

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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POINT BEACH LICENSE RENEWAL
AND
PUBLIC MEETING

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TUESDAY

JUNE 15, 2004

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MISHICOT, WISCONSIN

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The Point Beach License Renewal Meeting met at
the Fox Hills Resort, 250 West Church Street, at 1:30 p.m.,
CHIP CAMERON, Special Counsel, presiding.

PRESENT FOR THE NRC:

CHIP CAMERON
JOHN TAPPERT
BARRY ZALCMAN
P.T. KUO

P R O C E E D I N G S

(1:30 P.M.)

1
2
3 MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon everyone. My name is Chip
4 Cameron. I'm the special counsel for public liaison at the Nuclear
5 Regulatory Commission, the NRC, and I'd like to welcome you to the
6 NRC's public meeting this afternoon.

7 Our subject for today is the NRC's environmental review
8 process that we use to evaluate an application that we received from
9 the Nuclear Management Corporation to renew the operating licenses for
10 the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2. And it's my pleasure to
11 serve as your facilitator this afternoon and in that role I'm going to
12 try to help everybody to have a productive meeting today.

13 I just want to say a few brief words about the meeting
14 process before we get into the substance of our discussions. First of
15 all, in terms of format, we're going to be using a two part format for
16 today's meeting. And these two parts of the meeting basically match
17 the objectives that we have for the meeting that you'll hear about
18 from the NRC staff.

19 The first part of the meeting we're going to give you
20 some background on the license renewal process at the NRC. And then
21 after you hear that we're going to go out to see if there's any
22 questions on that process that we can answer for you.

23 We're then going to go to the second part of the meeting
24 which is to give us an opportunity to listen to you for any advice,
25 recommendations, comments that any of you might have on the

1 information and the issues that we should look at in performing the
2 environmental review on this license renewal application.

3 And the NRC staff will be telling you that we're also
4 going to take written comments on these issues, but we're here with
5 you today to talk with you in person about this and I just want to
6 assure you that anything that we do hear from you today will carry as
7 much weight as a written comment.

8 You may hear information today from the NRC or from
9 other members of the audience that will either prompt you to submit a
10 written comment or will give you information on which to base your
11 written comments. But we're here taking a transcript of the meeting.
12 We have Stuart Karoubas as our transcriber today and that will be our
13 record of the meeting and it will also be available to anybody who
14 wants to take a look at it. So your comments will be captured today.

15 In terms of ground rules, they're very simple. When we
16 get to the question and answer part of the program after the NRC
17 presentation, if you have a question just signal me and I'll bring you
18 this cordless microphone. Give us your name and affiliation, if
19 appropriate, and we'll try to do our best to answer your questions.

20 I would ask that only one person speak at a time. Not
21 only so that we can get a clean transcript, so that we know who's
22 talking, but also so that we can give our full attention to whomever
23 has the floor at the time. And generally, I would just encourage
24 everyone to try to be brief and to the point to make sure that we have
25 an opportunity to hear from everyone that wants to talk today. I

1 don't think that that's going to be a problem. We have plenty of
2 time. But I would still encourage you to do that.

3 When we get to the formal comment part of the meeting, I
4 ask people to follow a five to seven minute guideline in their
5 remarks. And it's not, it's a guideline, it's not a drop dead rule.
6 But if you could follow that it would be appreciated.

7 I wanted to just introduce, before we get started, the
8 two NRC staff who are going to be talking to you today. First of all,
9 Mr. John Tappert, who is right here. And John is the Section Chief of
10 the Environmental Section within our license renewal and environmental
11 impact program at the NRC. And John's staff, they do the
12 environmental reviews, not only for license renewal applications but
13 for any reactor licensing action that we have to take that requires
14 some type of environmental review.

15 And John has been with the agency for about 14 years.
16 He has served as a resident inspector. These are the NRC staff who
17 are on site at all of the reactors to make sure that NRC regulations
18 are being complied with. He was with the Nuclear Navy before that and
19 has a Masters in Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins
20 University and a Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautic and Ocean Engineering
21 from Virginia Tech. John is going to give you a brief welcome, a
22 little bit of context.

23 And then we're going to go to the major NRC presenter,
24 Mr. Barry Zalzman, right here. And Barry is acting as the project
25 manager for the license renewal application for Point Beach and he's

1 going to talk about the license renewal process and specifically about
2 the environmental review process.

3 And Barry's been with the agency for 25 years at this
4 point and he's been involved in a lot of major initiatives that the
5 agency has undertaken; both license renewal reactor citing, and
6 emergency preparedness. He's done undergraduate work and graduate
7 work. The undergraduate work was in environmental science. The
8 graduate work was in meteorology and geophysical fluid dynamics at
9 Rutgers and Barry also has some extensive experience in environmental
10 engineering work in the private sector with Dames & Moore Company.

11 And one other person who I just want to introduce who is
12 with us today is Mr. P.T. Kuo. And P.T. is the director of the
13 License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program. And thank you for
14 being here with us today, P.T.

15 MR. KUO: Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: And I would just thank all of you for being
17 here and helping us with this decision that we have to make on whether
18 to grant the license renewal application. We will be glad to answer
19 any questions. We are here after the meeting. We have many experts
20 with us here today to talk with you about any subject that you have a
21 concern about. And with that, Barry, would you like, or John rather,
22 would you like to start us off?

23 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip, and good afternoon
24 everyone and welcome. My name is John Tappert and on behalf of the
25 Nuclear Regulatory Commission I would like to thank everyone for

1 coming out here today and participating in this process. We hope that
2 the information that we will share with you today will be helpful and
3 we look forward to receiving your comments both today and in the
4 future.

5 Now I want to start off this meeting by briefly going
6 over the purposes and agenda today. First of all, Barry's going to
7 give you a brief overview of the entire license renewal program. This
8 includes both a safety review as well as an environmental review which
9 will be the principal focus of today's meeting. Then I will give you
10 some more details about that environmental review which will assess
11 the environmental impacts associated with extending the operating
12 licenses for the Point Beach Units 1 and 2 Nuclear Power Plants for an
13 additional 20 years. And we'll give you some information about the
14 schedule for the balance of the review and how you can submit comments
15 in the future. And then we really get to the heart of today's
16 meeting, which is to receive any comments that you may have today.

17 But first before Barry gets started, let me provide some
18 brief regulatory context for the license renewal process itself. The
19 Atomic Energy Act gives the NRC the authority to issues operating
20 licenses to commercial nuclear power plants for a period of 40 years.
21 For the Point Beach Units those licenses will expire in 2010 and 2013
22 for Units 1 and 2 respectively.

23 Our regulations also make provisions for extending those
24 operating licenses for up to an additional 20 years as part of a
25 license renewal program and NMC has requested license renewal for both

1 units.

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

9 After we do our preliminary assessment we're going to
10 publish a draft environmental impact statement and then we'll hold
11 another set of public meetings here early next year to receive
12 comments on our review. And with that as a brief introduction I'll
13 ask Barry to give you his overview. Barry?

14 MR. ZALCMAN: Thank you, John. My name is Barry Zalcman.
15 As John indicated, I'm the acting environmental project manager for
16 the Point Beach license renewal application. I'll be introducing some
17 other folks that are with us here today to assist in responding
18 perhaps to some questions that you may have. They serve as additional
19 resources or a part of teams that the agency is using to review this
20 application. We'll be here after the meeting so if there is some issue
21 that may have been identified where you think they have some expertise
22 they'll be happy to work with you and respond to those as well.

23 Some of the folks actually work with me in Washington,
24 D.C., our headquarters operation. Some of the folks are here from our
25 regional operations in Chicago. We also have, as Chip indicated, John

1 was a resident inspector in the past. We have individuals located at
2 the facility that actually live in the community. Some of those folks
3 are back at the plant doing inspections day in and day out.

4 In introducing folks let me at least start out with
5 Stacey Imboden. Stacey's going to assist me, at least, today for this
6 activity. Stacey is on our staff back in Washington, D.C. and is part
7 of the team that we're using to evaluate the environmental issues of
8 Point Beach.

9 Also in the back is Paul Schumann. Paul is one of our
10 folks from the National Laboratories. We have three national labs
11 participating with us in this review. Paul is from Los Alamos. We
12 also have folks from Lawrence Livermore as well as Argonne National
13 Laboratory.

14 With those limited directions I would like to welcome
15 you today. This is a very important step in the environmental review.
16 We look forward to a healthy and objective interaction with you and
17 look forward to the comments that you'll be able to provide to us.
18 You're an essential stakeholder in this review process and we
19 actually, genuinely, look for your participation.

20 Before I get into the discussion of license renewal I'd
21 like to provide some background. To talk a little about the NRC, the
22 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and our mission, to talk about the
23 important distinction between the safety review and the environmental
24 review, and to provide you a little bit of context so you can better
25 understand why we're here today and what is it we hope to accomplish.

1 So for those of you who are familiar with this, my
2 apologies in advance. For those of you who are not, perhaps this is
3 useful. The NRC's mission is threefold; to protect public health and
4 safety, to provide for common defense and security as well as to
5 protect the environment.

6 The first two; protecting public health and safety and
7 providing for common defense and security are safety issues under the
8 Atomic Energy Act. Protecting the environment we do under regulatory
9 authority under the National Environmental Policy.

10 The NRC accomplishes its mission through a series of
11 activities. Some of these are inspection activities and some of these
12 are enforcement actions, assessments of performance, and the
13 evaluation of operating experience. In some respects the NRC license
14 renewal review is similar to the original licensing review in that we
15 complete an environmental review and we complete a safety review.

16 In one important respect it's fundamentally different.
17 The facility is already operating. If it's allowed to operate then it
18 complies with NRC regulatory requirements.

19 The NRC safety review is an ongoing responsibility. The
20 NRC is always involved in reviewing operational issues. So at the
21 time we conduct the license renewal review we will consider both
22 current operating issues as well as aging management issues into the
23 future.

24 Current operating issues are those already covered by
25 the NRC regulatory oversight under the current operating license. So

1 these safety issues are considered routinely whether or not there's an
2 application to renew a license.

3 These are the issues of today and the NRC expects them
4 to be considered and addressed today. The Commission determined the
5 license renewal safety review must frame its focus on the issues of
6 tomorrow which are the aging management issues and those new programs
7 that must be put in place to maintain equipment through the renewal
8 period.

9 For license renewal, the safety review focuses on aging
10 management programs and new programs. The kinds of issues subject to
11 license renewal include the long-lived passive components of the
12 facilities that may not be subject to the routine existing
13 preventative maintenance activities.

14 The NRC staff compiles the results of its review in the
15 safety evaluation report or an SER. In conjunction with an SER the
16 NRC conducts safety audits and inspections to verify the accuracy of
17 aging management programs. The SER is then subject to the scrutiny and
18 independent review of the Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor
19 Safeguards, the ACRS. The ACRS is a group of academic and industry
20 experts that work as direct consultants to the Commission.

21 The requirement to issue an environmental impact
22 statement was established by the National Environmental Policy Act.
23 The Commission determined that environmental review should be
24 thorough, it should involve the public, and a staff evaluation of the
25 environmental impacts of license renewal cover the full range of

1 environmental issues. It covers the biological issues, the physical
2 environmental issues, the social issues as well as the radiological
3 issues.

4 The NRC compiles the results of its review in an
5 Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, and this report is then
6 subject to the scrutiny and independent evaluation of experts such as
7 you.

8 The NRC is an independent executive agency. We are not
9 in the executive branch. As a consequence we develop our own
10 environmental protection regulations. They are consistent with the
11 rest of the federal family. These regulations of the U.S.
12 Environmental Protection Agency and the Council of Environmental
13 Quality guide other federal agencies in conducting their environmental
14 reviews.

15 Part of the environmental review leading to an EIS is
16 the scoping process. And that's why we're here today and that's why
17 we're seeking your input. As John indicated, in the scoping process
18 it allows us to frame the issues that will be reviewed and engage you
19 directly to receive your insights on environmental issues that you
20 believe are important for license renewal.

21 This slide provides a consolidated description of the
22 license renewal process. It is the same slide that we provided to you
23 at the NRC's license renewal information meeting held in this area in
24 March of this year. As you can see, the review process involves the
25 two parallel paths that I mentioned; the safety review at the upper

1 portion and the environmental review at the bottom.

2 The NRC has a team of about 30 NRC technical reviewers
3 and contractors who are conducting the safety review right now. With
4 that, let me introduce Mike Morgan to all of you. Just as I am the
5 environmental project manager, Mike is the safety project manager.

6 Mike made the presentation to you back in the March time
7 frame. We did that early in the review so you could become familiar
8 with the review process and decide whether and how you'd like to
9 participate in the process.

10 It's Mike's side of the house that conducts the safety
11 review focusing on the effectiveness of aging management programs and
12 the new programs that must be put in place for the renewal period.
13 Mike and his team review the safety issues and the activity so that
14 equipment can be managed if the license were to be extended from 40 to
15 60 years. The SER documents the results of the safety review, and as
16 I indicated, the ACRS will perform an independent evaluation of that.

17 The safety review also involves audits and on-site
18 inspections. These inspections will be conducted by a team of
19 inspectors from both NRC headquarters as well as folks in Chicago, our
20 regional office. Representatives from our inspection program are here
21 today; Tony Vogel as well as Laura Kozak are here from Region III in
22 Chicago. And we also do have resident inspectors that are located at
23 the facility today. Results of the license renewal inspection will be
24 documented in a separate inspection report.

25 And now the environmental review, the lower portion of

1 the slide. The scoping process will help us refine the scope of the
2 issues as we develop the EIS to decide whether or not the operating
3 license should be renewed.

4 And just so you understand that we're not starting with
5 a clean piece of paper or an empty slate, the Commission has already
6 given some thought to this over the last decade and a half. We've
7 already taken a hard look at some of the environmental issues to
8 determine whether or not some of the issues and their impacts were
9 common or were generic to all plants. This effort took over five
10 years and now it helps us focus on those unique issues that could only
11 be resolved on a site-specific basis.

12 Consequently the EIS that we'll develop for Point Beach
13 will be a site-specific EIS and will take the form of a site-specific
14 supplement to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement, or GEIS.
15 The GEIS is also known as NUREG-1437 and the site-specific supplement
16 for Point Beach will be Supplement Number 23. From that number it
17 should be apparent that we've done a lot of this work in the past.

18 The supplement or SEIS will be issued for public
19 comment. As John indicated, we'll be back here to give you an
20 opportunity to share your views on that report. Then we'll reflect
21 other comments that you offer and make adjustments where necessary
22 before the Supplemental EIS is finalized.

23 So as you can see from this slide, the final agency
24 decision on whether to approve or to deny the application will depend
25 on a number of items; the safety evaluation report which documents the

1 results of the safety review, the final supplement to the GEIS which
2 documents the results of the environmental review, the inspection
3 reports issued by our regional office, and the report of the
4 independent Advisory Committee, the ACRS.

5 I want to draw your attention to the verse on the slide
6 because I indicate the opportunities for public participation. The
7 first is this scoping process of which today's meeting is a part of.
8 We will distill the information that you share with us and carry
9 forward those issues that are within the scope of the environmental
10 review.

11 The next opportunity for public involvement during the
12 review is when we share the results of our analyses with you and give
13 you the opportunity to comment on our draft.

14 Separately from the technical reviews, if a petition was
15 filed to intervene in this action and the petitioner, either an
16 individual or a group, has demonstrated its interest and adequately
17 details its concerns, then a hearing may be granted by either the
18 Atomic Safety Licensing Board, ASLB, or the Commission itself. Now
19 the window of opportunity to request a hearing just ended. And while
20 we're aware that a petition was not filed electronically, we'll still
21 be checking the mail over the next several weeks to determine whether
22 a petition was actually filed or not.

23 Unlike some other types of actions, as examples New Site
24 Application or New Construction Application, a hearing is not
25 mandatory for license renewal. An NRC hearing is a formal legal

1 process presided over by a panel of three administrative judges. It
2 involves discovery, cross examinations, just like a court trial. And
3 we also have a member of our Office of General Counsel with us today,
4 Ann Hodgdon, and she's one of several staff attorneys that work with
5 the staff to assist us on legal and hearing issues.

6 If a hearing is granted then the schedule for license
7 renewal runs about 30 months. And if there's no hearing then it
8 should last 22 months.

9 Let me provide you now a little more detail on
10 NEPA, then we'll continue on to the discussion on the environmental
11 decision standard, the environmental review that we plan to conduct,
12 our schedule and your points of contact.

13 The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires
14 that federal agencies follow a systematic approach to evaluate
15 potential environmental impacts associated with certain actions. As a
16 regulatory agency, the NRC issues the licenses. The issuance or
17 amendment to a license is a federal action. Some actions that fall
18 into a certain category, such as administrative actions, are excluded
19 from an environmental review. For other types the staff is required
20 to consider the impact of proposed actions and ways to mitigate or
21 reduce the consequences or the severity of impacts for those that
22 could be significant.

23 The NRC staff is also required to consider alternatives
24 to proposed actions. In this case the proposed action is license
25 renewal. And the alternatives must include the no-action

1 alternative. In other words, the NRC, in considering this action must
2 consider the environmental impacts of disapproving the proposal as
3 part of its review.

4 The NRC will consider, for example, the new plant construction
5 as an alternative to replace the electrical energy supplied by Point
6 Beach when it ceases operation. Therefore, NEPA leads to informed
7 decision making.

8 And as part of our review we'll also look at cumulative
9 impacts. After all, there's another nuclear power plant just up the
10 road at Kewaunee. The National Environmental Policy Act and our
11 Environmental Impact Statements are disclosure tools specifically
12 structured to involve public participation. This scoping process and
13 particularly this meeting is our way of facilitating your
14 participation in our environmental review. Other agencies may have
15 different public participation processes as they implement NEPA.

16 The Commission has determined that an Environmental
17 Impact Statement will be prepared as part of our review of every
18 license renewal application for nuclear power plants. And the EIS
19 provides the public the greatest level of participation with the NRC's
20 environmental review.

21 So I emphasize again, in preparing the EIS this and other
22 opportunities exist to provide your insights. We look forward to
23 listening to your views on the significant environmental issues to be
24 analyzed in depth. We are now gathering information to develop the
25 EIS and we want to take back your comments on the scope of the review.

1 We're looking to identify where there are special issues that the
2 staff should consider in a proposed renewal for Point Beach.

3 As I indicated earlier, we have developed a Generic
4 Environmental Impact Statement that addressed a number of issues that
5 were common to all nuclear power plants. The GEIS was issued in 1996
6 so we're also looking to identify whether there is new and significant
7 information related to those resolved issues to determine whether such
8 information would have a bearing on the earlier conclusion. A number
9 of issues can only be resolved on a site specific basis. So we're
10 looking for information that's unique to this site and surrounding
11 area that could be affected by a decision to renew Point Beach's
12 license.

13 This next slide states the decision standard for the
14 environmental review, it's drawn right from our rules. Simply stated,
15 we are to determine whether the impacts of operation for another 20
16 years are so great that we should preclude renewal. An important
17 element of this decision standard is the recognition that the NRC does
18 not dictate whether the plant will operate. That decision is left to
19 the license holder and the public service commissions and others.

20 In our portion of the license renewal review the NRC
21 will determine whether the plant can operate from an environmental
22 perspective. But even that's not sufficient to operate. There are a
23 myriad of other federal and state requirements, licenses and permits
24 that must be in proper order for Point Beach to operate. Our NEPA
25 review and the SEIS will disclose the status of all environmental

1 permits and licenses associated with Point Beach.

2 This next slide expands the lower portion of the earlier
3 schematic. It illustrates the environmental review process in greater
4 detail and it gives you a sense of the schedule for the review of the
5 application. We received the NRC's application for the license
6 renewal of Point Beach on February 26th of this year. On May 13th we
7 issued a Federal Register Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental
8 Impact Statement and conduct scoping. That formal notice started a 60
9 day window, defined as the scoping period, and we're in the middle of
10 that period right now.

11 At the end of the scoping period, or July 14th, we'll
12 compile all the comments received and determine whether they're within
13 or outside the scope of the environmental review. If they are in
14 scope then we will carry them forward in our review. We'll be issuing
15 a scoping summary report that will address all the comments that we
16 received either today or throughout the scoping period. Now during
17 this week the NRC environmental staff and a team of experts from your
18 national laboratories were conducting a site environmental audit to
19 gather information as we develop the environmental review.

20 If during our review we require additional information
21 from the applicant beyond the information that already exists on the
22 public record, then we will issue a request for additional
23 information. Our schedule calls for that request to be issued in the
24 August time frame. And we'd expect a response by November.
25 Thereafter, we expect to publish the draft Supplemental Environmental

1 Impact Statement for comment in January of next year.

2 At a mid point in the 75 day comment period, or in
3 February of next year, we expect to come back here to share our
4 findings and provide you an opportunity to share your views with us on
5 our work. Finally, after considering your comments we expect to
6 publish the SEIS in final form in Septmeber of next year.

7 Okay, as I wind down, this slide shows us some of the
8 sources of information that will help us frame our review. In
9 addition to our environmental audit activities on-site we will be
10 communicating with federal, state, tribal and local agencies as well
11 as local service agencies. Some of those interactions have already
12 occurred. Some will occur during the rest of the week and beyond. We
13 consider all the comments received from the public, and as Chip
14 indicated earlier, any comment that you make today will have the same
15 weight and bearing as any comment that we receive in written form.

16 As I mentioned earlier, we established an environmental
17 review team made up of NRC staff and national lab experts. This slide
18 gives you an idea of some of the areas that these experts evaluate as
19 part of the review. They include terrestrial and aquatic ecology, air
20 and water quality, land and water use, radiation protection,
21 meteorology and hydrology, cultural resources, archaeology and
22 socioeconomic. The EIS will be a comprehensive assessment involving
23 all of these disciplines.

24 So let me recap with a couple of key milestones. The
25 scoping period ends on July 14th. All comments from this meeting will

1 be considered along with all those received in written or electronic
2 form. There may be something that you hear today that causes you a
3 desire to submit additional information, as long as it's submitted by
4 that July 14th time date you can submit it and we'll be able to
5 consider it.

6 The draft of Supplement Number 23 to the GEIS, or the
7 Point Beach site-specific EIS for license renewal, will be issued in
8 January 2005 for a 75 day public comment period. We'll come back into
9 your neighborhood to discuss that with you again. And after we
10 consider comments the SEIS will be published in final form in
11 September of 2005.

12 For the rest of the scoping process I'll be your primary point
13 of contact with the NRC. And when I'm finished Chip will give you the
14 opportunity to ask questions about license renewal or the
15 environmental review and this process. We will be here after the
16 meeting. If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to approach
17 any of the NRC staff with a badge. If after we leave you have
18 questions, that is my number, you can reach me, and I'll either
19 respond to your question directly or get the right people to talk with
20 you.

21 This also identifies where documents related to our
22 review may be found in the local area. The staff at the Lester Public
23 Library have graciously agreed to make the license renewal application
24 and the environmental correspondence that we generate available for
25 public access. There is a cabinet set aside near the reference

1 librarian's location for all this information. When we issue the
2 draft Environmental Impact Statement that will also be available at
3 the library. It will also be available on the NRC's website,
4 www.nrc.gov.

5 As you came into the meeting area and registered you
6 were asked whether or not you would like to be put on the distribution
7 list so we can send you a copy of the draft. If you did that you will
8 also be getting a copy directly. If not, and you'd like to be on that
9 list, just see one of us after the meeting.

10 Finally, last slide, in addition to providing us
11 comments at this meeting there are other ways you can submit comments
12 for our environmental review. You can mail your comments to the Chief
13 of the Rules and Directives Branch at NRC in Washington, D.C. You can
14 deliver your written comments in person if you happen to be in
15 Rockville, we'll be happy to meet with you there. We've established a
16 site-specific e-mail address at the NRC for the purpose of receiving
17 your comments as well. It's PointBeachEIS@nrc.gov. All of your
18 comments will be collected and considered in our review.

19 As one last item, as you register today, there is a
20 document very important to us. It is a pre-addressed and franked
21 feedback form. We really need to hear from you on our effectiveness
22 on the information that we provide at these meetings. It helps us
23 make decisions on shaping information as we deliver public
24 opportunities in the future. And with that I'll give it back to Chip.

25 MR. CAMERON: All right, thank you, thank you very much,

1 Barry and thank you John. Are there questions for Barry about the NRC
2 process for reviewing license renewal applications? There was a lot
3 of information presented and we'd like to make sure that the process
4 was clear to everybody. Questions at all? And we're going to go to
5 comments. If you have questions later on, something occurs to you, we
6 can deal with that towards the end of the meeting too.

7 So, let's go to formal public comment. This is an
8 opportunity for the NRC staff to listen to what you have to say. We
9 usually don't interact with the speakers. We are hear to listen. And
10 I'd like to start with your state and local officials first. And then
11 ask the company to give us their vision and rationale for license
12 renewal. The first speaker we have is representative Frank Lasee who
13 is back here. Representative Lasee? And I would ask people to, I can
14 bring this to you, but you may be more comfortable coming up to the
15 podium. Thank you.

16 MR. LASEE: Thank you for coming to our community to
17 explain what your process is and to listen to what we have to say.
18 I'm here and the state representative that represents this area. I
19 represent the southeast corner of Brown County, the northern half of
20 Manitowoc County and a little bit of Kewaunee County. And I feel I'm
21 not only here for myself in support, but I think the majority of the
22 people I represent are also supportive of the continued operation of
23 the nuclear power plant here at Point Beach.

24 I think there's a lot of community support that isn't
25 only something that is supported here in Manitowoc County, but I have

1 a lot of people that I represent who live in Brown County who work
2 over at the plant or do supply and have worked there. So it brings
3 people to the area, provides good jobs as well as providing a large
4 amount of electricity and right now, low cost provision of electricity
5 and hopefully it will be low cost in the future. We already have the
6 nuclear power plants here and would like to continue keeping them both
7 here. Because I think we'll see a similar process started for the one
8 just a little bit north as well.

9 Some people will say that nuclear waste is an issue and
10 I've been to Yucca Mountain and looked at it quite a bit and I'm not a
11 science expert, although I can read things and take a good hard look
12 at it. And I think that's a good place to put spent fuel. But we
13 have other options as well and I really believe I'm optimistic that
14 some really bright guy or gal or group of people will figure out what
15 to do with the nuclear waste that we're generating from these power
16 plants and we'll recycle it as the French do or find a better and
17 higher use for it in the future within the next 100 years.

18 So I view Yucca Mountain, unlike the government does,
19 the government I think views it as a permanent repository. I view it
20 as a much more short term repository until we find a better use for
21 that waste that we're generating here and storing on-site. And I
22 would urge the federal government to get going so we can move some of
23 that stuff out of here and take it to Yucca Mountain. We've been
24 paying for it. It would be nice to have that up and running.

25 So beyond that I want you to know that I'm very

1 supportive. I know that the vast majority of citizens here are very
2 supportive of this and we'd like to keep it here. We'd like you to
3 renew and we'd like them to renew their license and put in new
4 generation when theirs expire now. So I thank you for coming here.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much Representative Lasee
6 for those comments on this issue. Thank you. And we're going to have
7 some other people. And as long as you can stay around to be with us
8 we'd appreciate that.

9 We're next going to go to Sheriff Ken Petersen. And
10 Sheriff Petersen, would you like to come up and talk with us?

11
12 MR. PETERSEN: Good afternoon everyone. Earlier today I
13 did write a letter to the NRC. I'll read it and it will give you the,
14 you know, the core of my feelings. I'll then expand on what the
15 letter says obviously.

16 I have three years as Sheriff in Manitowoc County. I
17 have 30 years law enforcement and I have 24 years working directly
18 with the security force at Point Beach. So I'm pretty familiar with
19 what goes on out there and how things have operated since 1980.

20 Since late 1979 the Manitowoc County Sheriff's
21 Department has worked to develop a close working relationship with
22 Point Beach Nuclear Plant staff. This came about as the world changed
23 and the need for law enforcement and security to work for a common
24 goal was identified.

25 In the following years we identified needs of the plant

1 relating to security with plant personnel. The system was fine tuned
2 to meet the needs of the operation supporting each other as our
3 resources have allowed. We have shared numerous training activities,
4 equipment, and provided extra patrol both on land and in the water.
5 The power plant has provided needed equipment and allowed access to
6 the facilities for training.

7 Point Beach has proven to be a good neighbor and an
8 asset to the Manitowoc County community. We look forward to a lasting
9 relationship and encourage license renewal.

10 Now, going back 24 years we, the Sheriff's Department
11 formed what was called an Emergency Response Unit or SWAT Team. At
12 that point, Point Beach was their force. We needed support
13 financially and assist with training in order to get that unit off the
14 ground. We did work jointly with Point Beach and the security force.
15 We have, as their response units were formed, we did make it available
16 to them so they could also belong to the state association and receive
17 the same training that law enforcement receives.

18 Over the years Point Beach has sponsored training at no
19 cost to law enforcement to have training personnel from the Sheriff's
20 Department, Two Rivers Police Department, Manitowoc Police Department.
21 And of course, we've all responded by supplying personnel when the
22 need arose out of Point Beach.

23 I would consider them to be an excellent neighbor. My
24 reasons are my observations over the last 24 years about how they
25 react to us with our concerns. The lines of communication are open.

1 But what's more important, they listen. And I do believe that they
2 truly do care about the people of Manitowoc County. Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Sheriff. We're next
4 going to hear from Mr. Greg Buckley, Two Rivers City Manager and then
5 we're going to go to Mr. Clarence Meyer from the Village of Mishicot.
6 This is Mr. Buckley.

7 MR. BUCKLEY: Good afternoon. Again, thank you for the
8 opportunity to participate in this scoping session today. I'm City
9 Manager for the city of Two Rivers. We're a city of about 12,700 on
10 the Lake Michigan shoreline about six miles south of the Point Beach
11 Plant. I'm here today representing the city of Two Rivers, as
12 directed by our City Council, to deliver a resolution unanimously
13 adopted by our City Council in April endorsing the license renewal for
14 Point Beach Units 1 and 2.

15 I would echo the Sheriff's comments in the Point Beach
16 Plant has been a good neighbor to our community for over 30 years. We
17 know it's a vital part of Wisconsin's base load generating capacity.
18 Over 1000 megawatts of clean, economical, reliable energy that's been
19 produced for over 30 years out of that facility, about a sixth of
20 Wisconsin's electric generating capacity.

21 We also know that when you look at socioeconomic factors
22 that the Point Beach Plant is a huge factor in our local economy with
23 approximately 700 high quality jobs having a significant economic
24 impact in the communities of Two Rivers, Manitowoc and, as
25 Representative Lasee noted, throughout northeast Wisconsin. That's in

1 addition to the significant impact of the many contractors employed at
2 the facility and extensive purchases of goods and services throughout
3 the area. Those can't be, the importance of those in the community
4 that's been heavily dependent on durable good manufacturing and has
5 suffered some significant setbacks in that area, the importance of
6 those jobs and that economic impact is significant. I've taken to
7 saying somewhat lightly that nobody's figured out how to extend an
8 extension cord to China yet. So we really welcome those jobs in the
9 diversity that they provide within our employment mix here in the
10 County.

11 That doesn't mean that we sit here on the shore of Lake
12 Michigan as blind supporters of anything that provides jobs and
13 economic opportunity. Understand, we've got a community that's very
14 much aware of the huge natural resource that we sit on the shores of
15 in Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes. We're blessed with Point Beach
16 State Forest, pretty much extending from the north city limits of our
17 city to the Point Beach Plant site.

18 We're all raising our families in this community and
19 call it home. So we're certainly mindful and respectful of the role
20 that the NRC has to play in terms of the issues of plant security,
21 safety and environmental impact. But I guess the message I'd like to
22 get out from our community is we have great faith in that process and
23 the capabilities of the NRC and in the capabilities of our friends and
24 neighbors at WE Energies and the Point Beach Nuclear Plant to address
25 those issues, because this is their home as well.

1 Again, I will leave copies of our resolution that notes
2 this very strong community support. And I would comment that in my
3 nine years as the Chief Appointed Officer in our community I have
4 never yet had a call from a citizen or heard input from a citizen of
5 our area at a local public meeting expressing concerns about the plant
6 and its impact on our area.

7 That goes to operational issues, that goes to the dry
8 cask storage issue which we realize is still an interim fix and we
9 want to frankly keep our federal politician's feet to the fire on a
10 permanent solution to that issue which our rate payers have paid for.
11 And also recognizing that I think as a lot of us feel here in
12 communities that live near nuclear plants that nuclear has to be a
13 vital part of the country's energy future.

14 So with that we welcome this opportunity. We look
15 forward to further review of the environmental documents as the
16 process proceeds and we thank you for being here today. This plant's
17 a great neighbor and we look forward to seeing another 20 years if not
18 more of continued safe economical operation, and we thank you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you Mr. Buckley. And we'll attach
20 one of these to the transcript and also we'll give one to the NRC
21 staff too. Thank you very much.

22 Our next speaker is Mr. Meyer from the Village of
23 Mishicot.

24 MR. MEYER: Well, I haven't really prepared anything, but

25 --

1 MR. CAMERON: Can I get you, you have a great voice, but
2 I just want to make sure I get you on the transcript. So why don't I
3 give you the mike.

4 MR. MEYER: All right, I haven't really prepared
5 anything, but back in April the Village Board of the Village of
6 Mishicot did adopt a resolution supporting Point Beach. We sent it to
7 our legislatures and I believe the NRC. If you want more copies we
8 can get you more.

9 But, as Mr. Buckley, from the City of Two Rivers had
10 said, we and the citizens of the Village of Mishicot truly respect the
11 power plant economically for our area and we just hope that it
12 continues for the next 20, 30, 40 years. Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, thank you very much Mr.
14 Meyer.

15 We're now going to go to some representatives from both
16 the owner and the operator of Point Beach to hear their vision on
17 license renewal. The first person we're going to hear from is Mr.
18 Rick Kuester who is the president and CEO of WE Energies Generation.
19 Mr. Kuester?

20 MR. KUESTER: Thank you very much, Chip. Thank you for
21 the opportunity to speak on behalf of WE Energies this afternoon. As
22 Chip said, I'm Rick Kuester. I'm the head of the generation group at
23 WE Energies. I'm also an Executive Vice President of Wisconsin Energy
24 Corporation.

25 Today I want to share why license renewal is the most

1 responsible energy choice for the state, for the local community and
2 for our customers. As you know, Nuclear Management Company, which
3 operates Point Beach on a day to day basis, filed an application in
4 February on behalf of WE Energies to renew the licenses for the two
5 units at Point Beach.

6 Part of that application included an environmental
7 report. We continue to provide additional information as part of the
8 Nuclear Regulatory Commission's process to evaluate the environmental
9 effects of operating Point Beach for an additional 20 years. The NRC
10 will use the information that we provide and that others provide to
11 develop an Environmental Impact Statement for Point Beach.

12 Let me start by giving you a brief overview of the
13 plant. The original operating license for Point Beach Unit 1 was
14 issued in October of 1970 and for Unit 2 in March of 1973. Unit
15 licenses expire, as earlier noted, in 2010 and 2013 respectively. The
16 plant capacity is 1036 megawatts of base load energy. And it provides
17 24 percent of the total energy generated by WE Energies and one sixth
18 of the electricity produced in the State of Wisconsin.

19 Wisconsin nuclear plants have an average five year
20 capacity factor of 79.9 percent compared with the national average of
21 71.9 percent. In just last year Point Beach set a new record for the
22 most megawatt hours of electric production ever produced since it
23 first went into operation in 1970.

24 At Point Beach our number one priority is always the
25 health and safety of the public. Point Beach has operated safely and

1 reliably for over 30 years. We are committed to maintaining the high
2 standards of safety and environmental excellence required to operate
3 an additional 20 years.

4 In the past year we have faced some challenges at Point
5 Beach. We were working very closely with Nuclear Management Company
6 and NRC to address the issues raised by the supplemental NRC
7 inspection conducted during the summer of 2003 and subsequent
8 discussions.

9 Since Point Beach began operating in 1970 there have
10 been many changes that showed the dedication and commitment to safety
11 and security in the nuclear industry. The nuclear industry has not
12 been satisfied with the status quo. The industry's standards and
13 regulations we abide by and are held accountable to have become more
14 stringent and the inspections more rigorous over that 30 year period.

15 Security has intensified since the tragic events of
16 September 11, 2001. Of course, safely operating a nuclear plant is
17 not one person's job. It can be achieved only by the dedication that
18 our employees show every time they walk through the plant gates.

19 One of my primary responsibilities is to ensure our
20 customers have the safe, reliable and affordable energy they need.
21 With Wisconsin's energy demand growing by 2.5 to 3.0 percent each
22 year, Point Beach is vital to meeting the energy needs of our
23 customers. To meet this need we have an extensive planning process
24 that takes many factors into account including fuel supply,
25 infrastructure capabilities, environmental impacts, proximity to load,

1 and cost.

2 We believe that a reliable and cost effective power
3 supply is best met by maintaining a diverse fuel mix that includes
4 nuclear. Studies show that keeping Point Beach in our diverse energy
5 mix will save customers \$475 million dollars in today's dollars over
6 the next 20 years as compared with replacement options. If we do not
7 build new generation and transmission as well as maintain our existing
8 facilities, the supply of affordable, reliable electricity will be at
9 risk.

10 Point Beach has been an essential and integral part of
11 the fleet that has provided WE Energies with the ability to
12 economically meet the daily generation needs of our customers.
13 License renewal will allow WE Energies' customers to benefit fully
14 from the efficient power generated by Point Beach for years to come.

15 Access to economical and reliable generation continues
16 to be a front and center priority for Wisconsin's economic growth.
17 Fuel diversity is the backbone of our goal to provide affordable
18 energy to our customers while continuing to reduce the environmental
19 impact of our operations.

20 In addition to cost effective energy sources, we also
21 must consider the state's transmission infrastructure. Wisconsin's
22 transmission system is severely constrained in its ability to
23 transport power into and move power within the state. The geographic
24 location of Point Beach and the load support it provides are critical
25 to maintaining a stable, reliable power supply to northeast Wisconsin.

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The American Transmission Company's current system planning assumes the Point Beach license will be renewed.

Decommissioning and supplying electricity from a different, and currently undetermined source, would introduce significant changes into that transmission plan.

Point Beach also generates significant economic benefits to the local and state economy. Point Beach provides over 700 full time family supporting jobs. Those families purchase goods and services from local businesses, pay taxes in area communities and contribute to local charities and community organizations. Point Beach is committed to being a good neighbor and fostering continued economic growth in the region.

The continued operation of Point Beach is vital to meeting Wisconsin's energy needs, important to the local economy, and is important to more than 700 employees that keep it running every day.

I would like to thank the comments from the local officials, state and local officials that have been made here today. And we appreciate this opportunity to speak on behalf of license renewal on behalf of WE Energies. Thank you very much.

MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much, Mr. Kuester. And we're going to hear now from Mr. Jim Shaw who is the Plant Manager at Point Beach. Jim?

MR. SHAW: Thank you, Chip. Good afternoon. Once again,

1 I'm Jim Shaw. I'm the Plant Manager at Point Beach. As such I have
2 overall responsibility for day to day operation of the plant and on
3 behalf of the Nuclear Management Company.

4 The mission of everyone, both supporters and employees
5 at Point Beach, is clear, safe, reliable and economic operation with
6 primary focus on the safety and health of the public and our
7 employees. Our key values include being both a good neighbor and an
8 advocate of the environment that we operate in. Our over 700
9 employees are committed to this mission and the key values.

10 All of our employees go through rigorous training and
11 learn new procedures and information. Absolutely no one is exempt
12 from this training or testing to ensure the entire work force is
13 always at its best. We continuously improve our training based on
14 advancements in technology, best practices through bench marking from
15 other plants and the industry.

16 Importantly, we get feedback from our employees as they
17 identify their ways to gain the skills and knowledge that they need in
18 the execution of their tasks on a daily basis. One example of this
19 training is our simulator. Our simulator is an exact model of what
20 the main control room is. And it's used to update our operators and
21 staff members. The NRC requires that employees undergo an intensive
22 qualification program which involves and utilizes the simulator to
23 receive an NRC operator's license which qualifies the employee to work
24 in the main control room.

25 Our operators who have already received their operating

1 license are then required to spend five to six weeks in each training
2 year to maintaining that license to operate the plant. We also have
3 extensive processes and detailed procedures that are continuously
4 reviewed and modified to cover every aspect of plant operations. There
5 are over 8800 procedures that cover operations, maintenance, training,
6 engineering and the emergency response scenarios.

7 Our emergency response procedures and drills, for
8 example, examine how our employees would react in the event of a real
9 emergency. The emergency plan has only one focus and that focus is
10 safety. Safety to the plant employees and safety and health of the
11 public. Emergency response drills are conducted several times a year
12 to test our abilities and carefully examine areas in which we can
13 improve and prevent situations based on a formal plan which is
14 thoroughly reviewed and monitored by federal agencies. The rigorous
15 standards we abide by are set and reviewed thoroughly by both the NRC
16 and FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

17 In addition to emergency planning we also conduct
18 extensive maintenance for the plant. Every 18 months we perform a
19 reviewing and maintenance outage in which we typically carry out over
20 2200 individual maintenance and inspection activities. This is in
21 addition to the normal day to day activities of testing that we
22 perform during the period which the plant is operating at full power.

23 Over the years we've continued to invest in a wide range
24 of equipment to take advantage of improved technology and materials,
25 to ensure future reliable and safe operation of the plant. A

1 significant investment was a steam generator replacement project that
2 was completed for Unit 1 in 1984 and Unit 2 in 1996. We've also
3 replaced major components, pumps and valves, for example, in our role
4 to the safe and efficient operation of Point Beach.

5 As computer training methods have evolved, we've also
6 been able to broaden the range of training of our work force. As we
7 move forward, we will continue to upgrade and improve the equipment
8 and technology at Point Beach.

9 As previously stated, security at nuclear plants across
10 the nation has received increased emphasis and scrutiny since the
11 events of September 11, 2001. Security at Point Beach is no
12 exception. We've taken extensive precautions and implemented new
13 policies and procedures to ensure that the safety and well being of
14 both the community and our employees is maintained.

15 This includes several million dollars in additional
16 resources and new equipment and we will continue to work with the NRC
17 to review and evaluate our security procedures to make certain that
18 the most effective methods are being used.

19 The operation of Point Beach today and in the future
20 requires commitment and diligence to the everyday tasks we perform.
21 Just last year we set, and this is what Rick just talked about, set a
22 record for the most megawatt hours of electrical power produced since
23 the plant began operation in 1970. That's attributed to improved
24 efficiencies, improved procedures and the due diligence of the
25 employees.

1 Last year the NRC conducted a special inspection and
2 identified several areas for improvement. We have submitted an
3 improvement plan to the NRC and are committed to meet or exceed all
4 the requirements within that plan.

5 Point Beach is also a strong supporter for the
6 environment. We take great strides in our daily activities to ensure
7 that the environment is well protected. Our employees feel fortunate
8 that the location of Point Beach is along Lake Michigan and reaches to
9 within the Point Beach State Park area. The site is home to numerous
10 wildlife, aquatic species and plant life. Our efforts have made Point
11 Beach a safe and sound habitat for many years and it's our commitment
12 to maintain that habitat for years to come.

13 On a different note, Point Beach is more than a power
14 plant operated by highly skilled workers. It's a part of our
15 community. Not only does the plant rely on many local companies for
16 goods and services, but our employees live and contribute to the
17 surrounding communities.

18 In addition, the Point Beach Energy Information Center
19 has been visited by almost one million people since it opened in May
20 of 1969. The Energy Information Center has provided educational
21 programs for more than 300,000 of these visitors. Most of these are
22 school groups that have made our energy center a staple in their
23 curriculum. We continue to host school groups and other organizations
24 through reservation at this point.

25 In conclusion, the Nuclear Management Company remains

1 committed to operating Point Beach safely, reliably, economically, and
2 will remain focused on being a good neighbor and a strong advocate of
3 our environment. I and the rest of the employees at Point Beach look
4 forward to serving you and meeting the needs of our community for many
5 years to come. Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Shaw. Our next
7 speaker is Mr. Curt Andersen who is with the Clean Water Action
8 Council. And then after we hear from Mr. Andersen we're going to go to
9 Mr. Roger Hirst.

10 MR. ANDERSEN: I'm Curt Andersen and I represent Clean
11 Water Action Council and myself. I am an environmentalist, and what
12 that means is I am a fiscal conservative and I am a social liberal. I
13 like to focus on the reality of economics, rather than this dreamy
14 stuff that's been stated today.

15 Two people have testified at least, maybe three or four
16 here, about the low cost of the nuclear power. And that is true if
17 you don't take into the account the subsidies for all sorts of things
18 which would include the lack of care at numerous facilities around. I
19 can start with Fernald, Ohio where there have been leaks and spills.
20 They're just all over the country.

21 Someone said that the majority of Wisconsin, or this
22 area, supports the plant. I'm sorry, but I have never seen evidence
23 to that. That's just a statement made without any factual basis.

24 Someone said that they wanted to find a solution to the
25 waste and that the waste should go up to the, that the waste should go

1 to the, this spot in Utah or Nevada, Yucca Mountain. Anyhow, this
2 presents a lot of terrorist targets. We know all about this stuff
3 now. I testified to this ten years ago and was mocked when I did so.
4 And actually used the term airplanes flying into these plants and was
5 mocked for it.

6 So the solution to the waste? It looks like it could be
7 Wisconsin, right in our area, and the Canadian Shield, the Wolf River
8 -- which is nice and solid. It doesn't have any earthquake problems
9 and I don't like the idea of our area being turned into a nuclear
10 waste repository.

11 As far as the safety record, I don't know what it is
12 now, because I only found out about this meeting yesterday afternoon
13 when I got home. So I didn't have a chance to do much research. But
14 in the past when I testified last time, it had the worst safety record
15 in the nation and occasionally danced up to second worst. So, I'm
16 glad that the new manager is doing a better job than the old manager
17 was. But I have some very, very serious concerns about public health.

18
19 And that's again, what environmentalism is about. It is
20 not about pretty pictures on the calendar. It is about public health,
21 public safety and justice for everybody, not just for the people that
22 make a lot of money selling nuclear fuel.

23 The NRC has a charter that has preserved public health
24 and the environment and that means in all aspects. So as I'm well
25 aware that Wisconsin apparently is going to need power from something.

1 I don't know why-- there are no new automobile factories being built
2 in our area. There are no new canning factories. Everything is
3 moving out of Wisconsin. I don't know where the power's going to go
4 except for my air conditioner as long as I still have a job. But I
5 would like to know where all this power is going to go. Someone said
6 something about the, they don't have a power cord from China yet but
7 we will shortly have one from Canada from the dam up in -- area up
8 there and coming through the western area.

9 So that giant extension cord is going to be supplying
10 power to Wisconsin, but there's a lot of people wondering, if it's
11 going to supply power to Wisconsin then why are there no, I'm going to
12 use the term, off ramps, for it. It's going to go right through
13 Wisconsin into major markets on the east coast, Chicago area where
14 there still is some thriving commerce.

15 So I don't know where this idea that we're falling
16 behind on power because I don't see any tremendous growth in Wisconsin
17 right now. We have growth in population. We have small business.
18 Small businesses don't really get to take advantage of better rates on
19 power than large businesses do. Small businesses actually have to be
20 efficient. Large businesses can write it all off and it's a big deal
21 for them. Ten bucks a month for me is really nothing. A \$100,000
22 dollars a month for them adds up.

23 So I am not in favor of renewing the permit at all, let
24 alone 20 years. Thank you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you Mr. Andersen for those

1 comments and I would just remind everybody again that there's an
2 opportunity to submit written comments if you want to amplify in any
3 way on what you've said today.

4 Next we're going to go to Mr. Roger Hirst. Mr. Hirst,
5 are you going to come up to the podium?

6 MR. HIRST: If I can get these. I'm in favor of
7 extending the license for 20 years or 30 or 40. Nuclear power is the
8 way to go. We won't be here, but oil won't last forever, neither will
9 coal. There's all kinds of wild estimates on how long it's going to
10 last, so we won't get into that.

11 The plant, Point Beach, has operated safely for 30
12 years. It's protected the environment by not having any CO2 going
13 into the air or mercury or sulfur dioxide. And when you go around the
14 plant, you can't get in it anymore, there used to be some good fishing
15 there. The fishermen are gone due to security problems. But the fish
16 are still there. The trees, the flowers, the weeds and grass, they're
17 still growing, growing good. Heck, with all the rain, better than
18 ever. But that rain has hurt the farmers who can't get off the field.

19 But Point Beach has been safe for 30 years. There's no
20 reason that they can't go on 20 more or longer. And I hope they do.
21 I live in Kewaunee. I've lived there 34 years. And I consider Point
22 Beach a neighbor. They're good, very good. How? By leaving me
23 alone. They haven't interfered with my life one bit. I don't even
24 know they're there unless I drive by. So I'm in favor of extending
25 the license.

1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Hirst. We're going to go to
2 Mr. Tim Schroeder next from Two Rivers Business Association and then
3 to Mr. David Jurss and I apologize if I mispronounced that. But
4 right now we're going to hear from Mr. Schroeder.

5 MR. SCHROEDER: Actually Tim Schroeder, we say Schroeder
6 up here in northern Wisconsin. I represent the Two Rivers Business
7 Association. I'm a secretary/treasurer there. And I'm also the
8 secretary/treasurer at Schroeder's Department Store in downtown Two
9 Rivers. And I wrote a letter which I'm also going to submit and it's,
10 the Two Rivers Business Association is very much in favor of extending
11 the license of Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

12 There's many reasons, very practical, economical, but I
13 know a lot of, this is mostly concerning the environment,
14 environmental and safety studies. And I'm going to submit that the
15 people who work at Point Beach Nuclear Plant are also our neighbors
16 and friends. And I don't think that they would anymore put their
17 families and their friends in danger than any of us. So if they live
18 in our community and feel that Point Beach is safe and environmentally
19 safe and safe in all other regards, then I feel that it's safe for me
20 also.

21 As I said, the people that work there are our neighbors
22 and friends. They belong to our churches. They belong to our church
23 committees. They belong to our city councils. They are part of our
24 civic activities. They contribute to these things.

25 Point Beach itself, as a plant, is very friendly to our

1 community. It supports a lot of our events. One of our biggest
2 events and services is our ethnic festival and they're one of the
3 major sponsors of that event.

4 I also mention, as far as the environment goes, my son
5 is a, this is not in my comments, but my son happens to have a
6 Doctorate in Geology and I was talking to him about nuclear power,
7 forms of power. And he's done a lot of studies with the environment
8 over the years. And I asked him what he thought about nuclear power.
9 And he feels that nuclear power is the safest, most practical form of
10 energy that we can have, outside of solar energy and wind power. Much
11 more practical, much safer than coal, oil or any other forms of
12 energy.

13 So, I hope we keep this plant going for a lot longer,
14 for a long, long time.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you very much, Mr.
16 Schroeder, and we'll attach this to the transcript. Thank you. Is it
17 Mr. Jurss? Thank you.

18 MR. JURSS: Hello, I'm David Jurss, representing the
19 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. I'm the vice
20 chairman of Unit 2, Local 2150, which represents the employees at
21 Point Beach. I'm also a resident of the town of Two Rivers. I've
22 been an employee at Point Beach for 18 years and have 24 years of
23 experience in nuclear power.

24 The Union would like to comment in favor of license
25 renewal at Point Beach. Local 2150 believes Point Beach is an asset

1 to the community and state of Wisconsin. The Union consistently works
2 with Point Beach management to ensure the continued safe operation of
3 Point Beach. Point Beach is operated with nuclear safety as the
4 highest priority and I believe continued operation of Point Beach
5 would be a positive for the State of Wisconsin and Manitowoc County.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr. Jurss. And we're
8 going to go next to Mr. Mike Zimmer and then to Tom Kocourek. Mr.
9 Zimmer?

10 MR. ZIMMER: My name is Mike Zimmer. I'm the executive
11 director of the Two Rivers Main Street Program which is a downtown
12 development agency. We're a private not-for-profit organization in
13 Two Rivers. I'm here in an official capacity. The Board of Directors
14 of the Two Rivers Main Street, Incorporated has voted a resolution
15 supporting the license renewal for Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

16 We feel that Point Beach is not only a valuable
17 neighbor, but a valuable employer who provides a livelihood for a
18 great many citizens. They are a good corporate citizen to the folks
19 in Two Rivers.

20 Regardless of where power is being shipped right now, we
21 believe that power generation is crucial to the future of Wisconsin,
22 to attracting new industries, to attracting the kind of jobs that we
23 need to rebuild from the industries that have left over the last 10
24 years or so. Point Beach has always provided safe, clean nuclear
25 power to Wisconsin and wherever else that it ships it along the grid.

1 As far as safety concerns for our constituents in the
2 Main Street Program, the nuclear industry is a unique industry as far
3 as I can see. I don't know that much about it. However, what other
4 industry gets dinged for a couple things in the paper and responds
5 like that. Point Beach seemed to get right on top of that. We also
6 have the NRC to oversee to make sure that any problems are corrected
7 and are corrected quickly. I think that that shows a great
8 responsibility on the part of the operators.

9 As Tim said before, they live in our communities,
10 they're part of our communities. I feel that they're doing a great
11 job, a wonderful job, that's safe, clean, hopefully affordable for the
12 future. Keep that affordable in mind. Thank you, gentlemen.

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Zimmer. And Mr.
14 Kocourek?

15 MR. KOCOUREK: Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
16 I'm speaking today in favor of relicensing of the Point Beach Nuclear
17 Power Plant for 20, 30 or 40 years, whatever. I wear several
18 different hats, I guess, as a speaker here today. I'm an area
19 resident of rural Two Rivers and consequently a fairly close neighbor
20 to the nuclear power plant.

21 I'm a recently retired County Board supervisor from the
22 Manitowoc County Board, retired sheriff. Ken has been in office about
23 three and a half years now. And I was sheriff before Ken for 22 years
24 in our community. I have a total of 32 years experience in law
25 enforcement and I'm currently serving as the executive director of a

1 local non-profit service agency which is Big Brother/Big Sister of
2 Manitowoc County.

3 In each of these capacities I've had an opportunity to
4 interact with the nuclear power industry. As a county board
5 supervisor, I had a chance to work with the people from the nuclear
6 power industry, but more so as a retired, as a sheriff for many years
7 I worked very closely with their security staff at the nuclear power
8 plant and I must say that that close working relationship was
9 instrumental in developing good emergency response plans for many
10 different entities of emergency services in Manitowoc County.

11 And those emergency response plans have been very, very
12 useful, not only in the event of an emergency involving the nuclear
13 power industry, but floods, tornados, whatever happens to come along.
14 It has better prepared us in all emergency services in Manitowoc
15 County to address those concerns and handle those emergencies.

16 The nuclear power plant has been a good neighbor to the
17 residents that live around it. It's been a good neighbor to the local
18 government that interacts with it. And it's been a good neighbor to
19 all different types of emergency services in Manitowoc County.

20 I don't want to repeat everything that Sheriff Petersen
21 said, but I will say that I echo everything he said about our
22 relationship with the nuclear power industry in Manitowoc County. And
23 additionally, my newest position as executive for Big Brothers/Big
24 Sisters, I can attest that Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant has been
25 very supportive of local non-profit service agencies as well. Without

1 the support of the local community these service agencies could not
2 exist and do the good work that they do for our communities.

3 Finally, Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant, I know many
4 people that work out there. And as previously stated, they employ 700
5 people in good quality jobs which are desperately needed in the
6 Manitowoc County area. I would urge the people in charge in the
7 decision making area of the relicensing procedure to support that
8 relicensing and to continue the operation of the plant. Thank you
9 very much.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Mr. Kocourek. Did I miss
11 anybody that wanted to make any comments? As Mr. Andersen and
12 Representative Lasee mentioned, we heard Yucca Mountain mentioned and
13 the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1987 [Note: actual date is 1982]. The
14 federal government's effort to dispose of high level waste is focused
15 exclusively on Yucca Mountain in Nevada at this point. And I just
16 thought I'd ask Barry Zalzman just very briefly to perhaps describe
17 what the NRC's role is in regard to the efforts at Yucca Mountain.
18 Barry?

19 MR. ZALCMAN: Thank you, Chip. The Department of Energy
20 is the applicant under the Waste Policy Act that will develop an
21 application regarding the environmental characteristics, safety
22 characteristics that are necessary for the licensing of the Yucca
23 Mountain.

24 That application has not yet been filed before the
25 Agency. The Agency, in fact, has been prepared for several years now

1 to evaluate that application upon receipt. That is projected to take
2 several years on the part of the staff review. And it is likely to go
3 into a rather extensive hearing. But there was staff set aside and
4 counsel set aside to process that application through the agency and
5 make sure that it meets the safety expectations and complies with the
6 agency's rules there as well as the environmental impact evaluations.

7 Similar to what we're doing for license renewal, we'd
8 have to have those two components going through the process as well.
9 The NRC staff, in fact, have been located similar resident spectrums.
10 We've had staff that have been at Yucca Mountain quite frequently
11 evaluating a lot of the information that is being prepared right now.

12 Department of Energy is a sister federal agency. So
13 similar to the NRC, it is a federal agency. Their action to submit an
14 application requires the development of an environmental impact
15 statement. So we've already been familiar with the environmental
16 impact statement prepared by the Department of Energy. And we look
17 forward to, the last target was at the end of this year or not too
18 shortly thereafter, submittal of the application to the NRC.

19 MR. CAMERON: That's great, thank you. Thank you, Barry.
20 And let me ask if there's any, before we adjourn for the afternoon,
21 whether there's any other questions that we can answer for anybody.
22 And this is Mr. Hirst. Mr. Hirst?

23 MR. HIRST: Besides the political problems, are there
24 some technical reasons why waste isn't being shipped to the Yucca
25 Mountain?

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings
before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
in the matter of:

Name of Proceeding: Point Beach License Renewal
Public Meeting
Afternoon Session

Docket Number: n/a

Location: Mishicot, WI

were held as herein appears, and that this is the
original transcript thereof for the file of the United
States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and,
thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the
direction of the court reporting company, and that the
transcript is a true and accurate record of the
foregoing proceedings.



Stuart Karoubas
Official Reporter
Neal R. Gross & Co., Inc.

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING LICENSE RENEWAL FOR
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
UNITS 1 AND 2**

WHEREAS, the electric generating facilities at the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant became operational with the start-up of Unit 1 in December 1970 and Unit 2 in March 1973; and

WHEREAS, Point Beach has since that time operated safely and efficiently, providing economical, reliable electrical energy vital to Wisconsin's economy; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Energy Corporation, as owner of Point Beach, has continually reinvested in the facility, to assure continued efficient and economical production of electricity for Wisconsin's homes, factories and businesses;

WHEREAS, today, over three decades later, the Point Beach plant's 1036 megawatts of electrical generating capacity remain vital to Wisconsin's energy future; and

WHEREAS, Point Beach Plant in 2003, its thirty-first year of full operation, generated a record 8.1 million megawatt hours of electricity; and

WHEREAS, the Point Beach plant's 700 permanent jobs, as well as its extensive use of contractors for ongoing maintenance and special projects are recognized as vitally important to the economy of Manitowoc County and northeast Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear power facilities at Point Beach have been a "good neighbor" to the communities of Manitowoc County for over three decades;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Energy Corporation in December of 2003 announced its intent to proceed with an application to renew the licenses of the Point Beach reactors, each for an additional twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear Management Company, operator of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant for Wisconsin Energy Corporation, on February 25, 2004 submitted the license renewal application to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); and

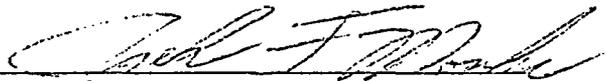
WHEREAS, the NRC, as the Federal agency charged with oversight of our nation's nuclear facilities, encourages public input and comment on such license renewal proceedings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Two Rivers hereby expresses its support for the renewal of the licenses for the nuclear generating facilities at Point Beach, to assure their continued operation as a safe, economical and integrally important component of Wisconsin's electric power supply system for another 20 years; and

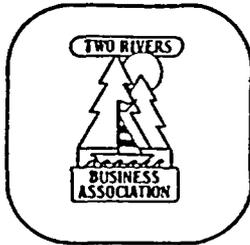
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Governor James Doyle, Senator Alan Lasee, Senator Joe Liebham, Representative Frank Lasee and Representative Bob Ziegelbauer and other agencies and officeholders concerned with providing safe, reliable and economical energy sources for the future of the Wisconsin economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution likewise be forwarded to Chairman of the Board & CEO Richard A. Abdo, President Gale E. Klappa, and other officials of Wisconsin Energy Corporation, in evidence of this community's support for the utility's continued investment in and operation of the Point Beach facility.

Approved this 5th day of April, 2004.


Councilmember


Gregory E. Buekley, City Manager



TWO RIVERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

June 14, 2004

RE: License Renewal for Point Beach Nuclear Plant

To Whom It May Concern:

The Two Rivers Business Association would like to go on record as to being in favor of We Energies' request for the License Renewal of the two nuclear reactors at Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

There are many reasons why we feel it is important that Point Beach's License Renewal be granted. The first are obvious and the most practical. Point Beach now produces 1/6 of all the electrical power in Wisconsin. And the demand for that energy is growing at 2 to 3 % per year. Where would we go and what would we do to make up this 16 to 17 % of our energy needs should Point Beach be closed? Building new plants would certainly drive up the cost of our electricity. Going out of state for it would also.

We Energies estimates through its studies that keeping Point Beach open would save customers over \$400 million. That is a huge economic impact for the state of Wisconsin.

Our local economy in the Lakeshore Area would suffer even more if Point Beach Nuclear Plant were closed. In fact, I know it would be devastating for our local economy, one that has been hit hard recently with other manufacturing plant closings. Point Beach employs 730 people; 69% live in Manitowoc County.

For the most part, I don't think the people of Two Rivers have safety and environmental concerns regarding Point Beach Nuclear Plant. The people who work at the plant are also our neighbors and friends. And they would no more put their own families in danger than they would anyone else's. The Plant is run well, it is run efficiently, and it is run with extreme safety in mind at all times.

We Energies and the people who work there have always been good neighbors. The people who work there are members of our churches and church councils, our schools and our school boards, our city and city council and civic committees. They shop in our stores, they buy homes, and they all pay taxes. To lose them would be devastating for our community.



TWO RIVERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

We Energies as a company has also been a good neighbor. They purchase goods for the plant and their employees locally whenever they can. We Energies supports many local charities and events. It is a major sponsor for Two Rivers very popular Ethnic Festival.

Thus, we urge you for all the above reasons to grant We Energies their License Renewal for Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Sincerely,

Tim Schroeder
Secretary/Treasurer
Two Rivers Business Association

Secretary/Treasurer
Schroeder's Department Store

VILLAGE OF MISHICOT

State of Wisconsin
Manitowoc County

**RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING LICENSE RENEWAL FOR
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
UNITS 1 AND 2**

511 E. Main St.
P. O. Box 385
Mishicot, WI 54228-0385
Telephone: 920.755.2525
Fax: 920.755.2525
e-mail vmishicot@lakefield.net
www.mishicot.org

WHEREAS, the electric generating facilities at the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant became operational with the start-up of Unit 1 in December 1970 and Unit 2 in March 1973, and

WHEREAS, Point Beach has since that time operated safely and efficiently, providing economical, reliable electrical energy vital to Wisconsin's economy, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin energy corporation, as owner of Point Beach, has continually reinvested in the facility, to assure continued efficient and economical production of electricity for Wisconsin's homes, factories and businesses, and

WHEREAS, today over three decades later, the Point Beach plant's 1036 megawatts of electrical generating capacity remain vital to Wisconsin's energy future, and

WHEREAS, Point Beach in 2003, its thirty-first year of full operation generated a record 8.1 million megawatt hours of electricity, and

WHEREAS, the Point Beach Plant's 700 permanent jobs, as well as its extensive use of contractors for ongoing maintenance and special projects are recognized as vitally important to the economy of Manitowoc County and northeast Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, the nuclear power facilities at Point Beach have been a "good neighbor" to the communities of Manitowoc County for over three decades, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Energy Corporation in December of 2003 announced its intent to proceed with an application to renew the license of the Point Beach reactors, each for an additional twenty years, and

WHEREAS, Nuclear Management Company, operator of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant for Wisconsin Energy Corporation, on February 25, 2004 submitted the license renewal application to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and

WHEREAS, the NRC, as the Federal agency charged with oversight of our nation's nuclear facilities, encourages public input and comment on such license renewal proceedings; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Village of Mishicot hereby expresses its support for the renewal of the licenses for the nuclear generating facilities at Point Beach, to assure their continued operation as a safe, economical and integrally important component of Wisconsin's electric power supply system for another 20 years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Governor James Doyle, Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton, Senator Herbert Kohl, Senator Russ Feingold, Representative Tom Petri, Representative Mark Green, Senator Alan Lasee, Senator Joe Liebham, Senator Dave Hansen, Senator Robert Cowles, Representative Frank Lasee, Representative Bob Ziegelbauer, Representative Becky Weber, Representative Phil Montgomery and other agencies and officeholders concerned with providing safe, reliable and economical energy sources for the future of the Wisconsin economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Chairman of the Board and CEO Richard A. Abdo, President Gale E. Klappa, and other officials of Wisconsin Energy Corporation, in evidence of the Village of Mishicot's support for the utility's continued investment in and operation of the Point Beach facility.

Presented by: *Anthony Maricello*

Seconded by: *James Bydalek*

Clarence P. Meyer
Clarence P. Meyer, Village President

Attest:

James Bydalek
James Bydalek, Village Clerk-Treasurer

I, James Bydalek, Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Mishicot do hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by a unanimous vote of the Village Board of the Village of Mishicot on the 4th day of May, 2004.

James Bydalek
James Bydalek, Village Clerk-Treasurer



Economic Development
1717 East Park Street
Post Office Box 87
Two Rivers WI 54241-0087
Telephone 920/793-5565
FAX 920/793-5563

Point Beach License Renewal
June 15, 2004, Mishicot, WI

Introduction

The City of Two Rivers offers its support for Point Beach Nuclear Power (PBNP) plant License Renewal for Unit 1, which needs to be renewed by October 5, 2010 and Unit 2 which needs to be renewed by March 8, 2013. The City of Two Rivers has passed a Resolution of Support of PBNP License Renewal dated April 5, 2004. Such Resolution of support is attached from the Two Rivers City Council.

Past

- PBNP has called Two Rivers home since 1969 and has come to be vital to our economy and lifestyle.
- PBNP initially started in 1969 with about 100 employees and has seen a 700% increase in its' workforce to the existing 700 employees in 2004. Energy production is a significant employer in our community now and hopefully will be well into the future. These are high quality jobs that are hard to find in today's economy.
- Nuclear energy in general and Point Beach in particular, have proven to be safe, efficient and an economical source of electricity.

Present

- The City "fathers" who are the Leaders and Decision-makers of the Community find that PBNP has operated safely and efficiently and provides clean affordable nuclear generated electrical power to our homes, businesses and factories.
- PBNP is an environmentally friendly source of electrical base load power as compared to other forms of electrical generation.
- PBNP generates 1,036 Mega Watts of electrical power, which is 24% of we energies generation and almost 17% of all power in the state of Wisconsin.
- The state as a whole can not afford to loose 17% of its' total capacity.
- The economic impact of 700 employees can be felt in the local communities where they live. 69% of the PBNP employees live in Manitowoc County. Of that amount 32% live in Two Rivers and 24% live in Manitowoc, 8% in Mishicot.
- Manitowoc County has been hit hard on the economic front by having factories close at a fast pace. The Manitowoc County a population of 83,000 with a workforce of about 44,000 and a 9.3% unemployment rate. Mirro, a Manitowoc employer that formerly had plants in Two Rivers, had over 2,000 employees as recently as 1998. Today that number is zip, nada. Those jobs are gone, never to



return. Paragon Electric at one time has 1,000 employees. They left for Mexico in 1998 leaving 330 employees without a job. More recently Hamilton, a subsidiary of Fisher Scientific announced a potential layoff of 150 employees. All the previous companies relocated to Mexico or in Hamilton's case has the potential to leave for Mexico. Power companies do not have the luxury of leaving for Mexico. They are here for the long haul.

- PBNP has been a "good corporate citizen" by annually contributing to the excellent quality of life for the families here in Two Rivers.

Future

- Wisconsin electrical power increases on average 2 ½ % to 3% per year.
- If PBNP's license is not renewed, its' electrical generation capacity will have to be replaced. The likely replacement is some sort of fossil fuel. As air quality becomes more and more of an issue in Wisconsin and especially along the Lakeshore which sees much of it's' pollution imported; License Renewal of PBNP can serve to help protect our local environment.
- This process of License Renewal is not new for the nuclear regulatory Commission (NRC). PBNP is one of 19 active license renewal cases. As a matter of fact 23 License Renewals have already been approved by the NRC. Our experience indicates the PBNP is an excellent candidate for license renewal.

Conclusion

The License Renewal of PBNP presents a unique opportunity to create a win-win-win scenario for the rate payers, taxpayers, the state and our community by:

1. Continuously producing less expensive base load electrical power for all to use in an environmentally clean and responsible manor.
2. Preserving hundreds of well-paying jobs that help attract young and successful people to Wisconsin and the Lakeshore area.
3. we energies wins by owning and operating PBNP.

The families of PBNP have become a vital and vibrant part of our community. They serve on our elected and appointed government bodies, volunteer with our civic groups, are important members and leaders of our churches and our children go to school together. These employees care about the community because they live, work and play here too. The community has formed a bond of trust with PBNP because the plant, over many years, has proven to be a good neighbor and an important driver in our economy. We urge the NRC to approve the License Renewal for PBNP in order that all stakeholders can share in the win-win-win relationship.

If you have any further comments or questions you may contact me at 920/793-5564 or email at danpaw@two-rivers.org.

Sincerely,



Dan Pawlitzke

Economic Development Supervisor

Ecddev/PowerPlant/PBNP.LicenseRenewal2004.doc