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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS

+ + + + +

PUBLIC MEETING - EVENING SESSION

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THURSDAY,

JANUARY 27, 2005

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SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

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The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at Southport City Hall, 201 East Moore Street, Southport, North Carolina, Chip Cameron, Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

CHIP CAMERON, FACILITATOR

ANDREW KUGLER

RICHARD EMCH

A-G-E-N-D-A

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

2 (7:00 p.m.)

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good evening,  
4 everyone. My name is Chip Cameron, and I'm the  
5 Special Counsel for Public Liaison, at the Nuclear  
6 Regulatory Commission which we'll be referring to  
7 throughout the meeting as the NRC, and I want to  
8 welcome all of you to our public meeting tonight.

9 Our subject is the environmental review  
10 that the NRC performs to help us evaluate the  
11 applications that we receive from Progress Energy  
12 to renew the licenses for the Brunswick Units 1 and  
13 2 reactors, and I'm going to serve as your  
14 facilitator tonight and hopefully help all of you  
15 to have a productive meeting.

16 There's just a couple of things about the  
17 meeting process that I want to go over before we  
18 get to the substance of tonight's discussions, and  
19 the first thing is format. It's basically the  
20 meeting is going to have a two part format.

21 The first part is to give all of you some  
22 information about what we look at when we evaluate  
23 a application for a license renewal and  
24 specifically what we look at in terms of evaluating  
25 potential environmental impacts.

1           And we're going to have a couple of very  
2 brief NRC presentations and then go on to see if  
3 there's any questions about that. And then if  
4 there's anything that we haven't covered, please  
5 ask us about that.

6           The second part of the meeting is an  
7 opportunity to hear from -- from you in terms of  
8 advice, recommendations, comments on the type of  
9 information, alternatives that we should look at  
10 when we prepare the environmental impact statement,  
11 comments about the license renewal process  
12 generally.

13           And we're asking for written comments or  
14 accepting written comments on those issues, but I  
15 just want to assure you that whatever you say  
16 tonight is going to have the same weight as a  
17 written comment.

18           In terms of grounds rules, if you have a  
19 question, just signal me and I'll bring you the  
20 cordless mic, and just introduce yourself to us and  
21 give us any affiliation, if that's appropriate.  
22 And I think that we don't have to really worry  
23 about time limits in terms of how long people talk.  
24 Usually we set a five minute guideline for that,  
25 but I don't think that we're going to have to worry

1 too much about that. And we do that so that  
2 everybody who wants to participate has an  
3 opportunity to participate.

4 We are taking a transcript. Glynde is  
5 our reporter over there tonight, and that  
6 transcript is going to be our record of the  
7 meeting, and it will be available if you want to  
8 get a copy of it. We'll be glad to make a copy  
9 available. And there's some blue cards downstairs,  
10 and if you filled out a yellow card and we have  
11 your address, don't worry about the blue card, but  
12 if you need further information, what's going to be  
13 happening in the future, we will routinely inform  
14 the people that we have addresses for.

15 I would just thank all of you for being  
16 here tonight to help us with this decision that  
17 we're making, and I want to introduce our two  
18 speakers from the NRC.

19 First we're going to have Mr. Andy Kugler  
20 who is going to give us an overview of the license  
21 renewal process, and Andy is the Chief of the  
22 Environmental Section in the License Renewal and  
23 Environmental Impact Program at the NRC, and Andy  
24 and his staff are responsible for preparing any  
25 type of environmental review for a reactor

1 licensing action such as this license renewal  
2 application. And he's been with us for 14 years at  
3 the NRC, has worked for a nuclear utility before  
4 and was in the Naval Submarine Service, and he has  
5 a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from  
6 Cooper Union in Manhattan and a Master's in  
7 Technical Management from Johns Hopkins University  
8 in Baltimore.

9           And after Andy's done, we're going to  
10 Mr. Rich Emch, who is the environmental -- the  
11 project manager for the environmental review on  
12 this license renewal application. And he's  
13 supervising that effort, and he'll tell you about  
14 the types of experts we have working to do that.  
15 Rich has been with the agency, the NRC, for about  
16 30 years and has done a number of jobs for the NRC  
17 during that time, including the environmental  
18 review responsibilities, but also emergency  
19 planning responsibilities and radiological  
20 protection.

21           His bachelor's degree is from Louisiana Tech,  
22 and that's in Physics, and he has a Master's in  
23 Health Physics from Georgia Tech University.

24           And with that, Andy, I'll just turn it  
25 over to you and Rich, and then we'll go for

1 questions after that. Thank you.

2 MR. KUGLER: Thank you, Chip, and thank  
3 you all for coming out this evening for our  
4 meeting. I hope the information we provide you  
5 regarding the process for license renewal and the  
6 environmental review in particular is useful to  
7 you, helps you to understand what we're doing and  
8 also the role that you can play in helping us to  
9 make sure that the environmental impact statement  
10 is an accurate document.

11 First let me provide some general context  
12 for license renewal. The Atomic Energy Act gives  
13 the NRC the authority to issue licenses for nuclear  
14 reactors for a period of 40 years. For Brunswick  
15 Units 1 and 2, those licenses will expire in the  
16 years 2016 and 2014 respectively.

17 Our regulations also make provisions for  
18 us to issue extensions to those operating licenses  
19 for an additional 20 years, and Progress Energy  
20 Carolinas has requested license renewal for these  
21 two units.

22 As part of the NRC's review of the  
23 license renewal application, we perform an  
24 environmental review. We evaluate the  
25 environmental impacts of running these two units

1 for an additional 20 years.

2 Now, the purpose of this meeting is to  
3 give you an opportunity to provide us with input on  
4 what issues should be within the scope of our  
5 review. We want to understand and make sure we  
6 cover all the aspects of the environmental impacts  
7 that we need to do, and you can help, because you  
8 know this area better than anybody else.

9 At the conclusion of our presentation  
10 this evening, we'll ask you to provide any comments  
11 that you may have, and also we'll answer any  
12 questions. And as Chip mentioned, we do have  
13 several members of the NRC staff and our  
14 contractors here to support that.

15 Before I go further in the discussion of  
16 the license renewal process, I do want to take a  
17 moment to talk about what the NRC does and what our  
18 mission is. As I mentioned, the Atomic Energy Act  
19 gives us the authority to regulate the civilian use  
20 of nuclear materials in the United States.

21 In carrying out that authority, the NRC's  
22 mission is threefold. We protect the public health  
23 and safety. We protect the environment, and we  
24 also provide for the common defense and security.

25 We accomplish this mission through a

1 combination of programs including inspections,  
2 enforcement action, assessments of licensee  
3 performance and also the evaluation of operating  
4 experience from the reactors throughout the  
5 country.

6 Next slide, please. Turning now to  
7 license renewal in particular, the NRC's license  
8 renewal process is very similar to the process we  
9 went through when we originally licensed the plants  
10 in that there are two parts to it. There's a  
11 safety review and an environmental review.

12 Now, the environmental review is the  
13 focus of our meeting tonight, but I'm going to  
14 briefly talk about the safety review just to give  
15 you some background.

16 The safety review includes a safety  
17 evaluation report that the staff will prepare. It  
18 includes some on site inspections, and also it  
19 involves an independent review by the Advisory  
20 Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

21 Next slide. Now, this slide gives an  
22 overview of the entire licensing renewal review  
23 process, and as you can see, as I said, the process  
24 has two basic parts. The upper track is the safety  
25 review, and the bottom track is the environmental

1 review.

2 The safety review involves the staff's  
3 evaluation of the safety information that was  
4 included in the application for Progress Energy.  
5 There's a team of about 30 NRC technical staff and  
6 contractors who are reviewing the application and  
7 who will prepare the safety evaluation report.

8 We have the project manager for that  
9 review here with us tonight, and I'd like to  
10 introduce him. He's Mr. S.K. Mitra right here.  
11 He's leading the team that's reviewing the safety  
12 aspects.

13 The safety review for license renewal  
14 focuses on how the applicant will manage the aging  
15 of certain systems, structures, and components in  
16 the plant. Some of the programs for managing aging  
17 are already in place, and others will be put in  
18 place for license renewal.

19 The safety review process also includes  
20 audits and on site inspections. The inspection  
21 teams are drawn from both our headquarters office  
22 and our Region Two office in Atlanta.

23 I do want to mention that some of the  
24 staff who participate in the inspections come from  
25 the site itself. We have two resident inspectors

1 on site, and I want to mention that because a lot  
2 of people are not aware that we keep staff on site  
3 to monitor the operations of the plant on a day to  
4 day basis. At this particular site, the senior  
5 resident inspector is Gene DiPaolo, and the  
6 resident inspector is Joe Austin.

7 The results of the inspections we perform  
8 for license renewal will be documented in separate  
9 inspection reports, and the results will then be  
10 incorporated into the safety evaluation report that  
11 we'll be preparing.

12 After the safety evaluation report is  
13 completed, it will be shared with the Advisory  
14 Committee on Reactor Safeguards for their  
15 independent review. Now, the Advisory Committee on  
16 Reactor Safeguards is a group of nationally  
17 recognized technical experts in nuclear safety  
18 aspects. They act as an independent consulting  
19 body for the Commission. They'll review the  
20 license renewal application, and they'll review our  
21 safety evaluation report, develop their own  
22 conclusions and recommendations and then provide  
23 those directly to the Commission.

24 As I mentioned, the second part of the  
25 review process is the environmental review, which

1 we'll talk about in more detail in a moment, but as  
2 I mentioned also, what we're here to do tonight is  
3 to provide you with some information on the review  
4 and to collect your comments on the scope of the  
5 review.

6 We'll consider any comments we receive  
7 tonight in developing our draft environmental  
8 impact statement. We'll also consider any comments  
9 we receive in writing during the remainder of the  
10 comment period which runs through March 11th. And  
11 then in September we expect to issue the draft  
12 environmental impact statement for comment.

13 So as you can see from this slide,  
14 there's a lot of input that we're going to have to  
15 provide to the Commission to allow the Commission  
16 to make the decision whether or not to grant  
17 license renewal for these plants. We have to  
18 prepare a safety evaluation report and an  
19 environmental impact statement. They'll get the  
20 results of the inspections, and they'll also get  
21 the input from the Advisory Committee on Reactor  
22 Safeguards.

23 I'd also like to point out the splash  
24 symbols on the slide. These indicate places where  
25 the public can become involved in the process.

1           First let me talk about those that are on  
2 the track associated with the environmental review.  
3 The first splash symbol is for scoping, which is  
4 the process that we're in right now. And we have  
5 this public meeting and also the opportunity to  
6 provide written comments.

7           The second splash symbol on the  
8 environmental review is a similar process that will  
9 occur after we issue the draft environmental impact  
10 statement. You'll have an opportunity to provide  
11 comments on that environmental impact statement,  
12 and we'll come back here this -- Southport and hold  
13 meetings again as we're doing tonight.

14           In addition to those opportunities, as  
15 you can see on the safety side, there was a process  
16 meeting that was held in this area. It was held at  
17 the Hampton Inn back in November, and this was an  
18 opportunity to come out and listen to how we were  
19 going to carry out this process. And in addition,  
20 on the safety side, when we hold exit meetings for  
21 our inspections or audits or when we hold technical  
22 meetings with Progress Energy, those meetings are  
23 all open to the public.

24           In addition, as you can see on the slide  
25 toward the bottom, there's an opportunity for a

1 hearing, and that opportunity is still available.  
2 If somebody wishes to request a hearing on this  
3 proposed action, that opportunity is available to  
4 you through February 4th. And there was a notice  
5 of an opportunity for hearing which explained how  
6 to go about making such a request. If anybody has  
7 any questions about that, we can talk to you after  
8 the meeting about it.

9 And, finally, when the Advisory  
10 Committee on Reactor Safeguards reviews the safety  
11 evaluation report, that meeting will be open to the  
12 public as well.

13 And that concludes my remarks on the overall  
14 license renewal process. I'm going to turn things  
15 over to Mr. Rich Emch, and he'll discuss the  
16 environmental review process in particular. Thank  
17 you.

18 MR. EMCH: Hello. I'm Richard Emch. I'm  
19 the Environmental Project Manager for the Nuclear  
20 Regulatory Commission for the review of the  
21 Brunswick license renewal, as Andy and Chip already  
22 mentioned.

23 As you can see on the first slide, what  
24 we're going to be talking -- what I'm going to be  
25 talking about tonight is the environmental review.

1 We follow the guidelines of NEPA, the National  
2 Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The NEPA  
3 guidelines call for us to do a systematic review,  
4 comprehensive systematic review of environmental  
5 impact for projects.

6 And in this case we're looking -- it's a  
7 disclosure process. We evaluate all the impacts.  
8 We gather information. We disclose that. We  
9 discuss any potential mitigating features or  
10 mitigation actions if -- depending on the level of  
11 impact of the project.

12 The guidelines call for the development  
13 of an environmental impact statement for any major  
14 Federal project that's going to affect the --  
15 significantly affect the quality of the human  
16 environment.

17 The NRC, the Nuclear Regulatory  
18 Commission, made a decision that for each license  
19 renewal project we would develop what we call a  
20 supplemental environmental impact statement which  
21 basically, as you can see the last bullet there, we  
22 have a generic environmental impact statement that  
23 was developed several years ago, and that looked at  
24 a wide range of issues for nuclear power plants for  
25 license renewal.

1           And the specific report, the supplement  
2 that we'll be developing for Brunswick will talk  
3 about whether there is any new and significant  
4 information related to any of the, shall we say,  
5 easier issues, and it will present our specific  
6 evaluation of the more complicated issues. And  
7 that will be -- as I said, that will be a  
8 supplement that will be published.

9           Part of the evaluation -- we will be  
10 evaluating alternatives to the proposed action, and  
11 one of those alternatives is what we call the no  
12 action proposal. In other words, that's the  
13 alternative. That's if for whatever reason the  
14 application were to be turned down, then Progress  
15 Energy would have to look at other ways of  
16 providing power to those customers or whatever. So  
17 that's -- we look at alternatives. We evaluate the  
18 impacts of the alternatives.

19           Next slide, please. The purpose of the  
20 whole approach, the whole review is to evaluate  
21 against that decision standard that you can see  
22 behind me to determine whether or not the adverse  
23 environmental impacts of license renewal for the  
24 Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2 are  
25 so great that preserving the option of license

1 renewal for energy planning decision makers would be  
2 unreasonable. I have to read that, because that's  
3 the legal version of it.

4 The Richard Emch's version of it is --  
5 is the impact of an additional 20 years of  
6 operation problematic? Is it acceptable, or is it  
7 something that is such a negative thing that we  
8 wouldn't want to do it. That's the decision  
9 standard that we'll be working against.

10 Now, if and when we make that decision  
11 that it is not unreasonable, that doesn't  
12 necessarily mean that if they are granted the  
13 license to operate for an additional 20 years, that  
14 doesn't necessarily mean they will, that the plant  
15 will operate for an additional 20 years. The  
16 decisions about how long the plant operates are  
17 made between the owners of the plant, Progress  
18 Energy and the State decision makers like the  
19 Public Utility Commission and that sort of thing.  
20 To a large extent, it's a economic decision as much  
21 as anything else, a need for power kind of issue.

22 Next slide. Earlier Andy talked to you  
23 about the overall process. I'm going to get into a  
24 little more detail about the specific process for  
25 the environmental review.

1           We received the environmental -- the  
2 application on October 20, 2004. We issued what we  
3 call a notice of intent. That's in the -- in the  
4 process, the NEPA process, we conduct what we call  
5 scoping, which means that we're going to go into  
6 the community, we're going to evaluate all the  
7 sources of information about environmental impact  
8 and -- and as part of our -- as part of the public  
9 participation, we evaluate all that information and  
10 we hold a meeting like this one and we go to the  
11 site and we talk to a lot of different people, a  
12 lot of organizations.

13           In fact, as I like to say, the real  
14 reason for this meeting tonight is I need -- I'm  
15 from Washington, but -- and I have a lot of  
16 expertise, and I have a very expert team, but the  
17 truth of the matter is you folks who live and  
18 work in this area are the true local environmental  
19 impact experts here, and so I need your help. I'm  
20 going to ask you and enlist your help.

21           Earlier today I said deputize, and the  
22 mayor said he wanted a check, but anyway, I'm  
23 asking for your help because you folks know this  
24 area better than we do, and so part of the reason  
25 for us being here tonight is I want you to tell me

1 what kinds of issues we should be discussing. I  
2 want you to tell me about any information that you  
3 think we should be looking at as part of our  
4 evaluation.

5 So in January, January 12th, we issued a  
6 notice of intent, and that notice of intent said  
7 okay, we're going to perform scoping and we're  
8 going to hold this meeting that we're holding  
9 tonight. That's what that notice was all about.

10 For the last couple of days, we've been  
11 performing the site audit. The entire team has  
12 been here. We've been looking at all the various  
13 areas. We've been meeting with the licensee and  
14 doing many different things. We've brought with us  
15 a team of probably ten to 15 people -- about 15  
16 people.

17 The expertise, the true expertise of the  
18 team is from the laboratories, the national  
19 laboratories, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
20 and Argonne National Laboratory, and, in fact, the  
21 team leader and the assistant team leader are here  
22 with us tonight. Mary Ann Parkhurst is the team  
23 leader, and Beverly Miller is the assistant team  
24 leader. They're both from the Pacific Northwest  
25 National Laboratory.

1           The next step will be requests for  
2 additional information, any -- that's a formalized  
3 process where we will send a letter to the licensee  
4 and say we need additional information on these  
5 subjects. So far, the only subject I believe is  
6 going to be something called severe accident  
7 mitigation alternatives that -- we'll be asking  
8 questions about that.

9           Later you can see that we will be --  
10 after we have gathered all the comments, gotten all  
11 the information together from the scoping process,  
12 we'll develop a draft supplemental environmental  
13 impact statement, and we'll send that out to you  
14 folks who registered tonight with the little blue  
15 card or the yellow card, and we'll send it to a lot  
16 of different places, Fish and Wildlife Services,  
17 NOAA Fisheries, the North Carolina SHPO's office,  
18 various people who we consult with when we do this  
19 operation. So that draft supplement will be issued  
20 in September of this year.

21           And the final supplement -- after we have  
22 gone through the process again of coming here in  
23 October, holding meetings, getting comments from  
24 you folks, the final supplement will be issued in  
25 April of 2006.

1           Next. This information process will go  
2 to wide lengths. We talk to an awful lot of  
3 people, go to a lot of places to gather the  
4 information. Obviously there is the application  
5 itself that the licensee provided. There's the  
6 site audit that I was discussing earlier where Mary  
7 Ann's team has been in the environs at the plant  
8 and out and talking. As a matter of fact, some of  
9 you in this room may have already been interviewed  
10 by one of -- like the socioeconomics expert.

11           We talk to State and local authorities  
12 and national authorities. I already mentioned the  
13 State Historic Preservation Officer. We talk to  
14 the local Forestry Department. We talk to Fish and  
15 Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, a wide range of people.  
16 We send letters to the Indian tribes that are  
17 located -- that have an interest in the area. We  
18 talk to permitting authorities.

19           The State of North Carolina issues the  
20 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
21 permit, and so we talk to them and we talk to other  
22 people who are involved with permits that the  
23 licensee needs to continue to operate.

24           We talk to Social Services, the Chamber  
25 of Commerce, the school system. We talk to people

1 like United Way to try to understand the  
2 socioeconomic forces that are at work in the  
3 community.

4 And then last of all is public comments,  
5 which is what we're here for tonight, again, you  
6 folks who are my local environmental experts.

7 Next. As you can see from this picture  
8 up here, we look at a lot of different areas,  
9 radiation protection, air quality, water quality,  
10 hydrology, terrestrial and aquatic ecology,  
11 socioeconomics, archeology and historic resources.

12 One area that's kind of an interesting  
13 area that some of you may not have heard of before,  
14 it's called Environmental Justice. In this, we  
15 evaluate to see whether there's any  
16 disproportionate negative impact on low -- or low  
17 income and minority populations.

18 So we do a wide range of -- look at a  
19 wide range of environmental issues, and that's  
20 what -- that's what the team expertise is.

21 Next, please. Let's talk a little bit about  
22 the schedule going forth from this point. The next  
23 major milestone -- the scoping period ends on March  
24 11th, so you have plenty of time to get those  
25 comments and letters in, folks, if you decide to

1 give us something other than what you're going to  
2 tell us tonight, and then, as I said, we'll take  
3 all that information and put it together.

4 We'll write the draft environmental --  
5 the supplemental impact statement. That will be  
6 issued in September. We'll come back in --  
7 probably in October, have another meeting like  
8 this, give you another opportunity to talk to us.  
9 We'll tell you what we found. You tell us what you  
10 think, and after that, then we'll issue the final  
11 in April of 2006.

12 Next. This talks about points of  
13 contact, ways to get in touch with us at the  
14 Nuclear Regulatory Commission and ways to see the  
15 application that's been put in. As you can see,  
16 that's my phone number up there, the 1590, the  
17 extension 1590. You can reach me at that number.

18 The documents, the application and any  
19 documents that -- any letters back and forth  
20 between us and the licensee throughout the  
21 process and the draft environmental statement when  
22 we issue it can be seen at the Randall Library up  
23 at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington.  
24 I was just up there earlier this week. If you just  
25 go to the reference desk there, they'll show you --

1 they'll bring out the application or the other  
2 documents for you to see.

3 Also, the documents can be viewed on the  
4 NRC's website at the web address that's up there.  
5 We've tried it. It works. If you have any trouble  
6 with it, give me a call; we'll help you out.

7 Next. Oh, you got it up. Okay. You can  
8 provide written comments by mail at that address up  
9 there. Anything that is mailed -- that's in the  
10 mail by the March 11th date, it will be -- we'll  
11 answer it. We'll consider those comments. It's  
12 possible to turn in comments by -- in person, if  
13 you have some reason to be in the Rockville,  
14 Maryland area.

15 And last of all, the one that -- one of  
16 my favorites is the BrunswickEIS@nrc.gov website  
17 which I check every day to see if there's  
18 communications or comments that somebody from the  
19 public has sent us.

20 With that, I think I'm done. I want to  
21 thank you all for coming out to be with us tonight  
22 and talk to us and for the information you're about  
23 to give us. I want to remind you, you've all now  
24 been duly deputized as my local environmental  
25 experts, and so I'm looking forward to your

1 comments and your information.

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank  
3 you very much, Rich. Are there any questions about  
4 the process or what we're doing, what we look at,  
5 schedules, contacts, anything like that? Anybody  
6 have a question that we can answer? Okay.

7 And the staff will be here after the  
8 meeting, and anything you want to talk about, we'll  
9 be here to do that.

10 We're going to move into the second part  
11 of the meeting, which is to hear from those of you  
12 who want to make a comment to us tonight. And the  
13 first person we're going to go to is May Moore.  
14 And May is a Brunswick County Commissioner. I'm  
15 sure those of you in the community know May.

16 May, do you want to come up here?

17 COMMISSIONER MOORE: Thank you very much.  
18 I appreciate the chance to be here. I have to  
19 admit, I probably would not have been here, had I  
20 not been requested to be here. But I'm delighted  
21 to be here on behalf of Progress Energy. They've  
22 been a wonderful corporate neighbor in Brunswick  
23 County.

24 I'm a long time resident. I was here  
25 long before the power plant was conceived of.

1 Brunswick County was a poor coastal community --  
2 barefoot, unpaved streets, high level of poverty,  
3 low level of education.

4 I came here first as a resident of the  
5 beach community right after World War II, and I  
6 married here, and I've been here ever since.

7 What has the nuclear power plant done for this  
8 environment? As a county commissioner, I always  
9 think about money. They have done an enormous  
10 thing for our tax base since the '70s when the  
11 power plant began being constructed.

12 They have enabled vast improvement to our  
13 school system. I'm a retired teacher, so I've  
14 experienced it all the way through. We've passed a  
15 series of bond issues. We've built good schools,  
16 and we're still working on having excellence in  
17 schools. This tax base has enabled us to build a  
18 community college which is rapidly growing. We've  
19 just passed a 30 million dollar bond issue to  
20 expand it in the past election. It has enabled us  
21 to begin to work toward infrastructure that's  
22 needed in the community.

23 We started a county water system in the  
24 early 1980s that struggled for a while but is doing  
25 well now and serves over 20,000 households outside

1 of towns and serves 14 towns, so it's become quite  
2 large. We're getting into wastewater and at this  
3 point have about 4,000 wastewater customers as well  
4 as two towns.

5 The nuclear power plant is  
6 environmentally clean, which you just talked about.  
7 The combination of that with us working on water  
8 quality with wastewater and being concerned about  
9 storm water hopefully will protect this delicate  
10 and very beautiful environment in which we live.

11 We have good fish. We have good birds.  
12 We have clean water. We have clean air. We'd like  
13 to keep it that way, and we feel that Progress  
14 Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have  
15 worked to make this happen for us, and it's been a  
16 big help for us.

17 Progress Energy has been a good neighbor  
18 to us as well. They've worked with us on fire and  
19 rescue and security, which is important.

20 When 9-11 took place, I was a county  
21 commissioner, and, of course, you immediately think  
22 what do you do now. We had on the shelf a plan for  
23 terrorism, and I'm quite sure that would not have  
24 been on the shelf if it were not for Sunny Point  
25 and for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and

1 Progress Energy, but we just put it into -- we  
2 opened the book, did what it said and just walked  
3 through it, and everything went very smoothly. It  
4 was nice to have that done in advance. It was  
5 right there, ready.

6 Progress Energy lets us use their media  
7 center. They work with us on school programs.  
8 They're a source of employment of many friends and  
9 neighbors of mine, so it's been an excellent  
10 neighbor and a great addition to the county.

11 I think the one question that we all  
12 would ask is assuming that the license is renewed  
13 in 14 and 16, 20 years down the road, what happens  
14 next? Do you renew again, or do you have to  
15 mothball this plant? And I think the area would be  
16 very concerned about where that would leave us.

17 It's not as an enormous a part of our tax  
18 base as it was in 1970 or '75, obviously, but it's  
19 still quite a large part of the money that both the  
20 town of Southport and the County of Brunswick  
21 counts on, so that is an issue.

22 But thank you for the chance to speak.  
23 And if I can answer any questions that you have, I  
24 will if I can. Thank you.

25 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

1 Thank you very much, Commissioner Moore. I'm going  
2 to ask Andy and his staff to think about the  
3 question that Commissioner Moore asked us. In the  
4 meantime, we'll go to the next speaker, but I think  
5 if we could give an answer to that tonight, that  
6 would be -- that would be good.

7 And our next speaker is Cynthia Tart.  
8 Cynthia?

9 MS. TART: Good afternoon. Good evening.  
10 My name is Cynthia Tart. I'm the Executive  
11 Director of Communities and Schools in Brunswick  
12 County, and I serve on -- not only do I serve as  
13 the Executive Director of Communities and Schools,  
14 but I serve on several other boards in the county  
15 and at the local level and a State level and at the  
16 National level with Parks and Recreation.

17 And I've been here for 35 years, and I've  
18 seen, as May has said, what an impact the company  
19 has had on the community, the jobs it's provided,  
20 the educational resources it's provided in the  
21 schools.

22 Our county is -- and living here all of  
23 my life -- basically is a very poor county with --  
24 and our children have a lot of needs, and the  
25 resources that the employees at Progress Energy

1 bring into the schools is so valuable. The  
2 tutoring, the mentoring -- at the end of the year,  
3 we have end of grade testing, and if it were not  
4 for the employees coming into the schools and  
5 working with groups of children to help them pass  
6 the end of grade testing, our scores would be much  
7 lower than what they are now.

8 In serving on so many committees in the  
9 county, with Parks and Recreation and the planning  
10 boards and various things that I do, I'm always  
11 sitting at the table, and people are looking at  
12 activities and things that need to happen in the  
13 community, whether it's with children or families  
14 or projects, and the first thing they say is call  
15 Progress Energy, you know?

16 And you -- and you hate to go to the same  
17 source of resources all the time, and we're aware  
18 of that, but we don't have anything else. Most of  
19 our resources in the county are moms and pops, you  
20 know, of few employees, and it's very hard to  
21 expect them to close their business down for a day  
22 and come into the schools and help teach kids about  
23 career interests and job opportunities and the  
24 things that they need to know that is our future  
25 that the schools can't incorporate those community

1 resources unless businesses like Progress Energy  
2 come out and make a difference.

3 The management team at Progress Energy  
4 has been very supportive in working with the  
5 schools in building projects at the schools. The  
6 aquaculture program is there because of the support  
7 of Progress Energy. The storage sheds and  
8 facilities and just various projects in the  
9 community are only there because of the support of  
10 Progress Energy.

11 In serving on Parks and Recreation, I  
12 also chair our county Parks and Recreation Board,  
13 and in doing that, we work to develop parks across  
14 the county. And in a partnership with a lease  
15 agreement with Progress Energy, we now have a park  
16 here in the Southport/Oak Island area, and without  
17 the partnership with Progress Energy, that would  
18 not be possible. That facility would not be here.  
19 And we'll -- hopefully to have the opening of that  
20 pretty soon, but it's just a valuable resource for  
21 our community.

22 And, you know, without Progress Energy, I  
23 would see a huge change in our county and in our  
24 communities, and the children would really lack.  
25 So I just want to emphasize the importance of

1 community involvement.

2 And if I could mention something as a  
3 plea, I would like to just see more of that into  
4 the schools. The plant sitting here has so many  
5 resources as far as education for our children, and  
6 they are our future. They're going to be here when  
7 we're gone. And what are we teaching them about  
8 our jobs? What are we teaching them about the  
9 nuclear plant, the value that it has in the  
10 community? What are we teaching them about the  
11 terminology they read in the paper about the  
12 nuclear plant?

13 You know, we have the visitors center,  
14 but it's not always feasible for children all over  
15 the county to drive 40 or 50 miles one way to the  
16 center to learn about it, but if we had some of  
17 those resources in the schools working with our  
18 science teachers, you know, what could we be  
19 teaching our children, our future, about nuclear  
20 plants in their area, about their future, about  
21 jobs that are there?

22 So I would encourage just the connection  
23 there, to -- to work on it and to strengthen it to  
24 better educate our children and just join forces  
25 with 'em. Thank you.

1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Cynthia.  
2 I'd mentioned that the NRC itself in terms -- from  
3 its regulatory perspective does work with schools  
4 in terms of what we do and radiation protection and  
5 things like that, and maybe that's something that  
6 we can also get involved in. But thank you very  
7 much for those comments.

8 Andy, do you want to just talk to  
9 Commissioner Moore's question?

10 MR. KUGLER: Should I go ahead and close  
11 this --

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Sure. Just let me  
13 just see if there's any other questions. Anybody  
14 else want to say anything to us tonight? Okay.  
15 Why don't you go ahead and do both of those? Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. KUGLER: Well, first, in response to  
18 Commissioner Moore's question, the regulations do  
19 allow for an opportunity to renew the license  
20 again, if the licensee wants to do that. It's a  
21 decision they would have to make in terms of  
22 economics, the equipment in the plant, what it  
23 would take to maintain it for an additional 20  
24 years beyond that, but there's nothing to say that  
25 they couldn't do it.

1           In terms of when the decision would be  
2           made, our regulations say that you can apply for a  
3           renewal 20 years before the end of the license,  
4           which in this case would be around 2014 and 2016 if  
5           the licenses are renewed. Then 20 years before the  
6           end of the license would become that date and no  
7           less than five.

8           So there's a pretty broad range as to  
9           when they would make that decision, and it would be  
10          up to them whether they want to pursue that or  
11          pursue some other option to provide power. I  
12          wouldn't even hazard a guess as to what might  
13          happen at this point.

14          With that, I just want to briefly close.  
15          I want to thank you all again for coming out  
16          tonight. I appreciate the time you've taken to be  
17          here with us. I hope what we've provided will be  
18          helpful to you.

19          And one thing I will mention, in the  
20          package of information you got downstairs when you  
21          registered, one of the papers is a meeting feedback  
22          form, and if you could fill that out, we'd  
23          appreciate it.

24          We're always trying to do better in terms  
25          of the way we run our meetings, hoping to serve you

1 better with our meetings, so if you have any  
2 comments on what we've done or ways we can do  
3 things better, I'd appreciate that. You can either  
4 fill it out and drop it off downstairs, or it's  
5 postage paid. If you want to fill it out later and  
6 mail it to us, you can do that.

7 I also want to reiterate again you have  
8 until March 11th to submit written comments. If  
9 you have any questions, you can contact Mr. Emch,  
10 and the staff will remain after the meeting. If  
11 you have any questions or you just want to talk to  
12 us about something, we'll be happy to stay and talk  
13 to you. Thank you.

14 WHEREUPON THE PROCEEDINGS WERE CONCLUDED:

15 (7:39 p.m.)  
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