

ENCLOSURE 2

**TRANSCRIPTS: ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2
LICENSE RENEWAL PUBLIC MEETING (AFTERNOON)**

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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License Renewal Public Meeting

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING
PROCESS FOR ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

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TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 3, 2004

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RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS

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The Public Meeting convened in the Holiday
Inn at 2407 North Arkansas Avenue, Russellville,
Arkansas 72801 at 1:30 p.m.

Present on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory
Commission:

- CHIP CAMERON
- JOHN TAPPERT
- THOMAS KENYON
- STACEY IMBODEN

I N D E X

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

1:30 p.m.

MR. CAMERON: Can everybody hear me?

Okay, it is on.

Welcome to the NRC's Public Meeting today.

My name is Chip Cameron and I'm the Special Counsel for Public Liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and it's my pleasure to serve as the facilitator for the meeting today. In that role, I'll try to help all of you to have a productive meeting.

I can say personally that it's always nice to be back in Arkansas, so I'm glad to be here and I thank you all for coming out to the meeting this afternoon.

Our subject is going to be the NRC environmental review that is part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's evaluation of a request that we received from Entergy to renew the operating license for Arkansas Nuclear Unit 2 and I just wanted to say a couple of words about format for the meeting and ground rules and introduce the NRC speakers before we got started.

The format for the meeting, we're going to basically divide into two parts and these two parts really match our objectives today. The first part is

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1 to provide you with some clear information about the
2 NRC's license renewal process and specifically about
3 the environmental review part of that process and to
4 answer any questions that you might have about that.

5 The second part of the meeting is to give
6 us an opportunity to listen to you about any comments,
7 recommendations, advice that the NRC should use in
8 terms of deciding what types of issues, what types of
9 data they should look at in preparing the draft
10 environmental impact statement on the license renewal
11 application.

12 In terms of things that we hear today,
13 they're going to have the same weight as any written
14 comments that we receive and the NRC staff will be
15 telling you in a few minutes about the process for
16 submitting written comments. But we do have Ms. Peggy
17 Brown, right here, who is going to transcribe the
18 meeting so that we will have a record of what is said
19 today.

20 The ground rules are real easy. If you
21 have a question, just give me a signal and I'll bring
22 you this cordless mic and if you could give us your
23 name and affiliation, if appropriate, we'll try to
24 answer your question to the best that we can.

25 When we get to the formal comment part of

1 the meeting, in order that we can make sure that we
2 hear from everybody, I would just ask you to limit
3 formal comments to a five to seven minute guideline.
4 I don't think we're going to have any crunch today in
5 terms of time, so we can be flexible with that.

6 And let me just introduce the NRC staff
7 who are going to be talking to you today. We're going
8 to go in a minute to Mr. John Tappert who is right
9 here. And John is the Chief of the Environmental
10 Section in our Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation at
11 the NRC and John and his staff do the environmental
12 reviews, they supervise the environmental reviews for
13 any reactor activity that needs environmental impacts
14 looked at.

15 John has been with the NRC for about 13
16 years. He was an NRC resident inspector before that.
17 These are the people, and we have them at ANO, our
18 staff that are there to make sure that NRC regulations
19 are complied with. John was in the Nuclear Navy
20 before that and his Bachelor's degree is in Aeronautic
21 and Ocean Engineering from Virginia Tech. And he has
22 a Master's in Environmental Engineering from Johns
23 Hopkins University.

24 After John's welcome and a little bit of
25 background, we're going to go to Mr. Tom Kenyon from

1 the NRC who's here, one of the people who work for
2 John. He's a project manager on the Arkansas Nuclear
3 License Renewal at this point. He's been with the
4 Agency forever, as we say, about 23 years now. He's
5 been involved over that time in a lot of different
6 activities, including being a project manager for
7 operating reactors and also involved in the advanced
8 design certification activities that we do. And Tom
9 has a Bachelor's in Nuclear Engineering from the
10 University of Michigan. And he's going to give you
11 sort of an overview of the entire license renewal
12 process.

13 And then we're going to go to the NRC
14 staff member who is specifically responsible for the
15 oversight of the preparation of the environmental
16 review on this license renewal application and that's
17 Ms. Stacey Imboden, who's right here. Stacey is one
18 of our newer staff members. She's been with us for
19 two and a half years and she has a Bachelor's in
20 meteorology from Penn State University and a Master's
21 in Environmental Engineering from Clemson University.

22 So we'll go -- we're going to have John
23 talk and then Tom and I think we're going to be fairly
24 brief, so maybe we can hold the questions until all
25 three of the speakers are done and then we'll go on to

1 your questions.

2 John?

3 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip, and good
4 afternoon, everyone.

5 My name is John Tappert and on behalf of
6 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I'd like to thank
7 you for coming out here today and participating in
8 this process.

9 Now we're not going to attempt to compete
10 with the Super Bowl half time show, but I hope that
11 you will find our presentations to be informative and
12 helpful and we look forward to receiving your
13 comments, both today and in the future.

14 I'd like to start off today by briefly
15 going over the agenda and purposes of today's meeting.

16 Next slide.

17 First of all, we'd like to give you a
18 brief overview of the entire license renewal process.
19 This includes both the safety review as well as an
20 environmental review which will be the main focus
21 today. Then we'll give you additional information
22 about how we are going to perform our environmental
23 review which will assess the impacts associated with
24 extending the operating license for Arkansas Nuclear
25 One Unit 2 for an additional 20 years.

1 Then we'll give you some information about
2 the balance of our schedule and how you can submit
3 comments in the future. And then we get to the real
4 heart of today's meeting which is to receive any
5 comments that you may have today.

6 First, let me provide some background for
7 the license renewal process itself.

8 Next slide.

9 The Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the
10 authority to issue operating licenses to commercial
11 nuclear power plants for a period of 40 years. For
12 Unit 2, that operating license will expire in 2018.
13 Our regulations also make provisions for extending
14 those operating licenses for an additional 20 years as
15 part of our license renewal program. And Entergy has
16 requested license renewal for Unit 2.

17 Now you might notice I'm only talking
18 about Unit 2 right now and if you're familiar with the
19 site, you realize there's two units, Unit 1 and Unit
20 2. And the reason we're not talking about Unit 1 today
21 is because Entergy has previously requested and
22 received a license extension for Unit 1 on that
23 operating license until 2034.

24 So as we review Entergy's request for Unit
25 2 we are performing reviews and one of those reviews

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1 is the environmental review. And right now we're in
2 what we call the scoping portion of that review where
3 we seek to identify those issues which will require
4 the greatest focus in our environmental impact
5 statement. And this public meeting here today is an
6 important part of that scoping process.

7 Now after we get finished with the scoping
8 process and do our initial assessment, we will publish
9 a draft environmental impact statement and we will
10 come here again in the fall to have another public
11 meeting to receive your comments on that draft.

12 And again, just to refocus what the major
13 purpose today is is to receive any comments that you
14 may have today on the scoping process.

15 And with that, I'd like to ask Tom to give
16 us some additional information on the safety review.

17 MR. KENYON: Thank you, John. As John
18 mentioned my name is Tom Kenyon and I'm the
19 Environmental Project Manager for the ANO 2 license
20 renewal review.

21 Now before we get into a discussion of the
22 license renewal process, I'd like to take a minute to
23 talk about what the mission of the Nuclear Regulatory
24 Commission is or what we call the NRC and discuss what
25 it is that we do.

1 The NRC's mission is really threefold.
2 First, it's to protect the health and safety of the
3 public. Second is to protect the environment. And
4 third, is to provide for the common defense and
5 security. Now we accomplish our mission through a
6 combination of regulatory programs and processes such
7 as inspections, enforcement actions, assessments of
8 licensee's performance and the evaluation of operating
9 experience of nuclear plants throughout the United
10 States.

11 Now the NRC's license renewal review is
12 very similar to the original licensing process that we
13 used when we licensed the plant some time ago and it
14 involves two parts: a safety review and an
15 environmental review.

16 I'm going to focus on what we considered
17 during our safety review for the next couple of
18 minutes.

19 There are two types of safety issues that
20 we look at. Current operating issues which are dealt
21 with now and then aging management issues that we deal
22 with in our reviews of license renewal.

23 The NRC's regulatory oversight under the
24 current operating license deals with the current
25 safety issues and these are issues such as security or

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1 emergency preparedness. And so we don't wait for the
2 plant to come in for a license renewal request before
3 we deal with those issues. We deal with them now in
4 current time.

5 Because we're dealing with them now, we do
6 not re-evaluate them in the license renewal review,
7 rather, our safety review for license renewal focuses
8 on the aging management issues and the programs that
9 Entergy has in place to maintain its equipment.

10 Now when we complete the safety review for
11 the license renewal, we will issue a safety evaluation
12 report that is independently reviewed by a special
13 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards or what we
14 call the ACRS.

15 Now that committee is a group of academic
16 and industry experts that look at both the application
17 that is submitted by Entergy and then they look at the
18 results of our review that we publish in the SER and
19 they provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with
20 their own independent evaluation and recommendations,
21 independent of the rest of the NRC staff.

22 Now although Stacey Imboden will discuss
23 the environmental review in detail shortly, there's a
24 couple of key points I wanted to mention at this point
25 having to do with our environmental review. The

1 environmental review evaluates the impact of a number
2 of different environmental areas including the
3 ecology, hydrology, cultural resources and socio-
4 economic issues. Now part of that environmental
5 review includes what we call the scoping process
6 during which we identify those environmental issues
7 that we think are appropriate to be addressed for the
8 ANO 2 plant.

9 During that scoping process, we ask the
10 public to provide us with their input as to what they
11 think we should be looking at in terms of the
12 environmental review. Tonight's meeting is -- today's
13 meeting is part of that scoping process and Stacey
14 will discuss the process in more detail in a few
15 minutes.

16 Next slide.

17 Now this next slide illustrates the entire
18 license renewal process. As you can see, this slide
19 shows both the parallel paths of both types of review
20 I was just talking about. The upper path shows the
21 safety review process which involves the NRC staff's
22 review and assessment of the technical information
23 that's contained in Entergy's license renewal
24 application.

25 We have a team of about 30 people back at

1 the NRC headquarters in Washington, D.C. right now
2 performing the safety evaluation review. They are
3 focusing on the effectiveness of the proposed aging
4 management programs that are contained in the
5 application.

6 The NRC staff reviews these aging
7 management programs to ensure that the plant can be
8 maintained and operated safely for the license renewal
9 term which is the additional 20 years that they've
10 requested.

11 Now the results of the staff's safety
12 review will be documented in the safety evaluation
13 report. You can see and as I've mentioned earlier
14 that will also be looked at by the ACRS in their
15 review.

16 Now the safety process also involves
17 audits and on-site inspections which are conducted by
18 a team of inspectors pulled together from both the NRC
19 headquarters as well as the regional offices. And the
20 results of these inspections are issued in separate
21 inspection reports.

22 Now the lower path shows how we perform
23 the environmental review and as I mentioned earlier
24 that involves the scoping activities which we are
25 currently involved in. Once we conduct our review we

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1 will issue a draft supplement to the generic
2 environmental impact statement, or what we call the
3 GEIS, which documents the results of our environmental
4 review. We will issue that supplement, draft, for
5 comment and we'll be back here in about a year to
6 discuss the results of our review.

7 Eventually, we will issue a final version
8 of that draft -- of the supplement report that will
9 address the comments that we received during our
10 review process.

11 So as you can see from the slide, the
12 final agency decision on whether to approve or deny
13 the application comes from a number of reviews that we
14 conduct. The results can be found in the inspection
15 reports. They can be found in our safety evaluation
16 report which addresses the safety review and they can
17 be found in the supplement to the generic
18 environmental impact statement which addresses our
19 environmental reviews, as well as the independent
20 report from the ACRS. All of these various
21 assessments are considered when the final Agency
22 decision is made.

23 Now one point I'd like to make is that the
24 splash marks shown on the slide indicate the
25 opportunities for public participation. The first

1 opportunity during the environmental review occurs
2 during the scoping process which this meeting is part
3 of. During the scoping process, members of the public
4 can provide us with their input as to what they think
5 the scope of our review should include. Then the next
6 opportunity during the environmental review is after
7 we've issued the draft supplement to the GEIS and
8 there will be another comment period for providing us
9 with that input.

10 Separately, if there's a petition filed to
11 intervene in this process by an individual or group,
12 and if they have adequate standing, in other words, if
13 their request for a hearing is granted by either the
14 Atomic Safety Licensing Board or the NRC Commission
15 itself, then a hearing may be granted. The hearing
16 would be presided over by a panel of Administrative
17 Law Judges and it would involve contentions, discovery
18 and cross examinations, just like in a court trial.

19 However, nobody has requested a petition,
20 has submitted a petition to intervene on the ANO 2
21 proceedings. So there will not be a hearing.

22 And that ends my presentation on the
23 overall review process. Next, let me turn the
24 microphone over to Stacey Imboden who is working with
25 me on this project and who will provide you with the

1 details of the environmental review process.

2 Stacey?

3 MS. IMBODEN: Good afternoon. I am Stacey
4 Imboden and I'm a project manager on the NRC staff.
5 Tom Kenyon and I are responsible for coordinating the
6 activities of the NRC staff and experts at national
7 labs to develop an environmental impact statement for
8 the license renewal of Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2.

9 The National Environmental Policy Act of
10 1969 requires -- I'm sorry, can I have the next slide?

11 The National Environmental Policy Act of
12 1969 requires that federal agencies follow a
13 systematic approach in evaluating potential
14 environmental impacts associated with certain actions.
15 We are required to consider the impact of the proposed
16 action and also any mitigation for those impacts that
17 we consider to be significant. We're also required to
18 consider alternatives to the proposed action, in this
19 case license renewal, and that includes the no-action
20 alternative. In other words, if we decide not to
21 renew the license at Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2,
22 what will the environmental impacts be?

23 The National Environmental Policy Act and
24 our environmental impact statement are disclosure
25 tools. They are specifically structured to involve

1 public participation and this meeting is a part of
2 facilitating the public's participation in our
3 environmental review.

4 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has
5 determined that an environmental impact statement will
6 be prepared for proposed license renewal of nuclear
7 power plants. In preparing an EIS, the NRC conducts
8 a scoping process. The purpose of the scoping process
9 is to identify significant issues that are to be
10 analyzed in depth. We are now gathering information
11 for the EIS and are here to collect public comments on
12 the scope of our review. What special issues should
13 the NRC staff consider when developing the
14 environmental impact statement for the renewal of
15 Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2?

16 The staff developed a generic EIS that
17 addressed a number of issues that are common to all
18 power plants that come to us for license renewal. We
19 are supplementing that generic EIS with a site
20 specific EIS that will address environmental impacts
21 specific to this individual site.

22 The staff also evaluates the conclusions
23 reached in the generic EIS to determine if there is
24 any new and significant information that would change
25 any of those conclusions.

1 Next slide.

2 This slide shows our decision standard for
3 our environmental review and this is the legal
4 language describing our decision standard. And what
5 that basically means is that in the environmental
6 impact statement we determine if license renewal is
7 acceptable from an environmental standpoint.

8 Next slide, please.

9 This slide is just an expansion of the
10 lower portion of a slide that Tom had up a few moments
11 ago. It describes the environmental review process in
12 greater detail. We received Entergy's application
13 for the license renewal of Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit
14 2, on October 15, 2003. On December 22, 2003, we
15 issued a Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare
16 an environmental impact statement and conduct scoping
17 process.

18 This started a 60-day clock defined as the
19 scoping comment period and we are within the scoping
20 comment period right now.

21 This meeting is a part of the scoping
22 process so that we can get comments from the public to
23 help us scope out the bounds of our environmental
24 review. At the end of the scoping comment period
25 which is February 20th, we will issue a scoping

1 summary report that will address all of the comments
2 that we received from all sources during the review.

3 This week, members of the NRC staff and a
4 team of experts from Pacific Northwest National Lab
5 are conducting an environmental site audit to help
6 gather information for the scoping process.

7 If in the conduct of our review, we
8 require information beyond what was already provided
9 to us in the initial application, we will issue a
10 request for additional information. We expect to
11 issue that request for additional information on March
12 26, 2004.

13 Approximately eight weeks later, we expect
14 to hear back from Entergy on those requests. At that
15 time, based on all of the information that we have in
16 hand, we will publish a draft of the environmental
17 impact statement for public comment.

18 We envision publishing the draft of the
19 environmental impact statement in September 2004 and
20 at that time it will go out for a 75-day public
21 comment period.

22 We plan to have another meeting here in
23 Arkansas in October 2004 to receive public comments on
24 the draft EIS. Once we get comments on the draft EIS,
25 we will publish it in final form in April 2005.

1 Next slide.

2 This slide shows some of the sources where
3 we gather information during our review. In addition
4 to our site audit, we communicate with federal, state
5 and local officials, as well as local service
6 agencies. One example of our communications is later
7 this week we have a meeting with the State Historic
8 Preservation Officer in Little Rock, Arkansas. And we
9 consider all of the comments that we receive from the
10 public as well.

11 Next slide.

12 For this review, we've established a team
13 made up of members of the NRC staff and experts from
14 Pacific Northwest National Lab. And this slide gives
15 you an idea of some of the areas that these experts
16 evaluate. Some of these areas are terrestrial
17 ecology, aquatic ecology, archeology and radiation
18 protection.

19 Next slide, please.

20 This slide just recaps a couple of the key
21 milestone dates in our schedule. As mentioned, we are
22 currently in a scoping comment period which ends on
23 February 20, 2004. All comments from this transcribed
24 public meeting will be considered.

25 Tom mentioned the generis EIS, the generic

1 environmental impact statement for license renewal.
2 That's an environmental impact statement that takes
3 into account issues that affect all power plants that
4 come to us for license renewal. We will be publishing
5 an Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2, site-specific
6 supplement to the generic EIS called a SEIS. That
7 supplement will be issued in draft form in September
8 with a 75-day public comment period. After
9 considering your comments on the draft, we will
10 publish it in final form in April 2005.

11 Next slide.

12 This slide identifies Tom Kenyon and I as
13 your primary points of contact on the NRC staff for
14 the preparation of the environmental impact statement.
15 It also identifies where documents related to the
16 review can be found in the local area. The Ross
17 Pendergraft Library at Arkansas Tech University has
18 agreed to make the license renewal application
19 available, along with all correspondence from NRC to
20 Entergy and other agencies regarding the environmental
21 review.

22 The draft environmental impact statement
23 will also be available at the library when it is
24 published later this year.

25 And these documents are also available on

1 NRC's website and that web address is www.nrc.gov.

2 In addition, as you came in, you were
3 asked to fill out a registration card at our reception
4 desk and if you have provided your address on that
5 card, we will mail you a copy of the draft and final
6 environmental impact statements.

7 Next slide.

8 In addition to providing comments at this
9 meeting, there are other ways that you can submit
10 comments on our environmental review process. You can
11 provide written comments to the Chief of our Rules and
12 Directives Branch and that will ensure that your
13 comments get into our public record. You can make
14 comments in person if you happen to be in Rockville,
15 Maryland.

16 We've established a specific e-mail
17 address at the NRC for the purpose of receiving your
18 comments on the draft environmental impact statement
19 and what you think the scope of our review should be.
20 That e-mail address is anoeis@nrc.gov. All of your
21 comments will be collected and considered.

22 This concludes my remarks. And now Tom
23 Kenyon and I are available to answer any questions.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you very
25 much, Stacey and Tom. And we do have a question right

1 now here. And if you could just give us your name,
2 sir?

3 MR. LEONARD: My name is Bob Leonard. I'm
4 with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. I was
5 just curious. Will you send us all a copy of the
6 notes and comments that you receive at these meetings
7 to the people you have there on your list?

8 MS. IMBODEN: If you have provided your
9 address on the card at the reception desk, all of the
10 comments will be in the scoping summary report and the
11 draft environmental impact statement. And you will
12 receive copies of those if you have provided your
13 address.

14 MR. LEONARD: You've already been sending
15 correspondence to me, so I assume you've got it.

16 MS. IMBODEN: Okay.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay, and we are going to
18 have a transcript from this meeting also so that if
19 you want to have a look at the straight transcript, in
20 addition to our summary, we can send you a copy of
21 that too.

22 All right. Great. Other questions for
23 Stacey or Tom?

24 Any information we could provide you that
25 would help you with any written comments that you

1 might want to file?

2 Okay, let's go and give us your name
3 again?

4 MR. LEONARD: Bob Leonard again, Game and
5 Fish. You're going to have some transmission lines
6 associated with this, correct?

7 MS. IMBODEN: Yes.

8 MR. LEONARD: Will you be providing some
9 maps here today for the routing of those transmission
10 lines?

11 MR. CAMERON: We're going to go out in the
12 audience here and try to get some information on that.
13 Anything from the NRC before we go out here?

14 MR. KENYON: You're talking about --
15 you're here for a specific review? Go ahead.

16 MR. CAMERON: Let's get you on the
17 transcript here.

18 MR. BUCKLEY: Rick Buckley, Entergy, and
19 you can find a copy of the map in the ANO 2 ER. There
20 will be a map showing that.

21 MR. CAMERON: And the ER is environmental
22 review. Okay. Report. Environmental Report. All
23 right.

24 Does that give you everything you need to
25 know? All right. Terrific.

1 Other questions? I'm going to stay right
2 here.

3 (Laughter.)

4 Seriously, do you have anything else?
5 Anybody else have information? Because if you're
6 interested in looking at the report and everything,
7 even if you're not going to file comments, if there's
8 any information that we can offer to help you with
9 that, this is the -- this is not the only time to ask
10 a question because I think Stacey, you gave us your
11 contact information.

12 MS. IMBODEN: Yes. And Tom's.

13 MR. CAMERON: So if you do have comments
14 or questions in the future call Stacey, but is there
15 anybody else who has a question at this point?

16 Okay. Thank you, Stacey. Thank you, Tom.
17 Thanks, John, for injecting that humor about the Super
18 Bowl.

19 (Laughter.)

20 This is the second part of the meeting
21 where we usually, where we always ask people to give
22 us their advice, recommendations. We didn't have
23 anybody sign up in advance to give us any formal
24 comments, but we would like anybody who wants to talk
25 now to be able to do that.

1 Does anybody have anything to tell us
2 about what types of issues we should be looking at?
3 Are there any transmission line issues that you think
4 that we should be specifically concerned about?

5 MR. LEONARD: That would be site specific,
6 depending on how you go with the transmission lines.
7 Aren't they currently in use right now?

8 MR. CAMERON: Transmission lines and we're
9 getting -- I'll put this on the record, the
10 transmission lines currently are in use right now.
11 Okay.

12 Anything else like that that would be --
13 that we should know about?

14 Okay, we're going to be here tonight, 6
15 o'clock open house; 7 o'clock public meeting to do
16 this again and we certainly welcome all of you to come
17 back and join us.

18 John, I always ask John, as our leader to
19 close out the meeting for us. John, do you want to do
20 that?

21 MR. TAPPERT: Sure. Thanks again for
22 coming out. We'll be back again tonight and if you
23 have any written comments, we'll be accepting them
24 until February 20th. So I appreciate your time and
25 that's it.

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1 MR. CAMERON: We're adjourned. Thank you.

2 (Whereupon, at 2:02 p.m., the public
3 meeting was concluded.)

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ENCLOSURE 3

**TRANSCRIPTS: ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2
LICENSE RENEWAL PUBLIC MEETING (EVENING)**

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2
License Renewal Public Meeting

Docket Number: 50-368

Location: Russellville, Arkansas

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2004

Work Order No.: NRC-1279

Pages 1-22

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING
PROCESS FOR ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

+ + + + +

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 3, 2004

+ + + + +

RUSSELLVILLE, ARKANSAS

+ + + + +

The Public Meeting convened in the Holiday
Inn at 2407 North Arkansas Avenue, Russellville,
Arkansas 72801 at 7:00 p.m.

Present on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory
Commission:

- CHIP CAMERON
- JOHN TAPPERT
- THOMAS KENYON
- STACEY IMBODEN

I N D E X

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Closing Comments, Chip Cameron 21

Adjourn 22

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

7:00 p.m.

1
2
3 MR. CAMERON: My name is Chip Cameron and
4 I want to welcome you to the NRC's (Nuclear Regulatory
5 Commission's) Public Meeting tonight.

6 I'm going to be your facilitator for the
7 meeting and my responsibility will be to try to ensure
8 that we have a constructive meeting tonight.

9 The meeting is on the NRC's environmental
10 review; one part of the NRC's evaluation of the
11 request that we had from the Entergy Company to renew
12 the operating license for Arkansas Nuclear (ANO) Unit
13 2.

14 And in terms of format we're going to have
15 basically a two-part format for the meeting and they
16 match the objectives for the meeting. The first part
17 we're going to try to give you some information, clear
18 information about the NRC's license renewal process
19 and specifically the environmental review part of that
20 process and to answer any questions that you might
21 have.

22 The second part of the meeting is an
23 opportunity for us to hear from any of you who want to
24 give us comments, recommendations, advice, concerns on
25 items that we should look at in doing the -- preparing

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1 the draft environmental impact statement.

2 We are going to take written comments on
3 these issues, but anything you say to us tonight will
4 carry the same weight as the written comments. And we
5 are transcribing the meeting. Peggy Brown is our
6 transcriptionist and that will be our record of the
7 meeting. If anybody needs a copy of that, we'll be
8 glad to provide it.

9 And the ground rules are very simple.
10 During our discussion, after the presentations, if you
11 have a comment or question, just signal me and I'll
12 bring you this cordless microphone. Give us your name
13 and affiliation, if appropriate, and we'll try to
14 answer your questions.

15 Usually, when we have the formal comment
16 part of the meeting we set a five to seven minute
17 guideline, but I don't think we have to worry about
18 being pressed for time tonight.

19 And with that, just let me introduce the
20 NRC speakers. First of all, we're going to have a
21 welcome from Mr. John Tappert who is right here. And
22 John is the Chief of the Environmental Section in our
23 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation back in
24 Rockville, Maryland at NRC Headquarters and John and
25 his staff oversee the preparation of any environmental

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1 reviews on reactor licensing issues, including license
2 renewal applications like this one.

3 John has been with the Agency for 13
4 years. He has been one of our resident inspectors and
5 before that he was with the Nuclear Navy, our Nuclear
6 Navy, I guess I should emphasize.

7 (Laughter.)

8 And he has a Bachelor's degree in
9 Aeronautic and Ocean Engineering from Virginia Tech
10 and a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering
11 from Johns Hopkins University.

12 After John gives us a brief welcome and
13 some information on license renewal, we're going to go
14 to Mr. Tom Kenyon who is on John's staff and he's a
15 project manager on this license renewal application.
16 He's been with the NRC for 23 years and has been
17 involved in advance design certification. He's served
18 as a project manager for various operating reactors,
19 has a wealth of experience and Tom has a degree from
20 the University of Michigan, a Bachelor's degree in
21 Nuclear Engineering. And he's going to talk about the
22 license renewal process overall.

23 And then we're going to get to the
24 specifics of the environmental review process and we
25 have Stacey Imboden who is right here. She's also on

1 John's staff. She's a Project Manager on this license
2 renewal application and she's been with us just a
3 couple of years, about two and a half, exactly.
4 Stacey comes to us with a Master's degree in
5 Environmental Engineering from Clemson University and
6 her Bachelor's is in Meteorology. I'm sure I
7 pronounced that right, but the weather, from Penn
8 State.

9 And with that, John?

10 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip, and good
11 evening and welcome. Welcome back to those returning
12 from this afternoon's meeting.

13 As Chip said, my name is John Tappert and
14 on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I'd
15 like to thank you for coming out and taking time out
16 of your evening and participating in this process.

17 I hope that the information that we will
18 share with you this evening will be helpful and we
19 look forward to receiving your comments, both tonight
20 and in the future.

21 Now we want to start by briefly going over
22 the purposes and agenda of tonight's meeting. First
23 of all, we'd like to give you a brief overview of the
24 entire license renewal process. This includes both
25 the safety review as well as an environmental review

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1 which will be the principal focus of tonight's
2 meeting. Then we'll give you some additional
3 information about how we will conduct that
4 environmental review which will assess the impacts
5 associated with extending the operating license for
6 Arkansas Nuclear One Unit 2 for an additional 20
7 years.

8 Then we'll give you some information about
9 the balance of our review schedule and how you can
10 submit comments in the future and then we get to the
11 major part of today's meeting which is to receive any
12 comments that you may have tonight.

13 First, let me provide some background for
14 the license renewal process itself. The Atomic Energy
15 Act gives the NRC the authority to issue operating
16 licenses to commercial nuclear power plants for a
17 period of 40 years. For Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2,
18 that operating license will expire in 2018. Our
19 regulations also make provisions for extending that
20 operating license as part of our license renewal
21 program. And Entergy has requested license renewal
22 for the Unit 2.

23 Now you notice I've been talking about
24 Unit 2 and those familiar with the Arkansas Nuclear
25 One Station know that there's two reactors there. And

1 the reason for that is that previously Entergy has
2 requested license renewal and received an extension on
3 that operating license until 2034.

4 So for Unit 2 we will now develop an
5 environmental impact statement assessing the impacts
6 of extending the operation of the plant. Right now
7 we're early in that process in what we call scoping
8 where we seek to identify those issues which will
9 require the greatest focus in our environmental impact
10 statement.

11 Now after we complete the scoping process
12 and do our review, we will develop a draft
13 environmental impact statement and return to the
14 community later this year to present our findings.

15 So with that brief introduction, I'd just
16 like to reiterate the purpose of today's meeting is to
17 receive any comments that you have tonight and I'd
18 like to ask Tom to give us some more details on the
19 safety review.

20 Tom?

21 MR. KENYON: Thank you, John. As John
22 mentioned my name is Tom Kenyon and I'm the
23 Environmental Project Manager for the ANO 2 license
24 renewal application.

25 Now before we get into a discussion of the

1 license renewal process, I'd like to take a few
2 minutes to talk about the Nuclear Regulatory's mission
3 and what it is that we do.

4 The NRC's mission is really threefold. It
5 is to ensure the adequate protection of the health and
6 safety of the public. It is to provide, protect the
7 environment and to provide for the common defense and
8 security. The NRC accomplishes this mission in a
9 number of different ways and through programs and
10 processes such as inspections, enforcement actions,
11 assessment of licensee performance and the evaluation
12 of operating experience of the various nuclear plants
13 throughout the United States.

14 Now the NRC's license renewal process is
15 very similar to the original licensing process that
16 was used to license ANO 2 and it involves two parts,
17 a safety review and an environmental review. And I'm
18 going to focus on what we considered during our safety
19 review for the next couple of minutes.

20 There are two types of safety issues that
21 we look at. There are current operating issues which
22 are dealt with now and then there are the aging
23 management issues that we deal with as part of our
24 license renewal review. Now the NRC's regulatory
25 oversight under the current operating license deals

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1 with the current safety issues and these are issues
2 such as emergency planning or security. And we're
3 dealing with those issues now, rather than waiting
4 until an applicant comes in and requests a renewed
5 license.

6 Because the NRC is dealing with those
7 issues, we do not re-evaluate them as part of our
8 license renewal review. Rather, our safety review for
9 license renewal focuses on aging management issues and
10 the programs that Entergy has in place to maintain its
11 equipment.

12 When we complete the safety review for
13 license renewal, we will issue a safety evaluation
14 report that is independently reviewed by a special
15 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards or what we
16 call the ACRS.

17 Now that committee is a group of academic
18 and industry experts that look at both the application
19 that is submitted by Entergy and then they look at the
20 results of our review that's in the SER and they
21 provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with their
22 findings and recommendations independent of the NRC
23 staff.

24 Now although Stacey Imboden will discuss
25 the environmental review in detail shortly, I just

1 want to talk about a couple of key points regarding
2 how we do the environmental review. When we perform
3 our environmental review, we look at a number of
4 different areas such as the ecology, the hydrology,
5 cultural resources and socio-economic issues. Now
6 part of that environmental review includes what we
7 call the scoping process during which we identify
8 those environmental issues that should be included in
9 the scope of our review at this point. And as John
10 mentioned, this meeting is part of the scoping process
11 and Stacey will discuss this process in more detail in
12 a few minutes.

13 Now this next slide will illustrate the
14 entire license renewal process. As you can see, this
15 slide shows the two parallel paths that I mentioned.
16 The upper path shows the safety review process which
17 involves the NRC staff's review and assessment of the
18 technical information that's contained in Entergy's
19 application.

20 We have a team of about 30 NRC technical
21 reviewers back at our headquarters in Washington, D.C.
22 that are conducting the safety review right now. They
23 are focusing on the effectiveness of the proposed
24 aging management programs that are contained in the
25 application.

1 The NRC staff reviews these aging
2 management programs to ensure that the plant can be
3 maintained and operated safely throughout the license
4 renewal term which is really just the additional 20
5 years of operation that they've requested.

6 Now the results of the staff's safety
7 review will be documented in the safety evaluation
8 report. You can see that there and as you can see
9 that report is provided to the ACRS for their review
10 and comment.

11 Now the safety process also involves
12 audits and on-site inspections and these inspections
13 are conducted by a team of inspectors that are pulled
14 together from both the NRC headquarters as well as the
15 regional offices and the results of their inspections
16 are documented in separate inspection reports.

17 Now the lower path shows how we perform
18 the environmental review and as I mentioned earlier it
19 involves the scoping activities which we are
20 conducting right now. We will then develop a draft
21 supplement to the generic environmental impact
22 statement, or GEIS, which documents the results of our
23 review. And eventually, we will issue the draft
24 report for comment and we will issue a final version
25 of the supplement to the GEIS once we've addressed all

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1 the comments that we've received.

2 So as you can see from the slide, the
3 final agency decision on whether to approve or deny
4 the application will factor in the results of a number
5 of different reviews. The results can be found in the
6 inspection reports, in the safety evaluation report
7 which addresses the safety review and the final
8 supplement to the GEIS which addresses our
9 environmental review as well as in the independent
10 report from the ACRS. All of these various
11 assessments are considered when the final Agency
12 decision is made.

13 Now one point I'd like to make is that the
14 splash marks shown on the slide indicate the
15 opportunities for public participation. The first
16 opportunity during the environmental review is during
17 the scoping process as we've discussed in which this
18 meeting is part of. Now during the scoping process,
19 members of the public can provide us with their
20 insights either during this meeting or in writing up
21 until February 20th. The next opportunity during the
22 environmental review is when we request comments on
23 the draft supplemental report.

24 Now separately, if there's a petition
25 filed to intervene in this process by an individual or

1 group, and if they have adequate standing, in other
2 words, if their request to intervene is granted by
3 either the Atomic Safety Licensing Board or by the
4 Nuclear Regulatory Commission itself, then a hearing
5 may also be involved in this process. The hearing
6 would be presided over by a panel of Administrative
7 Law Judges and it involves contentions, discovery and
8 cross examinations, just like in a court trial.

9 However, there were no petitions to intervene on
10 the ANO 2 proceedings.

11 And that ends my presentation on the
12 overall review process. Let me turn the microphone
13 over to Stacey Imboden who is working with me on this
14 review and who will talk about the details of the
15 environmental review process.

16 MS. IMBODEN: Thank you, Tom. I am Stacey
17 Imboden and I'm a project manager with the NRC.

18 Can I have Slide 6? Tom Kenyon and I are
19 responsible for coordinating the activities of the NRC
20 staff and experts in various fields from national labs
21 to develop an environmental impact statement for the
22 license renewal of Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2.

23 The National Environmental Policy Act of
24 1969 requires that federal agencies follow a
25 systematic approach in evaluating potential

1 environmental impacts associated with certain actions.
2 We are required to consider the impact of the proposed
3 action and also any mitigation for those impacts that
4 we consider to be significant. We're also required to
5 consider alternatives to the proposed action, in this
6 case license renewal, and that includes the no-action
7 alternative. In other words, if we decide not to
8 renew the license at Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2,
9 what will the environmental impacts be?

10 The National Environmental Policy Act and
11 our environmental impact statement are disclosure
12 tools. They are specifically structured to involve
13 public participation and this meeting is a part of
14 facilitating the public's participation in our
15 environmental review.

16 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has
17 determined that an environmental impact statement will
18 be prepared for proposed license renewal of nuclear
19 power plants. In preparing an EIS, the NRC conducts
20 a scoping process. The purpose of the scoping process
21 is to identify the significant issues to be analyzed
22 in depth. We are now gathering information for the
23 EIS and are here to collect public comments on the
24 scope of our review. What special issues should the
25 NRC staff consider when developing the environmental

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1 impact statement for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2?

2 The staff developed a generic EIS that
3 addressed a number of issues that are common to all
4 power plants that come to us for license renewal. The
5 staff is supplementing that generic EIS with an
6 Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 site-specific EIS that
7 will address environmental impacts specific to this
8 individual site.

9 The staff also evaluates the conclusions
10 reached in the generic EIS to determine if there is
11 any new and significant information that would change
12 any of those conclusions.

13 Next slide.

14 This slide shows the decision standard for
15 our environmental review and this is just the legal
16 language for our decision standard. And what it's
17 basically saying is that in the environmental impact
18 statement we determine if license renewal is
19 acceptable from an environmental standpoint.

20 Next slide.

21 This slide is just an expansion of the
22 lower portion of a slide that Tom had up a few moments
23 ago. It shows the environmental review process in
24 greater detail. We received Entergy's application
25 for the license renewal of Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit

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1 2, on October 15, 2003. On December 22, 2003, we
2 issued a Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare
3 an environmental impact statement and conduct scoping
4 process.

5 This started a 60-day clock defined as the
6 scoping period and we are within the scoping period
7 right now.

8 This meeting is a part of the scoping
9 process so that we can get comments from the public to
10 help us scope out the bounds of our environmental
11 review. At the end of the scoping period which is
12 February 20, 2004, we will issue a scoping summary
13 report that will address all of the comments that we
14 receive from all sources during the scoping process.

15 This week, members of the NRC staff and
16 experts from Pacific Northwest National Lab are
17 conducting an environmental site audit to help gather
18 information for the scoping process.

19 If during the conduct of the review, we
20 determine that we need additional information beyond
21 what was already provided to us in the initial
22 application, we will issue a request for additional
23 information and we expect to issue that request on
24 March 26, 2004.

25 Approximately eight weeks later, we expect

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1 to hear back from Entergy on those requests. At that
2 time, based on all of the information that we have in
3 hand, we will publish a draft of the environmental
4 impact statement for public comment.

5 We envision publishing the draft of the
6 environmental impact statement in September 2004 and
7 at that time it will go out for a 75-day public
8 comment period.

9 We plan to have another meeting here in
10 Arkansas in October to receive your comments on the
11 draft environmental impact statement. Once we get
12 comments on the draft environmental impact statement,
13 we will publish it in final form in April 2005.

14 Next slide.

15 This slide shows some of the sources where
16 we gather information during our review. In addition
17 to our site audit, we communicate with federal, state,
18 and local officials, as well as local service
19 agencies. One example of our communications is later
20 this week we have a meeting with the State Historic
21 Preservation Officer in Little Rock, Arkansas. And we
22 consider all of the comments that we receive from the
23 public as well.

24 Next slide.

25 For this review, we've established a team

1 made up of NRC staff supplemented by experts in
2 various fields from Pacific Northwest National Lab.
3 And this slide gives you an idea of some of the areas
4 that these experts evaluate. Some of these areas are
5 terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, archeology and
6 radiation protection.

7 Next slide.

8 This slide just recaps a couple of the key
9 milestones in our schedule. As mentioned, we are
10 currently in a scoping comment period which ends on
11 February 20, 2004. All comments from this transcribed
12 public meeting will be considered.

13 Tom mentioned the GEIS, the generic
14 environmental impact statement for license renewal.
15 That's an environmental impact statement that
16 addresses issues that are common to all power plants
17 that come to us for license renewal. We will be
18 publishing an Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 specific
19 supplement to the GEIS called a SEIS. That supplement
20 will be issued in draft form in September with a 75-
21 day public comment period. After considering your
22 comments on the draft, we will publish it in final
23 form in April 2005.

24 Next slide.

25 This slide identifies Tom Kenyon and I as

1 your primary points of contact on the NRC staff for
2 the environmental review. It also identifies where
3 documents related to the review can be found in the
4 local area. The Ross Pendergraft Library at Arkansas
5 Tech University has agreed to make the license renewal
6 application available, as well as any correspondence
7 sent by NRC to Entergy or other agencies regarding the
8 Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 review.

9 The draft environmental impact statement
10 will also be available at the library when it is
11 published later this year.

12 And these documents are also available on
13 NRC's website and that web address www.nrc.gov.

14 In addition, as you came in, you were
15 asked to fill out a registration card at the reception
16 desk and if you have provided your address on that
17 card, we will mail you a copy of the draft and final
18 environmental impact statements.

19 Next slide.

20 In addition to providing comments at this
21 meeting, there are other ways that you can submit
22 comments on our environmental review process. You can
23 provide written comments to the Chief of our Rules and
24 Directives Branch and that will ensure that your
25 comments get into our public record. You can also

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1 make comments in person if you happen to be in
2 Rockville, Maryland.

3 We've established a specific e-mail
4 address at the NRC for the purpose of receiving your
5 comments on the draft environmental impact statement
6 and what you think the scope of our review should be.
7 That e-mail address is anoeis@nrc.gov. All of your
8 comments will be collected and considered.

9 This concludes my remarks. And now Tom
10 Kenyon and I are available to answer any questions.

11 MR. CAMERON: Great. Thank you, Stacey
12 and thanks, Tom.

13 Can we answer any questions for any of you
14 about this process or how you participate in it, what
15 we're going to be looking at, when we prepare the
16 environmental review?

17 Any questions at all at this point?

18 (No response.)

19 This is the time of the meeting where we
20 look to you for formal comment and usually we have
21 people signed up to give us some comments. We don't
22 have anybody who has signed up. That doesn't mean
23 that anybody who wants to give us any type of formal
24 comment now on what we should look at in the scope of
25 the environmental review can't say anything. Anybody

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1 want to say anything at this point?

2 (No response.)

3 Okay, the NRC staff and some of our
4 experts from the national lab, we have them with us
5 tonight. They're available to talk to you after the
6 meeting about various subjects. So I think that
7 that's probably the end of the meeting.

8 And John, do you want to say anything
9 before we close at this point? Okay, well, thank you
10 all for being here and we're adjourned.

11 (Whereupon, at 7:24 p.m., the meeting was
12 concluded.)

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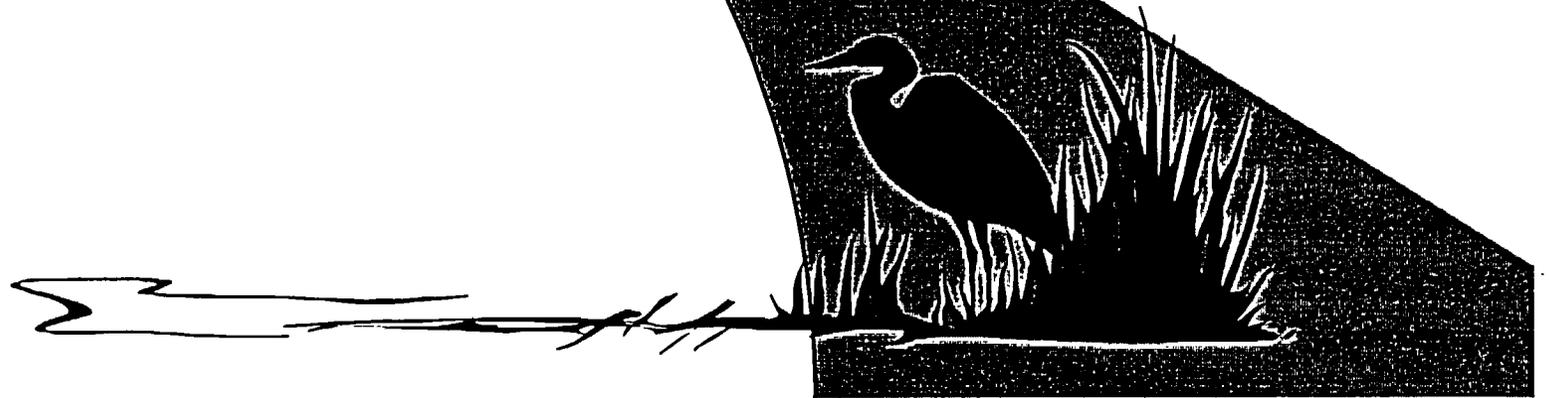
ENCLOSURE 4

**SLIDES: ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING
ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2**



Environmental Scoping Meeting Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
February 3, 2004





Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Discuss NRC's license renewal process
- Describe the environmental review process
- Identify environmental areas that the staff typically evaluates
- Provide the review schedule
- Accept any comments you may have today
- Describe how to submit comments



Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 License Renewal

- Current operating license expires 7/17/2018
- Application requests authorization to operate Unit 2 for an additional 20 years

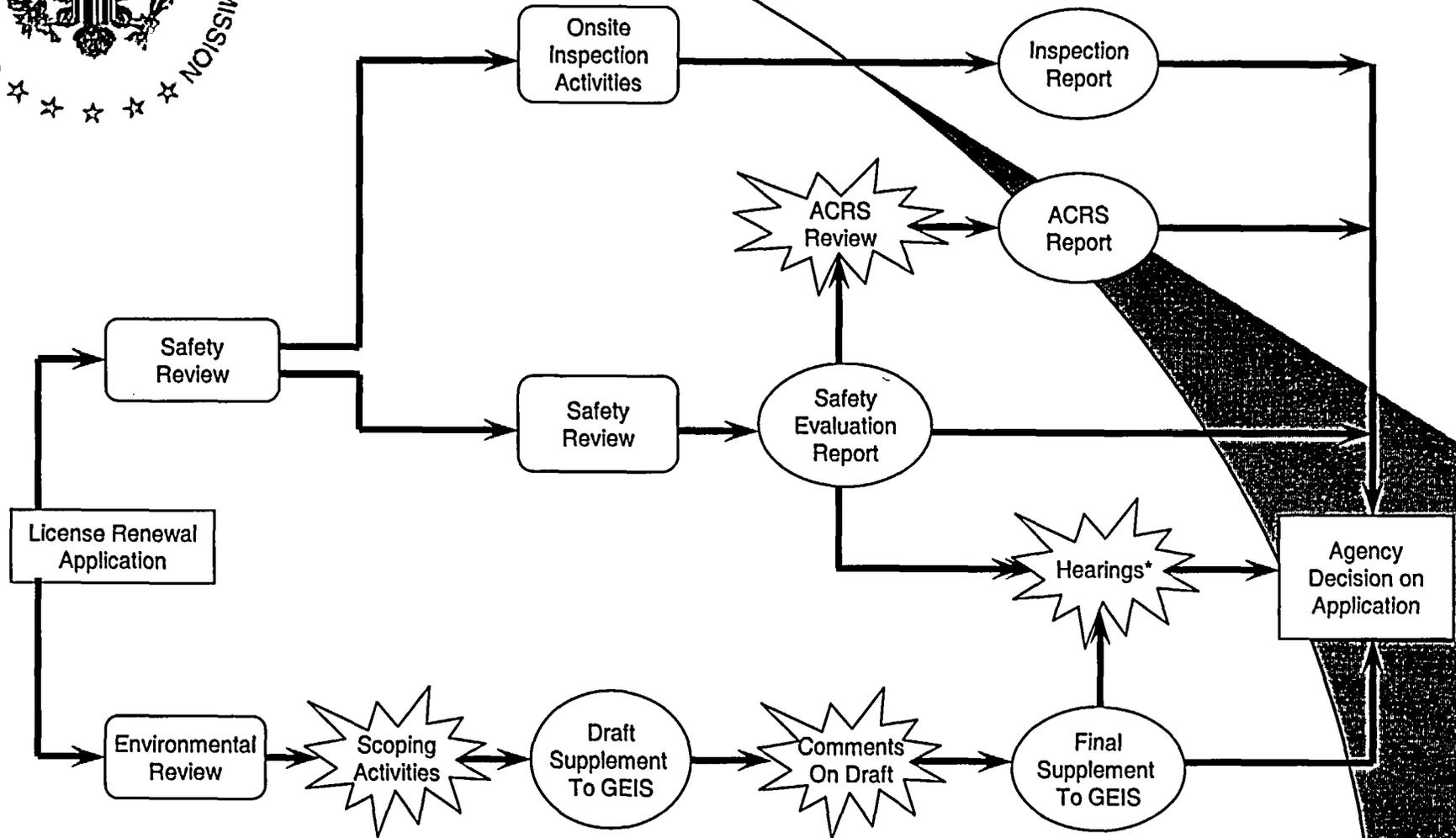


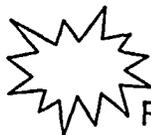
NRC's License Renewal Review

- Safety review
- Environmental review
- Plant inspections
- Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)



License Renewal Process



 Formal Public Participation

*If a request for hearing is granted



National Environmental Policy Act

-
- 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
 - Commission has determined that a supplement to the "Generic EIS for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" will be prepared for a license renewal application.

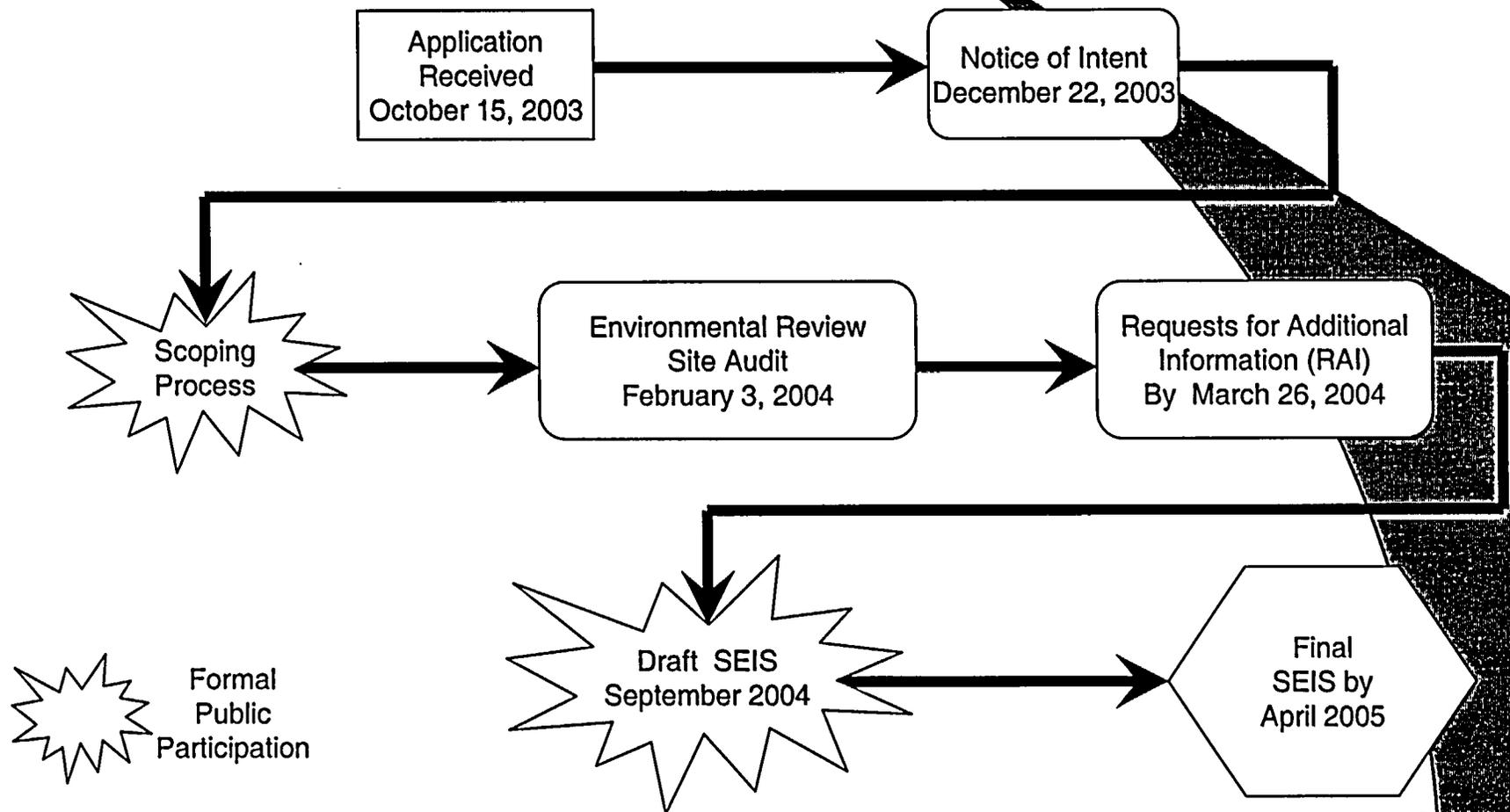


Decision Standard for Environmental Review

To determine whether or not the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 are so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning decisionmakers would be unreasonable.

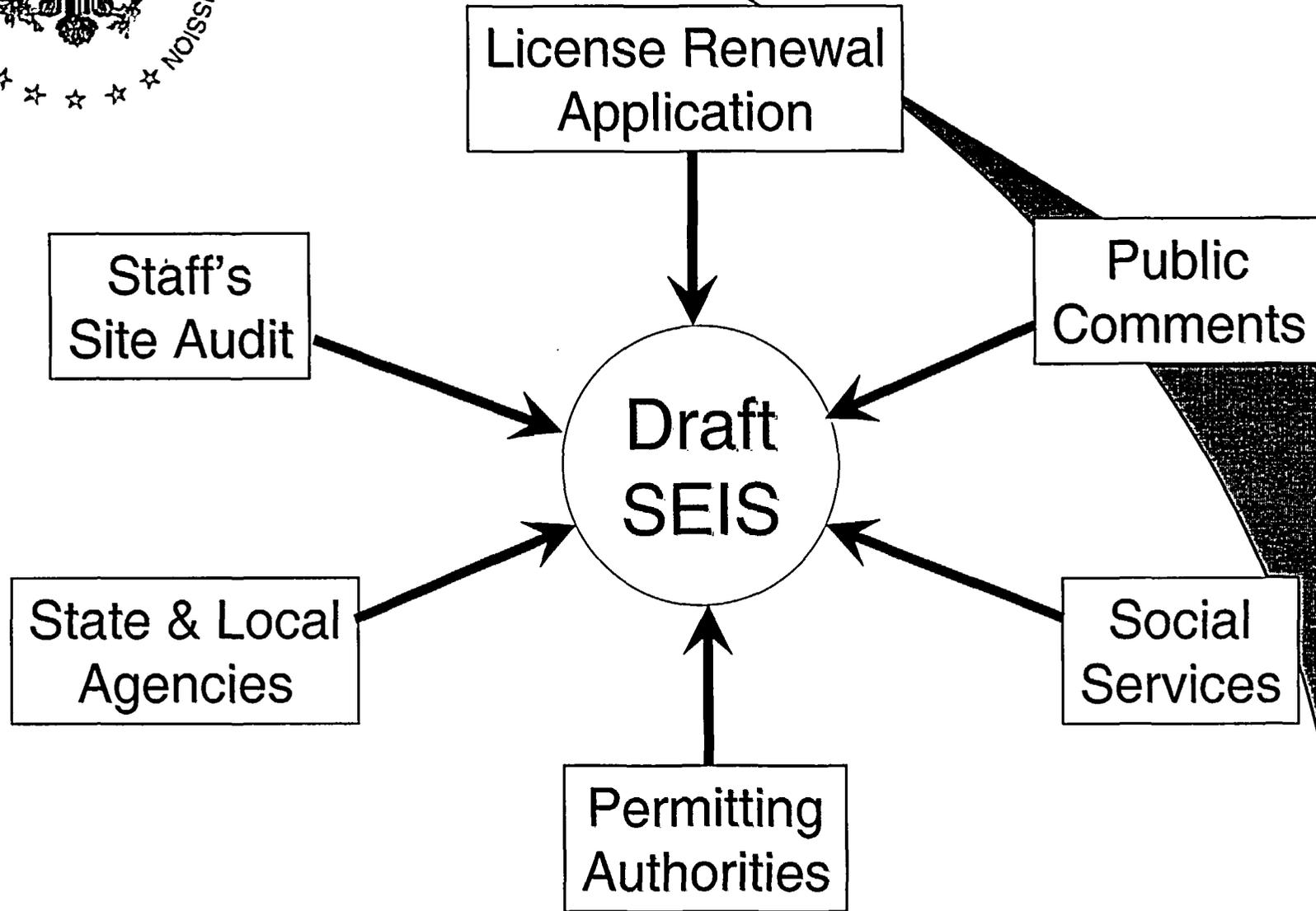


Environmental Review Process for License Renewal



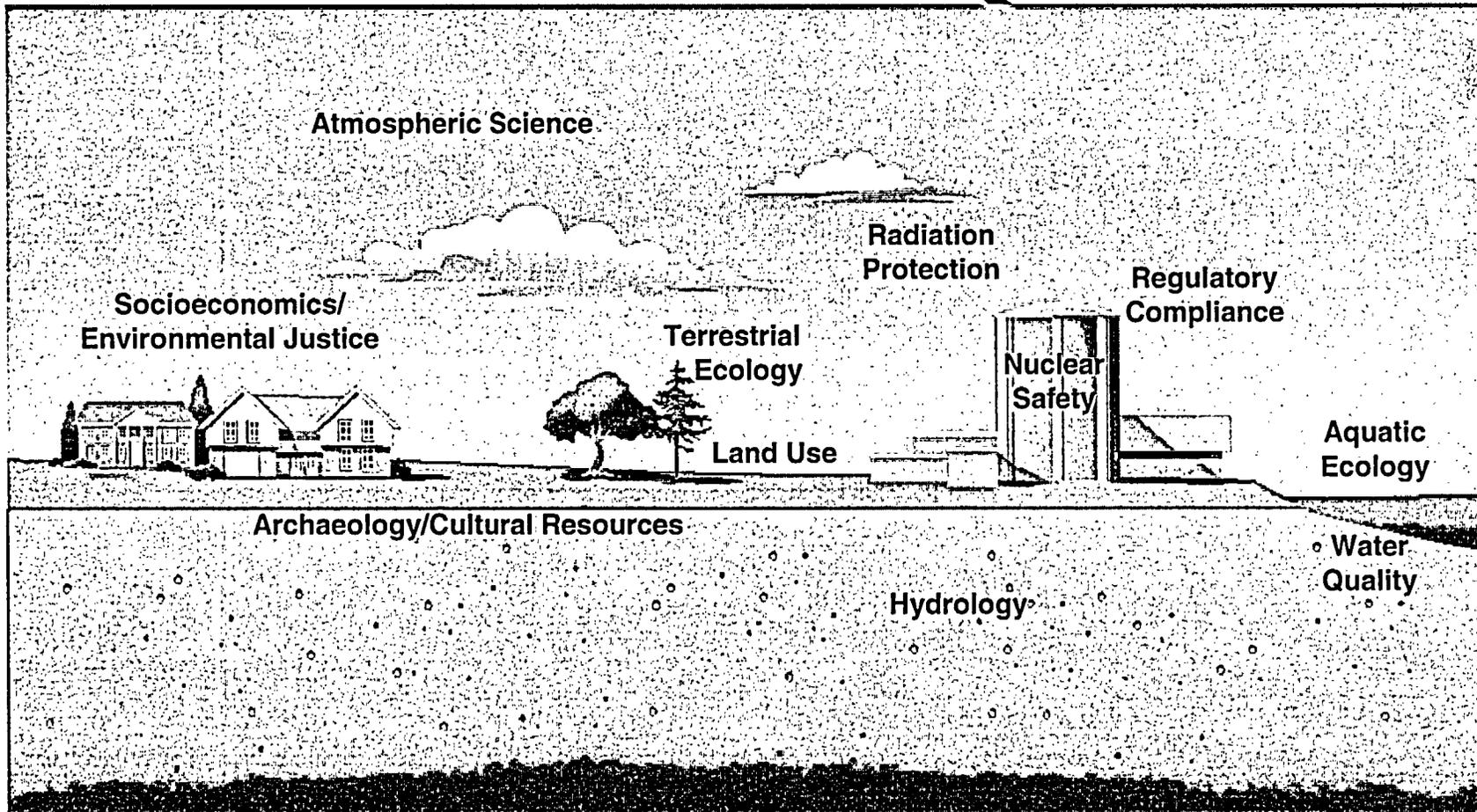


Information Gathering





Team Expertise





Environmental Review Milestones

- Scoping & Comment period – 12/22/03 to 2/20/04
- Issue draft SEIS – September 2004
- Issue final SEIS – April 2005



Point of Contact

- Agency points of contact:
Thomas Kenyon
Stacey Imboden
(800) 368-5642
- Documents are located at the Ross Pendergraft Library
at Arkansas Tech University
- Documents can also be viewed at the NRC's Web site
(www.nrc.gov)



NRC Addresses

Provide written comments:

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

