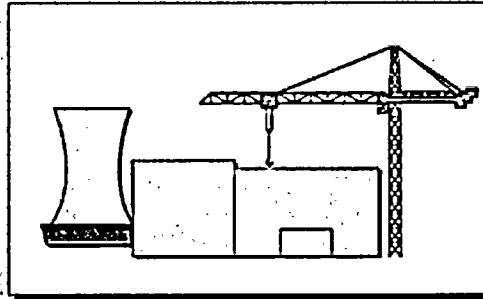
- Discuss early site permit review process
- Discuss schedule
- Discuss how to participate in process
- Gather comments on the scope of review

# Combined Licenses, Early Site Permits, and Standard Design Certifications

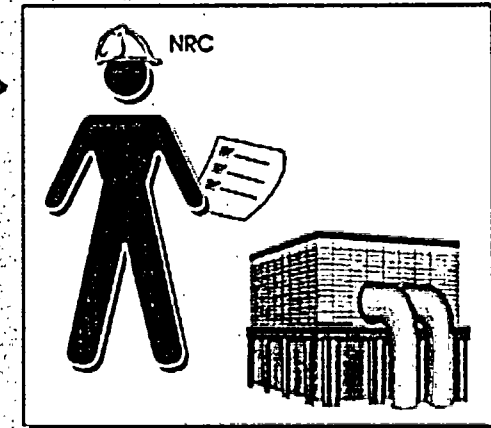
Early Site Permit\*



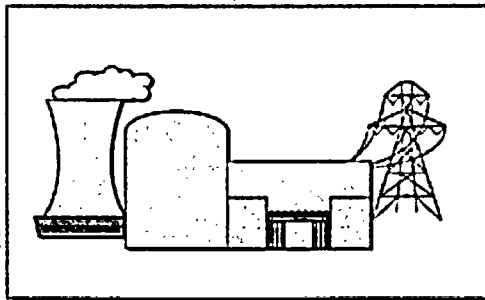
Reactor Construction



Verification of Inspection,  
Tests, Analyses, and  
Acceptance Criteria

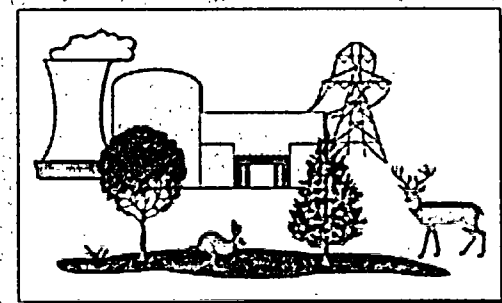


Standard Design  
Certification\*



Combined License  
Review and Hearing

Reactor Operation



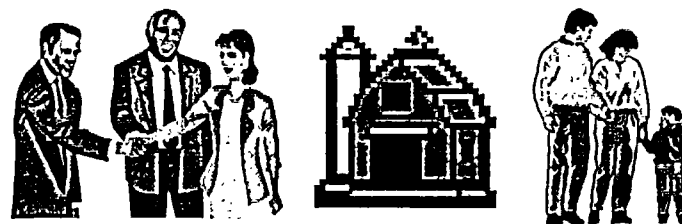
\* or equivalent process



# Key Participants in NRC Licensing Process

## Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Regulatory Agency  
Licensing Authority  
Protect Public Health & Safety



## STAKEHOLDERS

Participate Through Public  
Meetings & Hearings

## System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI)

Applicant



# What is an Early Site Permit?

---

- An NRC decision that ensures that the proposed site is suitable for construction and operation of a nuclear power plant or plants
- The permit is not authorization or a decision to actually build and operate a plant



# How Does an Early Site Permit Fit in the Licensing Process?

---

- An ESP resolves site suitability issues early
- An ESP can be referenced in an application for a license to construct a nuclear power plant
- An ESP may be combined with an approved design when a license to construct a nuclear power plant is requested



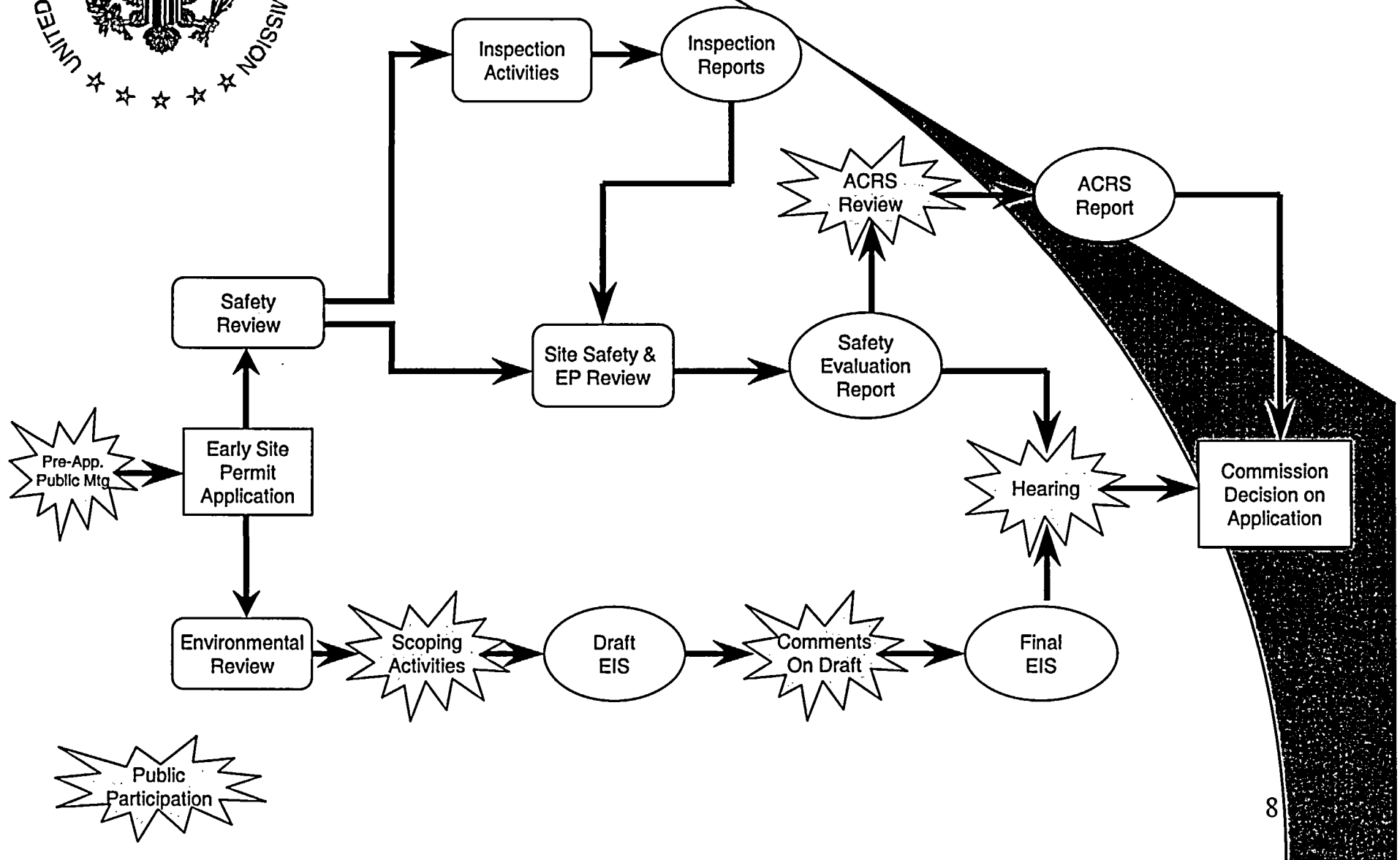
# Why Does an Applicant Want an Early Site Permit?

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- Allows an applicant to “bank” a site for up to 20 years
- Reduces licensing uncertainty
- Resolves siting issues before construction



# Early Site Permit Review Process





# Site Safety Review Process

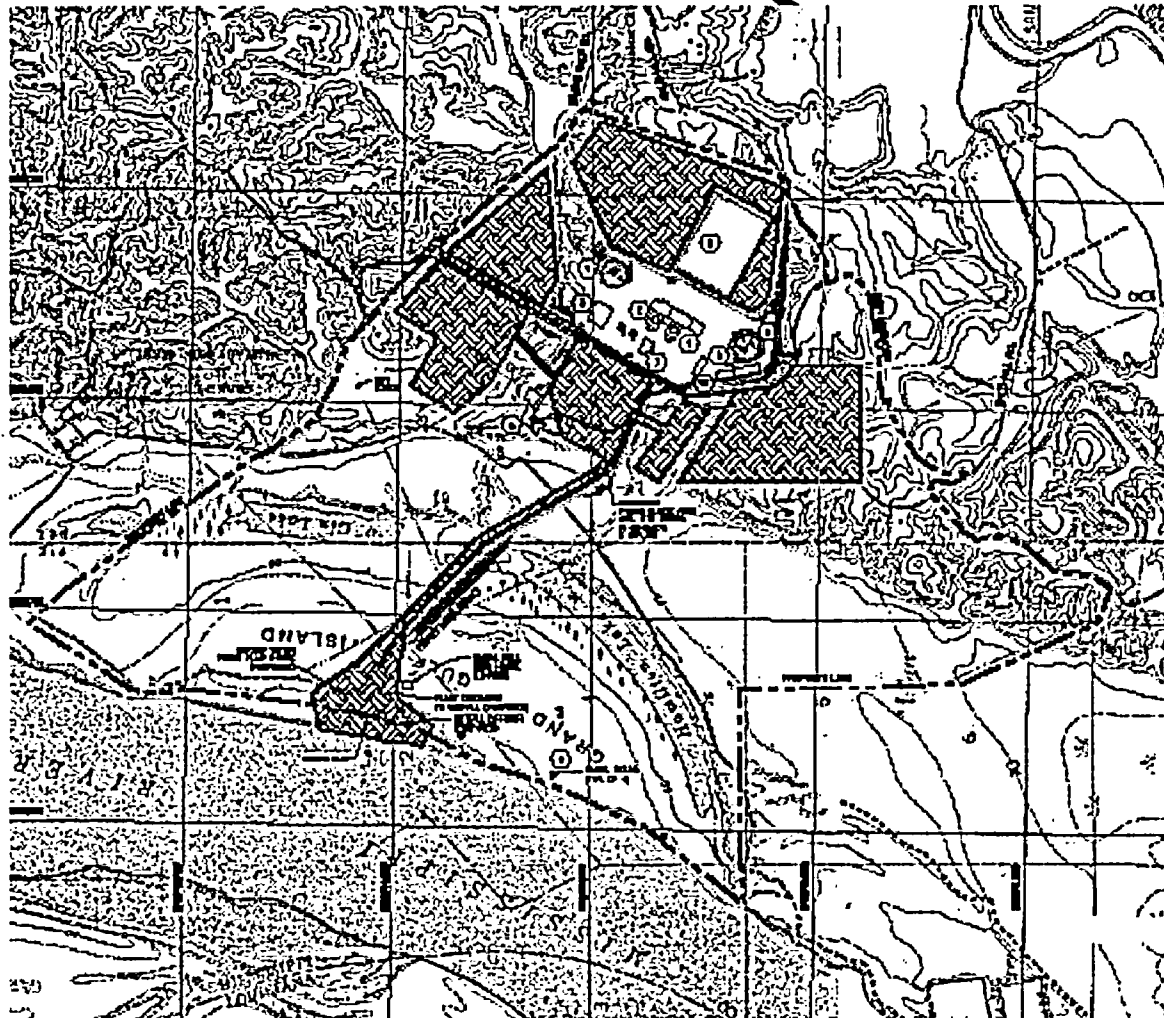
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- Site suitability in relation to
  - Reactor safety – site characteristics pose no undue risk at that site
  - Emergency Planning – no significant impediments, reasonable assurance plan can and will be implemented





# Environmental Review Process For the Early Site Permit at the Grand Gulf Site





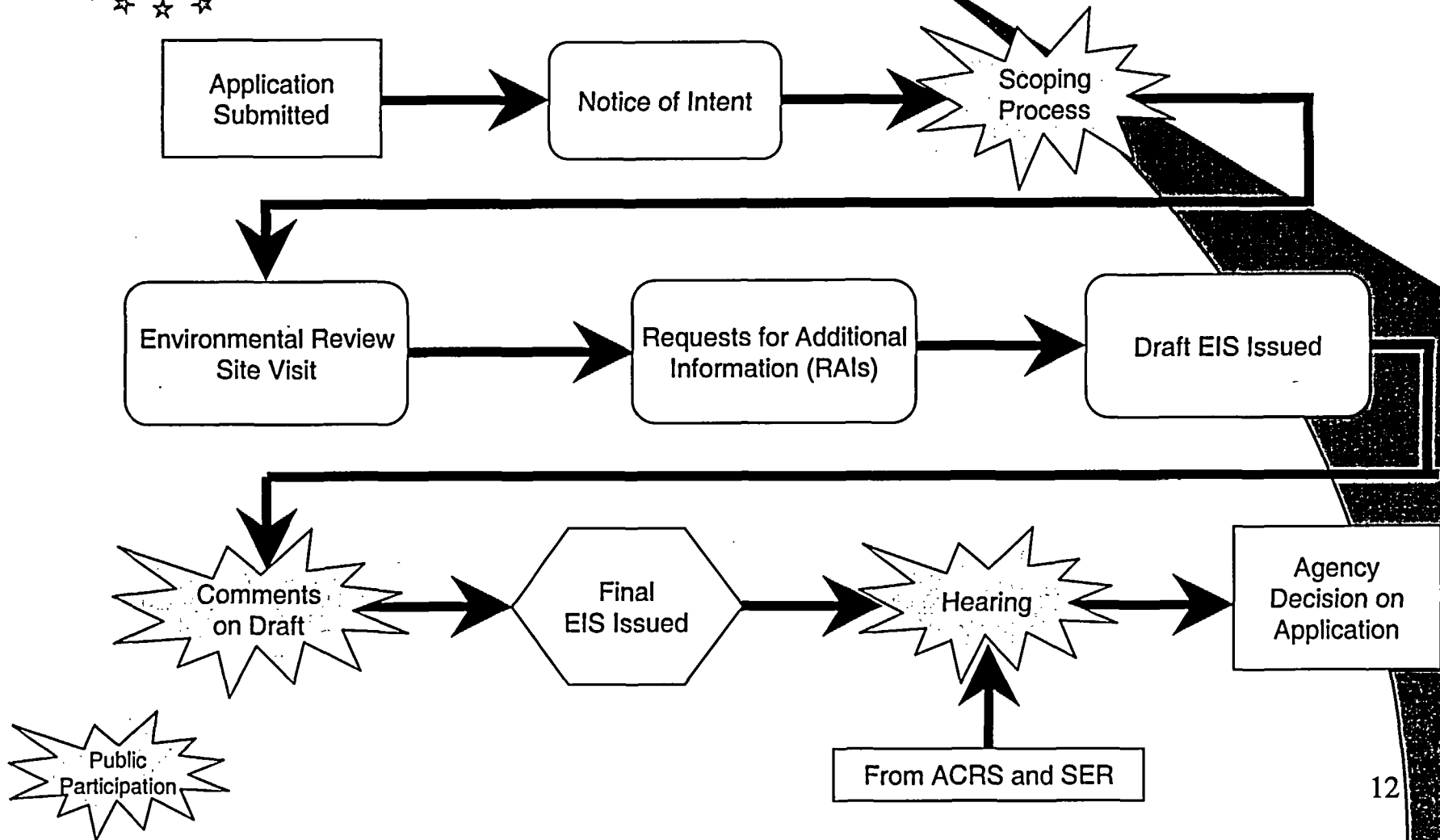
# National Environmental Policy Act

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- NEPA requires Federal agencies to use a systematic approach to consider environmental impacts
- An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required for major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment
- Issuance of an early site permit is considered a major Federal action

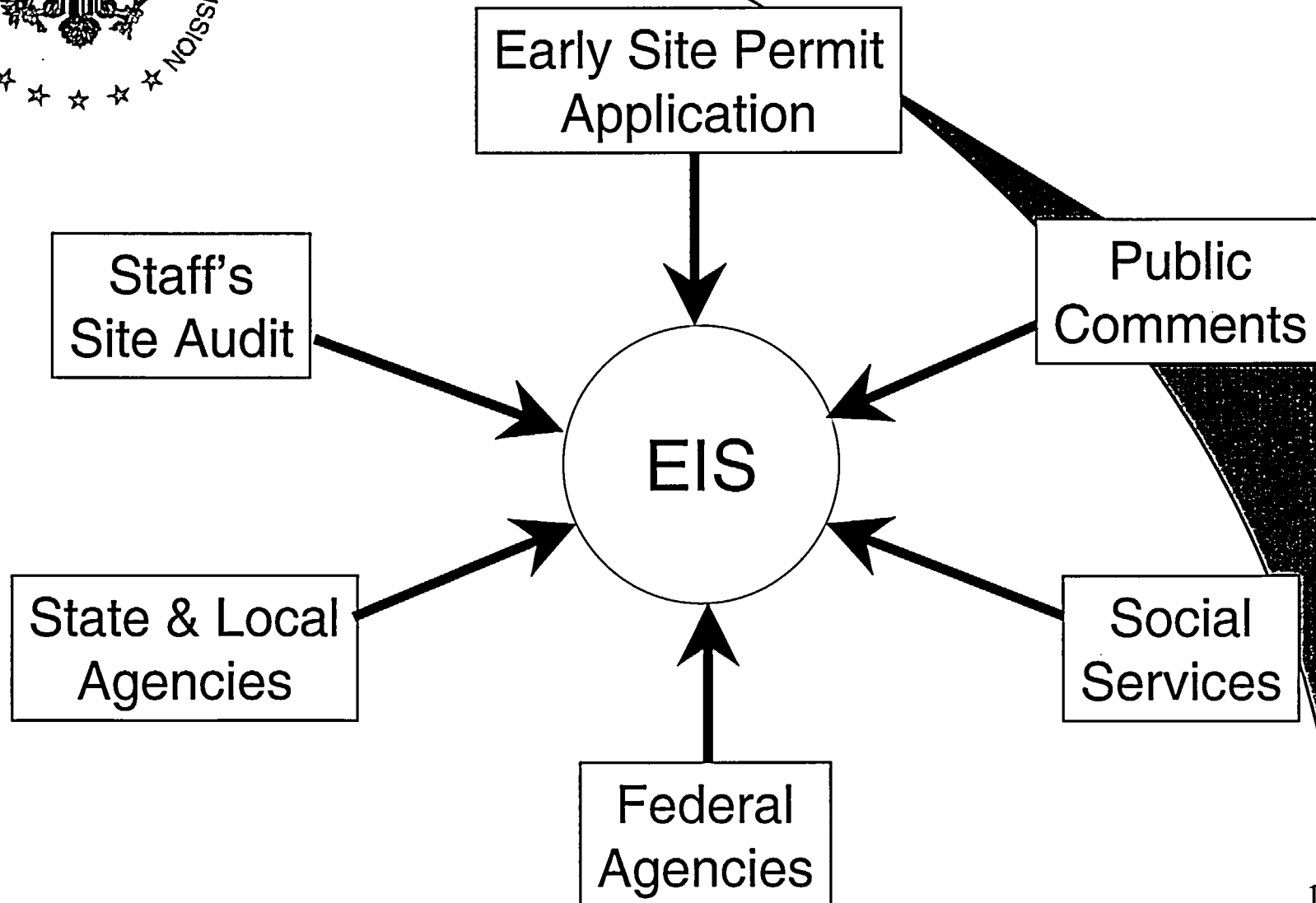


# Environmental Review Process



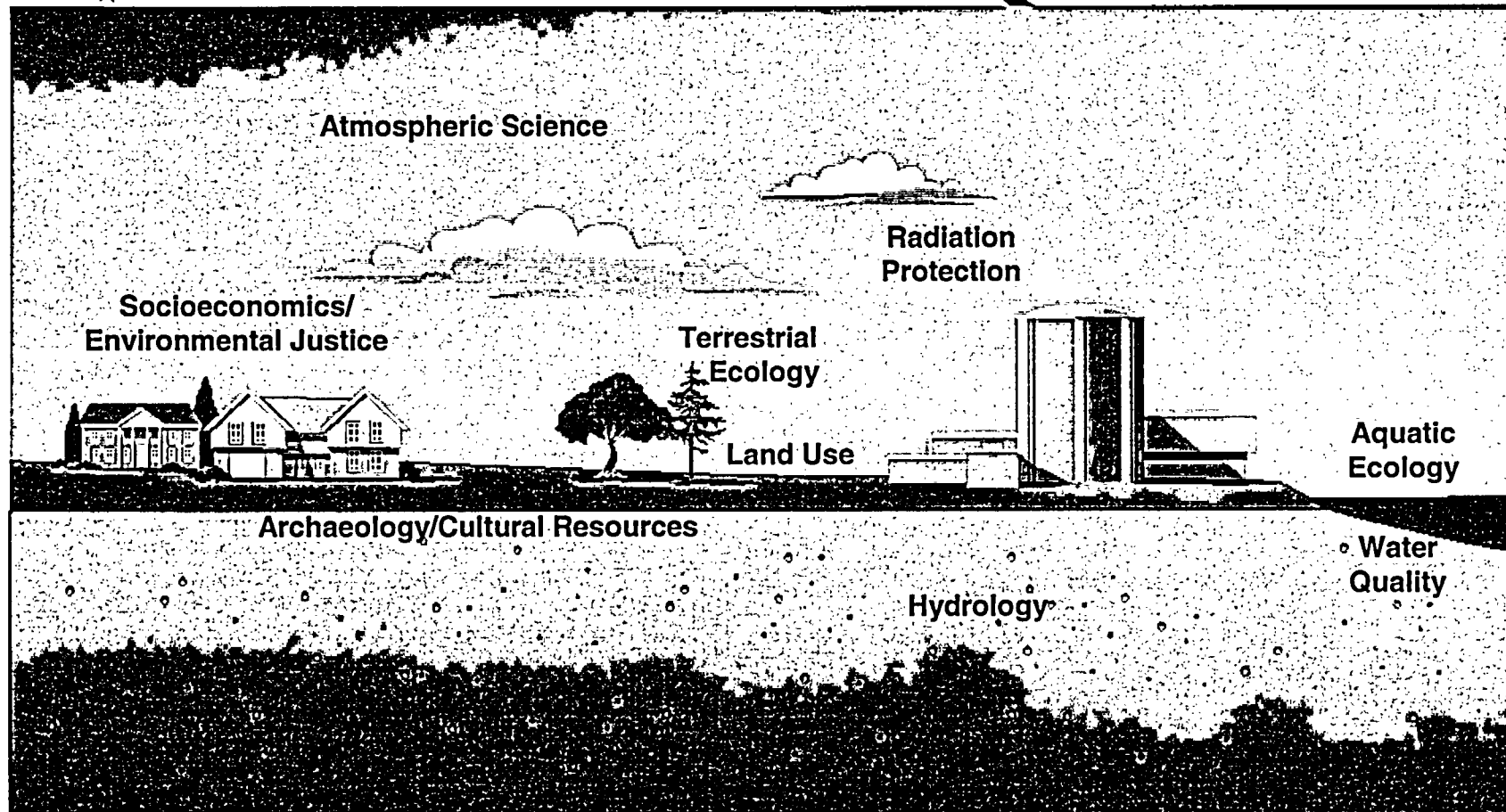


# Information Gathering





# Team Expertise





# Issues That Need Not Be Considered in an ESP Environmental Review

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- Need for power
- Cost of power
- Alternative Energy Sources



# Review Schedule

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- Scoping through February 12, 2004
- Can petition to intervene through February 17, 2004
- Issue draft EIS - February 2005
- Public Meeting on draft EIS - April 2005
- Issue final EIS - October 2005

Commission decision expected 36 months after application (includes time for hearing process)



# Public Involvement

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- Public interaction during environmental review
  - Comment periods
  - Public meetings
- Atomic Safety & Licensing Board Hearing
  - Opportunity to participate provided; deadline to file petition to intervene is February 17, 2004
  - Hearing covers both safety and environmental issues





# Environmental Scoping

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- Staff is considering what issues should be included in the environmental review
- Comments can be provided through February 12, 2004



# NRC Addresses

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## Provide comments:

- By mail at: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch  
Division of Administrative Services  
Mailstop T-6D59  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001
- E-mail at: [GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov)
- In person at: 11545 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland



# Points of Contact

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Agency points of contact:

James Wilson, Environmental Project Manager  
1 (800) 368-5642, extension 1108

Stephen Koenick, Site Safety Project Manager  
1 (800) 368-5642, extension 1239

Documents can be viewed in the “electronic reading room” on NRC’s website ([www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)), at [www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactor-licensing.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactor-licensing.html), or at the Harriette Person Memorial County Library in Port Gibson, Mississippi



A-T-T-A-C-H-M-E-N-T-S

Resolution on Grand Gulf Site Expansion, Claiborne County  
Chapter, National Association for the Advancement of Colored  
People (1 page)

Remarks by J. Scott Peterson, Vice President, Nuclear Energy  
Institute (4 pages)

Handout/slides of NRC staff's presentation (21 pages)

**RESOLUTION ON GRAND GULF SITE EXPANSION**  
**Claiborne County Chapter**  
**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**

Whereas, the operators of Grand Gulf nuclear power plant in Port Gibson, Mississippi have proposed to expand the site for the construction of more atomic power reactors;

Whereas, the Grand Gulf site is already accumulating highly radioactive waste without an approved and scientifically valid long-term nuclear waste management site and more atomic power plants would make the radioactive waste problem for Claiborne County worse;

Whereas, the threat from acts of terrorism against domestic atomic power plants has already been acknowledged by the Federal Government including a State of the Union Address by President George W. Bush;

Whereas, the risks and consequences of an act of terrorism or a catastrophic accident are increased by building more atomic power plants at the Grand Gulf site:

Whereas, there is no confidence that the emergency plan for Claiborne County and other counties surrounding the Grand Gulf site is adequate to protect public health and safety:

Whereas, due to a lack of adequate distribution of local tax revenue from the plant, local government and emergency services are prevented from being fully prepared to protect the public health and safety and provide an adequate emergency plan;

Whereas, Grand Gulf has been less than responsible to the surrounding community, specifically Claiborne County, in hiring, training, and promoting its citizens in that the majority of Grand Gulf's permanent workforce do not live in Claiborne County.

Whereas, there is a lack of an adequate epidemiological study of the health effects of radiation releases on the residents of Claiborne County from the routine operation of Grand Gulf atomic power plant and any new reactors;

Whereas, the need for more electricity from new atomic power plants at Grand Gulf is questionable at best;

Whereas, the cost for more electricity from new atomic power plants at Grand Gulf is unknown and speculative;

And Whereas, the risk to public health, safety, and security associated with building more atomic power plants at the Grand Gulf site is disproportionately placed on the people of Claiborne County and the surrounding communities,

Be It So Resolved that the Claiborne County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is opposed to the expansion of the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant site in Port Gibson, Mississippi pending complete and total satisfactory resolution of the aforesaid issues.

Remarks by

**J. Scott Peterson,  
Vice President, Nuclear Energy Institute**

**Grand Gulf Early Site Permit Environmental Scoping Meeting  
Port Gibson, MS  
January 21, 2004**

Good evening. I am Scott Peterson, vice president of the Nuclear Energy Institute in Washington, D.C. I have been involved in nuclear power for 16 years, and during that time I have seen the nuclear energy industry in the U.S. compile an excellent record of efficiency and safety matched by few other industries.

Entergy's record is among the very best over that time. The talent and dedication of Entergy's nuclear personnel gives me – and should give you – every confidence that Entergy could construct and operate a nuclear plant that would provide its customers with reliable, affordable and clean energy for decades to come.

It is my pleasure to speak this evening about a new regulatory process for licensing nuclear power plants. I have followed the development of this process from the issuance of the first proposed rule by the NRC in 1989, through various challenges to the NRC's approach, and including the requirements mandated by the Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 ... and to the present.

I thank you for your participation here tonight. Your presence here demonstrates that this process is working as intended...in providing a forum through which you can voice your own views...and where you can assess the facts to form your own opinions.

Entergy is one of three U.S. nuclear energy companies that have filed applications for early site permits, the first step in the process. Exelon in Illinois and Dominion in Virginia are the others. The Department of Energy is also participating in this process, as with any process that can contribute toward enhancing our nation's energy security.

Let me emphasize that *none* of the three companies pursuing early site permits has made a decision to build a new reactor. Like any company entrusted with meeting a basic public need, these companies are taking prudent steps to plan ahead, looking at the options for providing their customers with energy for the future.

The early site permit process is just one element in an improved licensing process for nuclear power plants in America. The goal remains to implement a process that satisfies all legal requirements, provides for increased and focused public participation, and results in a fully informed decision—either “yes” or “no”—in a timely manner.

Today, nuclear energy provides electricity to power one out of every five U.S. homes and businesses. It is the only large-scale, emission-free electricity source that can be readily expanded.

Nuclear power plants do not produce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides or the major greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide. That's important for future generations. Believe me, with two teenage sons and their insatiable use of electricity, I can see every day that we



will need more electricity – and we will also need clean air. With nuclear energy, we can have both.

Entergy's Grand Gulf Station generates about one-fifth of this state's power. In 2002, operation of Grand Gulf *avoided* the emission of nearly 50,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and more than 20,000 tons of nitrogen oxide to the state's atmosphere, compared to what would have been emitted by fossil electric generating plants.

Given these benefits, it should come as no surprise that our nation's leaders value nuclear energy as an electricity source for today ... and for the future. President Bush, congressional leaders ... business leaders like Sun Microsystems CEO Scott McNealy and Intel CEO Craig Barrett ... and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan ... support nuclear energy because of its affordable, reliable and it protects our environment.

The early site permit process is a vital step toward meeting the future needs these leaders envision.

The pioneering companies pursuing early site permits are helping shape a more open and predictable means for building new nuclear plants. In the old licensing process—dating back to the 1960s—safety issues were not fully resolved until after construction was virtually complete. With the new licensing process, the public has more opportunities to comment on licensing and safety issues, and much earlier in the process, as here with the early site permit process.

Significantly, this is just one of many opportunities for the public to participate in the new licensing process. For example, if Entergy actually were to decide to build a plant, there would be several public meetings, as well as opportunities to submit written comments.

This approach benefits the public, as well as a company seeking to develop energy supplies for the future. This process allows for prudent business decision-making on how to serve growing consumer electricity demand, and it provides for sound investment decisions to be made to fund a plant's construction.

Tonight's meeting is an important part of the new licensing process. This process that will assess the future viability of this site for a possible new nuclear plant—an affordable, environmentally responsible energy source for our nation's future.

Thank you.

LIST OF ATTENDEES  
PUBLIC MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE  
EARLY SITE PERMIT FOR GRAND GULF SITE  
JANUARY 21, 2004

NRC, CONTRACTORS, AND GOVERNMENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
James Wilson	Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Etoy Hylton	NRC
Francis Cameron	NRC
John Tappert	NRC
Thomas Kenyon	NRC
Cristina Guerrero	NRC
Kathleen Kannler	NRC
Barry Zalcman	NRC
James Lyons	NRC
Laura Dudes	NRC
Steven Koenick	NRC
Lance Rakovan	NRC
Roger Hannah	NRC, Region II
William Johnson	NRC, Region IV
William Meier	NRC, Region IV
Charles Paulk	NRC, Region IV
Tom Hoeg	NRC, Region IV
Jeff Miller	NRC, Region IV
Charles Brandt	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
Curtis James	US Fish and Wildlife Service

APPLICANT AND INDUSTRY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
George Zinke	Entergy
Robert Burnett	Entergy
Kelle Barfield	Entergy
Manuel Bonds	Entergy
Mike Withrow	Entergy
Greg Broadbent	Entergy
Charles Bottemiller	Entergy
Mike Bourgeois	Entergy
Kenneth Hughey	Entergy
Dykes Apsoil	Entergy
J. Brad Edwards	Entergy
George A. Williams	Entergy
Jami Cameron	Entergy
Scott Peterson	Nuclear Energy Institute
Patricia Campbell	Winston & Strawn LLP
Kathryn Suiton	Winston & Strawn LLP

LIST OF ATTENDEES  
PUBLIC MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE  
EARLY SITE PERMIT FOR GRAND GULF SITE  
JANUARY 21, 2004  
(Continued)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Rose Johnson	Sierra Club
Jim Gasser	Sierra Club
Ann Somers	Sierra Club
Becky Gillette	Sierra Club
David G. Newell	Plumber & Pipefitter 619
James Windham	Plumbers & Pipefitters
Bob Kochtitzky	Miss. 2020 Network Inc.
DeMarco Morgan	WJTV-Jackson
Bobbie M. Maug	Emergency Management
Amelda Arnold	Mayor, City of Port Gibson
Bob Gefl	MS State Dept of Health
Scott Stanchfield	Public
Sam Knowlton	V'Burg POST
Ricky Pierce	State of MS
Martha Lott	Board of Supervisors
Ann Timmons	Local Resident
Wayne Timmons	Local Resident
Alexander Martin	Local Resident
Robert W. Evans	Enoscon Services, Inc.
Sarah A. Dave	ACORN
Sonny Harpole	Clairborne County Citizen
Nathalie Walker	Advocates for Environmental Human Rights
Monique Harden	Advocates for Environmental Human Rights
Paul Gunter	Nuclear Information Resource Service
A. C. Garner	Nat'l Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People
Landon Huey	Green Party of Mississippi
David Ritter	Public Citizen/Critical Mass
Evan Doss, Jr.	
Soloman Wilson	
Jerry Landrum	
Ellie Neal	
Ruth Pullen	
George Ross	
J. B. Davis	
J. Gilbert Buck	
Johnnie M. Rockingham	
Janice W. Gray	
Emma Chislyn	
Eddie Walls Jr.	

LIST OF ATTENDEES  
PUBLIC MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE  
EARLY SITE PERMIT FOR GRAND GULF SITE  
JANUARY 21, 2004  
(Continued)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Cont.)

Name

Affiliation

Phil Segrest  
Constance Keith Alford  
Martha Ferris  
Eddie Jones  
Jessie Barrett  
Deborah Wagley  
Tom Pullen  
Janie D. Montgomery  
Malcolm Montgomery  
Jeffrey Coon  
Minor Ferris