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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: :
PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE :
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL :
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE :
RENEWAL OF :
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR :
POWER STATION :

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Wednesday
January 31, 2007

Latchis Theater
50 Main Street
Brattleboro, Vermont

The above-entitled matter was convened,
pursuant to Notice, at 7:03 p.m.

BEFORE: Francis "Chip" Cameron
FACILITATOR

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:03 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. CAMERON: Good evening, everyone,
4 thank you for being here tonight at the public meeting.
5 My name is Chip Cameron and it's my pleasure to serve
6 as your facilitator, and in that role I'm going to try
7 to help all of us to have a productive meeting tonight.
8 The subject is the environmental review that NRC, the
9 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, conducts as one part of
10 its evaluation on whether to renew the license for the
11 Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, and we received an
12 application to renew the license from Entergy
13 Corporation. We are in the middle of our review and
14 you'll hear a little bit more about that in a few
15 minutes.

16 I just wanted to tell you a little bit
17 about some meeting process issues. First of all, the
18 format for the meeting, and secondly, some real simple
19 ground rules to help all of us have a good meeting
20 tonight. In terms of the format, we basically have a
21 two-part format, the first part is to give you some
22 information on what the NRC looks at when it evaluates
23 an application for license renewal, such as the one
24 received from Entergy for Vermont Yankee, and we are
25 also going to tell you what the findings are in the

1 draft environmental impact statement, so we have two
2 short presentations on that.

3 And I just want to emphasize the word
4 draft, draft environmental impact statement, it won't
5 be finalized until the NRC staff evaluates, listens to
6 and evaluates the comments that they hear from you
7 tonight, as well as comments that we had in this
8 afternoon's meeting and written comments that you can
9 submit on the draft environmental impact statement.
10 And anything you say tonight will carry the same weight
11 as a written comment, but you are more than welcome to
12 amplify on your comments tonight by submitting
13 something in writing.

14 And the comments are going to be the focus
15 of the second part of the meeting, after we get done
16 with the presentations, and we are here to listen to
17 your concerns, your advice and your recommendations on
18 these draft environmental impact issues and on license
19 renewal. Ground rules, very simple, just please, one
20 person at a time speaking, most importantly so that we
21 can give our full attention to whomever has the floor
22 at the moment. But also so that our court reporter,
23 Marty Farley, who is up here, can get a clean
24 transcript, so that he'll be able to identify who is
25 talking. And that transcript will be available to all

1 of you as a record of what transpired here tonight and
2 to the NRC obviously so that we can evaluate the
3 comments.

4 We have a lot of people who want to talk
5 tonight and that's great, we really appreciate that,
6 but it means that we are going to have to try to limit
7 the time accordingly for each speaker so that we can
8 get everybody on who wants to talk tonight, and I'm
9 going to ask you to try to summarize your comments in a
10 three minute, three to four minute summary. And
11 usually, I find that three to four minutes is enough
12 time for people to make their major points. You can
13 amplify through submitting something in writing or you
14 can, if you have a prepared statement, we will attach
15 it to the transcript and that will be part of the
16 public record.

17 And even three minutes of comment does two
18 important things, one, it alerts the NRC staff to
19 issues that they should start thinking about
20 immediately in evaluating comments, and having an
21 opportunity to talk to you about your comments after
22 the meeting is over. And secondly, other people in the
23 audience are going to hear what the concerns and issues
24 are, and I will apologize in advance if I have to be
25 sort of abrupt in terms of asking you to sum up. This

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1 afternoon's meeting, we had a lot of good comments but
2 we had only less than half the amount of people who
3 want to talk tonight so that we had some leeway in
4 allowing people to go on.

5 Well we don't have that leeway tonight
6 even to try to make it to the 10:00 adjournment time.
7 We have some people who are coming back from this
8 afternoon, I'm going to start, when we go to the
9 comment period, I'm going to give the people who did
10 not have an opportunity to talk at all, they are going
11 to go first and then we will get around to the people
12 who are back for a second, a second round.

13 And the final ground rule is just please
14 extend courtesy to each other. You'll hear opinions
15 tonight that you may not agree with but please respect
16 the person who is giving that opinion.

17 And I just want to introduce the speakers
18 who will give you the background, there is Mr. Richard
19 Emch right over here.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. CAMERON: All right, I think you
22 deserve that.

23 Rich Emch is the project manager on the
24 environmental review for the Vermont Yankee license
25 renewal application. He has been with the NRC for

1 about 32 years in a variety of positions and he has
2 served as a project manager on a number of license
3 renewal applications. He has a bachelors degree in
4 physics from Louisiana Technical University and a
5 masters in health physics from the Georgia Institute of
6 Technology he is going to give you an overview of
7 license renewal.

8 And then you are going to hear from
9 Dr. Dave Miller, who is right here. Dave was the team
10 leader of the group of scientists, experts who helped
11 us to prepare the environmental impact statement,
12 helped us to evaluate impacts, and he is going to tell
13 you about that process and the findings. He is from
14 Argonne National Lab, he is an environmental engineer,
15 and he has a masters and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins
16 University in environmental engineering. And I would
17 just thank you again for being here. Okay, how's that?
18 Am I standing in a bad place for you maybe?

19 But at any rate, one final thing is that
20 the NRC is not required to hold these public meetings.
21 We are required to take written comment, but we want to
22 be here in person with you because we want to talk to
23 you. We want to hear your passion, your concerns on
24 these issues because that just reminds us, we don't
25 need reminding, but it reminds us that we need to do

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1 our job conscientiously and responsibly, so that's why
2 we are here and thank you for being here.

3 And with that, I'm going to turn it over
4 to Richard Emch to give you an overview of license
5 renewal. He will tell you and if there is any
6 questions about that, we will make sure we clarify it.

7 Richard?

8 MR. EMCH: Thank you, Chip.

9 As Chip said, my name is Rich Emch, I'm
10 the environmental project manager for the Nuclear
11 Regulatory Commission for the review of the Vermont
12 Yankee license renewal application.

13 The first thing I want to do tonight is
14 talk to you about the purposes of this meeting. First,
15 I'm going to discuss the overall license renewal
16 process with a little more specifics about the
17 environmental review part of the process, then we are
18 going to talk about the results of our review, and I'm
19 going to talk a little bit about the rest of the
20 schedule for the review. And then finally, I'm going
21 to tell you how to submit comments, and the best part
22 is we are going to listen to you folks talk to us about
23 your views, your comments about the environmental, the
24 draft environmental statement that we've put out.

25 The Atomic Energy Act is the legislation

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1 that basically created the Nuclear Regulatory
2 Commission and gives it, and tells us what our
3 responsibilities are, and that is we are responsible
4 for issuing the operating license for commercial
5 nuclear power plants and regulating the civilian use of
6 nuclear materials, which includes nuclear power plants.
7 Originally, these plants were licensed, as was Vermont
8 Yankee, for a 40-year period, that 40-year period was
9 based mainly on economic and anti-trust considerations,
10 not on safety issues. The act or our regulations also
11 allow for a utility or a licensee to make an
12 application to renew their license and that is indeed
13 what Entergy has done for Vermont Yankee, they have
14 made such an application.

15 The NRC's mission is threefold, to ensure
16 the adequate protection of the public health and
17 safety, to promote common defense and security, and to
18 protect the environment. The current operating license
19 for Vermont Yankee will expire in March of 2012 and the
20 application of course, that we just discussed, Entergy
21 has applied for, has made an application, applied for
22 an extension, a license renewal for 20 years.

23 This is the overall license renewal
24 process, the top lines show the safety process in red,
25 the bottom lines show the environmental process in

1 green. These processes are going on in parallel, the
2 safety side is doing their work and the environmental
3 side is doing its work.

4 In the middle, you will see a box that
5 says hearings, this means that there are hearings that
6 are going on, that will be held for this project with
7 the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The parties to
8 the hearing are the NRC, Entergy and the contentions
9 for the hearing were raised by the parties, the New
10 England Coalition and the State of Vermont. The State
11 of New Hampshire is participating as an interested
12 state as well. Those hearings will probably start
13 after we issue the final environmental impact statement
14 and after the final safety report is out.

15 You'll see a box up there that says
16 independent review, that's the ACRS, the Advisory
17 Committee on Reactor Safeguards, they will do, once the
18 safety evaluation is completed, they will do an
19 independent review of that safety evaluation and make
20 their own recommendations to the Commission. The
21 Commission will take all these pieces of information
22 and put it together and make the decision about whether
23 or not to grant the application.

24 Let's talk a little bit more about the
25 safety review. The safety review concentrates on aging

1 management of safety related structures, systems and
2 components. That review is being led by the safety
3 project manager, Jonathan Rowley, Jonathan is right
4 over here. In addition to reviewing all the
5 application and materials that the licensee sends in,
6 the applicant sends in, we also, John's group does
7 on-site audits to inspect the technical accuracy of the
8 information that's been provided and also the
9 inspectors from Region I do inspections to ensure that
10 the programs that the licensee says they have been in
11 place have either been put in place and are effective
12 or that they are properly prepared and planned.

13 Finally, all that information will be a
14 part of the safety evaluation report that Jonathan's
15 group will issue and, as I said before, it will be
16 reviewed independently by the Advisory Committee on
17 Reactor Safeguards.

18 Let's talk about some important things
19 here that are important to the NRC but unrelated to
20 license renewal, emergency planning, security and
21 safety performance, the NRC's ongoing oversight of the
22 safety performance of the plant. These are all very
23 important issues to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
24 and because they are so important, the NRC has constant
25 oversight of these. There are inspections that go on

1 on a regular basis, there are, these are just, they are
2 day to day, current day issues, they are not issues
3 about what will be going on during the 20 years of
4 continued operation.

5 They are current day issues so if there is
6 a problem in one of these areas, it's not something we
7 want to talk about in license renewal, it's something
8 we want to talk about today, something that the people
9 who are responsible for the day to day safety and
10 oversight of plants such as Vermont Yankee are
11 responsible for. And we have one of the, a couple of
12 the individuals who are very closely related to that
13 here with us today. Most of you are probably aware
14 that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has resident
15 inspectors whose entire job is to be at that plant, and
16 that's true. David Pelton is here, he is the senior
17 resident inspector at Vermont Yankee. His entire job is
18 making sure that the licensee operates Vermont Yankee
19 in a safe manner and within the NRC regulations. So
20 there is additional information about the safety
21 performances at the web site at the bottom of this
22 slide.

23 This is a more detailed version of the
24 environmental review process. As I mentioned, the
25 application was sent in January of 2006, we held the

1 environmental audit in May and we went to a lot of
2 different places, gathered a lot of information, saw a
3 number of state agencies. Then we continued on with
4 the review and we held a public meeting on June 7th
5 here at the Latchis Theater, a number of you probably
6 attended that meeting and gave us comments. We took
7 those comments, evaluated them, evaluated all the other
8 information that we gathered and issued the draft
9 supplemental, the draft environmental impact statement
10 on December 13, 2006.

11 Now we are in the comment period, which
12 will end on March 7th. I'm going to talk a little bit
13 later about how to get us comments, but one very
14 important way of getting us comments is tonight. As
15 you see, we have the meeting for comments on the draft
16 and that's what we are here for tonight, we are here to
17 hear what you have to tell us about our draft
18 environmental impact statement. We'll take all of
19 those comments that you give us tonight, all the ones
20 you send us in writing, all the ones you send us on the
21 Internet, and we will evaluate them and make whatever
22 changes are needed in the final environmental
23 statement.

24 Now what you are going to hear from Dave
25 Miller in a few minutes, he is going to talk about our

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1 preliminary conclusions and that's what they are,
2 preliminary conclusions, and once we've evaluated all
3 the comments and other information that we gather,
4 we'll put all of that into the process as well and
5 decide whether or not the final environmental impact
6 statement is going to draw those same conclusions or
7 not.

8 Once we've issued the final impact
9 statement in August of 2007, the hearing process will
10 begin somewhere shortly after that, and with the
11 hearing process, the usual schedule, the overall length
12 of the review for when there is a hearing is about 30
13 months. So the review started in January of last year,
14 that would put us out somewhere in the June/July time
15 frame of 2008, that's just a very rough guess.

16 And basically, after the hearings are
17 completed, then the NRC will put all of the
18 information, the Commission will put all of the
19 information together and make its decision about
20 whether to grant the license or not, the extension.

21 Now we are going to talk about the
22 environmental review, how do we do the environmental
23 review? We do the environmental review under the
24 guidelines of NEPA, the National Environmental Policy
25 Act of 1969. NEPA requires federal agencies to

1 consider, assess and disclose the impacts that we find
2 as part of our review, and that's what we will be doing
3 as part of this evaluation.

4 We are also required to look at mitigative
5 measures, we are also required to look at alternatives,
6 and we are also required to engage the public and
7 that's part of what we are doing here and with the
8 comment period. The NRC has made a decision that we
9 will issue an environmental impact statement for each
10 of the, for each license renewal application, now let's
11 talk about the scope. In the 1990s, we issued what we
12 call a generic environmental impact statement, it's
13 GEIS for short.

14 Basically what the staff did is they
15 looked at a large number of the environmental issues
16 that would be involved with license renewal for all the
17 plants that were currently operating and they said in
18 many cases they were able to conclude, we said that in
19 many cases we were able to conclude that the
20 environmental impact would be the same for all plants
21 or all plants of a certain kind of, with a certain kind
22 of operational thing, like the ones that have cooling
23 towers or something like that.

24 However, there were also a fair number of
25 20 something issues where we could not draw those

1 generic conclusions and where the decision was that we
2 would have to do a plant-specific analysis for each
3 application that came in, and the evaluation, that
4 plant-specific analysis, is the primary part of the
5 site-specific environmental impact statement that we
6 are going to be talking about tonight.

7 Along with that, on those other issues
8 that are generic, that have generic conclusions, we do
9 what we call a search for new and significant
10 information, that means we go look to see if there is
11 any information that has come out since the GEIS that
12 would cause us to want to think about whether or not we
13 really can still make that generic conclusion, that
14 would cause us to question whether that generic
15 conclusion still holds.

16 This is the decision standard for the
17 environmental review, you can read it off the slide.
18 My version of it, the simple version is, "Is the
19 environmental impact of an additional 20 years of
20 operation of this plant acceptable?" And that's what
21 we are going to be trying to determine.

22 Now we are going to talk about the rest of
23 the review schedule or the whole review schedule, you
24 can see the application dates, you can see the intent
25 of, the notice of intent, you can see the scoping

1 meeting we held on June 7th here, you can see that we
2 received the comments by June 23rd. We put out the
3 scoping summary report October 30th and we issued the
4 draft December 13th. We are holding this meeting and
5 the comment period will end on March 7th, and as I said
6 before, we will issue the draft environmental impact
7 statement in August.

8 At this time, I'm going to ask David
9 Miller, the head, Dr. David Miller, the head of Argonne
10 National Laboratory team of experts, environmental
11 experts, to come up and talk to you about the results
12 of the review.

13 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Rich.

14 Good evening. As Chip and Rich have said,
15 I'm David Miller from Argonne National Lab, an
16 environmental engineer there, and I was the project
17 team lead for the Vermont Yankee EIS.

18 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission
19 contracted with Argonne to evaluate the impacts of
20 license renewal on the Vermont Yankee, as resulting
21 from the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power station's license
22 renewal application. The EIS team consists of
23 scientists from Argonne National Lab as well as from
24 the NRC staff. The overall team expertise is shown on
25 this slide and it includes the following disciplines,

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1 atmospheric science, socioeconomics and environmental
2 justice, archeology and historical resources,
3 terrestrial ecology, land use, radiation protection,
4 regulatory compliance, aquatic ecology and hydrology.

5 This slide shows the overall approach used
6 to evaluate the impacts in the environmental impact
7 statement. First, I would like to give you some
8 background that Rich had already started on, in the mid
9 1990s, the NRC evaluated impacts of all operating
10 nuclear power plants across the country, and there were
11 92 separate impact areas that were identified, and for
12 69 of these impact areas they were determined to be the
13 same for plants with similar features. The NRC called
14 these category one issues and they were able to make
15 the same determination, i.e. generic determination,
16 about the impacts in the GEIS, in the generic
17 environmental impact statement, which was issued in
18 1996.

19 The NRC was unable to make generic
20 conclusions about the remaining issues and these are
21 known as category two issues. As a consequence, NRC
22 decided to prepare site-specific supplemental EISs,
23 such as the one that we are working on right now. This
24 slide shows the process used to evaluate category one
25 and category two issues in the VermontYankeeEIS. The

1 EIS team evaluated all category one issues, or generic
2 issues, relevant to Vermont Yankee to determine if the
3 conclusion of the generic EIS was still valid.
4 Specifically, we looked for any new and significant
5 information that might change that conclusion.

6 If we found no new and significant
7 information, then the conclusions we adopted were those
8 adopted in the generic environmental impact statement.
9 If new and significant information was identified, then
10 a site-specific analysis would be performed for that
11 issue. We didn't find any new and significant
12 information for category one issues, and for all of
13 these issues, we adopted the conclusions of the GEIS.

14 For all category two issues relevant to
15 Vermont Yankee, we performed a site-specific analysis,
16 much of the EIS is devoted to this site-specific
17 analysis, to the analysis of these impacts. There is
18 also this process to evaluate any new potential issues
19 in the EIS, these are things that were identified
20 during scoping or the EIS, and essential fish habitat
21 is one of those issues and an essential fish habitat
22 assessment was prepared for the Vermont Yankee
23 environmental impact statement.

24 In the generic EIS, the NRC defined three
25 impact levels, small, moderate and large. The

1 definitions used are consistent with, consistent with
2 guidance from the Council on Environmental Quality.
3 For a small impact, the effect is either not detectable
4 or is too small to destabilize or noticeably alter any
5 important attribute of the resource. For a moderate
6 impact, the effect is sufficient to alter noticeably
7 but not destabilize important attributes of that
8 resource. For a large impact, the effect is clearly
9 noticeable and sufficient to destabilize important
10 attributes of the resource.

11 I'll use the effect of the Vermont Yankee
12 cooling system on aquatic resources in the Connecticut
13 River to illustrate how we use those three criteria.
14 The operation of the Vermont Yankee cooling system
15 affects aquatic resources through entrainment,
16 impingement, and thermal shock. If the loss of aquatic
17 resources is so small that it can't be detected in
18 relation to the total population in the river or
19 doesn't destabilize the resource, then we say the
20 impact is small or would be small. If losses cause
21 aquatic resources to decline and then stabilize at a
22 lower level, the impact would be moderate. If losses
23 cause aquatic resources to decline to the point where
24 they can not be stabilized and continue to decline,
25 then the impact would be considered large.

1 The EIS team evaluates impacts from
2 continued operations of Vermont Yankee and we consider
3 information from a wide variety of sources, this slide
4 shows those sources. We used information in the
5 license renewal application, including information in
6 the environmental report. We conducted a site audit.
7 Our team went to the site and conducted the site tour
8 of the Vermont Yankee site. We interviewed plant
9 personnel and we reviewed documentation of the plant
10 operations. We spoke with federal, state and local
11 officials, we spoke with permitting authorities and
12 social services and we considered the comments that we
13 received from the public during the scoping period.
14 All of this information formed the basis for the
15 analysis and the preliminary conclusions in the Vermont
16 Yankee EIS.

17 The EIS considers the environmental
18 impacts of continued operations of the Vermont Yankee
19 Nuclear Power Station during a 20-year license renewal
20 term, that is 2012 to 2032. The impacts of routine or
21 normal operations were considered for the cooling
22 system, radiological impacts, threatened or endangered
23 species and cumulative impacts, and I will be talking
24 about them in the next few slides, each of the
25 categories. The EIS also considers the impacts of

1 postulated accidents and severe accident mitigation
2 alternatives. This is a rather long one, so I'm going
3 to have a drink of water.

4 Cooling system impacts. One of the
5 project features we looked at closely is the cooling
6 system for the Vermont Yankee plant. There were five
7 category two aquatic issues relevant to the cooling
8 system, these include water use conflicts, that is
9 plants with cooling ponds or cooling towers using
10 makeup water from a small river with low flow,
11 entrainment and impingement of fish and shellfish, heat
12 shock and the enhancement of populations of
13 microbiological organisms resulting from the discharge
14 of warm water to the river as a public health concern.

15 For water use conflicts, Vermont Yankee
16 withdraws water from the Vernon Pool in the Connecticut
17 River, the Connecticut River is considered a small
18 river. At times, the flow in the river is low. A
19 site-specific analysis was conducted that included
20 evaluating water consumption from the river under
21 drought conditions and comparison of that use to
22 Vermont State quality criteria. For entrainment,
23 entrainment refers to the pulling of very small
24 organisms into the plant's cooling system, entrainment
25 usually results in the mortality of the organisms

1 involved.

2 Vermont Yankee uses a hybrid cooling, a
3 hybrid cycle whereby cooling capacity can be provided
4 in several different modes, one of those is by cooling
5 towers, completely by cooling towers which is known as
6 closed-cycle, or solely by river water, that is open
7 flow to the river, circulating through the cooling
8 system, or some combination of the two and that's known
9 as the hybrid cycle. When Vermont Yankee is only
10 operating on cooling towers, entrainment is categorized
11 as a category one issue, that is one of them that would
12 be treated generically.

13 However, because the river is used at
14 times in an open cooling cycle, we treated that as a
15 category two issue, in that we looked at all issues
16 related to entrainment as a site-specific assessment
17 so, in essence, we went into much more detail than the
18 generic evaluation. Impingement is another issue of
19 similar, impingement occurs when larger organisms are
20 pulled into the cooling system and then pinned onto the
21 screens of the cooling system. When Vermont Yankee
22 operates only on cooling towers, once again it's a
23 category one type of issue, but since it operates in
24 open cycle, we treated the entire impingement issue as
25 a site-specific issue that we looked at, and that's

1 true for heat shock also.

2 Heat shock can occur when relatively warm
3 water is released into cooler water, aquatic organisms
4 adapted to the cooler water can lose equilibrium or die
5 when exposed to significantly warmer water. When
6 Vermont Yankee is operating only on the cooling towers,
7 it's a category one issue, but we treated it as
8 site-specific because of this potential for open
9 cooling and so we looked at heat shock as a category
10 two site-specific issue.

11 Finally, for microbiological organisms,
12 the effects of microbiological organisms on human
13 health are listed as a category two issue and they
14 require a site-specific evaluation for plants with
15 closed-cycle cooling on a small river. The analysis
16 considers potential public health impacts associated
17 with thermal enhancement of enteric pathogens, enteric
18 pathogens are intestinal type pathogens. Our review of
19 the plant cooling system and the studies conducted on
20 the issues suggested that the potential impacts in
21 these areas would be small.

22 Radiological impacts. Radiological
23 impacts were determined in the GEIS to be a category
24 one issue, that is the impact of radiological releases
25 during nuclear plant operations over the 20-year

1 license renewal period would be small. However, we
2 realized that there are, releases are a concern to many
3 people and so I wanted to discuss them here. All
4 nuclear power plants release some radiological
5 effluents into to environment, although it should be
6 noted it's Vermont Yankee's operating policy to not
7 routinely release liquid radioactive effluents.

8 During our site visit, we looked at
9 documentation for effluent releases and the
10 radiological monitoring program, as well as the state's
11 independent monitoring program. We looked at how the
12 gaseous and liquid effluents were treated and released
13 as well as how the solid wastes were treated, packaged
14 and shipped. We looked at how the applicant determines
15 and demonstrates that they are in compliance with the
16 regulations for release of radiological effluents, we
17 also looked at data from on-site and near-site
18 locations that the applicant monitors for airborne
19 releases and direct radiation and other monitoring
20 stations beyond the site boundary, including locations
21 where water, milk, fish and food products are sampled.

22 We found that the average and maximum
23 calculated doses for a member of the public, even after
24 the 20 percent recent uprate granted to Vermont Yankee,
25 would be within the annual limits that are considered

1 protective of human health. Since releases from the
2 plant are not expected to increase over the 20-year
3 license renewal term and since we found no new and
4 significant information related to this issue, we
5 adopted the generic EIS conclusion that the
6 radiological impact on human health and the environment
7 would be small.

8 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
9 determined that the bald eagle is the only federally
10 listed species under their jurisdiction that is known
11 to occur in the vicinity of Vermont Yankee; they
12 concluded that the operations were unlikely to affect
13 this species. The National Marine Fisheries Service
14 was also consulted. Based on these consultations and
15 our review, the staff's preliminary determination is
16 that the impact of operation of Vermont Yankee during
17 the license renewal on threatened or endangered species
18 would be small.

19 Cumulative impacts are the impacts of the
20 proposed action together with other past, present or
21 reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of
22 what agency or other person undertakes the other,
23 undertakes the other actions. The staff considered
24 cumulative impacts in the following areas, aquatic
25 resources, terrestrial resources, radiological impacts,

1 socioeconomics and ground use and quality. Cumulative
2 impacts were evaluated to the end of the 20-year
3 license renewal term and the geographic boundaries of
4 the evaluation were dependent on the resource. Our
5 preliminary determination is that any cumulative
6 impacts resulting from the operation of Vermont Yankee
7 during the license renewal period would be small.

8 The team also looked at impacts related to
9 the uranium fuel cycle and solid waste management and
10 decommissioning of Vermont Yankee. In the GEIS, NRC
11 considered impact areas associated with these topics as
12 category one issues, our team found no related new and
13 significant information and therefore adopted the NRC's
14 generic conclusion that the impacts in these areas
15 would be small.

16 The EIS team evaluated alternatives to
17 license renewal of the existing plant. Specifically,
18 we looked at the impacts of replacing Vermont Yankee
19 power with power from other sources, Vermont Yankee has
20 a capacity of 650 megawatts.

21 The team looked at no, these are the
22 options, no action alternative, that is not renewing
23 the license, development of new generation from coal
24 fired, gas fired and new nuclear to replace the 650
25 megawatts, purchase power to replace Vermont Yankee's

1 capacity, other technologies such oil, wood, wind,
2 solar and hydropower to replace Vermont Yankee's
3 capacity and a combination of alternatives. In this
4 case, we looked at a combination of natural gas
5 generation, conservation and purchase power to replace
6 the generating capacity.

7 For each alternative, we looked at the
8 same types of issues that we would look at for the
9 operation of the Vermont Yankee plant during the
10 license renewal term. The team's preliminary
11 conclusion is that the environmental impacts of
12 alternatives would reach moderate or large significance
13 in at least some impact categories, primarily due to
14 the need for new construction.

15 To summarize our conclusions, for the
16 category one issues presented in the generic EIS that
17 relate to the Vermont Yankee plant, we found no
18 information that was both new and significant.
19 Therefore, we have preliminarily adopted the conclusion
20 that impacts associated with these issues are small.
21 In the Vermont Yankee EIS, we analyzed the remaining
22 category two issues pertinent to the Vermont Yankee
23 plant and we determined that the environmental impacts
24 resulting from these issues were also small. Lastly,
25 we found that the environmental effects of

1 alternatives, at least in some impact categories, could
2 reach moderate or large significance.

3 I'm going to switch gears here now and
4 present the findings of the accident analysis for
5 Vermont Yankee. We have Mr. Robert Palla in the
6 audience today and he was responsible for this portion
7 of the analysis, he is with the NRC. The EIS evaluated
8 two classes of accidents, design-basis accidents and
9 severe accidents. Design-basis accidents are those
10 accidents that the plant is designed to withstand
11 without risk to the public. The ability of the plant
12 to withstand these accidents has to be demonstrated
13 before the plant is actually granted a license.

14 Since the licensee has to demonstrate
15 acceptable plant performance for the design-basis
16 accidents throughout the life of the plant, the
17 Commission found, in the generic EIS, that the
18 environmental impact of design-basis accident is small
19 for all plants. The second category of accidents
20 evaluated in the generic EIS are severe accidents,
21 severe accidents are by definition more severe than the
22 design-basis accidents because they would result in
23 substantial damage to the reactor core. The Commission
24 found, in the generic EIS, that the risk of a severe
25 accidents is small for all plants.

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1 Nevertheless, the Commission determined
2 that alternatives to mitigate severe accidents must be
3 considered for all plants that have not done so. These
4 alternatives are termed SAMA, S-A-M-A. The SAMA
5 evaluation is a site-specific assessment and is a
6 category two issue, as we explained them to be earlier,
7 the category two issues. The purpose of performing the
8 SAMA evaluation is to ensure that the plant changes
9 with the potential for improving severe accident safety
10 performance are identified and evaluated.

11 The scope of potential plant improvements
12 that were considered included hardware modification,
13 procedural changes, training program improvements,
14 basically a full spectrum of potential changes. The
15 scope includes SAMAs that would prevent core damage as
16 well as SAMAs that improve containment performance,
17 given that a core damage event occurs.

18 The preliminary results of the Vermont
19 Yankee SAMA evaluation are summarized on this slide,
20 302 candidate improvements were identified for Vermont
21 Yankee. The number of candidate SAMAs was reduced to
22 66 based on a multi-step screening process. A more
23 detailed assessment then was conducted for the risk
24 reduction potential and implementation costs for those
25 remaining 66 SAMAs and a total of two were identified

1 as potentially cost-beneficial by Entergy.

2 In response to NRC staff inquiries, four
3 additional potentially cost-beneficial SAMAs were
4 identified. None of the potentially cost-beneficial
5 SAMAs relate to the managing the effects of plant aging
6 during the period of extended operation. Accordingly,
7 they are not required to be implemented as part of the
8 license renewal, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 54.
9 Regardless, the NRC staff considers further evaluation
10 of the potentially cost-beneficial SAMAs by Entergy as
11 warranted. Since the draft SEIS was issued, Entergy
12 has indicated they are evaluating the potentially cost-
13 beneficial SAMAs for possible implementation.

14 That concludes my section of this and I'll
15 turn the mic back to Rich.

16 MR. EMCH: Okay. Just quickly, we've been
17 through it before, but the three main milestones here,
18 we issued the draft environmental statement in
19 December, the end of the comment period is March 7th
20 and we'll issue the final environmental statement in
21 August. If you need additional information to help you
22 with your evaluation of our document, you can contact
23 me, that's the information that's up there.

24 The documents, such as the environmental
25 statement, are available at these four libraries in

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1 Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and you can
2 view the document on-line as well as all kinds of, at
3 this address here and also, if you go to the NRC web
4 site, there is a lot of other information about the
5 license renewal process and guidance documents.

6 Now, I'll try to answer your question,
7 ma'am. Submitting comments, they can be submitted, the
8 easiest way is to go ahead and give us your comments,
9 just step up here to the mic tonight and tell us your
10 comments, they will be transcribed, they'll be
11 considered. You can send them in by mail to the
12 address that's on here or you can send them by e-mail
13 and that was, during the scoping process, that was a
14 method that a lot of people used, they sent their
15 comments by e-mail to the VermontYankeeEIS@NRC.gov web
16 site. And then the last method is, if you happen to be
17 in the Washington, D.C. area, Rockville, our offices
18 are in Rockville and you could deliver them in person.

19 I believe that all of this information is
20 on the handout that you picked up when you came in the
21 door, hopefully you have everything you need. With
22 that, I want to thank you folks for coming out tonight
23 and we'll try to get them into the comment part of the
24 presentation. When I was here in June, I asked you
25 folks to be my, to help me out, to give, since you are

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1 the folks who, I consider you to be my environmental,
2 local environmental experts, you live and work in this
3 area and I asked you to help me out by giving me
4 information that might help me with my review. A
5 number of you took me up on that during the scoping
6 period and I want to thank you for that and I'm looking
7 forward to seeing what your comments are tonight.

8 Chip?

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Rich.

10 We don't have much time for questions
11 during the formal part of the meeting, but I do need to
12 ask if there is any question you need answered in order
13 to either make your comments tonight or to submit
14 written comments. We did have one question along those
15 lines that I will ask for Gary Sachs and it had to do
16 with the information on the SAMAs, and the term cost-
17 beneficial was used in that connection and the question
18 is what does that mean? What does cost-beneficial
19 mean? And I'm going to ask Bob Palla from the NRC
20 staff to try to simply explain that to all of us.

21 Bob?

22 MR. PALLA: Okay. When we look at a
23 severe accident mitigation alternative, we look at its
24 impact on the likelihood of core damage. We would
25 expect these plant enhancements to reduce the

1 likelihood of a core damage event and also we look at
2 the impact of the improvement on the off-site
3 consequences, and we generally would expect the
4 consequences to be reduced by implementing the
5 improvement. We then, so we would associate a
6 reduction in core damage frequency and a reduction in
7 population dose with each SAMA, we use the
8 probabilistic risk assessment study to assign these
9 values.

10 And then we use what's called regulatory
11 analysis guidance, it's basically a protocol developed
12 by the NRC for assigning dollar values to the reduction
13 in core damage frequency and off-site consequences, so
14 we basically derive a dollar benefit and then we
15 separately look at the costs to actually implement the
16 improvement. It might be hardware costs, maintenance
17 costs, all the things that would go into the cost to
18 the utility to implement this, and so we compare the
19 benefits achieved against the cost, and something
20 that's called cost-beneficial would generally have
21 benefits that exceed the costs.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Bob.

23 And thank you, Gary, for that question.

24 We are going to, we are going to start
25 with Diana Sidebotham, and then go to Deb Katz. And as

1 I said, we are going to have to try to be a little bit
2 strict with the three to five minute rule. For those
3 of you who weren't here this afternoon though, we can
4 err on the farther side of that, even though it's not
5 very fair. This is Diana Sidebotham who is coming up
6 and then we'll go to Deb Katz.

7 Diana?

8 MS. SIDEBOTHAM: Thank you very much.

9 Good evening. My name is Diana Sidebotham, I'm one of
10 a group of scientists and citizens from Vermont, New
11 Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York who founded the
12 New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution in February,
13 1971, I am currently president. Our object then was to
14 inform the public on issues of nuclear power plants and
15 alternatives and to intervene in the then existent
16 Vermont Yankee operating license proceeding, not to
17 oppose at first but to question. We asked many
18 questions and received full few, few full answers.

19 I wish to give a brief historical
20 perspective tonight relative to the EIS under
21 consideration as, in 36 years, certain issues and
22 actions have come full circle, I'll concentrate on one
23 particular matter tonight. In 1971, at Vermont Yankee
24 operating license hearings before the Atomic Energy
25 Commission, the matter of nuclear waste was excluded.

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1 The Natural Resources Defense Council, the State of
2 Kansas and the New England Coalition all attempted to
3 raise it repeatedly and were always told it would be
4 dealt with later.

5 The plan, at that point, was that 600
6 irradiated fuel bundles would remain in the spent fuel
7 pool for a few months only. As we know, all the spent
8 fuel ever generated at Vermont Yankee now remains in
9 the spent fuel pool. Now we know the spent fuel pool
10 is even more vulnerable because of its density. I'm
11 not quite sure of the number but it's something like
12 2,800 fuel bundles are more which are there at
13 elevation and we now know more clearly than we did
14 before that the possibility of a terrorist attack is
15 very real.

16 In 1987, at the re-racking process, the
17 second, the New England Coalition's expert witness
18 Dr. Gordon Thompson's testimony was not allowed
19 because, at that point, Dr. Thompson's contention that
20 the possibility of a self-sustaining zirconium fire in
21 a spent fuel pool in the event of a loss of coolant
22 accident was not credible. Years passed and
23 Dr. Thompson took this proposition to several reracking
24 proceedings and, finally, in about 2000 to 2001, the
25 NRC decided, oh, he is right, it could happen.

1 The thing that bothers me about your EIS
2 or one of them is that NUREG-1738 I believe was
3 promulgated in 1996. You speak of new and significant
4 information which might change your view, 1996 was
5 before the NRC realized that Dr. Thompson could be
6 correct. NUREG-1783 bases its calculation on lower
7 density storage, which is not relevant now at Vermont
8 Yankee, and also on instantaneous loss of coolant,
9 rather than slow partial loss which will yield a much
10 more severe accident. Consequently, your EIS for this
11 relicense proposal does not have a factual basis.

12 As I understand changes can be made, I
13 would certainly encourage you to do a recalculation on
14 the basis of what is in the pool, what will probably
15 remain in the pool if Vermont Yankee continues to
16 operate. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision is
17 very clear that environmental assessment must be done
18 in regard to storage of spent fuel, the NRC should pay
19 attention and do it across the board for all spent fuel
20 storage facilities, and I know you are going to say
21 that's not entirely within your purview and it probably
22 isn't. However, it is something that I think you
23 should make very clear to your superiors and everyone
24 in the NRC.

25 I'm aware that a rule making is underway

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1 for Massachusetts and, a rule making, yes, for
2 Massachusetts and its license extension and at Vermont
3 Yankee. However, it's exceedingly important that this
4 sort of thing be completed before any relicensing, if
5 it were to occur, is considered. The results of course
6 of a spent fuel pool fire would be catastrophic. We
7 learned a few days ago that the NRC has also declined
8 to provide protection for reactors from an air crash,
9 it can't happen. Together, these illustrate a serious
10 either disregard or unwillingness to address very
11 certain serious issues within your agency.

12 So, while there is a great deal more to
13 say, 36 years later, with Vermont Yankee's spent fuel
14 pool stuffed dangerously full, at elevation, with no
15 foreseeable repository anywhere in the world, the
16 people of Vermont, and New Hampshire and Massachusetts
17 are left with what was not part of the original
18 bargain, it is now a true Faustian bargain and no
19 consideration of nuclear waste in an EIS is complete on
20 this issue, it is dismissed as a small effect. Among
21 other things, an independent safety assessment is an
22 absolute, fundamental minimum requirement for any
23 possibility of license renewal.

24 The New England Coalition on Nuclear
25 Pollution is entirely opposed to license renewal and

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1 severe accident mitigation alternatives also need to be
2 seriously addressed as, again, we don't think that they
3 have been. We hope very much that you will address
4 some of the issues which I've raised and which other
5 members of the public will in a reevaluation of your
6 environmental statement because, at this point, many of
7 us feel it is quite deficient.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to speak
9 tonight. You will continue to hear from the New
10 England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution and others on
11 these and other issues essential to our lives, health,
12 environment, economy and good of our entire community.
13 Thank you very much.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Diana.

15 (Applause)

16 MR. CAMERON: Next we are going to hear
17 from Deb Katz, Citizens Awareness Network.

18 MS. KATZ: Well thank you for turning the
19 microphone around so that people can see the person who
20 is talking, instead of seeing their back.

21 We'll get no satisfaction here tonight,
22 let's get that clear from the get-go. The NRC is
23 basically once again attempting to operate outside the
24 rules and outside the law. The 9th Circuit came to a
25 decision that the NRC had to address the vulnerability

1 of its spent nuclear fuel in terms of the National
2 Environmental Policy Act, in terms of the movement of
3 fuel into dry cask storage, at a site in California.
4 The NRC objected and there the court rejected their
5 position and in fact Pacific Gas and Electric, the
6 corporation that has the fuel, appealed to the Supreme
7 Court and was soundly rejected by the Supreme Court.

8 At this point, the NRC has been ordered to
9 rewrite its rules and regulations in terms of
10 incorporating the issue of the vulnerability of spent
11 fuel into the National Environmental Policy Act review,
12 this effects all reactor licenses under NEPA review.
13 We are in a NEPA review, aren't we? Isn't that what we
14 are here to do tonight? Then why are we here? If this
15 is now under rewriting the regulations, why hasn't the
16 NRC suspended its evaluation? Why doesn't it take the
17 hard look that the National Environmental Policy Act
18 requires it to do, instead of avoiding the issue?
19 Because the truth is when you have a problem and you
20 have no solution, then you have no problem.

21 Now the National Academy of Science, in
22 its BEIR 7 report, determined that there is no safe
23 exposure to radiation, there is none. Is the BEIR 7
24 incorporated into the NRC's review of the environmental
25 effects on our communities? I didn't see it. And what

1 about all of that high level waste sitting on the banks
2 of the Connecticut River, potentially for 100 years or
3 more, with no solution, with the bankrupt waste
4 confidence rule that is still just dragged out to
5 justify allowing the nuclear corporations to do what
6 they want? The only protection available here tonight
7 is for a foreign corporation and its shareholders.

8 In my community, living in the shadow of
9 the Yankee Rowe and Vermont Yankee reactor, there is an
10 empty chair at too many dinner tables, there are too
11 many lost lives. This human cost is not insignificant
12 to the husbands, wives, children, friends left behind
13 to carry on, there is no relief here, there is no
14 satisfaction available. There is a great opportunity
15 but it won't be found in this NEPA review, or in the
16 environmental impact statement or in the dog and pony
17 shows that the NRC comes out and tells us that we are
18 really privileged that they come here to hear us
19 complain about what they are doing. That's an insult.

20 The potential for anything to take place
21 will happen at a state level in which the State of
22 Vermont has the power to transform energy production,
23 but the truth is it's not the State of Vermont, it's
24 the people of Vermont that will determine the course of
25 history not just for the State of Vermont but actually

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1 for Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine,
2 since we all dip our beak into Vermont Yankee's power.
3 And the truth is it can be transformed and what it will
4 take is people getting engaged to make sure that, at
5 this legislative session in Vermont, that a green
6 energy portfolio is passed and that we commit to a life
7 that includes jobs, prosperity and respect for our
8 human family, as well as our environment.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Deb.

12 Next we are going to go to Beth McElwee,
13 then Bruce Wiggett and Andy Davis.

14 Beth?

15 MS. MCELWEE: Good evening. My name is
16 Beth McElwee and I have been a resident of Brattleboro,
17 Vermont for most of my 25 years. I'm here tonight to
18 share with you my perspective on the Vermont Yankee
19 license renewal initiative as a community oriented
20 young adult and a recent addition to the local job
21 force.

22 I returned to the Brattleboro area one
23 year ago, after spending a year in Boston and some time
24 traveling. It was during this period I realized how
25 fortunate I am to have been raised in this healthy,

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1 rural Vermont community.

2 Vermont has played a vital role in the
3 sustainability, Vermont Yankee has played a vital role
4 in the sustainability of the lifestyle we all enjoy
5 here. By supplying a clean, reliable and renewable
6 source of energy, Vermont Yankee has lessened our
7 dependency on fossil fuel and thus helped us to keep
8 our environment free of these added pollutants. I have
9 worked as a contractor at Vermont Yankee for the past
10 eight months and have had the opportunity to interact
11 with many of their employees. In doing so, my
12 confidence in their ability to run a safe and efficient
13 nuclear power plant has only grown.

14 I have seen first hand the accountability,
15 ownership and level of personal involvement the
16 employees of Vermont Yankee take in all of their daily
17 work activities. I have learned of their outstanding
18 track record of safely providing energy at fair and
19 favorable prices. And I know firsthand the importance
20 of the economic infrastructure they provide to attract
21 and retain employees from many surrounding communities.
22 To extend the operating license for Vermont Yankee
23 would be to continue supporting an environmentally,
24 economically and socially responsible culture that has
25 been established here.

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1 It is this type of community which we want
2 to encourage, as our global energy requirements become
3 greater and our environmental responsibility larger,
4 nuclear power is a clear path to aid in tackling both
5 of these very ominous issues. I encourage the NRC to
6 look around this community and take note of the many
7 positive influences from Vermont Yankee and I ask them
8 to extend the operating license for another 20 years so
9 we can all share in the benefits of this community for
10 many years to come.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you, Beth.

14 And I believe this is Mr. Wiggett.

15 MR. WIGGETT: Bruce Wiggett, yes.

16 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Bruce Wiggett.

17 MR. WIGGETT: Thank you. Thank you for
18 being here to recognize the input from the citizens of
19 the area of Vermont Yankee. My name is Bruce Wiggett
20 and I am the former CFO of Vermont Yankee, that is, I
21 was the CFO prior to the sale. In that role, I had the
22 opportunity to know and work with the operating
23 employees of Vermont Yankee, my experience with those
24 employees is that they are very knowledgeable, hard
25 working, dedicated employees whose primary focus is on

1 the safe and reliable operation of that unit.

2 During the sale, I also had the
3 opportunity to work with many of the executives and
4 managers of Entergy and I feel that their purchase only
5 strengthened the focus and provided a learning and an
6 expanded environment for those employees to operate
7 within. However, my background is finance, so I am
8 here this evening to talk a little bit about the
9 economic benefits of Vermont Yankee and what it
10 contributes to the economy of Southern Vermont, Windham
11 County and the entire State of Vermont.

12 Economic contributions from Vermont Yankee
13 are felt throughout the state and have impact on just
14 about every citizen within the state, relicensing of VY
15 will have clear economic benefits to the state and the
16 region. When VY was sold, a long-term purchase power
17 agreement was a critical part of that sale, that
18 agreement established the price of power from the plant
19 to Vermont utilities. Due to that power purchase
20 agreement, from 2002 to the present, they have already
21 saved consumers in the State of Vermont \$157 million,
22 and that's in real dollars as compared to the purchase
23 power, the cost of purchase power on the open market.
24 And the Vermont Department of Public Service has
25 estimated that savings to Vermont customers through

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1 2012 will total about \$250 million.

2 In addition to the savings associated with
3 the purchase power agreement, VY spends between \$55 and
4 \$60 million on direct expenses within Windham County
5 and the state annually, those expenditures are for
6 taxes, payroll, contracted services, and supplies and
7 equipment. These local expenditures will continue
8 throughout any life extension period. By 2012, Vermont
9 Yankee will have invested about \$25 million to the, or
10 paid about \$25 million to the state's green energy
11 fund, that's at a rate of about \$4.5 million a year.
12 The green energy fund supports energy efficiency
13 efforts and the development of renewable energy sources
14 in Vermont.

15 Last night I had the opportunity to speak
16 with Dr. Moore, who I understand spoke earlier today
17 before this meeting, and he feels that our energy
18 future will require a combination of conservation,
19 renewable energy sources and nuclear power to meet our
20 energy needs. The green fund is a major source of
21 funds for development of the non-nuclear aspects of
22 that approach here in Vermont, \$25 million will go a
23 long way in Vermont towards future developments
24 throughout the state. Vermont Yankee supplies 34
25 percent of Vermont's electricity consumption and,

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1 without it, Vermont would be even more dependent on out
2 of state sources to meet its electricity needs.
3 Currently, Vermont purchases approximately 50 percent
4 of its power from outside sources.

5 Long-term safe operation, a major source
6 of energy for the State of Vermont, significant
7 contributions to the State of Vermont green energy
8 fund, substantial local and statewide expenditures
9 during, directly into the economy, it's for these
10 reasons that I believe VY should receive an extension
11 of its operating license.

12 Again, thank you for all you do and for
13 listening, being here to listen to our thoughts this
14 evening.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very
16 much, Bruce.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. CAMERON: Is Andy Davis here? Okay,
19 we are going to go to Chris Williams, then Anthony
20 Stevens and then Mike LaPorte. Oh, this is Andy Davis?
21 Great.

22 MR. DAVIS: Good evening.

23 MR. CAMERON: Good evening.

24 MR. DAVIS: I think it's always
25 unfortunate when people say things that kind of cast

1 this as neighbor against neighbor. We all know that
2 good people work at Vermont Yankee, good people have
3 worked at Ford Motor Company, General Motors and we
4 still have global warming from all the release of all
5 the automobiles. It's not about who works at Vermont
6 Yankee and how good they are, it's not about how much
7 it contributes to the economy, obviously a large
8 company contributes a great deal. S.D. Organ Factory
9 for many, many years was the major employer in
10 Brattleboro, it's not today, Brattleboro is still a
11 thriving community.

12 I think it's wrong to mix those kinds of
13 issues into an environmental impact statement review,
14 we know those of you here tonight that work for Vermont
15 Yankee are great folks, that's not why we are here. I
16 know we are not supposed to ask questions, I always
17 seem to come to a meeting when I can ask a question,
18 and I ask it and it doesn't get an answer, and then I
19 come to other meetings where I have questions and I'm
20 told it's not a meeting to ask questions. This has
21 been going on since I moved to Vermont in 1976, and
22 Diana Sidebotham did a good review of some of the
23 frustrations and the shell game that has been played
24 with issues of great concern.

25 There are many people not here tonight,

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1 but each of these empty seats represents many people in
2 this community who are extremely concerned about the
3 long-term environmental impacts that we are passing on
4 to our children's children, children's, children's, it
5 goes on and on.

6 Excuse me, sir, I've listened to you
7 politely many times.

8 I have a simple question and I hope the
9 NRC can answer this because it's, who owns the spent
10 fuel? Is there an answer to that question? I mean who
11 owns it?

12 MR. CAMERON: Andy, if you could--

13 MR. DAVIS: I just want, that's a simple
14 question and it would just help me clarify the final
15 comment I want to make before I sit down.

16 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

17 MR. DAVIS: But is there an answer to
18 that?

19 MR. CAMERON: I believe that the--

20 MR. DAVIS: Who owns the spent fuel?

21 MR. CAMERON: The contracts, there is
22 contracts between the Department of Energy and each
23 company that has spent fuel where the Department of
24 Energy will take the spent fuel and I believe take
25 title to that.

1 MR. DAVIS: We have a lot of really
2 knowledgeable people from the Nuclear Regulatory
3 Commission here, that seems like a simple question, who
4 owns the spent fuel? Like if I have a used car in my
5 backyard, I own it.

6 MR. CAMERON: The Department of Energy is
7 going to take title to the spent fuel.

8 MR. DAVIS: It's going to take title?
9 When is it going to take title? Does it, who has title
10 to it now? Because this is the number one
11 environmental concern of people in this area, besides,
12 you know, fence-line radiation and some other things,
13 but the long-term health of this community. Our
14 governor still believes, I asked him on the radio, he
15 still thinks the federal government is coming to get
16 this. Harry Reid, the senator from Nevada, the most
17 powerful man in the United States Senate has on his web
18 site, unequivocally, that Yucca Mountain will not open.
19 Where is it being taken that our governor still
20 believes it's being removed?

21 This is an environmental review,
22 environmental as in ecological, one of the rules of
23 ecological science is that there is no away in throw
24 away, away does not exist. They don't want it in
25 Nevada and Harry Reid, the senator from Nevada, says

1 the reason they don't want it is the health and safety
2 of the people of Nevada. Well if they don't want it in
3 Nevada, why do we want it here? Okay, we are not sure
4 who owns it now, who will own it in 100 years? Someone
5 from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who will own
6 the spent fuel in 100 years when the casks need to be
7 replaced? Who will own them?

8 And that's only the first little baby step
9 in the life of this material. Who will own it? Simple
10 question, someone from the Nuclear Regulatory
11 Commission? There is a lot of people here making a lot
12 of money.

13 MR. CAMERON: Andy, I'm going to have to
14 ask you to finish your comments, instead of sitting
15 here--

16 MR. DAVIS: Yeah, but these are the
17 issues--

18 MR. CAMERON: --asking your questions, I'm
19 sorry.

20 MR. DAVIS: --that concern me and my
21 neighbors and until you approach them and take them
22 seriously, many of us walk out of this meeting with the
23 same kind of frustration that has been expressed by
24 other speakers. And it's not about the good people
25 that work at Vermont Yankee, I love you all dearly as

1 fellow members of this community, but that's not why we
2 are here tonight. The environ, this industry has a
3 cycle to it, we like to talk about it for electrical
4 generation, the uranium is pulled out of the ground,
5 there is a whole mining process.

6 It doesn't take but a few minutes of
7 looking at a web, at the worldwide web, to find the
8 environmental problems wherever the uranium is mined.
9 There are connections between the fuel cycle and
10 military uses. You look at the countries that have
11 nuclear power, many of them have nuclear weapons,
12 that's the history of it, depleted uranium, all kinds
13 of things. It just feels like what you all do with
14 your environmental impact statement is you narrow it
15 down to just this tiny little thing and then say it's
16 all fine, but environmental deals with the fuel cycle,
17 the final resting place of the waste and those
18 questions. I have not heard them addressed by the
19 Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a public meeting.

20 And I'm just pleading with you to really
21 respond to these concerns because, so far, the generic
22 environmental impact statement, the environmental
23 impact statement don't seem to address these questions
24 and they don't give me confidence that we should be
25 parking this stuff on the banks of the Connecticut

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1 River for an indeterminate period of time, and we are
2 not quite sure where it's going and it doesn't seem
3 like that scenario deserves a little check, okay.
4 Thank you very much.

5 (Applause)

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

7 Chris Williams?

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is
9 Chris Williams, I live in Hancock, which is in Addison
10 County, probably about 100 miles from here.

11 I'm happy to be on the record with the NRC
12 tonight, I want to state for the record that I'm not
13 compensated for my appearance here tonight, there is no
14 compensation connected to my words here tonight. I
15 want to start out by thanking our new senator, Senator
16 Sanders, Senator Sanders has recently sent a letter to
17 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requesting that a
18 meeting just like this one be held in the very near
19 future in the state capitol, in Montpelier, where all
20 of our legislators are now in session, that's why many
21 of them aren't here tonight. It makes a lot of sense
22 to me, I think the NRC can afford it. It's happening?
23 Well, that's great.

24 I would like to, just for the record,
25 again, put a little information into the record that I

1 think is new and relevant to this process. By the way,
2 I was here for the matinee today, there was lots of
3 great testimony and they have a very impressive record
4 here. I read recently where Commissioner McGaffigan,
5 who I understand is the longest sitting Commissioner on
6 the NRC, is that correct? Right, he is the
7 Commissioner who is still on the Commission and is the
8 longest serving, has basically publicly stated that
9 Yucca Mountain was mismanaged from the get-go and that
10 they ought to give the order to stop digging. This
11 isn't coming from me, an anti-nuclear activist, clean
12 energy advocate, it's coming from the longest sitting
13 Commissioner at the NRC. That information I think is
14 relevant to this process, as previous witnesses have
15 pointed out, because we are still dealing with the
16 frustrating problem of the waste.

17 As for a nuclear renaissance, which I
18 believe people at Entergy and possibly people at the
19 NRC may be interested, in the last two weeks, in
20 financial reports coming out of Wall Street, two CEOs
21 in this country, one by the name of Jim Rogers, who is
22 the CEO of Duke Energy, and another by the name of John
23 Rowe, who is the CEO of Exelon Corporation which, for
24 the most part, is made up of Commonwealth Edison,
25 serving the City of Chicago, both of these high powered

1 CEOs who control a significant portion of the nuclear
2 fleet in this country have stated for the record that
3 they think building new plants is risky, that they've
4 been sold a bill of goods about waste disposal and that
5 they are not convinced, at this point, that their
6 companies should go ahead and build new ones. Which
7 brings us to the Entergy Corporation.

8 Is Wayne Leonard in the house? I wish he
9 was. Wayne Leonard, the CEO of Entergy Corporation, is
10 somebody that I've actually been dealing with for about
11 20 years, I think he is a pretty straightforward guy.
12 As a matter of fact, Wayne got his accounting degree at
13 Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, he is a
14 pretty straightforward, bean counting kind of guy. I
15 know I could have a conversation with Wayne Leonard
16 about the good employees of Entergy Vermont Yankee here
17 in Brattleboro, Vermont and their concerns about their
18 jobs.

19 I would rather see this decommissioned as
20 soon as possible because there is no waste answer, but
21 I would also like to make sure that Mr. Leonard uses
22 his power, as your boss, to see to it that all of you
23 are employed until it's time to retire and employed in
24 the capacity of diligently, prudently and
25 professionally decommissioning the high level

1 radioactive waste dump in Vernon.

2 In closing, I would like to urge everybody
3 in the State of Vermont, and I just heard the former
4 CEO of Vermont Yankee talk about Vermont Yankee's
5 commitment to green energy, the \$25 million
6 contribution to the green energy fund. Well there is
7 something we can all do as Vermonters if we care about
8 the energy future of this state and it's to contact our
9 legislators, all of you, please, and those of you that
10 don't want to, you won't, but I'm going to implore all
11 of you to call your legislators and ask them to support
12 House Bill 127, currently under consideration in
13 Montpelier by the legislature.

14 House Bill 127 provides for an expanded
15 portfolio standard for renewable energy, which I know
16 my colleagues in the clean energy and anti-nuclear
17 movement agree, as well as Patrick Moore, who was here
18 earlier, the folks from the Vermont Energy Partnership,
19 as well as the Entergy Corporation which has made a
20 generous \$25 million contribution to clean, green
21 energy here in the State of Vermont.

22 And finally, I just want to say something
23 that in my community, which stretches around the world,
24 in terms of people committed to stopping the production
25 of high level nuclear waste and providing for clean

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1 electricity with renewable, sustainable sources, we've
2 already won.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
6 Chris. Is Anthony Davis with us?

7 Okay, Mike, why don't you go up and we'll
8 find out if Anthony is here. This is Mike LaPorte

9 MR. LAPORTE: Good evening. My name is
10 Michael LaPorte, and I'm an employee of Vermont Yankee
11 and I'm here to lend my support for renewal of Vermont
12 Yankee's license.

13 I would like to let you get a little bit
14 of my credibility by making that statement, I've been
15 working at Vermont Yankee for over 30 years. For the
16 last 30 years, I've been a member of the operations
17 department, part of my career there, I obtained an NRC
18 license to operate the controls in the control room of
19 the reactor and the plant. I feel that, working in the
20 operations department for as long as I have, I really
21 know the equipment of that plant and how it operates,
22 how it's been maintained, how it's been surveilled and
23 tested and inspected.

24 Based on that knowledge that I have, and
25 I'm telling you that, that I feel that Vermont Yankee

1 is a good candidate for license extension. And you
2 know what? I don't have to stand here in front of you
3 people right now because, in a couple of months, I'm
4 going to go to that happy place called retirement, but
5 I did feel that I'm passionate about my plant, I love
6 Vermont Yankee, I've been working there my whole life,
7 and I know it's a good plant and I know that adding
8 another 20 years to its license is a good thing, it's
9 good for a number of reasons.

10 First of all, it's good for my company,
11 Entergy, it's also good for my fellow employees that I
12 love dearly, and a lot of them probably now will be
13 able to have a career like I have had there. But
14 foremost, foremost, it's good for Vermont, it's a good
15 thing for Vermont, it's good for the United States and
16 it's good for our Planet Earth, believe it or not.

17 Thank you very much.

18 (Applause)

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mike, thank you
20 very much.

21 Our next three speakers are going to be
22 Dart Everett, Bill McKin and Bill Maguire. Is Dart
23 Everett here? Okay, how about Bill McKin? You're not
24 Bill McKin, right? Okay, Bill Maguire?

25 Mr. Maguire is here.

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1 MR. MAGUIRE: Good evening. My name is
2 Bill Maguire and I'm the general manager of plant
3 operations at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.
4 I started in the power generation industry 24 years ago
5 and I spent the last 20 years in nuclear power
6 generation.

7 And I want to tell you a little bit about
8 the people at Vermont Yankee and how we conduct our
9 business at the plant. First, I want to tell you that
10 the employees are committed to excellence, by that I
11 mean they are committed to their continuing education
12 and training. I, myself, have received thousands of
13 hours of training in my career in this industry, I have
14 also been supported in attaining a masters degree.

15 Our employees are also committed to
16 continuous process improvement, something that existed
17 at Vermont Yankee long before Entergy purchased the
18 plant but is now part of the Entergy culture as a
19 result of the process improvement culture that existed
20 at Vermont Yankee. Employees are dedicated to safety
21 and reliability, all employees start their day with a
22 safety briefing not only for their personal safety but
23 for plant safety. Every task starts with a safety
24 briefing, again reviewing their personal safety and the
25 plant's safety.

1 The reliability of the plant is ensured by
2 a robust corrective action program, it's also ensured
3 by a robust predictive and preventive maintenance
4 program to ensure our plant runs reliably day in and
5 day out. Vermont Yankee is a reliable source of
6 economic power generation to the New England grid. As
7 such, we supply electricity to the power grid 24 hours
8 a day and have done so for the last 447 days
9 continuously, since our last scheduled refueling and
10 maintenance outage which, by the way, was Vermont
11 Yankee's best.

12 I'm proud to be part of the committed and
13 dedicated Vermont Yankee team of professionals and I
14 look forward to providing a clean, safe and reliable
15 source of energy into this community well into the
16 future.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Bill.

20 We are going to go to Mr. Ed, we are going
21 to go to Ed Sprague, then we are going to go to Norman
22 Raymond, Bernie Buteau and Ann Howes.

23 So this is Mr. Sprague.

24 Mr. Sprague?

25 MR. SPRAGUE: My name is Ed Sprague, I

1 stand here tonight to recommend to relicense the
2 nuclear plant here in Vernon. I have, my property is
3 bounded on two sides by Vermont Yankee, I have never
4 been one of their employees, their list of employees,
5 I've certainly been a resident next door to them and I
6 can say this, that in all the time that they've been
7 there, and I've been, I moved in in 1955, when it was a
8 diary farm. So we have lived there throughout the
9 entire life of Vermont Yankee and I can say this, the
10 only thing that's been disagreeable for me, personally,
11 is the poison pens up at *The Reformer* and all the
12 poison pens that they sponsor. It is just, you can't
13 pick up a newspaper and find anything positive said
14 about Vermont Yankee, it's a shame, it's a crime.

15 Changing a little bit here, I was very,
16 very upset when President Carter shut down a brand new
17 reprocessing plant in South Carolina, about to come on
18 line, and he just did two things with that one move, he
19 took away the initiative of our people to run
20 reprocessing and he also gave a hammer to the people
21 who oppose nuclear energy, namely disposing of waste.

22 Now I was in attendance last night when
23 Dr. Patrick Moore gave his presentation and I came away
24 with two things, one, we are in the process of building
25 a recycling or reprocessing plant in Salt Lake City, so

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1 there is hope on the horizon for reprocessing all of
2 this waste that everybody is so concerned about. It
3 will turn the waste into a resource which will keep our
4 nuclear power plants running for hundreds of years. It
5 also, another thing I came away with was, one, that ten
6 percent of the energy, of the fuel now going into our
7 power plants is coming from Russian made bombs, it's
8 taking away the threat of terrorists or abuse of that
9 raw material.

10 So, to me, the future is great, we don't
11 have to worry about storing fuel for hundreds of years
12 when we can reuse it and come away with a token amount
13 of fuel that could be put in glass and buried deep in
14 the earth. I think they've taken away, the weapons is
15 about to be taken away.

16 Thank you for letting me speak.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,
19 Ed.

20 Norman, Norman Raymond? How about, is
21 this Norman? Okay.

22 MR. RAYMOND: Good evening. My name is
23 Norman Raymond, I'm a resident of Putney since 1999,
24 currently a new employee to Entergy since '05 as a
25 technical instructor.

1 I want to voice to the NRC that I believe
2 that we should extend the license to Vermont Yankee,
3 not just to save my job, but in my time being there, I
4 received lots of training and have come to understand
5 the preparation and the work that goes into running
6 this plant to make it safe and reliable. I also
7 believe that nuclear power is a safe, clean alternative
8 with low and no emissions.

9 And also I would like to thank Mr. Sprague
10 for bringing up the recycling using of fuel, I think
11 that's a very positive way to handle that situation for
12 the future.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Norman.

16 Okay, Ann Howes is stepping up to the
17 microphone right now.

18 Ann Howes?

19 MS. HOWES: I'm Ann Howes, I'm a resident
20 of Brattleboro, I grew up outside of Detroit in
21 Michigan and I've been in this area some portion of
22 every year of my life. I think of energy or the
23 generation of energy as a hidden art and I see it only
24 in my dreams. I'm concerned for safety because I have,
25 you know, found radioactive substance in day to day

1 living with no personal connection to environmentally
2 sensitive areas. That factor of felonious use of waste
3 materials is something that is of I think paramount
4 concern to the individual in our society, but the
5 generation of energy is something that we correlate to
6 personal betterment through warmer homes, and clean hot
7 water and those factors of comfort and domestic
8 maintenance.

9 When you come into Vermont, you have the
10 opportunity to try the older forms of lifestyles that
11 are wood burning stoves and a pedestrian lifestyle. I
12 do have great worry about nuclear waste storage and I
13 don't think that it's a money issue because it's not
14 going to, it's not going to phase my life as a money
15 issue, it's something to do. I don't think that it's,
16 I don't think it's insurmountable to dismantle and I do
17 think that this community would feel excited by
18 transforming our engineering capability into a very
19 large hydro electric community, starting with this
20 project.

21 We know we like electricity a lot and we
22 know we have a water system that we can harness.
23 Packing radioactive substance for infamy is a task we
24 can do, I don't, I'm very selfish, I don't want to
25 store it in this soft loam. I think I was convinced in

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1 the '70s that we were going to put it in a desert far,
2 far from where we are living, but I'm most afraid of it
3 being used against humanity in a kind of vengeance of
4 psychological neglect.

5 Those who work in the plant feel that it's
6 safe, I think there are some members of the employment
7 league who think that it would be exciting to shut it
8 down, and clean it up and take it away, that we don't
9 even think we had one, and to concurrently figure out
10 how to generate the hydroelectric potential that we
11 have to compensate our needs with probably a small
12 interaction of just shutting off the highway lights and
13 I guess, in the winter time, the ski resorts, which
14 constrains your night behavior, and that's all I have
15 to say.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause)

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Ann. Thank
19 you.

20 Bernie, Bernie Buteau?

21 MR. BUTEAU: Good evening. My name is
22 Bernie Buteau, I too work at Vermont Yankee, I've
23 worked there for over 30 years, although I'm not as old
24 as Mike, if Mike is still here.

25 I think it is the people and I think that,

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1 as part of the process, you need to consider that and
2 consider some of the things that you've heard from
3 Vermont Yankee employees tonight, consider the
4 mentality that has developed over the 30 years that
5 I've been involved in the business. When I got my
6 nuclear engineering degree way back when, I was very
7 excited about nuclear power and remain so today, and I
8 believe there will be a resurgence, there is a
9 resurgence already going on across the globe, we just
10 need to get on board here in the U.S., and Entergy is
11 one of the companies that is pursuing new technology,
12 ESBWR, looking at sites down in Mississippi.

13 One of the things I was thinking about and
14 I guess I subconsciously dressed in all green tonight
15 for a reason, and I've always considered myself to be
16 concerned about the environment and I think that
17 nuclear power is an overall positive contributor to the
18 environment in that it does not create gasses, global
19 warming. The fuel that we have, you've heard people
20 talk about it tonight, and they classify it as waste.
21 Those that might have heard Dr. Moore speak last night,
22 they said a very profound statement in that because of
23 recycling, it's not waste at all.

24 And we, as humans, have relatively short
25 life spans on this planet and, over the course of time,

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1 our lives are very small, compared to the ecology
2 itself, and I fully believe that the fuel that we are
3 taking out of the reactor now that has not been used
4 will be able to be used in the future in mixed oxide
5 fuels and other ways that we may not even perceive
6 right now.

7 I just want to say one thing about safety,
8 and working in the nuclear power industry has had a
9 very profound effect on me, and Bill Maguire spoke to
10 you and told you a moment ago about how we start
11 everything off with safety, and the safety moments and
12 that type of thing.

13 From my own personal perspective, when I'm
14 at home, I think more about safety than I ever would
15 have if I had not worked in the nuclear power industry.
16 I go out to mow my lawn and go out, I have two acres of
17 grass, so I go out to get my John Deere, I've got a
18 little John Deere that I drive around in but, before I
19 do that, I grab my leather gloves. People from Vermont
20 Yankee are snickering, going oh, I've heard this
21 before, but I grab my leather gloves, I grab my hearing
22 protection, my eye protection, sometimes I'll put my
23 steel-toed shoes on, which I have on now, but I have to
24 admit not always.

25 But it profoundly has effected the way

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1 that I do things in my own life and I know it has the
2 same effect on the folks who work at Vermont Yankee and
3 that innately permeates the culture that we have there
4 that continues us to be able to operate the plant
5 safely, to design new and different ways of operating
6 the plant, the systems that we maintain that you've
7 heard, the systems that we add to the site, everything
8 is done with safety in mind.

9 So I think it is the people that has to be
10 considered in the equation when we are looking at the
11 environmental impact, it's the people, it's the people.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Bernie.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. CAMERON: We are going to go to our
16 next three speakers who are Jim Herrick, Larry Cummings
17 and David Mannai.

18 Is Jim Herrick here? Okay, Jim?

19 MR. HERRICK: My name is Jim Herrick, I
20 live in Marlboro, Vermont and, for those of you that
21 might not be familiar with that town, it's a little
22 area that Vermont Yankee's emergency evacuation map for
23 years showed as a non-town. It was a little airbrushed
24 white space sort of stuck to the side of Brattleboro.
25 We are to the west of Brattleboro and the north of

1 Halifax, and part of our town extends within the ten
2 mile circle which is the evacuation zone.

3 Because our town fathers, in their wisdom,
4 decided that the evacuation plan was really bogus and
5 was nothing more than a placebo to try to appease the
6 demands of the citizenry, the nuclear power plant
7 decided we just weren't there, and I've always used
8 that as a sort of a pivotal point in my process of
9 looking at the way the nuclear industry works. Because
10 we didn't get shown on the map, we weren't there.
11 Therefore, there was no problem.

12 My remarks tonight are aimed at the NRC
13 and directly really to them, mainly. I'm here tonight
14 with a real feeling of embarrassment and shame. As a
15 responsible adult member of this community, I am once
16 again, by my presence, complicit in this process of
17 charade, this circus of obfuscation, this shell game
18 without end to which you, the NRC, write the rules.
19 One simple clear question stands front and center and
20 towering over these interminable Kafkaesque theater
21 sessions, would sensible, caring people choose to live
22 with a massive, huge bomb in their midst which, should
23 it ever explode, would destroy lives, homes, lands and
24 the future of all for many generations?

25 Of course the answer is a resounding no

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1 and yet, for 35 years, we have been manipulated and
2 forced into accepting that very condition by you hired
3 men of power who write the rules, mark the cards, set
4 the time clock and, at the end of the day, pack up and
5 ride far away to live comfortably distant from the
6 consequences of your machinations. We live in a
7 society that is so sensitized to danger that report of
8 a knife on a schoolground or a screwdriver in an
9 airport will shut down the entire system, yet the
10 shockingly vulnerable spent fuel pool at Vermont
11 Yankee, with enough potential radiation released to
12 make uninhabitable this entire three-state region, sits
13 within sight of two school systems, sits on the very
14 banks of our only river system which carries an entire
15 multistate watershed south to our neighbors, sits on
16 the unstable tectonic fault line that once divided two
17 separate continental land masses, and finally, sits at
18 the very gateway to the economy of all points north,
19 and as always, the NRC and the power industry finds
20 this all acceptable.

21 Sitting on my doorstep and considering the
22 nuclear reactor and its endless spew of deadly
23 radioactive waste, it is easy to enclose the scenario
24 in one simple metaphor, that of some loathsome, hell
25 sprung beast risen to paradise to sew ruination. As a

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1 logical pragmatist who loves and honors this paradise
2 in which I live, my response is simple, shut it down,
3 secure the waste, decommission it and never build
4 another. But you, the NRC, the hired guns of a very
5 profitable industry, don't view the issues from the
6 same perspective and you bend your full energy towards
7 making the beast ever bigger and giving it life without
8 end.

9 To this purpose, you stifle my voice and
10 power as a citizen by building a regulatory maze of
11 ever shifting aisles with no attainable objective
12 except your own. Where logic decrees a straight,
13 continuous line of purpose that ends at shut it down,
14 you, the NRC, break that line into an infinite number
15 of points, each of which must be dealt with as a
16 separate battle and each which must be fought in
17 endless, tedious meetings and hearings that break the
18 will and finances of committed individuals and groups
19 who fight for a future of community, home, neighbor and
20 child.

21 Against all sanity, you have designed a
22 glide path for this tired old reactor to increase its
23 output in waste generation by 20 percent and extend its
24 life for another 20 years. As has been the case over
25 the past 35 years, our comments and concerns regarding

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1 issues will be voiced with absolute sincerity but have
2 no choice, excuse me, have no chance of achieving
3 amelioration of your predetermined result. The 670
4 page environmental impact statement will be absorbed
5 into the dull grey labyrinth of your calculated
6 process, calculated to render us powerless and useless
7 against your total control of the outcome.

8 When I recently read that the NRC had
9 ruled that guarding against the threat of a terrorist
10 air attack on the reactor was the responsibility of the
11 Department of Defense, thus rendering Entergy as not
12 accountable for efforts in that direction, I knew the
13 shell game had been ramped up a few notches. Entergy
14 cannot protect the exposed fuel pool against an air
15 attack, the Department of Defense will not protect the
16 fuel pool against an air attack, so the NRC states that
17 the core containment structure is of a robust nature to
18 withstand most air attacks and totally ignores the real
19 danger of the spent fuel pool.

20 I end up by just asking this rhetorical
21 question, is there anything that could get you, the
22 NRC, to care more about the many people whose lives and
23 future you hold in the palm of your hand and less
24 about the industry robber barons who own you as shield
25 and armor?

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

4 Larry Cummings?

5 MR. CUMMINGS: Good evening. My name is
6 Larry Cummings, I'm a employee at Vermont Yankee, I've
7 been here for about two years and two months, but I've
8 been in nuclear power for a little over 20 years. And
9 I would recommend that we extend the license of Vermont
10 Yankee for another 20 years.

11 I want to share with you a couple of my
12 experiences outside of nuclear power. In the late
13 '70s, I was working in Southwestern Pennsylvania, I was
14 actually working on a nuclear power plant construction
15 project, but I lived in a town that had three coal
16 fired units, those units had 960-foot smokestacks so
17 that they could deliver the sulfur dioxide and the coal
18 dust to Vermont, New Hampshire and places like that.

19 In 1996, I was living and working in
20 Louisiana and I had an opportunity to go to work in the
21 chemical industry. After about five months of
22 witnessing the environmental and safety issues there, I
23 decided that I should tuck my tail between my legs and
24 go back to the safety of the nuclear power industry.
25 Of course you don't know much about refineries, you

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1 just burn the oil and burn the gas and put the sulfur
2 dioxide into the atmosphere without thinking about it,
3 but if you witness it and see what's going on, you will
4 appreciate the environmental friendliness of nuclear
5 power.

6 And I can assure you, as an employee of
7 Vermont Yankee, that the people that work there are
8 very, very dedicated to the safety and health of the
9 environment and the people of this community.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you
13 very much.

14 And, David, David Mannai?

15 MR. MANNAI: Good evening. My name is
16 Dave Mannai.

17 First of all, I would like to let you know
18 I'm a resident of Vermont, I live in Westminster West,
19 which is located just west of Putney, it's an
20 agricultural part of Windham County. I'm also the
21 father of two children. About ten years ago, I moved
22 to Vermont. I'm a native New Englander, originally a
23 flatlander, and I wanted to live and raise a family in
24 Vermont, I have two children, and I mentioned, and I
25 wanted to live in the Green Mountain State because of

1 the great things I can do here.

2 I also happen to be a farmer and I raise
3 sheep, I have about 30 acres of land out there and I'm
4 in the process of turning it into certified organic
5 pasture. I consider myself an environmentalist and
6 also a good environmental steward of the farm and land
7 that I own and operate. I have also been employed in
8 the nuclear industry for the last 25 years in various
9 capacities. Prior to moving to Vermont ten years ago,
10 I was a resident inspector for the U.S. Nuclear
11 Regulatory Commission at a couple plants that were not
12 Vermont Yankee but were in Region I.

13 In the last ten years at Vermont Yankee,
14 I've had responsibility here in fuel cycle management,
15 core design, core management, reactor engineering and
16 some involvement with the dry fuel storage project that
17 is presently ongoing. I understand and view the
18 license renewal of Vermont Yankee from the perspective
19 and insights as a local resident, a farmer, a former
20 NRC regulator and that of a Vermont Yankee employee.
21 Not many people here tonight can say they share that
22 same vantage point and perspective. And from each and
23 every one of those perspectives, I can only reach one
24 conclusion and that's the license renewal for Vermont
25 Yankee is the best environmentally sound choice to meet

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1 Vermont's energy needs, since it's safe, it's
2 non-greenhouse gas emitting, it's clean, reliable,
3 efficient and cost effective, and it's local, a source
4 of vitally needed baseload supply of electricity.

5 There has been mention here tonight the
6 fuel is going to be recycled in our lifetimes, that's
7 going to be happening, that will happen. Vermont
8 Yankee has a strong, safe, high quality and reliable
9 performance record over the last 35 years, it's a real
10 testament to the men and women of Vermont Yankee and
11 Entergy who are absolutely committed to both safety,
12 and quality and continuous improvement, as was
13 mentioned earlier this evening, that's who we are.

14 And since 1972, safe, clean, reliable
15 operation of Vermont Yankee has prevented millions of
16 greenhouse emissions, millions of metric tons of
17 greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide,
18 from entering the Vermont environment.

19 In conclusion, looking at Vermont's future
20 energy needs and the impacts on our environment, there
21 is no alternative that is more beneficial to both the
22 environment and the ability to meet the energy demands
23 of Vermont. When all the facts are considered, not
24 just part of them, simply said, it's the green choice.

25 Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

3 We are going to go to Judy Miller, then
4 Nick Caristo, then W.H. Schulze. Judy Miller?

5 Okay, Nick, Nick Caristo?

6 MR. CARISTO: Good evening. My name is
7 Nick Caristo and I've been employed at Vermont Yankee
8 for the last 12 years. I came here from the State of
9 Maine where I previously worked at Maine Yankee. I'm
10 still a resident of the State of Maine and, since the
11 closing of our nuclear power plant, my electric bill
12 has increased 300 percent over the past ten years. We
13 now receive two combined electric bills each month, one
14 from Central Maine Power and the other one from
15 Constellation Power Company which doesn't even reside
16 in our state.

17 I'll give you a little history of what
18 happened to Maine after the power plant was shut down,
19 the nuclear power plant was shut down. Two gas power
20 plants were built in Maine to replace the Maine
21 Yankee's production of electricity, these two power
22 plants cannot run on a routine basis because of the
23 escalating costs of gas today, they only operate when
24 the peak demands require their electricity, which costs
25 a lot more than the regular price, so Maine Yankee now

1 imports a majority of its electricity from surrounding
2 states and Canada.

3 I started my career in nuclear power in
4 1965, 42 years ago, I have a bachelors degree in
5 radiological health, and working at Vermont Yankee for
6 the past 12 years, it is my observation that its
7 management and my coworkers, me included, their top
8 priority is to operate the plant safely and
9 efficiently.

10 The citizens of the State of Vermont can
11 be proud that they have the lowest per capita
12 greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, I think
13 that was hard work and it wasn't done overnight. The
14 State of Vermont can be very proud of that rating and
15 the culture at Vermont Yankee to operate safely
16 directly contributes to this status of the lowest
17 overall greenhouse emissions, we don't produce any.

18 In addition, the efficient operation of
19 Vermont Yankee also contributes to affordable
20 electricity in Vermont. I ask you to learn from the
21 mistake that the State of Maine has allowed to happen,
22 closure of our nuclear power plant, which I believe has
23 contributed to the escalating costs, 300 percent, to
24 the people of the State of Maine. And I haven't even
25 mentioned what impact this has had on the economy which

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1 has not recovered in midcoast Maine as a result of the
2 closure and the thousand people who were displaced
3 because of the closure of the plant.

4 I'm asking the people of Vermont and the
5 NRC to maintain the State of Vermont's status as the
6 lowest emission of greenhouse gasses per capita and to
7 keep Vermont electric rates competitive, so I ask the
8 NRC to continue and to approve, to approve the
9 continued safe and efficient operation of Vermont
10 Yankee.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you
14 very much, Nick. Okay, great, we can put that in the
15 transcript.

16 We have W.H. Schulze and then we are going
17 to go to, we are going to go to Dick Brigham and then
18 we are going to go to Ida Belivet, and I'm sorry if I
19 mispronounced that, and to Kent Belivet. And this is
20 W.H. Schulze.

21 MR. SCHULZE: Representatives of the NRC,
22 ladies and gentlemen, good evening. My name is William
23 Schulze, 27 years ago this month I started work at
24 Vermont Yankee in the operations department, I later
25 transferred to the training department where I've

1 worked for the last 11 years.

2 I came here for two reasons, Vermont
3 Yankee had a good reputation as a well run plant and
4 the State of Vermont seemed like the idea place to
5 start and raise a family. I'm very proud to be part of
6 a company that has provided safe, clean and reliable
7 energy to Vermont for 35 years.

8 A large reason why the Vermont environment
9 is where it is today is because of our operation, it
10 produces no acid rain or greenhouse gasses. In a year,
11 a typical 1,000 megawatt coal fired plant emits 100,000
12 tons of sulfur dioxide, 75,000 tons of nitrogen oxides
13 and 5,000 tons of fly ash into the environment. It
14 also contributes large amounts of CO₂ to the global
15 warming problem. Going forward in Vermont, we need to
16 have a diverse mix of energy options for the good of
17 the state and the people. Solar, wind power, hydro and
18 nuclear should all play a role in Vermont's energy
19 future. Extending Vermont Yankee's license is the
20 smart thing to do both economically and
21 environmentally.

22 For 27 years, I have been sincerely and
23 graciously thankful for the opportunity to give my
24 absolutely best to the State of Vermont and my
25 coworkers at Vermont Yankee, it continues to be my

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1 pleasure and privilege to do so.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Dick? Dick
5 Brigham?

6 For those of you who were with us this
7 afternoon, I'm going through the people who have not
8 had a chance to speak today, but we will get to Gary
9 Sachs, and Sally Shaw and others. This is Dick
10 Brigham.

11 MR. BRIGHAM: First off, I would like to
12 say to the workers at Vermont Yankee, we look at you as
13 Simon and Peter, whether you are fishermen or whether
14 you are not, we are all fishing for the right thing,
15 that's not part of my testimony, particularly. My name
16 is Dick Brigham, I'm here representing myself, my
17 family and hundreds of Vermonters who could not be
18 here, we are addressing the relicensing of Vermont
19 Yankee. We complement the NRC and review board for
20 doing a wonderful job, doing a wonderful job of playing
21 charades.

22 Vermont has one if not the highest, one of
23 if not the highest rates per capita of radioactive
24 waste in the nation, maybe in the world. This
25 radioactive poison is, as we all know, stored in an

1 overfull, unprotected precarious place in our state.
2 Obviously the NRC is wanting to relicense a dangerous
3 old plant to add to an unsolvable problem. We have
4 seen this same NRC fox guarding our hen house of health
5 before. To those of you at the NRC wanting to add to
6 an unsolvable problem, to relicense Vermont Yankee, it
7 is past time your consciences, obviously based on
8 tilted education and money, begin to kick in since, no
9 matter how much electricity we produce, it will never
10 be enough.

11 What is essentially important for future
12 life on earth is what poison we produce in making
13 electricity. Obviously Vermont Yankee produces the
14 worst type of poison that man can fathom, carbon in the
15 atmosphere is nothing compared to radioactivity. All
16 this talk of millions of dollars for the green fund is
17 total manure compared to any small radioactive mishap
18 or your grandchild's cancer. For the life of your
19 grandchildren and the health of the world, we demand
20 the NRC deny Vermont Yankee the relicensing permit. As
21 we say in Vermont, smarten up, NRC, we all see through
22 your charade.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dick. Ida?
25 And are you bringing Kent down with you?

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1 Okay, and if you could just give is the correct
2 pronunciation of your last name? Belivet? Belivet,
3 this is Ida Belivet and Kent.

4 MR. BELIVET: Ida Belivet and Kent
5 Belivet.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

7 MS. BELIVET: Good night, everybody. I
8 just wanted to come down and say that this isn't
9 actually a public hearing at all, this is gigantic,
10 steaming pile of shit. I'm tired of hearing a bunch of
11 bureaucrats blowing hot air up each others asses, I'm
12 not buying it. What I'm really here to talk about is
13 my main concern which is the radioactive waste that
14 will outdate this reactor by tens of thousands of
15 years. I wanted to bring down a diagram of the kind of
16 waste that I produce in this community, it's a bag of
17 returnables. Trading recyclables for radioactive waste
18 can't really compare, no one has ever died from
19 exposure to returnables. I don't think Entergy can say
20 the same for their waste.

21 Despite this fact, I was not permitted to
22 bring my bag of trash into this room, while that
23 reactor continues to produce some of the most dangerous
24 materials on this planet. I don't think there is any
25 negotiation for relicensing before anyone can anything

1 to say about what's going to happen with that waste.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MR. CAMERON: And now we are going to hear
5 from Kent.

6 MR. BELIVET: Good evening, everybody. I,
7 unlike my wife, am a proponent of nuclear power. I
8 would like to thank Chip, you are doing a great job
9 tonight emceeing. I would like to thank Bill Maguire
10 for coming up here, he said some wonderful things.
11 Patrick Moore, I heard him earlier, star on
12 performance. I liked what he had to say about green
13 effects, and Rich and really the whole NRC, thanks for
14 coming and putting us on. I'm glad and I hope we can
15 get this relicensing to pass.

16 My favorite part of the PowerPoint was the
17 four references to the small environmental impacts of
18 nuclear power, I really liked that and that truly is
19 what I appreciate most about nuclear power is its
20 effect on the environment, and that's why I'm here
21 tonight at this environmental impact study, hearing or
22 whatever.

23 I'll get on with my comment here.

24 The things I look forward to with 20 more
25 years of Vermont Yankee running here 15 miles from

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1 where I was born and raised are pretty exciting, I look
2 forward to my children or perhaps my wife getting
3 breast cancer, I look forward to the time when I can
4 hug them and feel only one of their breasts up against
5 my breast because the other has been removed because of
6 a tumor because there is 88,300 cubic yards of
7 radioactive waste stored on the Connecticut River.

8 I look forward to my kids having Downs
9 Syndrome and I look forward to this community growing
10 in all its new and mutated ways. I look forward to
11 spending a hard life with my father or perhaps my
12 children as they die a slow death of prostate cancer.
13 I look forward to swimming in a warmer Connecticut
14 River. I look forward to my friends returning from the
15 Iraq War with post traumatic stress syndrome and
16 something unknown, something that's killing them that's
17 caused by depleted uranium which comes from nuclear
18 power. I'm really into that, I think that will be
19 great to hang out with my friends as they die a slow
20 and painful death.

21 I'm looking forward to more wars, I'm
22 looking forward to more waste reprocessing and more
23 efficient smart weaponry, and increased infant
24 mortality is something I can barely hide my excitement
25 about. And finally, I look forward to a time when I

1 can abandon my home, the place where I grew up, because
2 of a nuclear accident or simply because too much waste
3 has accumulated and the environment becomes unsuitable
4 for human habitation. So thanks a lot and thanks for
5 everyone for encouraging this relicensing, keep it up,
6 NRC.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Kent.

9 We're going to go to Roy Ramsdell, Brian
10 Tietze, Karen Murphy and Gail Elnell. Is this Roy?
11 All right.

12 MR. RAMSDELL: Good evening. My name is
13 Roy Ramsdell, I am an employee of Vermont Yankee.

14 I want to thank the NRC for holding the
15 hearings to talk where everybody in the community can
16 get together and share their view. Not all views are
17 the same, it's good to hear the differences and work
18 out those differences. There is a lot of technology, a
19 lot of data, a lot of number crunching that went into
20 the study that the NRC is looking at, I would like to
21 focus on the human face at Vermont Yankee. I have a
22 human factors background, it's also what I think makes
23 it at the end of the day is the people.

24 We look at our community and a number of
25 folks have acknowledged that it isn't the people we

1 don't like, it's nuclear power. Well guess what? It's
2 the people that run the nuclear power plant, it's the
3 same people that are in the community, the same people
4 that are teachers, the same people that lead scouting
5 groups, the same ones that volunteer at the hospital or
6 Rescue, Inc. These are the people that work at the
7 power plant, they are not different than the other
8 folks. The one thing they have in common is the common
9 purpose to run that plant safely and keep it that way
10 for another 20 years.

11 They are in the fabric of this community,
12 they are here to stay, they live in the three
13 surrounding states and they are not going to endanger
14 their homes because this is home. So, at the end of
15 the day, we have all the technology and all the
16 studies, but what we are really left with is the people
17 and it's the people that run that and keep it safe.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MR. CAMERON: All right, thank you. Is
21 Brian here? Brian? And then we are going to go to
22 Karen Murphy, if she is still here, and Nina, Nina
23 Keller who is definitely here.

24 MR. TIETZE: Good evening, thank you. My
25 name is Brian Tietze, I am an employee of Vermont

1 Yankee and have been for 25 years.

2 A lot of people have made a lot of
3 comments and I'm not going to repeat it, I know some
4 people think that we shouldn't talk about the people
5 but I would like to talk about the people. In the 25
6 years I've been with Vermont Yankee, I've been on a lot
7 of different assignments, one of the ones I'm currently
8 involved with is our donations committed. We work very
9 hard, working in the tristate area, looking at all the
10 people that need our help and we diligently review, and
11 we go out and we help these people.

12 Last year, we gave over \$250,000 to the
13 tristate area and a lot of it had environmental impact.
14 A lot of the things we do are with scouts, with other
15 organizations that are doing great things in the town.
16 Without our finances, and our help and our employees,
17 those initiatives wouldn't happen, so I do encourage
18 that you consider us with a licensed extension for the
19 next 20 years so that we can continue to be an
20 important player in the community and that we can show
21 you, as we have, as I've listened to comments for over
22 10 years for every time we try to do something, that we
23 just show you that we are doing better and better, I
24 guarantee you the employees that I work with are
25 dedicated to doing that.

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1 As was stated, we work safely, we are well
2 controlled and we do want to be a part of your future.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Brian. And this is
6 Karen.

7 MS. MURPHY: Good evening. My name is
8 Karen Murphy, I do not work at Vermont Yankee, I'm also
9 not going to be giving my own comments tonight, I've
10 been asked to read a document sent by Ray Shadis, he is
11 a consultant for the New England Coalition, and I have
12 agreed to do that. I am not going to read the entire
13 document but I do have a copy to submit. In the
14 environmental scoping process, the New England
15 Coalition raised new, significant and site-specific
16 issues affected by license renewal which the NRC, in
17 responding to scoping meeting comments, ignored,
18 trivialized or otherwise failed to answer.

19 The relevant comments are four in number,
20 high radiation readings inside the Vernon elementary
21 school have correlated by vector and occurrence with
22 high radiation readings on certain fence line
23 instruments. New England Coalition expressed our
24 belief that these high radiation readings in the school
25 because of high correlation by vector and occurrence

1 with high TLD readings on the site fence line warrant
2 investigation in order to determine if licensee
3 off-site radiation dose estimates are correct and then
4 to quantify the actual off-site radiation dosages as
5 they would be effected by 20 years of additional
6 operation at extended power uprate levels.

7 Number two, in 2002 Entergy Nuclear
8 Vermont Yankee amended its discharge permits to include
9 water treatment with a new list of chemical additives
10 including proprietary formulas of biocides, detergents,
11 surfactants and anti-corrosives to be applied, along
12 with chlorine and fluorine compounds. These toxins and
13 otherwise harmful materials may be incorporated in
14 cooling tower drift, these are droplets which are
15 expelled laterally from the towers as spray which have
16 been found to travel and deposit up to a mile from the
17 plant.

18 There has been no formal evaluation of the
19 environmental and human health impact Vermont Yankee's
20 cooling tower drift, which is site-specific with
21 respect to the chemical mix, solution, periods of use,
22 tower spray physical characteristics, characterization
23 and susceptibility of effected biota, weather patterns,
24 terrain, and characterization and location of
25 potentially affected human populations. The impact of

1 cooling tower drift over 20 additional years of
2 operation at extended power uprate conditions must be
3 quantified and verified prior to any assertions of no
4 significant environmental impact for license renewal.

5 Three. In the mid 1990s, Vermont Yankee
6 applied for and received permission for outdoor on-site
7 storage of up to 35 cubic yards of radiological
8 contaminated soil per year, this soil is drawn from
9 building excavations and from traction sand and salt
10 that have been applied to and gather from VY roads
11 during winter. In 2003, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee
12 applied for and received permission for outdoor on-site
13 storage of a one-time dump of approximately 300 cubic
14 meters and an annual deposit of up to 150 cubic meters
15 of radiological contaminated soil.

16 This soil will be stored south of the
17 cooling towers on what may be fairly characterized as
18 the banks of the Connecticut River, VY irradiating 20
19 percent more uranium under increased flow turbulence
20 will produce in excess of 20 percent additional low-
21 level waste and contamination due to extended power
22 uprate. NRC cannot credibly assert that this excess
23 site contamination will remain within regulatory bounds
24 with quantification and verification of potential
25 radiological effects, as they may be aggravated by

1 leeching, stratification, migration and bio
2 accumulation. The presence of this low-level waste
3 dump on the banks of the Connecticut is a new, since
4 the original licensing and not included in any license
5 amendments and it is site-specific, it should be
6 considered in any license renewal evaluation.

7 And number four, the NRC fails to consider
8 the potential environmental effects of the spent fuel
9 pool accident or major spent fuel pool radiological
10 release as a result of an act of terror. NUREG-1738
11 characterizes potential impacts as up to 25,000
12 fatalities at a distance of up to 500 miles and this
13 presumes 95 percent early evacuation. The model plant
14 chosen for this study referenced in NUREG-1738 was
15 Millstone One, a plant very similar to VY, albeit in an
16 area of high population density. NUREG-1738 also
17 references seismic fragility of the Vermont Yankee
18 spent fuel pool specifically. It also admits that BWR
19 Mark 1 containments would present no substantial
20 obstacle to aircraft penetration.

21 Further, it admits that it is impossible
22 to assign probability to acts of terror. This is new
23 information and has yet not been considered for its VY
24 site-specific references and implications. No credible
25 assessment of potential accident consequences or

1 mitigation at Vermont Yankee can be undertaken without
2 including consideration of the information in NUREG-
3 1738.

4 And last, New England Coalition's
5 preceding comments, as presented during the June, 2006
6 scoping meeting, are site-specific and present new and
7 significant considerations. Although we can find no
8 place in the regulations that specifies how comments
9 taken on the draft part shall be considered and
10 incorporated, New England Coalition now respectfully
11 requests that the NRC staff give these comments
12 individual evaluation for potential environmental
13 impact before the license renewal process goes forward.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for putting that
17 on the record, thank you for putting that on the record
18 for us.

19 And this is Nina, Nina Keller.

20 MS. KELLER: I'm Nina Keller and I live
21 about 14 miles from the Vermont reactor.

22 I've been to many hearings before and
23 usually the NRC is seated where we can see them, and
24 tonight they are kind of dispersed into the crowd, and
25 it makes me feel like some of our words are melting

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1 into a shroud of dark mist. I don't know exactly who
2 I'm talking to, I didn't really come to talk to an
3 audience.

4 So the NRC said, and it was on the slide
5 show, that they really wanted to hear us, that that's
6 part of their job, to listen to us responsibly, and
7 yet, if the NRC is not listening to the Supreme Court
8 of this nation, then how are we to believe that we are
9 being respected? That we are being heard? I don't
10 quite get it.

11 The Supreme Court recently ruled, they
12 ruled --. Are they not the highest court in the land?
13 They ruled that relicensing must include the
14 consideration of terrorism, period, not for the NRC to
15 then say, no. The Supreme Court ruled it so it must be
16 included in the relicensing consideration of Vermont
17 Yankee, period. I also was somewhat stunned, actually
18 disgusted to see a slide up there that said it would
19 have a large impact to go alternative. Well they are
20 comparing all kinds of interesting little financial
21 tidbits but, if you read the papers, if you understand
22 more about the reactor sitting right over there and it
23 not creating greenhouse gasses, then you are forgetting
24 the entire, the entirety of the nuclear process, the
25 mining, the milling, the tailing, the reprocessing, the

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1 storage, the transportation, the transmission, the
2 decommission and so on, and all the multi megawatts
3 that are consumed in those processes, so don't tell me
4 that nuclear is green.

5 People think they are talking to idiots
6 when they say things like that and we are no longer
7 stupid, we are educated, we are reading more than what
8 the NRC is professing, and it's an insult to talk to us
9 like that. I proposed this before and someone
10 mentioned it this evening, that the workers who are
11 keeping us safe right now and doing as good a job as
12 can be done at the reactor, that you be retrained as
13 part of the shutting down of Vermont Yankee because I
14 know it's going to be shut down, it's not going to be
15 relicensed.

16 So wake up all you people who came up here
17 tonight and said you work at Vermont Yankee and you
18 have masters degrees and whatever, the wonderful
19 education and training you've had, wake up because you
20 should not be put out of a job, you should be
21 retrained, and you should start being your own
22 advocates right now and make sure that Entergy, your
23 bosses, your company who you are so loyal to, that they
24 are going to retrain you and they are starting to look
25 at that immediately. And it shouldn't be up to the

1 alternative energy people to come up with jobs for you,
2 we are going to work with you, but we need to hear that
3 you are thinking about the future too because some
4 people need it the way they want it.

5 Well we have, the environmentalists
6 haven't had it the way we want it, and the tide is
7 turning and it's going to happen, and Vermont Yankee is
8 shutting down. So terrorism must be included in the
9 environmental impact statement and in relicensing, and
10 there must be an independent safety assessment, there
11 must be.

12 Thanks.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Nina.

15 We are going to go to Norm Redemacher,
16 Clay Turnbull, Chuck Edwards, and then we are going to
17 go to Gary Sachs and Sally Shaw.

18 And this is Norm? All right.

19 MR. REDEMACHER: Good evening. My name is
20 Norm Redemacher, I'm an Entergy employee and we are
21 here to talk about the environmental impact of Vermont
22 Yankee.

23 On balance, over the last 35 years, if you
24 look at the current proposed environmental impact, it
25 provides a strong report card for Vermont Yankee

1 relative to being an environmental and economically
2 sound unit. What other kind of facility operates for
3 almost 35 years and still is considered by experts,
4 both within the federal government, and local and state
5 government, as an economically sound, safe and
6 environmentally friendly source of electric power? In
7 my opinion, we should renew the license for Vermont
8 Yankee.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Norman.

12 And Clay? Clay Turnbull?

13 How about Chuck Edwards?

14 MR. TURNBULL: Good evening. This is a
15 great document, I wish I had time to read all of it
16 front to back twice, but I've only had a chance to
17 browse through it. I refuse to believe that we can't
18 do better, I refuse to believe that we have to stay on
19 this same course that we've been on. I'm still seeing
20 way more lights on than we need and I see it in every
21 aspect of our society, we are gluttonous consumers of
22 energy in all of its different forms. Before any
23 discussion of a license extension or relicensing, is
24 it, can someone clarify is it relicense or license
25 extension? Is it a whole new license or is it an

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1 extension?

2 Well, whatever it is, before we have any
3 additional discussion on that, I believe it's
4 imperative that we have an independent safety
5 assessment, just like they had in Maine. I'm very
6 pleased to see that there are some senators in New York
7 that are moving in that direction on the national level
8 and I would think that any employee at Entergy would be
9 pleased to see an independent safety assessment as
10 well.

11 One concern I have is that, as I've heard
12 employees speaking, there is a gentleman that spoke
13 earlier who said he will be retiring in two years and
14 two months, and that he thinks of Vermont Yankee as his
15 nuclear power plant. My concern is how many guys like
16 him are retiring that are familiar with the
17 idiosyncracies of that facility? I know how to drive
18 my car, I know it might pull a little bit to the left
19 because of the brakes up front, I know what to expect
20 in operating that vehicle. The retiring folks are the
21 ones that have that ingrained knowledge and they are
22 leaving, and they are replaced by someone else who has
23 been here for, you know, the fellow from Maine who has
24 been here for I think 12 years, and that's a drop in
25 the bucket.

1 I would like to follow the course of Maine
2 Yankee in several respects, one of having an
3 independent safety assessment. The State of Maine
4 right now is contemplating withdrawing from the ISO New
5 England because they, I believe, considered, I believe
6 the reason that they are considering withdrawing is
7 they have their energy needs met in the state. We've
8 heard some scare tactics about what's happening in
9 Maine, perhaps the gentleman that spoke should buy his
10 electricity from a renewable energy source, clean,
11 safe, reliable, conservation, solar, wind, biomass.

12 And I really would like to see some
13 additional radiation monitoring. There was an
14 incorrect, some discussion between the state, and
15 Entergy and the NRC about whose numbers were accurate,
16 and they haven't gone into, followed that in depth. I
17 would like to see radiation monitors in a grid pattern
18 throughout a ten mile radius of Vermont Yankee.

19 That concludes my comments.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you very
22 much.

23 Gary, Gary Sachs?

24 MR. SACHS: My opinion, I'm Gary Sachs, a
25 resident of Brattleboro, not affiliated, opposing

1 Entergy and opposing relicensing, opposing Vermont
2 Yankee.

3 Hi, Dave. Your EIS is flawed and
4 inadequate, I say that for starters. Vermont is the
5 only state where there have been interveners both in
6 the uprate case and the dry cask case, and I believe
7 now in the license, relicensing case as well.

8 Now I've got some concerns I want to raise
9 here, I have a concern that the NRC accepted Entergy's
10 recommendation that the spent fuel canisters be stored
11 outside along the Connecticut River. A concern there
12 has to do with I have a concern with the NRC's
13 awareness that the proposed location is in a flood
14 plain. I'm not sure how long the flood plain is, there
15 is some variation there. I have concern regarding that
16 such a location means that at least one every few
17 hundred, five hundred, thousand more years, a flood is
18 going to occur high enough to wash those 90 ton casks
19 directly into the Connecticut River. Mathematically
20 speaking, I have a concern whether or not the NRC has
21 evaluated the fact that if those canisters stay there
22 in the flood plain for 20 years, 50 years, there is a
23 higher increased chance of that flood occurring and/or
24 washing those casks into the Connecticut River. I'm
25 certain the NRC is aware that that flood plain

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1 designation is based on historical meteorological data.

2

3 I have a great concern that world renowned
4 and credentialed meteorologists and environmental
5 experts are now stating that global warming will
6 undoubtedly change historical weather data, bigger
7 storms occurring far more frequently than charted or
8 anticipated. I certainly hope the NRC has done its due
9 diligence and research to make sure that 1, 5, 10
10 casks, 90 tons a piece, 50 feet away from the banks of
11 the river, who knows when that next flood is coming?
12 So the historical weather data is likely no longer
13 accurate.

14 I have a concern regarding the steps the
15 NRC has taken to reevaluate the critical environmental
16 data and its impact on the storage of the spent fuel at
17 Vermont Yankee. I also question what environmental
18 modeling data the NRC has used and is available for
19 these utilities to use to evaluate these upcoming
20 environmental changes. I would love to know what
21 regulations the NRC has put in place to ensure that all
22 utilities are considering the new environmental issues
23 of significant climate change in their evaluations and
24 permits for long-term waste storage.

25 What steps will the NRC take to assure

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1 that the new environmental modeling will be used to
2 assure Vermont's citizens of protection from exposure
3 to this new risk to this long-term storage which, since
4 the beginning of the reactor has been temporary of
5 course, the pool, the dry casks or "interim spent fuel
6 storage installation"? What steps has the NRC taken to
7 review these new hazardous waste measures with the
8 States of Mass. and Connecticut, each of which would be
9 severely impacted by the release of radioactive spent
10 fuel into the Connecticut River?

11 I have a concern regarding the terrorist
12 issue regarding these spent fuel casks. I have
13 concerns for the lack of thermal syphoning ability when
14 a 90 ton cask slides or turns over into muddy, silty
15 water, and I also have a great concern regarding the
16 back 40 that was mentioned earlier, that low-level
17 waste dump allowed once on the south side by the
18 cooling towers, and how close it is to the water, given
19 the potential for being near the flood plain.

20 So, in regard to the license extension,
21 much of the recent talk of renaissance, rebirth,
22 relapse, if you will, of the nuclear industry is based
23 on the 2003 study by Moniz and Deutsch, MIT professors
24 and former government people, Department of Energy was
25 one of them, one of them was the Director of

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1 Intelligence. And Moniz and Deutsch are these
2 professors from MIT, were the professors who were the
3 cosponsors of the 2003 future of nuclear power MIT
4 white paper. They also, however, in the September, '06
5 edition of *Scientific American*, which was the future of
6 nuclear, the future of energy, they stated in the
7 *Scientific American*, September '06 edition, that the
8 current generation of nuclear reactors have a safe life
9 span of 50 years. Correct me if I'm wrong but Vermont
10 Yankee Entergy is currently seeking a 60-year life
11 span.

12 No one in this room has a clue what the
13 price of electricity will be if this license is
14 renewed, so any talk of how great our electric rates
15 have been, we have the cheapest electricity in the New
16 England Region, I know that's been big news for Entergy
17 this year or last year, excuse me. None of us have a
18 clue what we are going to get charged after 2012, if
19 the license is allowed to be renewed or extended, and
20 the same is true for who knows what the cost to the
21 State of Vermont would be if the hydro energy, by the
22 way, when the talk has been so great tonight on how we
23 have the cleanest portfolio, I have heard nothing of
24 the fact that one third of our energy comes from hydro
25 electric.

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1 And I guess, to finish up, I would state
2 that the public comment form provided for tonight's
3 meeting by the NRC expired on 6/30/06 and, if you don't
4 mind my saying, so too did Vermont's desire for nuclear
5 power, it expired years ago.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Gary, thank you.
9 Yeah, that's a good suggestion, thank you. Sally, do
10 you have a --.

11 MS. SHAW: I did speak earlier today, but
12 I had to leave before I got to hear a lot of the other
13 comments because I had to meet a school bus, so I am
14 going to pick up where I left off. My comments are
15 directly pertaining to the environmental impact
16 statement, as that's what I thought this hearing was
17 supposed to be about, and I talked earlier about new
18 and significant information regarding epidemiological
19 statistics from the National Center for Health
20 Statistics at the CDC that indicate that death rates in
21 Windham County are higher than they are in the other
22 counties in the state during the period that Vermont
23 Yankee has been operating. There are some questions
24 about that, I'm not going to read the whole thing
25 again.

1 My second concern with the inadequacy and
2 incompleteness of the supplemental environmental impact
3 statement is the NRC's refusal to consider the
4 environmental effects of an act of terrorism upon the
5 spent fuel pool. I think this stance that the NRC is
6 taking is not only tantamount to criminal negligence,
7 it's silly, they know that it's only a matter of time
8 before the Supreme Court or Congress catches up with
9 them on this issue. Saying it's up to the military to
10 protect nuclear facilities, which I read in the paper
11 just a couple of days ago, that was supposedly a
12 decision on the part of the Commissioners themselves,
13 is irresponsible when there are technologies readily
14 available today that could make these predeployed
15 weapons of mass destruction, the vulnerable spent fuel
16 pools, much safer, hardened on-site storage, for one.

17 It's not clear to me why the nuclear
18 industry, in fact that amounts to just five companies
19 nationwide, there is no free market competition here.
20 Why can't the nuclear industry use a little bit of the
21 \$12 billion corporate welfare package they were given
22 in the Energy Act of 2005 to show us that they are
23 responsible corporate citizens by stopping the
24 overfilling of spent fuel pools and putting the fuel in
25 hardened storage casks in bounds, far enough apart that

1 they are not likely to bonk into each other in a
2 terrorist attack, tip over and cause a cladding fire?
3 Can't the NRC show some backbone and require the
4 nuclear industry to use this money and do this? We
5 have all said it before, it's really puzzling to
6 understand who the NRC is really working for.

7 I'm concerned also about the NRC's
8 inability to grasp that the use of open cooling or
9 once-through cooling is a violation of the Clean Water
10 Act. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in
11 Manhattan ruled Thursday, I think it was last week,
12 that it was improper for the EPA to let power plants
13 circumvent environmental laws. This decision was a
14 rejection of EPA's refusal to adopt closed-cycle
15 cooling as the best technology available.

16 About half of the nation's power plants,
17 these are both nuclear and fossil fuel plants, use the
18 closed-cycle method which operates like a car radiator,
19 reusing the same water and only requiring small amounts
20 of new water to replace what is lost to evaporation.
21 The system uses at least 95 percent less water than
22 once-through systems, these systems draw from waterways
23 and expel warmed water back into these waterways. It's
24 only common sense that if a technology exists to
25 minimize or mitigate the impacts on the natural

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1 environment that a responsible corporation would want
2 to use them and a responsible regulatory agency would
3 want to require that they use them. This may, again,
4 be up to the courts to enforce and that's really sad,
5 that's really sad because we are paying the salaries of
6 these people who are refusing to regulate.

7 A few more specific criticisms, you claim
8 in the EIS that Vermont Yankee releases nearly no
9 liquid effluents. In section 2.2.31, you reveal that
10 Vermont Yankee has 11, and they are asking for a 12th,
11 outfall pipes that release directly into the
12 Connecticut River, one for cooling water and the others
13 apparently from storm drains, but it's also apparent in
14 your table in that section that there are no radiation
15 limits and no monitoring requirements at most of the 11
16 outfalls. I think 9 of the 11 have no limits set and
17 no monitoring.

18 Just preceding the uprate application,
19 Entergy was given permission to stockpile 150 cubic
20 yards of radioactive soil per year on-site, that's
21 about eight large dump truck loads per year dumped
22 apparently in an unlined and uncovered location near
23 the Connecticut River. These piles of radioactive dirt
24 will be subject to erosion and over land flow, rain and
25 snow melt tend to wash into the river. The storm

1 drains are designed to collect over land flow but no
2 monitoring is done on the storm drains, so how do we
3 know that the effluent that discharges from these storm
4 drains is within regulatory limits or that there is no
5 environmental impact from it? That's one.

6 Number two, septic sludge too hot to send
7 to commercial septic haulers is also surface spread in
8 three or four locations on the site. This is a site,
9 by the way, that was deemed unsuitable for a low-level
10 waste dump by an independent environmental review a
11 number of years back, I think it was in the `80s. If
12 you don't monitor the outflow pipes that collect storm
13 drain run off from the site, how can the NRC claim in
14 this supplemental environmental impact statement that
15 there are no radioactive liquid effluents? They don't
16 know.

17 However, I did hear, in talking to Larry
18 Krist and Carla White at the Vermont Department of
19 Health, that Cobalt-60 and other radioisotopes have
20 been found in Connecticut River sediments. How do we
21 know, if no monitoring is occurring, whether these
22 effluents are from Vermont Yankee? On the section that
23 talks about radiological impacts, section 2.2.7, the
24 NRC says that the radiological monitoring plan, which
25 they abbreviate as RUMP, REMP, for the last five years,

1 indicates that radiation and radioactivity in the
2 environmental medium monitored around the plant have
3 been "well within regulatory limits" and the citation
4 is an Entergy report.

5 This is all that's really said here about
6 this environmental monitoring and I just want to submit
7 that Entergy is not independent and should be backed up
8 by more credible independent sources. In addition, the
9 regulatory limits are called into question by the
10 biological effects of ionizing radiation BEIR 7 report
11 and a number of other recent scientific studies, they
12 are called into question because they are based on
13 standard man and not the more vulnerable child, woman
14 or fetus who are 30 to 50 percent more sensitive to the
15 cancers and other biological effects of ionizing
16 radiation.

17 These regs are called into question
18 because the risk factor for these carcinogens, both
19 toxic and radioactive, which are emitted by nuclear
20 power stations is far more lenient than for all other
21 chemical carcinogens. Perhaps your review of radiation
22 standards will finally change all that but I think,
23 until the review is done, the environmental impact
24 statement is incomplete and it is not investigating
25 health impacts based on the numbers that it should be.

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1 Yeah, I can submit the rest in writing, it goes on for
2 pages and pages.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. CAMERON: And how about Mr. Akin and
6 then Howard Shaffer?

7 MR. AKIN: I didn't plan to speak tonight,
8 but I am Len Akin, a native Vermonter for 53 years, a
9 licensed electrician by trade. I've worked up and down
10 the Connecticut River Valley most of my working life,
11 the last seven years have been at Entergy.

12 Like I said, I am a licensed electrician,
13 I don't need Entergy, I work there because I want to.
14 And be assured of the point tonight what environmental
15 impact means to me, over my life, back in the early
16 `60s, `70s, a lot of talk about losing a national
17 treasure, the bald eagle, to DDT, and I'd never seen
18 one until I worked at Vermont Yankee.

19 And my point tonight is every time I see a
20 bald eagle flying over an intake structure, or cruising
21 over our buildings or up the river fishing, I look
22 around and I am proud to work at a company that I feel
23 is green and that proves it by the wildlife around
24 there. That's the only place in Vermont I have seen a
25 bald eagle, and that's all I've got to say.

1 (Applause)

2 MR. SHAFFER: Thank you.

3 Howard Shaffer from Enfield, New
4 Hampshire, a retired nuclear engineer, I've consulted
5 for the Brattleboro Select Board, and I am licensed in
6 Vermont, and New Hampshire, and Massachusetts in
7 Illinois in nuclear engineering as a professional
8 engineer. We are here tonight as creatures of our
9 congress, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, before
10 them the Atomic Energy Commission, all the
11 environmental regulations. In 1954, Congress decided
12 they were the decider, along with the president, that
13 we ought to have nuclear power as part of national
14 energy policy, before there was a Department of Energy.

15 That has continued through every Congress,
16 they have not changed the national policy, and it is
17 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's job to make sure
18 that we carry out that policy in a safe fashion, it is
19 not their job to decide we should not have nuclear
20 power and to shut it down. If you want to do that,
21 which is something that citizens can do and have had
22 that kind of effect in the past, you need to convince a
23 majority of congress and a super majority in the senate
24 to block a filibuster and whoever is in the White House
25 to change national energy policy.

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1 In that debate in Congress, should it take
2 place, and I don't think that it will because there
3 would be too many hard questions that would be asked
4 about how can you guarantee that the alternative
5 scenarios which are presented are going to take place?
6 And what shall we do if these rosy alternatives which
7 are presented don't take place on the schedule you have
8 recommended? And why is it that you think that
9 radiation from nuclear power plants is unsafe when it's
10 a small part of the natural exposure we get from the
11 environment and have before there ever was nuclear
12 power?

13 So, if you don't want nuclear power, start
14 with Senator Sanders and just convince a majority of
15 Congress and the White House to change national energy
16 policy.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Howard. Is
20 Harvey Schaktman still here?

21 Well then let's go to Claire, Claire
22 Chang. Did you want to speak again, Claire? And
23 Claire is our final speaker. You want one minute?
24 Okay. Come on up and get on the mic so we can get you
25 on the transcript, okay?

1 MR. SHADIS: I've heard a lot of
2 questionable facts and figures here tonight and they
3 will continue to be questionable, no doubt. Be that as
4 it may, I took the opportunity to travel to the Ukraine
5 and went on a tour of the now infamous exclusion zone.
6 So, if any of you would care to get the full sensation
7 of what the environmental impact of nuclear power is,
8 take a little waltz around there, it's huge, it's
9 global, it's absolutely terrifying. These people, it's
10 not only the land that's been corrupted, they have been
11 corrupted. They're entire genetic heritage has been
12 given the short end of the stick, their children are
13 deformed and will continue to be so.

14 This is the risk, it's that simple. Yes,
15 things are profitable, things are leaning this way or
16 that way for where the energy is coming from and how
17 comfortable you can live, but the true environmental
18 impact inevitably and invariably is what you are seeing
19 over there in Belarus and it in cities like Gomol in
20 Pripyat, which is eerie. It was a, the people there
21 too, the workers there, that was the flagship plant for
22 them, that was the a number one, biggest, safest
23 producer for the Soviets, and it ruined their empire
24 and that's what you are flirting with here.

25 So enjoy it while you can because, one of

1 these days, you are all going to be regretting your
2 adamancy for your position that it is safe, clean and
3 reliable, it ain't. And some of that fall out came all
4 the way around and dropped over here, more of it
5 dropped in Western Europe than in Eastern Europe,
6 that's why the European Union is so hot to get the
7 thing wrapped up again before it blows again because it
8 is going to. Once one of these puppies burns down, it
9 doesn't stop burning down for a very long time.

10 And I'm really happy to hear all the
11 employees going on about how safe they are, that's good
12 because that's your job and, God damn it, you'd better
13 be safe because, without all that, you are risking hell
14 on Earth.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause)

17 MR. SHADIS: My name is John Shadis, I
18 live in Westminster. Thank you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, John.

20 Thank you all for comments, and for
21 courtesy and following ground rules.

22 And I'm going to turn it over to Rani
23 Franovich who is the chief of the environmental section
24 to close the meeting out for us.

25 MS. FRANOVICH: Thank you, Chip.

1 I just wanted to reiterate the staff's
2 thanks for you all taking your time out from your busy
3 schedules to be here tonight, it's an important part of
4 the process. I know many of you probably don't believe
5 that, but it is, so thanks again for taking the time
6 out to be here. I wanted to answer one question that
7 was asked, whether or not when a license is renewed is
8 it an extension of the original license or is it the
9 issuance of a new license, and the answer is it's the
10 issuance of a new license for a period of up to 40
11 years.

12 I also wanted to remind everyone that we
13 will be accepting comments on the draft environmental
14 impact statement for Vermont Yankee until March 7th.
15 Richard Emch, the project manager for the environmental
16 review is the point of contact for those comments, his
17 contact information is in the slides and the handouts
18 that were provided when you came into the meeting
19 today, tonight.

20 And one final thing, the NRC has a public
21 meeting feedback form that you may have received when
22 you registered for the meeting. If you have any
23 suggestions on how we can improve our meetings, things
24 we can do different, things we can do better, please
25 don't hesitate to provide that feedback to us in this

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1 form. You can leave it here, give it to a member of
2 the NRC, we are wearing these name tags tonight, or you
3 can fold it up and mail it in, the postage is prepaid.

4 And with that, thanks again for being here
5 and good night.

6 When we issue a renew license, the license
7 is for a period of up to 40 years. You're welcome.
8 It's 20 years of additional operation. If the plant
9 has been operating for more than 20 years already then,
10 from the time that they get the renewed license, they
11 have a period of up to 40 years, but it cannot exceed a
12 total of 60 years.

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay, we should, we should
14 get this on the record, but I think that we'll just let
15 you have this conversation with Rani.

16 MS. FRANOVICH: I can answer that
17 question, Chip.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

19 MS. FRANOVICH: There is no limit on the
20 number of times an applicant can apply for license
21 renewal, as long as they meet the regulatory
22 requirements to ensure safety and adequate management
23 of aging of the plant. We evaluate it based on their
24 ability to effectively manage the effects of aging.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay, I would just suggest

1 that you come down and talk to Rani.

2 We are adjourned.

3 (Whereupon, at 10:10 p.m., the
4 hearing was adjourned.)

5

6

7

BEFORE THE US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
MEETING TO TAKE COMMENTS ON NUREG – 1437, DRAFT SUPPLEMENT 30
GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR LICENSE RENEWAL
OF NUCLEAR PLANTS REGARDING VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR STATION
JANUARY 31, 2007
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

SELECTED COMMENTS OF NEW ENGLAND COALITION
Prepared by Raymond Shadis- Consultant

The comments contained herein are intended for oral presentation before the NRC staff in a public meeting to be held in Brattleboro, Vermont on January 31, 2006.

New England Coalition intends to file additional written comment during the public comment period (written) for the above captioned document (ADAMS Accession Number ML063390344) that ends on March 7, 2007.

I. NRC Staff response to the Scoping Meetings – June 6, 2006 and June 7, 2006

NRC Staff has, for the most part, bundled comments, lumping them together under broad categories, for example, **A.1.13 Comments Concerning Uranium Fuel Cycle and Waste Management**.

Examination of this section will show that comments regarding Vermont Yankee-specific radiological site contamination and Vermont Yankee-specific chemical environmental contamination are interspersed with comments on long-term waste storage, environmental justice, security, and greenhouse gases.

The staff response is that the comments either relate to category 1 uranium and fuel cycle and waste management issues (meaning we suppose that they are addressed in the generic environmental impact statement) or that “environmental impacts” will be address in Chapter six of the site specific environmental impact statement.

However a review of Chapter Six shows it to be impossible to discern where any of the site specific Comments are directly or in particular addressed save that NRC Staff asserts that whatever Vermont Yankee has been doing has been within NRC regulation and more of the same will also be assumed to be within regulation.

This randomly selected example from the draft report demonstrates, we believe, that NRC staff doesn’t understand the comments or has purposefully sidestepped addressing them. It is further impossible to see how this token scoping, review, and comment process in any way answers the public’s rights of redress.

If individual public comments are mischaracterized, miscategorized, and left unanswered, how is the public to have confidence in NRC’s process, and, by extension, how is the public to have confidence in NRC’s regulation and oversight?

II. In the environmental scoping process, New England Coalition raised new, significant, and site-specific issues affected by license renewal, which NRC Staff in responding to Scoping Meeting Comments ignored, trivialized, or otherwise failed to answer. The relevant Comments are four in number:

- A. High radiation readings inside the Vernon Elementary School have correlated by vector and occurrence with high radiation readings on certain fence line (site boundary) instruments (TLDs). New England Coalition expressed our belief that these high radiation (TLD) readings in the school, because of high correlation by vector and occurrence with high TLD readings on the site fence line, warrant investigation in order to determine if licensee off site radiation dose estimates are correct (or non-conservative) and to quantify actual offsite radiation doses as they would be affected by 20 years of additional operation at extended power uprate levels.**
- B. In 2002 Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee amended its discharge permits to include water treatment with a new list of chemical additives, including proprietary formulas of biocides, detergents, surfactants, and anti-corrosives to be applied along with chlorine and fluorine compounds. These toxic and otherwise harmful materials may be incorporated in cooling tower drift (droplets which are expelled laterally from the towers as spray and which have been found to travel and deposit up to a mile from the plant). There has been no formal evaluation of the environmental and human health impact of Vermont Yankee's cooling tower drift, which is site specific with respect to the chemical mix, solution, periods of use, tower spray physical characteristics, characterization (and susceptibility) of affected biota, weather patterns, terrain, and characterization and location of potentially affected human populations. The impact of cooling tower drift over twenty additional years of operation at extended power uprate conditions (additional waste heat, for example) must be quantified and verified prior to any assertions of no significant environmental impact for license renewal.**
- C. In the mid-1990's, Vermont Yankee applied for and received permission for outdoor onsite storage up to 35 cubic yards of radiologically contaminated soil per year. This soil was drawn from building excavations and from traction sand and salt that had been applied to and gathered from Vermont Yankee roads during winter. In 2003, Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee applied for and received permission for outdoor onsite storage of a one-time dump of approximately 300 cubic meters and an annual deposit of up to 150 cubic meters of radiologically contaminated soil. This soil will be stored south of the cooling towers on what may be fairly characterized as the banks of the Connecticut River. Vermont Yankee, irradiating 20 % more uranium under increased flow turbulence) will produce in excess of 20% additional low-level waste and contamination due to extended power uprate. NRC cannot credibly assert that this excess site contamination will remain within regulatory bounds with quantification and verification of potential radiological effects as they**

may be aggravated by leaching, stratification, migration, and bioaccumulation. The presence of this low-level waste dump on the banks of the Connecticut is a new (since the original licensing and not included in any license amendments) and it is site specific. It should be considered in any license renewal evaluation.

- D. The NRC fails to consider the potential environmental effects of a spent fuel pool accident or major spent fuel pool radiological releases as a result of an act of terror. NUREG-1738 characterizes potential impacts as up to 25,000 fatalities at a distance up to 500 miles, and this presumes 95% early evacuation. The model plant chosen for the study referenced in NUREG-1738 was Millstone I, a plant very similar to Vermont Yankee, albeit in an area of higher population density. NUREG-1738 also references seismic fragility of the Vermont Yankee spent fuel pool specifically. It also admits that BWR Mark I containments would present no substantial obstacle to aircraft penetration. Further it admits that it is impossible to assign probability to acts of terror. This is new information and as yet has not been considered for its Vermont Yankee site-specific references and implications. No credible assessment of potential accident consequences or mitigation at Vermont Yankee can be undertaken without including consideration of the information in NUREG-1738.

III. New England Coalition's preceding Comments, as presented during the June 2006 Scoping Meeting, are site specific and present new and significant considerations. Although we can find no place in the regulations that specifies how comments taken on the Draft Report shall be considered and incorporated, New England Coalition now respectfully requests that NRC Staff give these Comments individual evaluation for potential environmental impact before the license renewal process goes forward.

New England Coalition is a 501c3 non-profit membership organization incorporated in the State of Vermont since 1971. 802-257-0336 necnp@necnp.org

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January 31, 2007

Good Evening: my name is Nick Caristo and I have been employed at Vermont Yankee for the past twelve years.

I came from the state of Maine where I previously worked at Maine Yankee. I am still a resident of Maine and since the closing of our Nuclear Power plant, my electric bill has almost tripled in the past ten years, a 300 % increase. We now receive two combined electric bills each month, one from "Central Maine Power" and the other from an out of state producer of electricity "Constellation Power Company".

The two gas-powered plants that were built in Maine to replace Maine Yankee's production of electricity can not run on a routine basis because of the high cost of gas. They operate only during peak demand periods when the price of electricity is at a higher rate. So Maine now imports a majority of its electricity from other surrounding states and Canada at a higher cost.

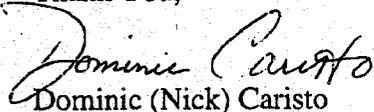
I started my career in Nuclear Power in 1965, forty-two years ago. And, my observation at Vermont Yankee is that its management and workers top priority are to operate the plant Safely and Efficiently!

The citizens of the state of Vermont can be proud that they have the lowest per capita green house gas emissions in the United States. And the culture at Vermont Yankee to operate safely directly contributes to this status of lowest overall green house emissions.

In addition, an efficient operation of Vermont Yankee also contributes to affordable electricity for Vermonters. Please learn from the mistake that the state of Maine has allowed to happen, closure of our Nuclear Plant. Which I believe has contributed to higher electric residential rates of a magnitude of 300% in the past ten years.

I am asking the people of Vermont and the NRC, to maintain the state of Vermont's status as the lowest emission of green house gases per capita and to keep Vermont electric rates competitive. So, please support and approve the continued safe and efficient operation of Vermont Yankee.

Thank You,



Dominic Caristo

Dominic (Nick) Caristo

Vermont Yankee Employee and Resident of the State of Maine