

# **Official Transcript of Proceedings**

## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Title:** D.C. Cook Application Renewal  
Public Meeting - Evening Session

**Docket Numbers:** 50-315 and 50-316

**Location:** Bridgman, Michigan

**Date:** Monday, March 8, 2004

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**Pages 1-28**

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN RE: THE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL  
OF THE LICENSES OF INDIANA MICHIGAN  
POWER COMPANY, A WHOLLY-OWNED  
SUBSIDIARY OF AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
POWER, TO OPERATE D.C. COOK NUCLEAR  
PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2, at BRIDGMAN,  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

+ + + + +

commencing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2004,  
at the Lake Township Hall building, 3220 Shawnee  
Street, Bridgman, Michigan.

APPEARANCES:

- LANCE RAKOVAN , Hearing Facilitator
- ROBERT SCHAAF
- JOHN TAPPERT

	INDEX	PAGE
1		
2	Welcome - Lance Rakovan	3
3	Purpose of Meeting- John Tappert	6
4	Overview of License Renewal & Environmental	
5	Review Process - Robert Schaaf	8
6	Public Comment Period - Lance Rakovan	16
7	Closing - John Tappert/Lance Rakovan	27
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

1 Monday, March 8, 2004 --

2 (All parties present in the meeting room  
3 at or about 7:00 p.m.)

4 MR. RAKOVAN: If everyone could find a  
5 seat, please, when you have a chance; we're going to get  
6 things started in the next few minutes.

7 (People come forward and take seats.)

8 MR. RAKOVAN: Going to go ahead and get  
9 started. I see a few people signing up in back. Please  
10 take your time with that and find a seat when you have a  
11 chance.

12 I'd like to welcome you all to this public  
13 meeting tonight that's being held by the NRC. I'm Lance  
14 Rakovan -- It's my pleasure to facilitate the meeting  
15 tonight, and I'm hoping this will be a productive  
16 meeting. Our subject tonight is NRC's environmental  
17 review, which is part of the evaluation of a request we  
18 have received from AEP, American Electric Power, to  
19 renew the operating license for Donald C. Cook Units 1  
20 and 2. I wanted to go through a little bit about the  
21 format for tonight's meeting, introduce some ground  
22 rules, and then go ahead and introduce the speakers  
23 from the NRC that are going to be giving presentations.

24 The first part of the meeting is going to  
25 be presentations done by the NRC. We're going to be

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1 going over a little bit of the license renewal process  
2 in general, and then specifically about the  
3 environmental review part, and then we're going to allow  
4 for some question and answer, just in case there's some  
5 questions about what was presented. From there, we're  
6 going to go to a second part; which is, we're going to  
7 open the mic up for public comment. This gives us an  
8 opportunity to listen to you; any comments,  
9 recommendations, advice, input that you might have for  
10 us in terms of deciding what we should look at in  
11 preparing a draft environmental impact statement on the  
12 license renewal application. I want to get out that any  
13 comments made here tonight are as good as submitting  
14 written comments. We have Marilyn here, who is going to  
15 be our stenographer for the evening. She is making sure  
16 that we have everything written down. And we will take  
17 this, they'll have the same weight as any written  
18 comments would be.

19 Ground rules. For the first session,  
20 which is going to be the NRC presentations, ask for you  
21 to hold your questions until the end, if you have any  
22 questions on them. And once the presentations have been  
23 wrapped up, just wave, get my attention somehow; I'll  
24 bring the cordless mic over to you and you can ask your  
25 question. At that time, if you could give your name and

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1 affiliation, if appropriate, just so Marilyn can get it  
2 down, and so everyone in the room knows who you are.

3 For the second part, we're going to open  
4 up the mic for formal comment. Ask to limit your  
5 comments to five to seven minutes. That's just a  
6 guideline. We've got a little flexibility here tonight.  
7 I don't think we're going to be pressed for time. But  
8 that's a guideline that we use. I would like to make  
9 sure that everybody has a chance to speak that wants to  
10 speak. In terms of just general guidelines, I ask that  
11 you let one person speak at one time. Primarily so that  
12 Marilyn has a chance to get it all down, but also as a  
13 sign of respect. And also, if you have any cell phones,  
14 beepers, those kinds of things, if you could turn them  
15 off or put them on vibrate so it doesn't interrupt the  
16 meeting, we'd appreciate that.

17 I'm going to introduce the NRC staff now,  
18 that are going to be giving presentations. First off,  
19 we have John Tappert. John, if you could stand up.  
20 Thank you. He is the chief of the Environmental Section  
21 of Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the NRC. John's been  
22 with the NRC for about 13 years. He's been a resident  
23 inspector in the past, and was with the Nuclear Navy  
24 before coming to the NRC. He has a Bachelor's in  
25 Aerospace and Ocean Engineering from Virginia Tech and a

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1 Master's in Environmental Engineering from Johns  
2 Hopkins.

3           Once John has a chance to welcome you and  
4 give you a little bit of information, he is going to  
5 turn things over to Bob Schaaf. Bob is our  
6 Environmental Project Manager for the D.C. Cook license  
7 renewal. He has been with the NRC for about 13 years,  
8 as well, and was with the Navy, as well. Bob has a  
9 Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech.

10           Once John and Bob have a chance to give  
11 their presentations, then we'll move over to the second  
12 part of the night, where you can come up and give your  
13 own comments -- if you would like to give a presentation,  
14 please fill out a yellow card in back, if you haven't  
15 already. That will help us get a chance to put the  
16 speakers in order and make sure everybody has a chance.

17           With that, I believe I will turn things over to  
18 John.

19           MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Lance. And good  
20 evening and welcome, everyone. As Lance said, my name is  
21 John Tappert. And on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory  
22 Commission, I would like to thank everyone for coming  
23 out here tonight and participating in this process. I  
24 hope that the information that we will share with you  
25 tonight will be helpful, and we look forward to

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1 receiving your comments, both tonight and in the future.

2 I'd like to first start off by going over  
3 the purposes of tonight's meeting and the agenda. We're  
4 going to start by giving you a brief overview of the  
5 entire license renewal process, which includes both a  
6 safety review as well as an environmental review, which  
7 will be the principal focus of tonight's meeting. We'll  
8 give you some more details about how we will conduct  
9 that environmental review, which will assess the impacts  
10 associated with extending the operating license of the  
11 D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant for an additional 20  
12 years. We'll also give you some information about the  
13 balance of our review schedule and how you can submit  
14 comments in the future. And then we get to the real  
15 heart of tonight's meeting, which is to receive any  
16 comments that you may have tonight.

17 But first, let me provide some brief  
18 context for the license renewal program itself. The  
19 Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the authority to issue  
20 operating licenses to commercial nuclear power plants  
21 for a period of 40 years. For D.C. Cook Units 1 and 2,  
22 whose operating licenses will expire in 2014 and 2017,  
23 respectively, our regulations also make provisions for  
24 extending those operating licenses as part of a license  
25 renewal program. And AEP has requested license renewal

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1 for both units.

2 As part of the NRC's review of that  
3 application, we will be developing an environmental  
4 impact statement. Right now we're early in that process  
5 in what we call "scoping," where we seek to identify  
6 those issues which will require the greatest focus  
7 during our review. And this public meeting here tonight  
8 is part of that scoping process.

9 After we develop our preliminary  
10 assessment, we will publish a draft environmental impact  
11 statement; return here at another public meeting to  
12 present our findings. And with that as brief  
13 introduction, I would like to ask Bob to give the  
14 balance of the presentation.

15 MR. SCHAAF: Thank you, John. Once again,  
16 my name is Bob Schaaf. I'm the Environmental Project  
17 Manager for the environmental review of the AEP  
18 application for the D.C. Cook plant license renewal.

19 Our license renewal application review  
20 process runs essentially along two paths; a safety  
21 review and an environmental review. The safety review  
22 is supported by on-site inspections and independent  
23 review by our Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

24 This figure illustrates the entire review  
25 process, highlighting opportunities for public

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1 involvement. The upper path shows the safety review and  
2 the lower path shows the steps in the environmental  
3 review process.

4           The safety review includes technical  
5 evaluation of the renewal application by the NRC staff,  
6 on-site inspections and audits by NRC regional and  
7 headquarters staff, and also an independent review,  
8 again, by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.  
9 The safety review is focused on the review of the  
10 applicant's programs for identifying and managing the  
11 aging of what we call "passive" systems, structures, and  
12 components. These programs are the focus of the license  
13 renewal review because our existing regulatory processes  
14 for operating nuclear plants ensure on an ongoing  
15 basis that "active" systems, structures, and components  
16 are inspected, maintained, and replaced as needed  
17 throughout the operating life of the plant. Also,  
18 existing programs verify that programs such as emergency  
19 planning and security are acceptable.

20           At the end of all these processes, the  
21 final safety evaluation report, the final environmental  
22 impact statement, the results of the NRC staff's  
23 inspections and the advisory committee's recommendation  
24 will be used by the agency in making a final  
25 determination on whether to renew the licenses.

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1                   Opportunities for public involvement are  
2 indicated by the splash marks on the diagram. The first  
3 opportunity for public involvement was through an  
4 opportunity to file a petition to request a hearing on  
5 the renewal application. That opportunity began in  
6 December and closed in early January. The process  
7 requires that a petition be submitted to hold hearings  
8 on issues that would be litigated by a panel of  
9 administrative judges. There were no petitions  
10 requesting a hearing for the Cook license renewal.

11                   The next opportunity for public  
12 involvement is today's meeting, which is part of the  
13 environmental scoping process. In the scoping process  
14 we determine the issues that we need to address in our  
15 environmental review.

16                   The next opportunity for public  
17 involvement will be when we request comments on our  
18 draft environmental impact statement.

19                   Finally, oral and written statements can  
20 be provided during the ACRS meetings. In addition to  
21 these opportunities throughout the process, members of  
22 the public who have nuclear safety concerns can raise  
23 those issues during additional public meetings that the  
24 NRC will hold to discuss our review of the Cook  
25 application. Meetings on particular technical issues

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1 are usually held at the NRC headquarters outside of  
2 Washington; however, some technical meetings and  
3 meetings to summarize the results of on-site inspections  
4 are typically held near the plant site. That's a brief  
5 overview of the entire license renewal process. I'll  
6 now provide a little more detail regarding our  
7 environmental review process.

8 The National Environmental Policy Act, or  
9 NEPA, is a Congressional mandate enacted in 1969, which  
10 requires all federal agencies to use a systematic  
11 approach to consider environmental impacts during  
12 certain decision-making proceedings. It's a disclosure  
13 tool that involves the public. It involves a process in  
14 which information is gathered to enable the federal  
15 agencies to make informed decisions. And then, as part  
16 of that process, we document that information and invite  
17 public participation to evaluate it.

18 The NEPA process for license renewal  
19 results in an environmental impact statement, also  
20 called an EIS, which describes the results of the  
21 detailed review that we do to evaluate the environmental  
22 impacts of a proposed action that may significantly  
23 affect the quality of the human environment.

24 In this case, we're preparing a supplement  
25 to the generic EIS for license renewal. The generic EIS

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1 addressed a number of issues common to all nuclear  
2 plants and identified additional issues that need to be  
3 reviewed for each nuclear plant applying for license  
4 renewal.

5 Our review considers environmental impacts  
6 of alternatives to the proposed action as well,  
7 including the no-action alternative, which would be  
8 simply not approving the request, and the impacts of  
9 constructing and operating alternative power-generating  
10 facilities. At this point, we're in the process of  
11 gathering information we need to prepare our  
12 supplemental EIS. In particular, at this stage, we're  
13 performing what we call "scoping". The NRC is having  
14 this meeting as part of our scoping process for the  
15 purpose of providing you and other government agencies  
16 with an opportunity to provide us with any information  
17 that you believe may have some bearing on the  
18 environmental evaluation.

19 Again, in particular, we are looking for  
20 information that may not be readily available or  
21 concerns that people might have that may not have been  
22 addressed by AEP in their application.

23 This slide describes the objective of our  
24 environmental review as it is stated in our regulations.  
25 To paraphrase, we're trying to determine whether or not

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1 renewing the Cook license for an additional 20 years  
2 is acceptable from an environmental standpoint. I  
3 should emphasize that if we conclude the license renewal  
4 is acceptable from an environmental perspective, all that  
5 means is that it will be environmentally acceptable for  
6 AEP to operate Cook for an additional 20 years. The NRC  
7 doesn't determine whether they actually operate for  
8 those additional 20 years. That decision is made by AEP  
9 and state regulators. It is possible that the utility  
10 could determine that it is not economically feasible to  
11 continue operating, even though it is environmentally  
12 acceptable.

13                   This slide gives a little more detail on  
14 the environmental portion of the review process,  
15 including some of the dates for the milestones in the  
16 process. AEP's application was received on November 3rd  
17 of last year. On February 6th of this year, we issued a  
18 notice of our intent to perform scoping, which we're  
19 doing now, and our intent to develop a supplemental  
20 environmental impact statement for the proposed action.  
21 We're currently in a data-gathering phase to determine  
22 the environmental impacts of renewing the license.  
23 After that, we will develop a draft environmental impact  
24 statement, which we expect to issue for public comment  
25 in September of this year. We'll also come back here in

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1 early November for another public meeting to talk about  
2 the results of our review and to provide an opportunity  
3 for the public to provide comments they may have on our  
4 draft impact statement. After receiving and evaluating  
5 any comments, we will then develop the final  
6 environmental impact statement, which we expect to issue  
7 in May of next year.

8 We are gathering information for our  
9 evaluation from a number of different sources. This  
10 week, we will go to the site to review AEP's procedures  
11 for managing environmental impacts and to observe  
12 firsthand how the plant interacts with the surrounding  
13 environment. We are meeting with federal, state, and  
14 local government officials, and we will consider all  
15 comments received from the public during the comment  
16 period.

17 This slide shows the range of  
18 environmental topics our team is reviewing. Impacts  
19 considered include such things as air quality, water  
20 quality, and effects on plants and wildlife. We also  
21 look at what we call "socioeconomics". How does the  
22 plant affect people's lives economically in the  
23 surrounding communities?

24 We have assembled a team of NRC staff and  
25 experts from the national labs with backgrounds in these

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1 technical and scientific disciplines in order to  
2 perform our environmental reviews.

3 To summarize a few key dates, our schedule  
4 is to complete the scoping process by April 6th, when  
5 the public comment period ends. After that, as  
6 indicated, we plan to issue our draft environmental  
7 impact statement in September of this year and to issue  
8 the final impact statement in May of next year. If you  
9 would like to receive a copy of these reports, please  
10 fill out a card at the registration desk.

11 This slide provides contact information in  
12 case you have additional questions after you leave the  
13 meeting today. I'm the designated point-of-contact  
14 within the NRC for the environmental portion of the  
15 license renewal review. Although you're welcome to  
16 contact me with any questions, if you have comments and  
17 wish to have them addressed in our review, they must be  
18 provided in writing or, as Lance indicated, in this  
19 meeting, where they will be transcribed and will be as  
20 good as written comments.

21 Arrangements have been made for the  
22 documents associated with the environmental review to be  
23 locally available -- the Bridgman Public Library, and  
24 the Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library in St. Joseph  
25 have been kind enough to make some shelf space available

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1 for documents related to the environmental review.  
2 Also, documents are available through our online  
3 document management system, which is accessible through  
4 our Internet home page.

5 After this meeting, comments can be  
6 submitted by mail, in person, if you happen to be in the  
7 Rockville area, or by e-mail at the addresses shown  
8 here.

9 And that concludes our formal presentation  
10 on the environmental review process. In closing, I'd  
11 like to thank everyone for attending and for your  
12 attention during the presentation, and we look forward  
13 to any comments you may have.

14 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you, Bob. And thank  
15 you, John. Before we move on to the second session,  
16 does anyone have any questions on either of the  
17 presentations?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. We'll move on then.  
20 We have a couple people who have signed up to speak. I  
21 think, if it's okay, we'll start out with Bret  
22 Witkowski, Berrien County Board of Commissioners. Bret,  
23 if you could come up? Or I could give you the mic,  
24 either way; whatever you want to do.

25 MR. WITKOWSKI: Thank you. I'm Bret

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1 Witkowski, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of  
2 Berrien County, and last week we passed a resolution.

3 If I could just read it here for your record:

4 "WHEREAS, American Electric Power/Cook  
5 Nuclear Plant has continuously been a good  
6 corporate partner with Berrien County since  
7 1975 when it began commercial operations, and

8 "WHEREAS, American Electric Power/Cook  
9 Nuclear Plant is pursuing an extension of its  
10 two operating licenses for an additional 20  
11 years, to the year 2037, and

12 "WHEREAS, the Nuclear Energy Institute  
13 research says every nuclear plant job creates  
14 one additional job in the surrounding  
15 community, and

16 "WHEREAS, the Cook Plant today generates  
17 2.1 million kilowatts of electricity for  
18 millions of people, their residences and  
19 businesses, and

20 "WHEREAS, Cook plant is the third largest  
21 employer in Berrien County, providing almost  
22 1,400 AEP and contract jobs, and

23 "WHEREAS, the Cook plant supports our  
24 local, state and national economies with \$90  
25 million in total wages and tax payments over

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1 approximately \$14 million, and

2 "WHEREAS, nuclear energy assists the  
3 County in achieving the best air quality goals  
4 with the EPA and Michigan Department of  
5 Environmental Quality.

6 "NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED the  
7 Berrien County Board of Commissioners supports  
8 and encourages the continuing licensing of  
9 AEP/Cook Nuclear Plant until 2037."

10 The one thing I always like to note, because we  
11 have 13 commissioners throughout this county, and it's  
12 hard to get all 13 to agree to very much, but this was a  
13 simple one for us as commissioners, because we do  
14 appreciate AEP's investment in this community, and they  
15 have been good partners in a lot of different areas and  
16 we definitely, as this resolution says, support the  
17 extension of the plant. -- Thank you.

18 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you for coming to the  
19 podium to speak tonight.

20 We're going to move on to three gentlemen  
21 from AEP who have requested to speak, starting first  
22 with Joseph Jensen, who is the senior vice president of  
23 nuclear generation.

24 MR. JENSEN: Good evening. I'm Joe  
25 Jensen. I am the site vice president at American

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1 Electric Power's D.C. Cook Plant, and it's a pleasure  
2 for me to be here tonight and represent the plant. And  
3 I also speak on behalf of our chief nuclear officer and  
4 senior vice president, Mano Nazar, who spoke at this  
5 afternoon's public meeting. I have 25-plus years'  
6 experience in nuclear, including time in the Nuclear  
7 Navy, time spent at a variety of Department of Energy  
8 test facilities, and also in the commercial industry,  
9 and have previously held a Senior Reactor Operator's  
10 license.

11 AEP is one of the largest utilities in the  
12 United States. And Cook is a very important source of  
13 emission-free generation for AEP, our community, and the  
14 nation. In 2001, we committed \$20 million to license  
15 renewal and millions more going forward as we seek -- as  
16 we move along in this process. We truly believe that  
17 this is a strategic milestone, not only for the Cook  
18 community, but for the greater community. Twenty years  
19 of additional operation means a diverse energy supply,  
20 environmental balance, and a source of jobs and tax  
21 revenue that are vital to our community.

22 Now, the license renewal process for us is  
23 about prevention and detection. Careful analysis,  
24 examination, and preparation will go into the programs  
25 that monitor equipment and structures for us to detect

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1 problems before they ever arise. Mano talked this  
2 afternoon about his experience as plant manager at the  
3 Oconee plant in South Carolina, which was the second  
4 plant in the nation to seek and be granted approval for  
5 license renewal. We have experience in this area; we're  
6 confident that our application process is sound and will  
7 yield positive results.

8           You have my personal commitment, the  
9 commitment of our staff, the folks that work for us, and  
10 with us, and the support of a great community to  
11 continue the safe, reliable operation of our plant. Our  
12 mission is safety while caring for the community and the  
13 environment. Thank you.

14           MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you very much,  
15 Joseph. Next, I'd like to go to Michael Finissi, who is  
16 the plant manager at D.C. Cook.

17           MR. FINISSI: Good evening. My name is  
18 Mike Finissi, and I'm the Plant Manager of the Cook  
19 Nuclear Power plant. A little bit about myself. I have  
20 a business degree; I have an engineering degree; I'm a  
21 licensed Professional Engineer in the states of Ohio and  
22 Michigan; and I have held a Senior Reactor Operator's  
23 license at the Cook Nuclear Power Plant. I've worked  
24 with American Electric Power for 19 years, most of which  
25 has been spent working either in Columbus or out here on

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1 the Cook Nuclear Power Plant. I believe my  
2 qualifications make me qualified to do my job, which is,  
3 first and foremost, safety. Safety to the public,  
4 safety to our neighbors, safety to our employees.

5 As an example of our commitment to safety,  
6 last fall we had a minor steam leak in the plant that  
7 most likely could have been fixed online. We chose to  
8 shut the plant down because there was jeopardy to our  
9 employees trying to fix it online. As environmental  
10 stewards, the plant was built with, what I call, a low  
11 profile so it blends in with the surrounding community.  
12 We do not have cooling towers, and our containment  
13 structures are lower profile so that they do blend in  
14 with the existing dunes. Our staff of 20 environmental  
15 employees assures that we meet federal and state  
16 requirements. Also, supporting our folks at the Cook  
17 Nuclear Power Plant, we have the Service Corporation  
18 down in Columbus, which has additional staff which  
19 provide additional expertise to us in this area.

20 We built a nature trail at the Visitor  
21 Center so that it gives us an opportunity for our  
22 children to come visit the Visitor Center and be one  
23 with nature, which is a unique opportunity. Also, we  
24 recycle our paper with the local Gateway Group in  
25 Berrien County, which provides two-fold pluses for us;

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1 one, we recycle paper; and, number two, we also help the  
2 folks in our community.

3 In conclusion, I believe our environmental  
4 submittal is comprehensive and reflects the  
5 environmental impacts for license renewal. Also, I  
6 would like to say that license renewal is good for this  
7 community; it gives the Cook Nuclear Power Plant the  
8 opportunity to provide safe, reliable, low-cost, clean  
9 power for many years to come. Thank you for your time.

10 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you very much,  
11 Michael. I'd now like to go to Richard Grumbier.  
12 Richard is the project manager of license renewal at  
13 AEP.

14 MR. GRUMBIER: Good evening, everyone. As  
15 the project manager, I just want to share a couple of  
16 things with you regarding the rigor of the application  
17 and our willingness to support NRC reviews. Before I do  
18 that, I just want to add to the environmental and the  
19 community support that we provide and have heard from,  
20 both, at this evening's session, as well as this  
21 afternoon's session. You know, we're not just leaders  
22 in local environment, but also at a national and an  
23 international level. You know, in addition to the  
24 educational programs at the Visitor's Center, in  
25 addition to assisting in the purchase of some land for

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1 the Chikaming Township for a park, we also have a  
2 considerable experimental effort in wind generation,  
3 and we're also involved in Bolivia and Belize forest  
4 preservation projects.

5 We're back to the application. Our  
6 application included an environmental report, which was  
7 developed by Cook staff, some of our environmental  
8 experts, and we sought the expertise from a third party,  
9 nationally known contract firm that provides a lot of  
10 support for other utilities.

11 This report basically did a review to see  
12 how Cook's existing environmental and compliance  
13 programs placed in with Michigan's Department of  
14 Environmental Quality, Department of Natural Resources,  
15 U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and E.P.A. In terms of supporting  
16 the NRC review, to date there have been three on-site  
17 audits. And the fourth one, basically, is going to  
18 start tomorrow as part of the environmental site audit.  
19 We're prepared to provide that support. We're prepared  
20 by making whatever information is available, available  
21 to the NRC to support the audit teams and whatever  
22 their needs might be so that they can complete this  
23 review. And I'm personally looking forward to being  
24 part of this community for 20 more years after we  
25 receive our renewed license. Thank you.

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1 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you very much. At  
2 this time, those are the only speakers that signed up to  
3 speak. I will open the floor up just to see if there is  
4 anyone else out there who did not sign up who would like  
5 to come up and make a statement right now. Sir?

6 MR. POLUHARYCZ: Come back here. I don't  
7 want to go up there.

8 MR. RAKOVAN: That's okay. I will bring  
9 the mic to you. If you could give us your name and if  
10 you have any affiliation.

11 MR. POLUHARYCZ: How ya doin'? This is  
12 Mike Poluharycz, and I have worked on and off at the  
13 plant during outages for several years here. And I  
14 guess my question is directed to the NRC, or to the  
15 plant people. What is the perception of other plants in  
16 the industry about the D.C. Cook plant? Because you  
17 hear a lot of things from other workers that work at  
18 other plants, but I would like to hear from the NRC, or  
19 from the plant staff, what is the perception of the  
20 D.C. Cook Plant when it comes to other plants in the  
21 industry?

22 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. Someone on the staff  
23 like to handle that? John?

24 MR. TAPPERT: I guess it's difficult for  
25 me to speak for the industry. We do have a oversight

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1 process for reactors, and perhaps the Resident could  
2 give some insight on where they stack out in that arena.

3 MR. KEMKER: Possibly. Sure. My name is  
4 Brian Kemker, and I'm the Senior Resident assigned to  
5 Cook Power Plant. And, as you know, most everyone in  
6 the room knows, the NRC has on-site inspectors at all  
7 of the commercial nuclear power plants throughout the  
8 country. And our job on-site primarily is to ensure  
9 that the plants are operated and maintained safely.  
10 There is an oversight process by which we conduct  
11 inspections, and we assess the performance of the  
12 plants, based upon results of inspections as well as  
13 based upon results of performance indicators for various  
14 things like plant trips or safety system unavailability  
15 or security systems, those sort of things. That  
16 information is available from the NRC Web site.

17 Where D.C. Cook currently stacks up, if  
18 you will, by comparison with other power plants their  
19 Unit 1 is currently at the -- if I'm not mistaken --  
20 licensee response column, based upon performance  
21 indicators and inspection findings all being considered  
22 a very low safety significance. Minor issues,  
23 essentially. Unit 2 is in the degraded cornerstone  
24 column, and that's as a result of a number of plant  
25 trips that have occurred over the past year or two.

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1                   Primarily, I would say, from a performance  
2 perspective, that puts them, although very -- in a safe  
3 operating position, it puts them, I'll say, to the  
4 right, if you will, of the performance of other  
5 utilities [on the Reactor Oversight Process Action  
6 Matrix] which are mostly in the licensee response or  
7 the regulatory response column. Does that answer your  
8 question?

9                   MR. POLUHARYCZ: Pretty close. I guess I  
10 want to hear from the other industries, maybe something  
11 of the plant, you know. Like INPO, what is their  
12 involvement in the plant? What do they say of D.C.  
13 Cook?

14                  MR. KEMKER: Well, I don't -- Certainly no  
15 one at the agency will, of course, speak for INPO, as  
16 far as their assessment. Someone from the licensee  
17 staff might be able to tell you. I'll state the results  
18 of insights or evaluations which we receive from INPO or  
19 any other industry or organization. Maybe I should  
20 refer to someone. Joe, would you like to . . . ?

21                  MR. JENSEN: Sure. Couple things. Number  
22 one, as Brian indicated, plants are operated safely, and  
23 that's clear. And, of course, our number one charge and  
24 charter is to operate the plant safely, protect the  
25 health and safety of the public. And we feel very

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1 strongly that we do that. And that's absolutely what we  
2 are committed to, nuclear safety is number one;  
3 environmental safety, industrial safety, personnel  
4 safety, all of those things are absolutely the number  
5 one things that we do. In those areas, that we grade  
6 ourselves we only have one standard that we judge  
7 ourselves against, and those are the standards of  
8 excellence. What is the very excellent plant doing?  
9 And that's where we judge ourselves against. In those  
10 areas where we fall short of that, we are aggressively  
11 pursuing actions to bring us to that level of  
12 excellence. So, I think that is the way I would respond  
13 to that; is that it's a safe plant, a great staff  
14 working hard every day to maintain the margins of safety  
15 that we have; and the areas where we think we need to  
16 get better, we're aggressively pursuing those actions.

17 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you. And it was  
18 oversight on my part to not introduce Brian earlier as  
19 the Senior Resident Inspector. I apologize for that.

20 Any other comments at this time?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay, if not, I think I'm  
23 going to hand the mic over to John to see if he could  
24 close things out for us tonight.

25 MR. TAPPERT: Thanks, Lance. And thanks

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1 again for coming out tonight. And I'd just like to  
2 reiterate that the scoping comment period is open until  
3 April 6th. So, if you have any additional comments, you  
4 have the slides, you can contact Bob and put them into  
5 the process. We will be staying after the meeting if  
6 you have any additional questions. I'm not sure we  
7 completely answered your question, but we can talk to  
8 you some more, if you wish, as well. Thanks again for  
9 coming, and drive home safely.

10 (Meeting adjourned at or about 7:35 p.m.)  
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