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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING

TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR

VOGTLE EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION

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AUDITORIUM

AUGUSTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

WAYNESBORO CAMPUS

216 Highway 24 South

Waynesboro, Georgia

Thursday, October 19, 2006

7:05 p.m.

F. CAMERON, Facilitator

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

2 MR. CAMERON: Good evening everybody.

3 My name is Chip Cameron with the United
4 States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and it's my
5 pleasure to serve as your facilitator for tonight's
6 meeting. My job is to try to help all of you to have
7 a productive meeting tonight, and we'll do our best to
8 do that with all of your help.

9 Our subject tonight is the environmental
10 evaluation that the NRC -- Nuclear Regulatory
11 Commission, which we'll be referring to as the NRC --
12 the environmental evaluation that we're conducting as
13 part of our review of an application that we received
14 from Southern Nuclear to receive an early site permit
15 for a potential new reactor at the Vogtle site.

16 I just want to spend a couple of minutes
17 talking about the meeting process issues -- the format
18 for the meeting, some very simple ground rules and to
19 introduce the NRC staff who will be speaking to you
20 tonight.

21 In terms of the format, we're going to
22 start with some brief presentations from the NRC staff
23 to give you some background and context on what the
24 NRC looks at in deciding whether to grant an
25 application for an early site permit. And then we'll

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1 have time for a few questions on this process before
2 we get to the most important part of the meeting
3 tonight, which is to hear from you, your comments,
4 your advice, your recommendations on what the NRC
5 should consider as it conducts its environmental
6 evaluation of the early site permit application. We
7 have a lot of people signed up to speak. If you
8 wanted to speak tonight, if you could just fill out
9 one of these yellow cards that we have. I hope that
10 we didn't miss anybody. We sort of had a little bit
11 of a glitch where people were invited to sign up by e-
12 mail and I'm not sure that we received all of those e-
13 mails. So if you were one of the people who signed up
14 by e-mail, just make sure we have a yellow card for
15 you.

16 There's a written comment part to this
17 process that the NRC staff will tell you about. We
18 wanted to be here with you tonight in person, the NRC
19 is not required to hold these public meetings, though
20 we feel that it's important to be with you in the
21 community, so we're here with you tonight to listen to
22 your comments.

23 In terms of ground rules, at the end of
24 the NRC presentations, we will have a few minutes for
25 questions. If you have a question, just signal me and

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1 I'll bring you the cordless microphone. Please
2 introduce yourself to us and we'll try to answer your
3 questions. I would ask you to try to keep that part
4 of the meeting to questions. A lot of times questions
5 can morph into comments and that's fine, but if you
6 could just keep that to questions and then give us
7 your comments during the comment part of the meeting.

8 For the whole meeting, if we could just
9 have one person speaking at a time, most importantly
10 so that we can give our full attention to whoever has
11 the floor at the moment, but also so that we can get
12 a clean transcript tonight. We are taking a
13 transcript of the meeting and that's our record and
14 your record of what has happened here tonight. Our
15 stenographer Peggy is right here and she's going to be
16 taking the transcript.

17 And I'm going to ask you to try to be
18 concise when you are asking questions or when you're
19 speaking, and be to the point. Because we have a lot
20 of people, I want to make sure everybody has an
21 opportunity to speak tonight and I'd like to try to
22 get us out of here by 11:00 if we could, and I know
23 that some people have long drives, and we'll try to
24 get you out early. But I do want to hear from
25 everybody. So when you're doing your comment, if you

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1 could try to keep it to three minutes, that would be
2 very helpful. And I'm going to have to be a little
3 bit more disciplined tonight than we usually are in
4 keeping people to time limits, and I'll ask you to sum
5 up when you're getting close to that.

6 You may think that three minutes is not
7 much time, but usually we find that three minutes is
8 enough time for you to summarize your points. You can
9 elaborate on those points by sending us a written
10 comment, but it also serves two important purposes.
11 One, it alerts the NRC staff to issues that we should
12 start working on right away and perhaps even talking
13 to you about after the meeting. And the second
14 important purpose that even a short oral comment
15 opportunity provides is that it lets everybody else in
16 the audience know what the issues of concern are,
17 what's on people's minds, so that you can think about
18 those issues and perhaps address them if you want to
19 submit a written comment.

20 The last ground rule is just basic -- this
21 is never a problem in the south because I think we
22 find that you are innately courteous, but if you could
23 just be courteous. We're going to hear a lot of
24 different opinions tonight and you're not going to
25 agree with all of those opinions. So if you could

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1 just respect the person who is giving the opinion,
2 even though you might not agree with that.

3 And thank you all for being here. It's
4 wonderful to see all of you and to see so much
5 interest in helping us with this particular decision.

6 We do have two speakers tonight from the
7 NRC. We have Chris Nolan first, who is just going to
8 give you a welcome and an overview on the early site
9 permit process.

10 Chris is the Chief of the New Reactors
11 Environmental Project Branch at the NRC in what will
12 be the new office, Office of New Reactors, I think is
13 going to be the name. Chris and his group are
14 responsible for doing the environmental evaluation of
15 the early site permit applications and combined
16 operating license applications, basically all for new
17 reactors. He's been with the NRC for eight years.
18 Before he came to the NRC, he was a senior design
19 engineer at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant in Maryland.
20 And since he's been with us, he's been a project
21 manager for an operating reactor, he's been an
22 enforcement specialist in our Office of Enforcement to
23 make sure that licensees comply with our requirements,
24 and he also was a supervisor in our Security Office.
25 He has a Bachelors in mechanical engineering from the

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1 University of Maryland and a Masters in engineering
2 management from the University of Maryland.

3 And let me introduce our main speaker
4 tonight, who is Mark Notich, and he is the Project
5 Manager for the environmental review for the Vogtle
6 Early Site Permit. And he works -- he is in Chris'
7 branch. He's relatively new with the NRC, probably
8 been close to a year at this point, but he has a
9 wealth of experience in terms of environmental review,
10 environmental analysis and he's worked on a number of
11 interesting projects, including as Deputy Project
12 Manager for a dose assessment that was done for
13 Savannah River. So he is familiar with the area and
14 very well qualified. His educational background is a
15 Bachelor's degree in agricultural chemistry from the
16 University of Maryland.

17 And with that, I'll turn it over to Chris
18 and we'll get started tonight.

19 MR. NOLAN: Thanks, Chip, for your warm
20 introduction. Again, I am Chris Nolan, Chief of
21 Environmental Projects Branch in New Reactors. I
22 would like thank each and every one of you for coming
23 here tonight and taking time out of your important
24 busy schedules.

25 The first question I'll respond to is why

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1 is this meeting important to us. We're in the middle
2 of conducting our environmental review and scoping
3 activities. As part of the early site permit
4 application, the licensee submitted an environmental
5 report that we're currently reviewing. This week,
6 we've been down here surveying the site, interacting
7 with representatives of the community, state and local
8 government representatives to add context to our
9 understanding of the licensee's environmental report.
10 Also doing research of the available literature in the
11 area.

12 We like to have these meetings because we
13 find that local perspectives can add context to our
14 understanding of the research and evaluation that
15 we're doing and we thank you for all of your input.
16 We're not trying to bypass any responsibility, but we
17 have found that these interactions add value, so we
18 appreciate them, we appreciate your contribution and
19 we'll go over the transcript in a great degree of
20 detail and the comment portions get responded to in
21 our environmental impact statement process that Mark
22 will talk about.

23 I'm going to address the first bullet that
24 you see tonight, which is to talk about the early site
25 permit process with a focus on the environmental

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1 review, and turn the rest over to Mark to talk about
2 more detail on how we develop our environmental impact
3 statements.

4 If you go to the next slide, the diagram
5 of most interest typically is the oval in the center
6 bottom, which is the combined license review and
7 hearing. We're not there yet. This figure is a
8 representative of our 10 CFR Part 52 licensing process
9 for new reactors. The combined operating license is
10 the NRC's approval for a licensee to start
11 construction of a facility and future operation.
12 That's not what this activity is about. What this is,
13 is the early site permit process, which is in the
14 upper left-hand corner, where we're looking at the
15 site, whether it's suitable for a future proposed
16 nuclear power plant if one is ever constructed and
17 built. We look at it from a safety perspective, we
18 also look at it from an environmental perspective and
19 that's what we're here to talk about today.

20 In addition, there is a design
21 certification review that can be relied upon. Various
22 nuclear supply system vendors can offer to the Nuclear
23 Regulatory Commission designs that we can review and
24 certify. A number of them are currently certified, a
25 number of vendors are proposing new reactor designs

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1 that we're either currently evaluating or will
2 evaluate in the future.

3 So the concept is when a licensee comes in
4 for a combined operating license request, they can
5 rely on an early site permit which has already
6 addressed the siting issues and they can rely on the
7 design certification which addresses the safety issues
8 of the specific plant design and then that combined
9 license process looks at the fit of those together in
10 the effort to grant a license, if appropriate.

11 Not all licensees coming in for an
12 application need to have an early site permit. That's
13 optional. In this case, Southern Company has decided
14 to do that. Most applicants that are coming in are
15 going to rely on design certification.

16 If a combined license is granted, the next
17 stage in the process is to go into the construction
18 phase in which the agency has an inspection program
19 where we inspect a lot of the processes that are used
20 in construction, numbers of tests and demonstrations
21 have to be made on the part of the licensee in order
22 for us to certify that they're sufficiently along in
23 the process that they're ready for a fuel load, which
24 would lead then to reactor operation.

25 So that's the overall process. But the

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1 portion that we're here to address tonight is the
2 early site permit process.

3 Next slide. The key participants in the
4 NRC licensing process are of course the Nuclear
5 Regulatory Commission; any applicant, in this case
6 Southern Nuclear Operating Company; and also
7 stakeholders -- state and local government officials
8 and agencies -- have an influence in the process;
9 members of the public in terms of these meetings and
10 any written comments we receive have an influence in
11 the process.

12 Right now I'd like to just take a second
13 to talk about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
14 because it's a relatively unique entity and it's going
15 through a lot of change right now.

16 The Commission is an independent agency
17 that reports to Congress. We have five Commissioners
18 that are each appointed by the President and confirmed
19 by the Senate. We don't report to the President
20 directly, we are an independent Commission. The staff
21 reports to the Commission, the Commission sets policy
22 and we implement that policy through our regulations
23 and our standards.

24 Right now, we're going through a
25 significant growth period because of the interest in

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1 new reactor licensing. Our current office, the Office
2 of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is being split into two
3 offices. Nuclear Reactor Regulation is going to stay
4 focused on operating plant safety. The New Reactor
5 Office is going to focus on new reactor activity, so
6 that there's never a misunderstanding or a compromise
7 in resources and priorities between our primary
8 mission, which is public health and safety with the
9 operating reactor fleet, and our new endeavor, which
10 is the licensing process for new reactors. My
11 organization is growing significantly.

12 We've had an audit this week on site where
13 we had approximately 26 people, both NRC contractors
14 and NRC direct employees, doing a site audit at Plant
15 Vogtle. That's a tremendous resource that I'm able to
16 bring to this effort, in part because of the growth
17 that the agency has undertaken in preparation for this
18 activity.

19 We had a lot of great experts at my
20 disposal from the National Labs, that is a contractor,
21 and also we had an opportunity to bring a lot of
22 people in a training capacity to get real experience
23 for future licensing activities. So it's an
24 interesting time at the agency, but for this review in
25 particular, a tremendous amount of expertise and

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1 resources is being brought to bear, and as you've seen
2 here, there's a number of NRC people here to support
3 this effort.

4 What is an early site permit? Next slide,
5 please. It's an NRC decision that ensures that the
6 proposed site is suitable for construction and
7 operation of a nuclear power plant. It's not an
8 authorization to actually build or operate the plant.
9 It can in some cases allow site preparation activities
10 and in this case, Southern has asked for that and that
11 will be reviewed in our environmental impact
12 statement.

13 Next slide. How does an early site permit
14 fit into the licensing process? It allows site
15 suitability issues, both safety and environmental, to
16 be assessed early. It can be referenced by an
17 applicant for a license to construct a nuclear power
18 plant, as we discussed earlier. And it can be
19 combined with an approved design or design
20 certification in the licensing process as well.

21 So it effectively is a way to shift some
22 of the licensing activities earlier in the process so
23 that the siting issues can be decided, so that if the
24 licensee chooses to make a decision to apply for a
25 combined license in order to construct a plant, it can

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1 focus on a specific site rather than an array of
2 sites. And that's the advantage that we see at the
3 NRC.

4 What advantage does a licensee see in an
5 early site permit? Next slide please. When we
6 approve an early site permit, we approve the permit
7 for up to 20 years. So it effectively allows approval
8 of a site for construction and operation of the plant
9 for a 20-year period. It reduces uncertainty because
10 the siting issue has been determined and it allows
11 siting issues to be resolved earlier for stability in
12 the environmental process.

13 Next slide, please. Like I said earlier,
14 the early site permit process has two parallel paths,
15 much more integrated than shown in this slide, but the
16 upper tier is for site safety review. It looks at
17 safety issues such as seismic and hydrology and
18 emergency preparedness type issues as well as others.
19 They perform a safety evaluation report. That report
20 is reviewed by our Advisory Committee on Reactor
21 Safety, who submits a report on that to our
22 Commission. But also it goes through a hearing
23 process with the ASLB and they make a recommendation
24 to the Commission for the Commission to make a final
25 decision.

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1 The environmental process is the lower
2 tier and that's the one we're in now. The pre-
3 application public meeting, we had that in May of this
4 year. Right now we're in the process of both
5 environmental review and scoping activities, which
6 will lead to a draft environmental impact statement,
7 which will be published in the Federal Register,
8 available on our web, and there will be a continuing
9 public meeting in the future, in which we come back
10 and ask for any comments on that draft environmental
11 impact statement. That will lead to a final
12 environmental impact statement where all comments
13 received will be addressed, and again, there will be
14 a hearing on that activity as well.

15 Next slide. Site suitability, again
16 relates to reactor safety, as I discuss, and emergency
17 planning, as the two major components of that. The
18 Safety Project Manager is here, Christian Araguas. If
19 at any time after the meeting anyone wants to ask a
20 question in that area, feel free to do so. We'll be
21 available during the evening and after the meeting.

22 And I guess I'll turn it over to Mark for
23 the rest of the presentation.

24 MR. NOTICH: As Chris said, my name is
25 Mark Notich and I'm the NRC's Environmental Project

1 Manager on the Plant Vogtle Early Site Permit. I'm
2 going to be spending about the next 15 minutes or so
3 talking to you about our environmental review process
4 and how you, as the public, can participate in that
5 process.

6 Next slide. Now by way of background, the
7 National Environmental Policy Act, otherwise known as
8 NEPA, was enacted in 1969, and it requires federal
9 agencies to use a systematic approach to look at the
10 environmental impacts during certain decision-making
11 proceedings. NEPA is a disclosure tool which involves
12 the public and as such, we will be gathering
13 information and evaluating that information to
14 determine what environmental impacts of constructing
15 and operating Vogtle Units 3 and 4 will be. We will
16 document information and invite public participation
17 to evaluate it and give us comments.

18 In accordance with NEPA, the environmental
19 impact statement is required for any major federal
20 action that has a potential to significantly affect
21 the quality of the human environment. And the
22 Commission has determined that issuing an early site
23 permit is such a major federal action.

24 Next slide, please. Now this slide shows
25 a little more detail of the slide that was shown

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1 earlier about the review process. This one focuses on
2 the environmental review process and it's the lower
3 half of the slide that Chris showed earlier.

4 After the application is submitted, the
5 NRC issues a notice of intent that notifies the public
6 of our intention to develop an environmental impact
7 statement and to conduct a scoping process. That
8 notice of intent was issued in the Federal Register on
9 October 5. That notice of intent initiates the
10 scoping process, during which we identify what the
11 scope of the environmental review to be. This public
12 meeting is part of that process. And at the same
13 time, there is a public comment period where you can
14 provide us with your written comments through December
15 4 of 2006.

16 Our review team has been at the site over
17 the last three days in order to become more acquainted
18 with the area and to gather more information about the
19 site. If necessary, we may find ourselves having to
20 ask for more additional information from the applicant
21 to make sure that we have enough information to do the
22 review. Once that information is received, we will
23 develop our draft environmental impact statement.
24 That document is a draft, not because it is an
25 incomplete document, but rather the staff has

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1 essentially completed its review and now we want to
2 issue, make it publicly available to allow the public
3 to weigh in on it and give us comments as to what they
4 think of the results of the review, and if we need to
5 clarify anything in that document.

6 So we're going to have another comment
7 period in the July 2007 time frame and we'll come back
8 here and have another public meeting such as this
9 where we will invite your comments after we explain to
10 you the results of our review.

11 Now once we've evaluated your comments, we
12 may decide to modify the draft environmental impact
13 statement. Once we complete that action, then we'll
14 issue the environmental impact statement as a final
15 document.

16 And that document will be used as one of
17 several inputs to the hearing process. The hearing
18 process is expected to take about one year. And the
19 result of the ESP process is a decision by the agency
20 on the early site permit application.

21 Next slide, please. The staff gets its
22 information from a number of different sources.
23 Obviously we get it from the early site permit
24 application and from discussions that we have had with
25 the applicant, Southern Nuclear. We're seeking

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1 information from you at today's meeting and through
2 the remainder of the comment period.

3 Over the last couple of days, we've been
4 talking with some of your local, state and federal
5 officials to get their input and we've been talking to
6 some of the local social services agencies. And the
7 staff will be doing their own independent
8 environmental review using sources that we have
9 available.

10 We'll be looking at a number of issues,
11 including the environmental impacts of the
12 construction and operation of two nuclear plants here
13 in this area. And we'll also be looking at
14 alternatives to that proposed action, including
15 proposed alternative sites and what those
16 environmental impacts will be.

17 And finally, we will also be looking at
18 possible mitigation measures which are things that can
19 be done to decrease the environmental impact of the
20 construction and operation of the plant.

21 Next slide, please. This slide gives you
22 an idea of the kind of things we'll be looking at
23 during the review. We'll be looking at ecological
24 issues, at public health issues and socio-economic
25 issues. And we'll also be looking at water use and

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1 water quality issues.

2 Now to prepare for this review, we've
3 assembled a team of NRC scientists -- excuse me -- NRC
4 staff with backgrounds in the scientific and technical
5 disciplines that are required to do this review. In
6 addition, we've engaged the assistance of the Pacific
7 Northwest National Laboratory to make sure that we
8 have a well-rounded knowledge base with which to do
9 this review. We've assembled a team of about 20
10 people with many of the NRC staff here today to hear
11 what you have to say.

12 Next slide, please. These are the key
13 dates for our review process for the early site
14 permit. We've already mentioned scoping and you can
15 submit your written comments to us having to do with
16 the scope of this review through December 4.

17 The public can petition to intervene
18 through December 11. Now we have copies of both
19 Federal Register notices which is the notice of intent
20 to prepare an EIS and conduct scoping and a notice of
21 hearing and opportunity to petition to intervene in
22 the back of the room. These notices describe how you
23 can both submit your scoping comments as well as
24 petition to intervene.

25 About nine months from now, we'll be

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1 issuing the draft environmental impact statement. As
2 I said earlier, we will have a public meeting on the
3 draft EIS currently scheduled for July of 2007. We'll
4 have another comment period during the July and August
5 time frame. After we've evaluated all your comments,
6 we expect to issue the final environmental impact
7 statement in May of 2008.

8 Then we expect the hearing to last about
9 one year and we think the Commission decision can be
10 expected about 33 to 35 months from the date of
11 application acceptance. So it's a very long process
12 and we're in the early stages of it now.

13 Next slide, please. This is just a
14 summary of what we've been talking about as to where
15 you can participate in this process. One thing I
16 would like to point out is that the hearing before the
17 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board does cover both the
18 safety as well as environmental issues.

19 Next slide, please. Now I want to use
20 this slide to refocus ourselves on why we are here
21 today. We're here to find out from you what you think
22 the environmental issues are that we should be looking
23 at during this review. You know this area a lot
24 better than we do and you know what concerns the
25 citizens of this area have, and you know what issues

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1 have resulted from the current operations of Plant
2 Vogtle. And that's why we are here today, to find out
3 what kind of issues you think should be assessed. And
4 if you think you need more time to think about it,
5 again, you have until December 4 in order to submit
6 your written comments.

7 Now other than making oral comments today
8 that are being transcribed, you can submit your
9 comments in writing. Most people do this by U.S. mail
10 at the address shown. Also, we've made available an
11 e-mail address so that you can submit your comments
12 that way. And although very few people take advantage
13 of this, you can also come up to Rockville to our
14 Rockville, Maryland offices and hand us a copy of your
15 comments.

16 Here are the NRC points of contact for the
17 Plant Vogtle ESP. In addition to myself, I've given
18 you the name and number of Christian, who is again our
19 Site Safety Project Manager. There is his phone
20 number in case you have any questions concerning the
21 site safety aspects of this review.

22 The application can be viewed on the
23 internet at our electronic reading room at the NRC's
24 website, which is nrc.gov. In addition, you can go to
25 the specific site that's listed there and you'll see

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1 all the documents concerning the early site permit for
2 the Plant Vogtle project. Now we have also put a copy
3 of the application at the Burke County Library, which
4 is located right next door here. And we'll be putting
5 documents and other information there throughout the
6 process as they become available.

7 And finally, if you would like to be
8 placed on our mailing list -- and that's one way of
9 ensuring that you'll be notified of upcoming meetings
10 and ensuring that you'll get a copy of the draft and
11 also the final environmental impact statement. So if
12 you wish to be put on our mailing list, be sure that
13 your name and address is provided to one of the NRC
14 staff at our registration desk.

15 And that concludes my comments.

16 MR. CAMERON: Great. Thank you very much,
17 Mark; thank you, Chris.

18 One thing I didn't mention at the
19 beginning of the meeting that may be good information
20 for you is that although Southern Nuclear is the
21 applicant for the early site permit, the co-owners of
22 any future new plant would be Georgia Power,
23 Oglethorpe Power, the Municipal Electric Authority of
24 Georgia and the City of Dalton. And in that regard,
25 one thing with the early site permit meetings that

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1 we've found is that a lot of people are always
2 wondering what's the company's rationale for applying
3 for the license and I just want to take a minute or
4 two to just have the company address that. Walter
5 Dukes, who is a Regional Vice President for Georgia
6 Power -- Walter, could you just give us a couple of
7 minutes? The company representatives are here and
8 will be available to talk to anybody after the
9 meeting, but this at least will give you a background
10 about why the company has applied for an early site
11 permit. Walter.

12 MR. DUKES: Thank you, Mr. Cameron.

13 I just want to take a few minutes to
14 briefly sort of represent the co-owners and share with
15 you a little bit about why plan to build now, why plan
16 to build a new generating facility right now.

17 The fact of the matter is, and I'm sure
18 you've seen it in the media, we're about to be
19 approaching that 300 million persons in the United
20 States of America, and closer to that in the
21 southeast, the population is growing like you would
22 not believe and we believe by 2040 about 40 percent of
23 the people will actually live in the southeast, and
24 even more specific than that, four million people will
25 be moving to Georgia by the year 2030 and that's

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1 significant. And in order to supply energy to those
2 individuals, we must increase our demand (sic), we
3 must increase our generation, because there's a huge
4 demand for electricity.

5 That requires us to start planning right
6 now and in order for us to be able to supply the
7 energy, especially by 2015, we must start planning
8 right now. We've selected nuclear as one of those
9 options. We believe we need to have a good, diverse
10 generation mix and we believe that nuclear will come
11 in at a very competitive cost, we think that's a good
12 reason to go with nuclear. We also think that nuclear
13 is very reliable and very safe. We have two plants
14 there in Burke County right now that are very
15 reliable, very safe and I believe that in this
16 community, the community will say the same thing. We
17 have great community support for those plants as well.

18 I think as you look at diversity of fuel
19 mix, when you look at coal versus hydro and some of
20 the others that we're using, when we add nuclear to
21 that, we end up with a very diverse fuel mix and I
22 think that gives us, gives America an independence
23 around energy. We need to not be depending on one
24 source of energy and that's an option, nuclear, that
25 helps us into having that diverse energy mix.

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1 We also believe it's a very low
2 environmental impact. We think that there are no
3 greenhouse gases associated with it.

4 And finally, I want to leave just one
5 point with you. Why Burke County? We believe that,
6 as I said before, we have two units here already that
7 have been very reliable, very safe and I think we have
8 much public support here, have a great partnership
9 here in Burke County and that's why we'd like to have
10 them right here in Burke County, two additional units.

11 Thank you so much.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Walter.

13 Let's take a couple of moments if there
14 are any questions about the process that Mark
15 described to you, before we go to the speakers. Is
16 there anybody who has a question, anything that we can
17 clarify for you tonight?

18 Just please introduce yourself.

19 MS. BREWER: I'm Krista Brewer with
20 Atlanta WAND. I would stand but I have a whole bunch
21 of stuff in my lap.

22 My quick question is this is an
23 environmental impact statement that we're considering
24 tonight. Are there going to be other opportunities to
25 look at economics, need, alternatives?

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1 MR. CAMERON: Good question. I think a
2 lot of those things are probably going to be
3 encompassed within the environmental impact statement.
4 Mark, can you talk a little bit about how those types
5 of issues are considered?

6 MR. NOTICH: Sure. As part of the
7 environmental report of Southern, they submitted a
8 need for power analysis as part of their documents.
9 So we'll be looking at that as part of our EIS. And
10 again, all of the socio-economic issues associated
11 with the plants -- schools, roads, transportation,
12 medical services, ambulance services, police services,
13 all that will be looked at in detail. Okay?

14 MR. CAMERON: Thanks.

15 MS. OLSON: I've just been sitting here
16 making a list of all the different nuclear operations
17 in this area and I'm not going to read it because it's
18 really long and I'm wondering in the early site permit
19 process whether all the dedicated exposures to
20 individuals who live in this area -- in other words,
21 everybody is getting radiation exposures already from
22 all the activities at Savannah River Site, which is a
23 really long list, plus there are some new proposed
24 facilities that NRC is in the process of thinking
25 about licensing there, like the MOx factory and

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1 potential reprocessing coming here. So how are you
2 going to handle the multiple exposures and the
3 dedicated dose in terms of analyzing this new proposal
4 for additional reactors?

5 MR. CAMERON: I'm going to go to Mark
6 again, but I think the question is do all of these
7 things get factored in, cumulative effects, whatever.
8 Mark.

9 MR. NOTICH: And as Chip just said, in one
10 of the assessments in our EIS, we look at the
11 cumulative effects of all these areas. So again, your
12 comments tonight will help us focus on those areas.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Mark. Anybody else
14 before we get to questions -- or comments? I think we
15 need to go there soon, but is there any major
16 ambiguity that we can clear up for you?

17 Okay, let's go to these two ladies.

18 MS. MIKLETHUN: My name is Betsey
19 Miklethun, I'm from WAND Atlanta. I thought that
20 originally this site was certified for four reactors.
21 Why are we going through this again?

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay, good question. And
23 Chris, do you want to do this one? Okay, Chris Nolan.
24 And the previous speaker was Mary Olson.

25 MR. NOLAN: Yes, originally Plant Vogtle

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1 was looked at as a four-unit site. They built two
2 units, didn't continue with the other units. They
3 have Part 50 licenses for their two units. Licensing
4 was done very different back at that time frame, where
5 the licensing process was done concurrent with the
6 construction process.

7 In the intervening time between that
8 period and now, the NRC has revamped its licensing
9 process and now has both the 10 CFR Part 50, which is
10 still available, and now the 10 CFR Part 52, which
11 allows all the licensing issues to be resolved before
12 plant construction begins. And Southern Nuclear has
13 decided to use the Part 52 licensing process, which
14 will start from now.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Let's take two
16 more questions, one here and then we'll go over there
17 and then we'll get on with listening to all of you.
18 Yes?

19 MS. VALENTIN: Good evening. My name is
20 Dianne Valentin and I'm representing my granddaughter
21 who suffers from asthma severely. She's hospitalized
22 a couple of times a year. And I think, Chris, when
23 you were talking, you mentioned that everyone doesn't
24 necessarily have to have an early site permit or seek
25 an early site permit? If they don't have to have an

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1 early site permit, what do they do, they just pick a
2 place and try to get licensing?

3 MR. CAMERON: We're going to go back to
4 Chris Nolan on that one.

5 MR. NOLAN: If a licensee chooses not to
6 use an early site permit, then all those siting issues
7 get evaluated in the combined license portion. So the
8 context of what the NRC looks at is not different,
9 whether a licensee uses an early site permit process
10 or not. It just allows them to take a portion of that
11 evaluation and move it earlier in time to get the site
12 selected earlier in time. If a licensee does not use
13 an early site permit, then when they apply for the
14 combined license, they have to propose alternative
15 sites as well as the one that they prefer, that will
16 be evaluated. The early site permit allows us to do
17 that evaluation earlier to let the licensee focus on
18 one site.

19 So in terms of our environmental impact
20 statement, the scope is identical, regardless of which
21 path the licensee takes.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And let's go for
23 a final question here and then we'll go to speakers.
24 And the staff will be here after the meeting and
25 available through e-mail, phone calls, whatever, to

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1 answer any other questions.

2 DR. CULLEY: I just had a question about
3 process. My understanding is that there was a change
4 in the licensing process, the ESP process itself is
5 new. And some have said that this is really limiting
6 the extent to which the public is allowed to
7 participate. And I'm wondering if somebody could
8 explain how and also, I want to get clarification on
9 what kind of comments from the public you will
10 actually consider, whether they are spoken or written.
11 My understanding -- and I want to get clear on that --
12 is that only those that are decided to have some kind
13 of technical merit will be responded to. Is that the
14 case or could you explain that a little more?

15 MR. CAMERON: Let me turn this over to the
16 staff, but I think you're going to hear from them that
17 this new process provides a number of more
18 opportunities for public participation than the old
19 process did. There will be considerable more public
20 meetings and requests for comments. And you mentioned
21 the term -- used the term "technical" questions. We
22 were talking about this earlier tonight in terms of,
23 Chris, when we were talking about environmental
24 concerns which is the subject tonight, but what if
25 there is a concern based on what we call the safety

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1 side rather than the environmental side. Chris, could
2 you just talk a little bit about what we do when we
3 hear those safety concerns?

4 MR. NOLAN: Sure. Thanks for the
5 question. All comments that are within the scope of
6 the environmental impact statement that we receive,
7 whether verbal at this meeting or submitted in
8 writing, will be formally addressed. There are
9 occasions when we get comments that are outside the
10 scope of the environmental impact statement. For
11 example, someone may have a comment on the existing
12 operating units. When we get those comments, we will
13 refer them to the portions of the agency that have
14 responsibility in those areas, for them to resolve in
15 their own processes and programs. If your comment is
16 related to some design detail associated with the
17 certified design, we'll direct that comment to the
18 safety side for the reactors. If it's an operating
19 issue, we may direct it to the allegations program, to
20 the region's resident inspector, wherever it's
21 appropriate to go.

22 With regards to the early site permit
23 versus a COL that doesn't rely on an early site
24 permit, the meeting and processes are the same. So
25 I'm not sure how to address the specific question.

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1 The only place I can see where public concern or
2 public comment may be diminished is if the licensee
3 requests an early site permit application and the
4 agency grants the permit, but the licensee doesn't
5 make a decision to build and they defer that decision
6 for 15 years.

7 The comments associated with the siting
8 issue will be done now, they'll have a 20-year period
9 to build that. So that's the way I could see the
10 viewpoint that public participation could be
11 diminished, and that would be a time consideration.
12 But in terms of the process we follow in development
13 of an environmental impact statement it's identical,
14 whether it's in an ESP or in the COL.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. That question
16 came from Dr. Marci Culley, Peggy.

17 And as Mark Notich had pointed out to me,
18 all of the comments that we receive will be -- there
19 will be a response to those comments, whatever the
20 comment is. Did you want to add anything further?

21 MR. NOTICH: Today's proceedings will be
22 documented in a scoping report and each comment will
23 be responded to for the draft environmental impact
24 statement when we come back here. Then each comment
25 will be represented in an appendix, along with the

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1 staff response to each one.

2 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you
3 for those questions.

4 We're going to get started with the
5 comment portion of the meeting and I'm just going to
6 give you a preview of who is going to be speaking so
7 that those people can be aware of when they're going
8 to talk. We're going to start first with Mayor Stone
9 of Waynesboro, then Senator J.B. Powell, Jim Hussey
10 who is a representative of Senator Chambliss, Marian
11 Vine, Susan Wood and Sara Barczak.

12 So, Mayor -- there he is. And unless
13 there's some problem that you have, we'd like
14 everybody to come up to the -- I guess that's not
15 turned on though, is it? Oh, it is?

16 VOICE: Yes. Well, either the hand-held
17 or the lapel.

18 MAYOR STONE: Good evening. I want to
19 thank everybody for coming out tonight to show your
20 interest in this important decision that's going to
21 affect our community and the lives of the people that
22 live here for many, many years.

23 I want to thank particularly the Nuclear
24 Regulatory Commission for the thoroughness and the
25 openness of the process that they have gone through to

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1 take into account all views with respect to the
2 decision to site the expanded nuclear generating units
3 in Burke County.

4 I want to thank the Southern Company and
5 all the partners that have worked with the Southern
6 Company over the years to make Plant Vogtle a safe and
7 reliable partner in our community's economic growth
8 and the economy of our state.

9 As Mayor of Waynesboro, we have the unique
10 position of being the county seat of Burke County. We
11 have 6000 residents here within a few miles of the
12 proposed site. So when the six member of our City
13 Council meet regularly, we take into account all the
14 things that we hear from the citizens that we
15 represent. And the discussion of Plant Vogtle has
16 been going on for months and quite honestly, the
17 overwhelming sentiment that we have heard is
18 favorable. It's because of this favorable sentiment
19 and because of our own duties as public leaders to
20 foster economic growth and protect the safety of our
21 citizens that we at a regular meeting passed the
22 following resolution:

23 A Resolution in Support for Expansion of
24 Plant Vogtle

25 Whereas, the Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear

1 Generating Plant has generated electricity in Burke
2 County since May 1987, and

3 Whereas, Waynesboro and Burke County are
4 proud of our neighbors, Georgia Power and Plant
5 Vogtle, for their record and history of producing
6 safe, clean, reliable and affordable electricity for
7 almost 20 years, and

8 Whereas, the owners of Plant Vogtle, in
9 order to continue meeting future energy demands in the
10 southeast, have announced their interest in expanding
11 and increasing reactor facilities in Burke County, and

12 Whereas, the Waynesboro City Council is
13 excited and proud to learn of this announcement and
14 supports Plant Vogtle in its proposed efforts through
15 the licensing and construction process, and

16 Whereas, the expansion of Plant Vogtle
17 will bring, in addition to increased power, an
18 increase in employment, property tax base and growth
19 to our community,

20 Therefore, be it resolved by the Mayor and
21 Council, by unanimous vote held at the regular Council
22 meeting of October 16, 2006, that the Waynesboro City
23 Council announces its support of the expansion
24 proposed at the Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Generating
25 Plant, and encourages the Waynesboro and Burke County

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1 community to continue its support throughout the
2 licensing and construction period.

3 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my
4 hand and caused the seal of the City of Waynesboro to
5 be affixed, the 16th day of October 2006. Jesse
6 Stone, Mayor.

7 I want to say that having grown up in
8 Waynesboro, that I remember the day walking out of
9 Jake Roundtree's barber shop when I saw the
10 announcement in the True Citizen that Plant Vogtle was
11 going to be built, a four-unit project. It was one of
12 the most exciting times that I can remember as far as
13 things that affect the community. And during the
14 nearly 35 years since that announcement, we have seen
15 the good things that Plant Vogtle has brought to our
16 community. We were disappointed that they didn't
17 build the four units to start with, but we are
18 encouraged that they will make this expansion a
19 reality.

20 We can't think of a better site in Georgia
21 or in the southeast for this expansion to occur in,
22 considering all the factors that go into the
23 environmental process. And we hope that the NRC will
24 continue receiving input from the community and from
25 all the people that have a stake in this project, as

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1 we move forward to the next phase.

2 Thank you for allowing me to talk.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mayor.

4 Senator Powell. And I hope that this
5 isn't awkward for anybody to have to use that, but
6 that's what we have.

7 SENATOR POWELL: Well, for me, any time I
8 get up to make a public speech, it's awkward.

9 (Laughter.)

10 SENATOR POWELL: Good evening, ladies and
11 gentlemen. I'll be very brief because I know there
12 are a lot of speakers here tonight and I know they
13 want to hear from everybody. Hopefully they will get
14 through this rapidly so that everybody can go home and
15 at least get some sleep before daylight.

16 I want to tell you about Plant Vogtle.
17 I'm here in support of the expansion of Plant Vogtle
18 and I'm going to tell you four reasons why basically
19 I am in favor of Plant Vogtle.

20 Economic development for this community --
21 and I don't mean just for Burke County, I mean
22 regionally -- this is a good project. It comes very,
23 very highly recommended. The new processes that will
24 be in place, the new procedures I should say, that
25 will be in place for the reactors will expedite this

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1 project and get it on line even more rapidly.

2 The Southern Company safety record is an
3 astronomical record. They are steady maintaining and
4 striving and training their employees to do a better
5 job for safety.

6 Plant Vogtle has been a good neighbor, a
7 good neighbor for Burke County, a good neighbor for
8 the Carolinas across the river, a good neighbor for
9 the region. I live in Blythe, Georgia and I can look
10 across some days and see the steam coming out of the
11 reactors and it's a good, good neighbor.

12 It's been environmentally friendly. There
13 have been no episodes that I know of for Plant Vogtle
14 that has endangered our environment in any way.
15 Nuclear power is very clean, it is the most clean way
16 of producing electricity for our future needs that
17 there is known to man at this time.

18 I want to thank you all for coming out in
19 support of this project. I want to go on record
20 saying that the State Senate is in favor of this
21 project, the Georgia legislature is in favor of this
22 project, and we changed the rules a little bit to
23 expedite the new type of reactor that will be put in
24 place here, so it will expedite this project. I hope
25 that all regards will be given to moving this project

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1 through the Nuclear Regulatory Commission so that
2 Plant Vogtle will become a reality for Burke County
3 and our entire community.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Senator Powell;
6 thank you very much.

7 Jim -- Jim Hussey, who is going to be
8 speaking for Senator Chambliss.

9 MR. HUSSEY: Good evening. My name is Jim
10 Hussey, I'm the Regional Representative for United
11 States Senator Saxby Chambliss and Ms. Nancy Bobbitt
12 back here is representative for United States Senator
13 Johnny Isakson.

14 Before I read the letter, I'd just like to
15 reinforce what has been said. Both Senators -- and of
16 course I will read the joint support letter -- support
17 it because of the current projected demand for energy
18 and power not only in the nation and the world, but in
19 this area. Of course, we all look at gas prices and
20 everything else and our dependency. The Senator of
21 course is on the Intel, the Armed Forces Committee,
22 and we see what it is doing in the Middle East and it
23 can get us off that dependence.

24 The other thing, of course, the past
25 safety record of the current caretaker of Vogtle and

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1 of course the positive impact that this will mean for
2 this area and this region.

3 I will read the joint letter of support
4 from both Senators.

5 To the Honorable Dale Klein, Chairman,
6 United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

7 Dear Chairman Klein:

8 We are writing to voice our strong support
9 for the Southern Nuclear Operating Company's
10 application for an Early Site Permit for two
11 additional reactors on the site of the Alvin W. Vogtle
12 Electric Generating Plant near Waynesboro, Georgia.
13 Stakeholders in Plant Vogtle have told us they
14 estimate they will need additional baseload power
15 supplies by the year 2015 to accommodate the demand
16 for power in our state for the coming decades.

17 In the year 2005, Georgia's population
18 grew by 79,000 people and projections show the
19 population will increase by four million by the year
20 2030.

21 The owners of the Vogtle plant -- Georgia
22 Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal
23 Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG) and Dalton
24 Utilities -- have a proven record for safe operation
25 of nuclear facilities and operate the existing Vogtle

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1 plant in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.
2 Through their diligence and your oversight, rigorous
3 procedures and regulations have been developed and
4 implemented to ensure the highest level of safety at
5 the Vogtle facility.

6 We are very supportive of these
7 applications and ask that following the appropriate
8 permitting review process, you grant Southern Nuclear
9 Company the Early Site Permit requested for the Vogtle
10 site.

11 Should you or your staff or anyone have
12 any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or
13 our staff.

14 Signed, Sincerely, Johnny Isakson, Saxby
15 Chambliss, United States Senators, Georgia.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you; thank the
17 Senators for us.

18 Marian. This is Marian Vine. If you want
19 to stand maybe beside the podium so everybody can see
20 you -- or you can come here so you can put that paper
21 down. All right.

22 MS. VINE: My name is Marian Vine and I am
23 12 years old. I love Burke County, my family has a
24 blueberry farm here. I would like to live here for
25 the rest of my life.

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1 Before you give Southern Nuclear their
2 license, please think about what is best for the
3 people in our community.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Marian.

5 Now I'm going to go to Susan Wood.

6 MS. WOOD: Thank you. Good evening. I am
7 Dr. Susan Wood, I am Chairperson of the Board of
8 Directors of Citizens of Nuclear Technology Awareness
9 or CNTA. Previously, I was the Director of the
10 Savannah River Technology Center, now Savannah River
11 National Laboratory.

12 CNTA is the nation's largest grassroots
13 pro-nuclear education and advocacy group with over
14 2000 members and sponsors. Our goal is to provide
15 factual and objective information on beneficial
16 nuclear technologies to students, the public and
17 elected officials.

18 The citizens of this geographical area are
19 very familiar with and comfortable with a large
20 variety of nuclear enterprises. Some examples are:

21 The large Savannah River Site, SRS, which
22 has been a very good neighbor since 1951. The Centers
23 for Disease Control just recently issued a large
24 report they've been working on for about 13 years
25 showing that people in and around the site since its

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1 beginning have not received harmful doses of radiation
2 during that time.

3 Near Barnwell, there is a well-run low-
4 level waste repository and a promotional laundry for
5 slightly contaminated clothing.

6 The Medical College of Georgia has a large
7 and successful nuclear medicine program.

8 In Columbia, South Carolina, Westinghouse
9 manufactures low enriched uranium fuel for promotional
10 power reactors.

11 And here, in Burke County, Southern
12 Nuclear Operating Company and Georgia Power operate
13 two nuclear reactors. They have done it safely and
14 efficiently, providing much needed electricity for
15 Georgians.

16 The people of this area know that Georgia
17 Power has been a good and responsible neighbor, a
18 valued friend of Burke County. They employ several
19 hundred people and pay good salaries. They make a
20 major contribution to the tax base and have made
21 generous contributions to worthy community causes.

22 Surveys made here and throughout the
23 country show that 84 to 85 percent of people who live
24 near existing nuclear plants fully support the
25 building of additional nuclear plants near them or

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1 elsewhere. This is about as close to unanimous as you
2 can get in the U.S. on any subject. These people know
3 that today's reactors are not only safe, but do not
4 pollute the ground, streams or the atmosphere. For
5 example, they don't contribute to acid rain, smog,
6 heavy metal contamination, ozone depletion or global
7 warming.

8 Some have expressed concern that two more
9 reactors at Plant Vogtle would consume too much water
10 in the Savannah River. That criticism is without
11 merit. Plant Vogtle currently consumes only 0.6
12 percent of the river flow under normal conditions.
13 The water taken from the Savannah River to cool the
14 reactors is itself cooled in the cooling towers, then
15 returned to the river. The only water actually
16 removed is the small amount of water vapor that goes
17 into the atmosphere. Also, the water returned to the
18 river is only one degree Celsius higher than when it
19 was withdrawn, and that increases the river water
20 temperature by only 0.0008 degrees Celsius, not a
21 significant effect.

22 The people in this area are very
23 knowledgeable and because they are, they are
24 supportive of Georgia Power's plans to add two more
25 reactors to Plant Vogtle. Frankly, we can't conceive

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1 of a more favorable environment. The citizens here
2 know from experience that Georgia Power can be trusted
3 to have safe and well managed plants.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Susan.

6 And now we're going to go to Sara, Sara
7 Barczak.

8 MS. BARCZAK: Good evening. My name is
9 Sara Barczak, I'm the Safe Energy Director with
10 Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. We're a non-
11 profit energy policy organization with members
12 throughout Georgia who are concerned about energy and
13 the environment. I am a resident of the downstream
14 community of Savannah. The issue of building more
15 nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle will affect not just
16 this local community, but Georgia as a whole and our
17 region overall. I hope the NRC staff understands that
18 we need to do what will benefit all.

19 The NRC needs to fully research other
20 energy choices, including energy efficiency and
21 conservation. Renewable energy supplies are available
22 here in Georgia, such as biopower, solar, and wind.
23 These energy supplies should be supported due in part
24 because they do keep dollars here at home. The NRC
25 should be aware that new, certified wind maps of

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1 Georgia will be released by the National Renewable
2 Energy Laboratory later this month. Additionally, the
3 potential to use Georgia's plentiful agriculture and
4 forestry resources must be evaluated. A conservative
5 estimate from a University of Georgia study showed
6 that as much as 12 percent of Georgia's total
7 electricity demand could be generated from biomass.
8 The benefits to Georgia include increased self-
9 sufficiency, improved water resource quality and long-
10 term environmental and rural development benefits.

11 Energy efficiency and conservation
12 represent the quickest, safest, cheapest way to
13 provide more power and to best protect our air and
14 water resources. The NRC needs to know that in 2001,
15 the Energy Information Administration ranked Georgia
16 eighth in the nation for per capital energy
17 consumption for electricity and 40th in per capita
18 spending on energy efficiency programs. Additionally,
19 we are an energy exporting state. We use our natural
20 resources, impact our citizens' health and pile up
21 nuclear waste within our borders to power other
22 states' air conditioning units. The NRC needs to
23 evaluate both Georgia's actual need for power and how
24 conservation and efficiency could reduce this supposed
25 need.

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1 Power plants have a tremendous impact on
2 our water resources. Our future energy choices make
3 a big difference on the future of the river basins and
4 the communities and businesses reliant on those water
5 resources. And given that the early site permit is
6 valid for 20 years with a possible 20-year extension,
7 we believe the NRC needs to evaluate not only the
8 Georgia of today, but the Georgia we need to be living
9 in 20 to 40 years from now.

10 Most people are not aware that the nuclear
11 plants in Georgia have larger water permits than most
12 municipalities, yet we're here today talking about a
13 significant expansion of that site, which will have an
14 incredible impact on the Savannah River. Right now
15 this plant is only returning a third of what it's
16 withdrawing from the Savannah River.

17 A large amount of water that is lost is
18 evaporative loss from the cooling towers. The NRC
19 needs to evaluate the increased water vapor that is
20 projected with the addition of two new reactors, not
21 only in terms of water lost from the supply source,
22 but also in terms of global warming. Water vapor has
23 been identified as a contributor to global warming.
24 Additionally, the NRC needs to evaluate predicted
25 effects of global warming on this region and how

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1 nuclear power plants may be negatively impacted or
2 unable to generate electricity. This was demonstrated
3 by the heat wave this past summer in Europe, where
4 nuclear power plants from Sweden to France had to shut
5 down because the lake or river water temperatures were
6 too high to allow for safe operation of their nuclear
7 plants.

8 And I'm wrapping it up here. Further, if
9 we're looking to support a nuclear power
10 infrastructure, we need to make sure we're able to
11 support the needs to oversee it properly for the
12 public. Right now, the NRC must be aware that we've
13 got a shortfall in terms of funding and capacity in
14 Georgia to properly monitor the nuclear facilities we
15 already have, let alone more that could be brought on
16 line in the future.

17 As a downstream resident, I'm very
18 concerned about tritium, a radioactive form of
19 hydrogen that can impact our health, especially that
20 of a developing fetus. Faced with saltwater intrusion
21 of the Floridan Aquifer, both Beaufort and Jasper
22 Counties in South Carolina and the Savannah area will
23 become more dependent on the Savannah River for
24 drinking water. Plant Vogtle already contributes to
25 the tritium in the river and building more reactors

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1 will increase this. The NRC needs to study tritium in
2 the river, future projections, especially given SRS's
3 already large contribution to the tritium pollution,
4 and to analyze this with droughts and future
5 population growth in mind.

6 And lastly, I was made aware of an 800-
7 page report done in 1980, NUREG/CR-1345, by a panel of
8 industry experts to make future reactor designs more
9 secure. A number of feasible, low-cost design changes
10 to make nuclear plants less vulnerable to sabotage and
11 acts of terror were offered and apparently not one,
12 none, of these low-cost changes appear in the so-
13 called advanced reactor designs. Will the NRC please
14 refer to this report and make sure that the new
15 reactors proposed for Vogtle take these low-cost
16 changes into account? The future safety of not only
17 this community, but many, many others such as the one
18 that I live in are at stake.

19 Thank you for your time and consideration.
20 I'm very sorry I went over, I tried to talk fast.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thanks.

22 Our next set of speakers, we're going to
23 go to Clinton Stanford, Merv Waldrop, Ashley Long,
24 Carrie Phillip, Richard Byne and Jerry Coalson. And
25 Mr. Stanford, I'm going to bring you the microphone

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1 back here. Okay?

2 MR. STANFORD: I'm Clinton Stanford and I
3 live here in Waynesboro. I was a previous employee of
4 the nuclear plant, the Hatch plant. I was down there
5 starting in 1970 and I was there for the duration of
6 building the plant. I transferred up here and I came
7 here and stayed out there until I retired.

8 I can tell you now that these are two of
9 the safest nuclear power plants I think in the whole
10 United States and I wouldn't be scared to live next
11 door to one of them.

12 How much time do I have?

13 (Laughter.)

14 MR. CAMERON: You've got a couple of
15 minutes left.

16 MR. STANFORD: I was material control
17 supervisor for Plant Hatch. I controlled all
18 materials that went into that plant down there and you
19 fellows with the NRC, you know what I'm talking about,
20 we had to be ready for the NRC at all times, and I
21 didn't mind it because I lived it, I welcomed them to
22 come in. We always had good working relationship with
23 the NRC. I was talking to an NRC man before the
24 meeting tonight and he was an inspector and I was an
25 inspector in the Army, and a good inspector will find

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1 something wrong; if he's not a good inspector, he can
2 find something wrong, it might be minor, but he's got
3 to find something or he'll have to get him a job. We
4 were ready for them at all times.

5 Let the people know that are against this
6 that everything concerning nuclear power plants is
7 inspected. We have -- in materials, we've got Form 1,
8 that's your non-critical material that you use for
9 temporary stuff or non-nuclear; then you've got
10 nuclear grades 1, 2 and 3. Grade 1 being the most
11 crucial; grade 2 and then grade 3. You can upgrade,
12 but you can't downgrade. If you have iso-electric or
13 iso and the sheet calls for a class 2 in there, you
14 can't use class 3 in it. You can use class 1 if you
15 need to, but you can't go down in grade, you've got to
16 upgrade. They won't go for that.

17 All the welders we had down there in any
18 nuclear plant, they are tested and qualified and they
19 are given a stencil number and for every weld that
20 they made, there's a stencil that goes beside it at
21 the weld. So you can go in there at the Hatch plant
22 and there'll be welds made down there back in the
23 '70s, '70 to '75, you can tell who made that weld and
24 documentation.

25 The QA department is the backbone of any

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1 nuclear power plant because they do the inspecting of
2 what's going on and you don't have to worry about it.

3 After we get through with this, if
4 anybody's got any questions about anything concerning
5 that, I'd be glad to talk to you about it.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Stanford;
7 thanks for coming out tonight.

8 Merv Waldrop.

9 MR. WALDROP: I have a resolution to read
10 on behalf of the Burke County Board of Commissioners.

11 Whereas, the Alvin Vogtle Electric
12 Generating Plant has been operating in Burke County
13 for nearly 20 years, and

14 Whereas, Plant Vogtle has had an excellent
15 safety record for the life of its operation, and

16 Whereas, Plant Vogtle has been an
17 outstanding corporate citizen through the years, and

18 Whereas, Plant Vogtle has provided safe,
19 clean energy for our state and jobs for our community,
20 and

21 Whereas, Southern Nuclear is considering
22 expanding the plant by constructing two new reactors
23 at Plant Vogtle, and

24 Whereas, the proposed expansion of Plant
25 Vogtle will bring even more jobs and be a boost to the

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1 economy of our county;

2 Now, therefore, be it resolved that the
3 Board of Commissioners of Burke County fully supports
4 the idea of constructing two new reactors at Plant
5 Vogtle.

6 That was adopted today, October 19.

7 MR. CAMERON: Great, thank you very much,
8 Merv.

9 Ashley.

10 MS. LONG: My name is Ashley Long and I'm
11 the Executive Director of Burke County Chamber of
12 Commerce. Our Board of Directors recently adopted a
13 position statement on the expansion of Plant Vogtle
14 and I'm just going to read it real briefly.

15 The Burke County Chamber of Commerce
16 supports Georgia Power in its proposed expansion of
17 Plant Vogtle to include additional reactors. The
18 Chamber feels this is a positive development for our
19 community and region in several ways.

20 We believe this expansion will allow us to
21 continue to receive clean, cost-effective and reliable
22 electric energy to serve our community. The addition
23 at Plant Vogtle will further enhance recognition of
24 the Central Savannah River Area as the nation's hub
25 for the resurgent nuclear energy industry. Finally,

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1 the jobs and economic activity created by the
2 construction and continuing operation of Plant Vogtle
3 will boost our area's economy.

4 The Burke County Chamber of Commerce is
5 proud to have Plant Vogtle in our community. We are
6 excited at the prospect of this expansion. The Burke
7 County Chamber of Commerce supports the expansion
8 project throughout its licensing, construction and
9 eventual operation.

10 I also have a resolution of support from
11 the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce. We have a
12 very strong working relationship with them. They
13 could not be here with us. I'm not going to read it,
14 it says very similar things, but I would like to
15 submit it into the record.

16 I've also received a letter of support
17 from the President and CEO of Dalton Utilities, which
18 is one of the co-owners. I won't read the whole
19 letter, but I would like to just pick out one
20 paragraph that says, "As a co-owner of the existing
21 Vogtle Plant, Dalton Utilities knows well Southern
22 Nuclear Operating Company's proven track record for
23 safety and excellence. As a municipal utility, we
24 also know that more electric power is needed to meet
25 the growing demands of our state. The addition of two

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1 more units at the Vogtle site will be good for Georgia
2 and good for Dalton Utilities' ratepayers." There
3 also is attached to that some letters of support from
4 their legislators and business leaders.

5 In closing, I just have two comments that
6 I wanted to make. One of those is it's very obvious
7 the economic impact that Vogtle contributes to our
8 community, but what I think maybe some of the people
9 don't realize that may not live here is the important
10 contributions that they make as a corporate citizens.
11 Out of my 13 years of living and working in the
12 Chamber here in Burke County, I don't know of any
13 other company that provides so much corporate
14 citizenship as Georgia Power and Plant Vogtle.
15 There's probably not any activities, civic or
16 charitable, that they're not involved with in some
17 way. They have extremely fine employees, the
18 leadership is outstanding and I think we're really
19 blessed to have them in our community.

20 And the last thing I'd like to say is just
21 recently I was doing an interview and they asked a
22 question, which I'm sure many people probably wonder.
23 Sometimes do our local leadership, do we feel like
24 we're blinded to maybe some of the environmental
25 concern by maybe the economic impact, and I'd just

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1 like to say that I can assure you that we as community
2 leaders, we live here, we have children that live
3 here, some of us have grandchildren and I can assure
4 you that we would not support something that we did
5 not feel was very safe and in the best interest of our
6 community.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ashley.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. CAMERON: Carrie.

11 MS. PHILLIP: Good evening. I appreciate
12 the opportunity to speak to the Nuclear Regulatory
13 Commission tonight in support of the early site permit
14 for Vogtle Units 3 and 4. My name is Carrie Phillip
15 and I'm a founding member of U.S. Women in Nuclear,
16 commonly called WIN, which was established in 1999 and
17 is a network of more than 2200 men and women who work
18 in the nuclear and radiation fields across the
19 country. I'm also a founding member of a local WIN
20 chapter for Southern Nuclear and I serve on the
21 leadership team with the U.S. WIN organization.

22 U.S. Women in Nuclear is an affiliate of
23 an organization which has over 2000 members in 60
24 countries. So as you can see through our
25 organization, we can reach out across the globe to tap

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1 into resources to share information not only with
2 members, but to the families, friends, peers and
3 business associates throughout the world as well as
4 locally.

5 The strategic objectives of WIN are to
6 support an environment in nuclear energy and nuclear
7 technology in which men and women can succeed, to
8 provide a network through which the women in these
9 fields can further their professional development and
10 to provide an organized association through which the
11 public is informed about nuclear energy and nuclear
12 technology.

13 U.S. WIN members are active both locally
14 and regionally and also participate strongly at the
15 national level with opportunities to participate
16 globally as well. WIN is inclusive of all disciplines
17 and occupations in the nuclear industry and provides
18 opportunities for members to further their personal,
19 technical and professional development. This
20 facilitates our ability to attract and retain highly
21 skilled and motivated career professionals.

22 Historically, the number of women working
23 in nuclear-related fields, especially in leadership
24 positions, has been low compared to other occupational
25 groups. WIN has been instrumental in communicating

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1 and educating the value and diversity of women and the
2 role that women have in support of nuclear energy and
3 in providing encouragement and mentors to members to
4 support career advancement.

5 Additional units at Plant Vogtle would
6 create new job opportunities at the Vogtle site for
7 many different occupations for local residents,
8 technical school and college graduates, as well as to
9 spur the economic growth in surrounding communities.
10 These opportunities would offer more career choices to
11 local residents allowing more citizens to remain in
12 their communities. This would foster growth for them
13 in nuclear and I would expect that women would receive
14 some of these new jobs. WIN members represent another
15 voice for the nuclear industry, a clear voice reaching
16 out to educate and inform the public, to ensure that
17 they have all the facts about nuclear power. But
18 primarily our mission is to build a strong and broad
19 network that encourages our members to succeed in an
20 industry that's critical to the infrastructure of our
21 country.

22 On behalf of the 200 members of the
23 Southern Nuclear Chapter of U.S. WIN, we support the
24 early site permit for Vogtle Units 3 and 4. We
25 believe that the region and local economy will

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1 benefits from the additional units.

2 We believe that nuclear energy is a safe,
3 reliable and cost-effective source of electricity that
4 helps to improve the environment by not emitting
5 carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.
6 Clean, affordable nuclear energy means that you will
7 have clean air for your children and a bustling
8 economy in the southeast providing more jobs for your
9 families.

10 As mothers, daughters, grandmothers,
11 aunts, wives, professional women, sisters and mentors
12 to our young people, we believe that nuclear power is
13 important, not only right here in Burke County, but in
14 our nation. Women have always been nurturers of our
15 families. Working women have an additional role to
16 nurture employees and co-workers. Just as we nurture
17 our children, we need to support the nuclear power
18 industry. Both are important to our country's future
19 and that's a win-win for everybody.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Carrie.

22 Now we're going to go to Richard Byne, and
23 Richard, you know that any fame that you have from now
24 on is because you're the father of Marian.

25 (Laughter.)

1 MR. BYNE: Touches my heart.

2 My name is Richard Byne, my nickname is
3 Dick. I'm a long life resident of Burke County. My
4 family has been here for a long, long time, even
5 before I was born. I have a current farm, I'm a
6 current City Council member and I plan on being here
7 until I die.

8 In the '70s, I watched Plant Vogtle start
9 its process of building the current reactors. It was
10 one big hole. I have known and have worked with so
11 many of the employees of the Southern Nuclear staff,
12 I've worked with a lot of them in the Recreation
13 Department. The staff is very capable and I have been
14 impressed with the way they handle themselves in this
15 community. They're all professionals, they're the
16 cream of the crop. They're -- the ones I know are all
17 family people. They're high caliber, they have a high
18 standard for their families and themselves, they add
19 tremendous quality to our community and any community
20 would be very proud.

21 Many occasions, I've asked them a lot of
22 questions, this is over the last 30 years. I've been
23 treated with respect. I do not know a lot about
24 nuclear power but what I've been exposed to, I'm very
25 pleased. The staff at Vogtle has answered my

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1 questions, they've taken me to their plant. I feel
2 very comfortable with Southern Nuclear adding two new
3 reactors to the current plant.

4 I appreciate you letting me speak and I
5 appreciate you letting everybody speak.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Richard.

7 Jerry Coalson.

8 MR. COALSON: Thank you. Hello, my name
9 is Jerry Coalson, I'm the City Administrator for the
10 City of Waynesboro. I'm also a concerned citizen.

11 I have a whole page of notes that I could
12 read off, but to be honest with you, they've pretty
13 much been covered by most everyone in this room.

14 I wanted to say I second anyone who
15 supports Plant Vogtle, the activities of Georgia
16 Power. From all the citizens that I've been
17 encountered with in Burke County -- I've lived here
18 for three years and worked with the City for ten --
19 most every one of them appreciates the contributions
20 that have been made to our community and they are very
21 proud to hear that they want to expand their
22 activities in this area.

23 Again, I want to second the support from
24 those here and thank the NRC for their activities.
25 Thank you.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Great, thank you, Jerry.

2 Our next set of speakers, we're going to
3 go to Rusty Sanders, then Sue Parr, Frank Bove, Delisa
4 Pournaras and Mayor Grunewald of Girard.

5 Rusty.

6 MR. SANDERS: Good evening. I'm Rusty
7 Sanders, I've been a Burke County resident for about
8 23 years, the last 19 years, I've worked for the
9 people in Burke County, 15 of those years as the
10 Assistant Director of the Burke County Emergency
11 Management Agency, the last four years I've served as
12 the Director of the Emergency Management Agency.

13 I've had a lot of contact with Southern
14 Nuclear personnel, the staff. It's been a pleasure to
15 interact with them. I've interacted with Southern
16 Nuclear staff at Plant Vogtle, Southern Nuclear staff
17 at the corporate office in Birmingham, and it has been
18 a pleasure. Over those years, I have directly been
19 involved with many evacuated and non-evacuated
20 exercises. I've had many opportunities to tour Plant
21 Vogtle, I have participated in emergency planning at
22 Plant Vogtle, participated in table top exercises, and
23 it has all been a pleasure.

24 The Southern Nuclear staff has always been
25 willing to assist in any way they can. They've always

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1 answered our questions very rapidly and appropriately
2 and rendered any assistance that they could lend.

3 Prior to coming to Burke County, I spent
4 13 years in another county directly involved with
5 emergency services with a lot of different type
6 industries that was dealing with hazardous materials.
7 I was awed when I came to Burke County and became
8 involved with Southern Nuclear with their expertise,
9 their assistance, their guidance, their openness,
10 their willingness to assist, their support for the
11 emergency services.

12 I'd like to go on record as a citizen of
13 Burke County and also as Director of the Burke County
14 Emergency Management in support of the early site
15 permit and future construction and operation of the
16 two new units.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Rusty.

19 This is Sue Parr.

20 MS. PARR: Good evening. My name is Sue
21 Parr, I'm the President of the Augusta Metro Chamber
22 of Commerce. Our organization has 12,000 members
23 throughout the CSRA.

24 The issue of energy capacity within our
25 region is of significant interest and therefore, the

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1 Board has ratified a position that I'd like to read to
2 you.

3 The Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce
4 supports the expansion of Plant Vogtle to meet our
5 region's energy needs. The Chamber believes that the
6 expansion represents a safe, dependable and
7 environmentally responsible solution to our demand for
8 electricity. We encourage the NRC to review all
9 pertinent information and we believe you will
10 determine the same.

11 The southeast section of the United States
12 is growing rapidly and this growth means increased
13 energy demand. Improved conservation will not meet
14 this demand alone. That is why it is vital that we
15 begin to develop increased capacity. The proposed
16 addition to Plant Vogtle is an important piece in our
17 energy puzzle for this state. Generation using
18 nuclear power allows the creation of stable, cost-
19 effective electricity while minimizing the impact on
20 the environment. Plant Vogtle creates no significant
21 impact on the quality of our air and uses a
22 proportionally minor amount of our water resources.
23 The benefits of this facility clearly outweigh the
24 costs.

25 The Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce

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1 supports the continued development of Plant Vogtle.
2 It is the right answer to today's energy needs.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sue.

5 Frank, this is Frank Bove.

6 MR. BOVE: My name is Dr. Frank Bove, I'm
7 a Board member of Environmental Community Action, or
8 Eco-Action. We're a grassroots non-profit
9 organization which assists communities in organizing
10 against environmental threats.

11 One of the things we're trying to promote
12 in the state and the country is what's called the
13 precautionary principle, which guides energy and
14 environmental policy in Europe. We've asked that the
15 NRC take precautionary principle into consideration in
16 evaluating this permit, which we oppose.

17 The precautionary principle has several
18 parts to it. Real quick, the key one is take
19 preventive action in the face of uncertainty, but with
20 credible evidence of potential harm -- that's
21 important. Another one is explore a wide range of
22 alternatives, and that's the second thing I want to
23 talk about today, because there's plenty written about
24 the hazards of nuclear power. I could get up here and
25 talk about the hazards of nuclear power all day long.

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1 I'm not going to do that. But it's unnecessary, it's
2 dangerous technology, it's costly technology. There
3 are alternatives, there are plenty of alternatives
4 that haven't been explored in this state or in the
5 country that can be explored.

6 For example, Georgia is near the bottom in
7 spending on energy efficiency. We're 37th according
8 to a 2003 report, we were 40th in 2000, we're coming
9 up, but we're still -- compared to the national
10 average, we spent 31 times less on energy efficiency
11 in this state than the national average. It's
12 ridiculous.

13 There was a statement in the Georgia
14 Environmental Facilities Authority assessment which
15 evaluated the use of energy efficiency in this state,
16 and I quote from that report that was issued in 2005,
17 it says "The state of Georgia has not invested in
18 energy efficiency as vigorously as most other states.
19 In fact, Georgia is one of a small number of states in
20 which energy efficiency programs are barely in
21 evidence."

22 They go on to say that the benefits of
23 energy efficiency is not wasting energy. Using energy
24 efficiently would be \$1.5 million in reduction in the
25 water usage in the state. Other states are moving

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1 ahead and Georgia is not. Why is that?

2 The second draft state energy plan was
3 issued a few months ago, and I quote from that, "At
4 present, there are only limited programs in place in
5 Georgia designed to reduce energy demand." We heard
6 from the Vice President of Georgia Power tonight that
7 we have to increase demand. I think he misspoke, but
8 that's sort of the attitude of Georgia Power.

9 And I continue to quote, "Also, there are
10 only very minimal policies in place to help bring
11 about energy demand reductions." The utilities don't
12 want to reduce energy demand, they want to increase it
13 because that's how they make money.

14 There's a new study that was issued just
15 this year by MIT Press called "Southern Revolution"
16 and in that study -- and I'll end with this -- they
17 compare nuclear power, wind, coal, solar, thermal,
18 photovoltaic. They compare all these in costs. And
19 they say let's let the market do its thing. We've
20 never let nuclear power do that, we've always
21 subsidized nuclear power because if we let the market
22 do its thing, we wouldn't be sitting here tonight.
23 But if we let the market do its thing, solar and
24 thermal actually is comparable to nuclear power right
25 now. And wind is one-third to one-half less -- right

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1 now. In ten years, photovoltaics will be competitive
2 with nuclear power and the good thing about
3 photovoltaics is you build them modularly when you
4 need them and they go on line immediately, you don't
5 have to wait years for them to produce electricity.

6 So in closing, there's a reason why there
7 hasn't been any nuclear power plants built in this
8 country for many years. They're dangerous, they're
9 costly and they're totally unnecessary.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: Bove. Thank you, Frank.

13 Delisa.

14 MS. POURNARAS: Good evening.

15 First of all, let me thank you for
16 allowing me the opportunity to speak tonight. My name
17 is Delisa Pournaras, I'm a chemical engineer and I
18 graduated from Auburn University and I began my career
19 in nuclear power working for Vogtle from the year 2000
20 to 2004.

21 But tonight, I'm here on behalf of North
22 American Young Generation in Nuclear. We're a non-
23 profit organization of young professionals in nuclear
24 science and technology, also known as NA-YGN. Our
25 organization was formed in 1999 and has united more

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1 than 2200 young professionals that share a personal
2 conviction that nuclear science and technology make
3 important and valued contributions to our society.

4 We support nuclear power because it's
5 safe, it's clean, it's reliable and an important part
6 of a balanced energy mix.

7 And as part of that organization, I'm here
8 tonight to give my support for the early site permit
9 for Vogtle's Units 3 and 4.

10 Nuclear power has matured into an industry
11 that makes safety its highest priority. It has proven
12 itself to operate safely and reliably over the past 25
13 years. According to Department of Labor statistics,
14 nuclear power is the safest of all industries to work.
15 Those statistics don't surprise me, having worked in
16 nuclear power.

17 When I first began working in nuclear, I
18 was amazed to learn that nuclear companies actually
19 share their operating experience with their
20 competitors. What other industries do you know of
21 that actually allow their competition to see what
22 they've learned? This is only part of a strong and
23 open safety culture that has allowed the entire
24 industry to improve equipment and technology, its
25 techniques and organizational practices over the

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1 years.

2 As young professionals working in nuclear,
3 we know that safety will always be the highest
4 priority for this industry. As nuclear professionals,
5 we also believe it's important that we're good
6 stewards of the environment. Nuclear is clean energy
7 that has very small impact on water, land, habitat,
8 species and air resources within our environment.

9 Nuclear power plants produce no emissions
10 and no greenhouse gases. Nuclear power is a source of
11 clean, emission-free energy and clearly it has already
12 had a positive impact on Georgia's environment.

13 Now let's bring it a little closer to
14 home. You've heard a little about this before, but
15 the addition of two nuclear plants in the area will
16 increase the quality of life in Burke County and
17 surrounding areas through increased job opportunities
18 and economic growth. According to the 2000 census
19 bureau, the estimated 2005 population of Richmond and
20 Burke Counties was about 200,000 people.
21 Approximately 30 percent of those are under the age of
22 18 -- think about that. At some point, all of these
23 young people are going to be making a decision on
24 whether they want to stay or leave the area for work.

25 After college, in my case, I came back

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1 home to try to find a job in Mobile, but I had a
2 better opportunity in Houston, Texas, to be honest, so
3 I left. After a few years, I was thrilled to find the
4 opportunity to work at Plant Vogtle and moved back
5 home to the south.

6 Burke County's existing nuclear plants
7 attracted me. But the new nuclear construction will
8 attract new businesses and generate thousands of local
9 jobs and better opportunities for young people in the
10 area. With the addition of Vogtle Units 3 and 4, many
11 young people won't have to make the difficult decision
12 I did, between my career and my family.

13 Southern Nuclear anticipates the need for
14 over 3400 long-term employees for construction and
15 operation. These newly created jobs are estimated to
16 add about 2400 service and housing jobs in the local
17 community due to the influx of construction workers.
18 These new opportunities would retain Burke County's
19 young people, the community's valuable assets, and
20 increase the overall quality of life in Burke County.
21 The economic impact of these new jobs over an
22 estimated seven years of construction and 40 to 60
23 years of nuclear operation could easily boost the
24 regional economy by millions upon millions of dollars.
25 That's a lot of impact.

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1 What I've experienced since my career
2 began in nuclear power has only encouraged me to
3 support nuclear power with more resolve. I'm excited
4 about the future of nuclear power and I'm sure there
5 are many more professionals in the room that feel the
6 same way I do.

7 I and the 2200 members of NA-YGN believe
8 that Vogtle Units 3 and 4 are an important step toward
9 our nation's energy independence. We believe that the
10 safe, clean, reliable power that will be generated by
11 Units 3 and 4 at Vogtle is critical to the economic
12 and environmental interests of Burke County and the
13 surrounding areas. Because of this, we ask that the
14 NRC grant the application for the Vogtle early site
15 permit.

16 Thank you very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

19 Mayor Grunewald. Is the Mayor still here?
20 Oh, there he is.

21 MAYOR GRUNEWALD: Good evening. My name
22 is Ed Grunewald and I'm the mayor of the small town of
23 Girard, which is the closest municipality in proximity
24 to Plant Vogtle, and I just wanted to let the folks
25 here know that our community actively supports the

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1 plant as it is and supports expansion of the plant,
2 for several reasons.

3 The first reason is obviously the economic
4 impact it has on our county and the positive influence
5 it has on the infrastructure of our county. It's not
6 an issue with us with regard to pro or con nuclear
7 power. It's more of an issue with us economically as
8 well as the proof in the pudding, so to speak, with
9 regard to the stewardship of Southern Company or
10 Southern Nuclear with regard to their resources and
11 how they impact us locally. We have had nothing --
12 and I say nothing -- but good effects from the way
13 that that company has operated that power plant and
14 the way that they have taken the resources that we
15 have and utilized them in a way that we could use them
16 better. And by that I mean the areas around the
17 plant, the hundreds and hundreds of acres that
18 surround the plant and the access that the public has
19 to that area. They are involved in our community, in
20 the city of Girard, in the general Burke County
21 community in a huge way. And I can't imagine, from my
22 own personal perspective, how it would be without that
23 plant there and the general impact that Southern
24 Company in general has on our community.

25 Secondly, again and again it gets raised,

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1 and I have the same concerns that everyone else has
2 about safety and the record in our country with regard
3 to oversight with different kinds of industries. But
4 in this case, we have reached the point where we have
5 absolute, absolute comfort with the oversight provided
6 by the company itself. The folks that work there are
7 our friends and neighbors and we know them and we know
8 how seriously they take their job. We know the
9 construction that happened and how it happened and the
10 regulation and the oversight and there is absolutely
11 no doubt in my mind and my neighbors' minds and my
12 family's mind -- I have a lot of family in the area --
13 that Southern Company has done a fine job with regard
14 to taking care of the safety aspect, taking care of
15 the public involvement aspect, and also taking care of
16 looking to the future and trying to make sure that
17 this plant will impact us in a positive way in the
18 future. And I think these new units 3 and 4 are part
19 of that plan.

20 And finally, again, I can't imagine a
21 Burke County without Plant Vogtle. I can imagine it
22 before Plant Vogtle and from my perspective living in
23 Girard and from the Girard community, the prospects of
24 it in the future is better with Plant Vogtle and
25 Southern Company than it would be without them.

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1 And I would encourage the permit process
2 to move along as quickly as possible and let's get the
3 thing moving and build the units.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

6 Our next set of speakers, we're going to
7 go to Jerry Long, Reverend Smith, and then we're going
8 to go to Mary McLean Asbill, Larry Sanders and Chip
9 Barefield and Betsey Miklethun.

10 So, Jerry Long.

11 MR. LONG: Good evening. I'm Jerry Long
12 with the Development Authority of Burke County. I'm
13 going to read a letter from the Development Authority
14 of Burke County.

15 The Development Authority of Burke County
16 supports Georgia Power and Southern Nuclear in the
17 proposed expansion of Plant Vogtle in Burke County.
18 That would include two additional reactors.

19 The Development Authority feels that's a
20 positive development for our region and state in a
21 number of ways. Our Development Authority believes
22 that this expansion will allow us to continue to
23 benefit from clean, cost-effective and reliable
24 electric energy that will serve our community, the
25 state of Georgia and several southern states.

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1 Also, the economy of our region will
2 receive a much needed boost because of the many jobs
3 and economic activity created by the new construction
4 and continued operation of Plant Vogtle.

5 The Development Authority of Burke County
6 is 100 percent behind Plant Vogtle and the proposed
7 new construction. We are proud and blessed to have
8 Plant Vogtle, the people working there and Georgia
9 Power that operates Vogtle in our community. We are
10 very excited at the prospect of its expansion.

11 The Development Authority supports the
12 proposed expansion of the project throughout its
13 licensing, construction and eventual operation. Burke
14 County Development Authority wants to be involved with
15 the expansion at Plant Vogtle so that when people
16 think of Burke County, Georgia Power, Oglethorpe
17 Power, MEAG Electric, they will think of clean, cost-
18 effective and reliable electric energy.

19 If we had a choice, the Development
20 Authority, of one industrial project, power plant or
21 utility project, then I think what we would choose for
22 Burke County would be Plant Vogtle and its expansion.
23 The plant is going to stay here, it will be here and
24 will not be going to Mexico or China. The American
25 jobs will stay here in America.

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1 The construction phase will employ
2 approximately 4400 workers and the operation of both
3 phases of Plant Vogtle will employ approximately 1600
4 people.

5 The people that work at Plant Vogtle --
6 and a lot of people have talked about this -- and
7 Georgia Power that operates the plant -- they bring a
8 lot to the community, always have and always will.
9 They're very professional and very ethical. They are
10 mentors in the community, they support the United Way
11 and any other projects, they serve on boards, banks,
12 schools, development authorities and others. They are
13 involved in community development, they are involved
14 in economic development. Any resource you need, all
15 you have to do is call Georgia Power and they've got
16 someone that will help you with a project or help you
17 to advance your community. So we are very blessed to
18 have them also and we appreciate this.

19 Burke County needs and we want the
20 expansion at Plant Vogtle.

21 Thank you very much.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jerry.

23 Reverend Smith.

24 REVEREND SMITH: Good evening.

25 I come to speak tonight in behalf of the

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1 black churches in Burke County. I want to say that we
2 have over 100 churches and this was counted back in
3 1990 in the county of Burke County where I serve as
4 President of the Black Church, Inc. I also serve as
5 the First Vice President of the Church District of the
6 CSRA that covers ten counties adjacent to Burke
7 County.

8 We as the black churches of Burke County,
9 we do support you, Georgia Power, and your good
10 judgment to bring two more reactors to Burke County.
11 Georgia Power, we will do whatever we can to support
12 your decision to come to Burke County, the bird dog
13 capital of the world, we need you.

14 (Laughter.)

15 REVEREND SMITH: Georgia Power, you have
16 been already a blessing to Burke County and with two
17 more units, Burke County will even be blessed more.
18 Businesses will benefit if you come. It will help
19 solve many of our problems, economically, socially.
20 It will benefit our schools, our churches, we who are
21 trying to spread the good news, it will benefit us.

22 One year ago, at one of the meetings of
23 the County Commission here in Burke County, we were
24 informed of the good news that we might have two units
25 coming into Burke County at Plant Vogtle. We also

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1 were informed that we need to encourage our young men
2 and women to get more education to be ready for the
3 jobs if they come. We were also informed about this
4 place, Augusta Tech, here and in Richmond County, that
5 would help train our young men and women so if the
6 jobs did decide to come, that we would be more
7 prepared than we were before. And we have done this
8 among our churches, we have spread the good news, and
9 tonight we open our arms to you, Plant Vogtle, Georgia
10 Power, come on into Burke County, we need you.

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Reverend.

12 This is Mary McLean Asbill.

13 MS. ASBILL: Hello, my name is Mary McLean
14 Asbill and I'm Director of the Turner Environmental
15 Law Clinic at Emory University School of Law in
16 Atlanta. And I've had the pleasure to practice
17 environmental law in this wonderful state for 12
18 years.

19 What I'm going to speak about tonight is
20 environmental law, specifically the National
21 Environmental Policy Act, which is the purpose of this
22 scoping meeting tonight.

23 First, I'd like to request and in fact
24 even demand that the NRC complete a thorough and full
25 environmental impact statement regarding Plant

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1 Vogtle's ESP. Included, but not limited to, I would
2 like for the EIS to consider impacts on water supply
3 and water quality, particularly temperature. The two
4 new towers will increase water withdrawals by 100
5 percent. We're already having water issues on the
6 Savannah River, including saltwater intrusion from the
7 Floridan Aquifer. This analysis of water issues must
8 take into consideration the length of this permit,
9 which could be 20 years and even longer. The growth
10 today is already causing the seeking of more of the
11 Savannah River, not to mention how much of it will be
12 sought 20 years from now.

13 Secondly, the EIS needs to consider the
14 environmental consequences of terrorist actions.

15 Third, the environmental impact statement
16 must consider cumulative impacts including the
17 existing towers at Plant Vogtle, the Savannah River
18 Site and all of the other nuclear facilities that have
19 been listed tonight.

20 Fourth, the EIS must contain a full
21 alternatives analysis, including sources of renewable
22 energy resources and energy efficiency, especially
23 conservation.

24 Fifth, the EIS must consider thoroughly
25 the disposal of the waste and the related

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1 environmental impact. Is this waste going to be
2 disposed of in Georgia? Is it going to be dumped on
3 our neighbors?

4 Lastly, I encourage the NRC to please work
5 with our state environmental experts at the
6 Environmental Protection Division and the Wildlife
7 Resources Division. If you take into consideration
8 that, as others have mentioned tonight, with the lack
9 of funds, these agencies are low on staff, that you
10 cannot rely solely on them to take care of Georgia's
11 environment.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mary.

14 We're going to go to Larry Sanders next.

15 MR. SANDERS: Good evening. It's a
16 pleasure to be here in the bird dog capital -- I mean
17 that also, I really do.

18 My supervisor, Mary McLean Asbill, just
19 spoke. I'm a staff attorney at the Turner
20 Environmental Law Clinic at Emory University. We
21 represent a number of environmental organizations.

22 I'm sure the Southern Company is a fine
23 corporate citizen. I'm sure that Plant Vogtle,
24 Georgia Power, its employees are wonderful to have
25 here in your community, and I don't for a minute want

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1 to be critical of them. But that's not what this is
2 about.

3 We're here to talk about scoping and
4 environmental impacts and NEPA, National Environmental
5 Policy Act. The purpose here is to identify issues of
6 concern so that NRC can analyze them as part of the
7 licensing decision. So I'm not going to say whether
8 I oppose or favor the permit, because that's really
9 irrelevant here today. The question is what are the
10 environmental impacts that NRC should look at when
11 they make the decision.

12 Now Mary McLean just mentioned -- actually
13 she stole my thunder, she mentioned just about every
14 one, so I'm going to go very quickly and just list
15 them off and get on out of here.

16 The first is fish and wildlife impact.
17 This is the one Mary McLean didn't mention,
18 particularly entrainment of fish in the water intakes.
19 That's a major concern of mine and anyone who is
20 interested in fisheries, fishing, eating fish. That's
21 just something that needs to be looked at.

22 Secondly, thermal discharges from the
23 plant.

24 Next one is environmental impacts of a
25 terrorist attack. After 9/11, that's one that NRC

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1 just must take into consideration before they license
2 any new plant.

3 Full consideration of alternatives,
4 including clean energy alternatives such as bioenergy,
5 solar, wind, clean coal and others. Diversity of
6 energy mix must include these things, not just
7 nuclear, coal and the standard ones.

8 Public health and environmental impacts,
9 including impacts from mining and enrichment of
10 uranium, storage and disposal of highly radioactive
11 nuclear waste and decommissioning of the project
12 eventually.

13 And finally, cumulative impacts,
14 particularly the impacts of water withdrawal from this
15 plant combined with all of the other withdrawals in
16 the Savannah River Basin and also exposure to
17 radionuclides associates from the Savannah River Site
18 and other nuclear facilities in the area.

19 Again, it's not about whether this is a
20 good idea or a bad idea. It's just about identifying
21 what the problems are and mitigating them or at least
22 analyzing them.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Larry, for those
25 specific scoping comments.

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1 Chip Barefield.

2 MR. BAREFIELD: Well, my name is Chip
3 Barefield and I'm going to try to tell you what my
4 purpose is up here tonight. I am a native of Burke
5 County, been here all my life, born and raised -- in
6 fact, when Plant Vogtle was originally laid out, part
7 of the land came from my family, so I feel a real
8 attachment there.

9 But I care a lot about this county and
10 I've gotten involved because of that. I'm a past
11 Chamber President and actually been a member of this
12 board out here at Augusta Tech. And I do presently
13 serve on the Development Authority of Burke County.

14 But let me just mention some things that
15 I've listened to and heard and I feel like that I'd
16 like to mention. I do think there's a need for this
17 nuclear power to move forward, not just here but for
18 the whole country. Wind and the hydro, I don't think
19 suit this part of the country that well, and the coal
20 and natural gas, the price uncertainties just are not
21 there, but nuclear energy has proven, and I think will
22 continue to prove that it can generate electricity
23 very efficiently. So I think there's a need for it.

24 As far as the safety and security of it,
25 I have been privileged to go to Plant Vogtle several

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1 times. My last time was last fall and if you go in
2 there and see how hard it is to get in, to start with,
3 and then to go to the control room and see how these
4 men and women do their jobs in security, you just
5 leave there with a peace about what these folks are
6 doing out there.

7 And thirdly, because of my civic
8 involvement, I have always thought that a company
9 needs to be involved in its community. Georgia Power
10 has, as was mentioned before, been one of the most
11 generous and steadfast corporate contributors in Burke
12 County. They are here when there's something going
13 on, but also companies have two things in the
14 resources they have. They have the monetary side and
15 they have their people. Georgia Power has always let
16 their people get involved here. The current area
17 manager is the immediate past president of the
18 Chamber. Walter Dukes, who is a native of Waynesboro,
19 he was involved with the Chamber here as President,
20 and he's the one that actually got me involved with
21 the Chamber here a long, long time ago. But I'm
22 saying they let their people get involved.

23 The tour I went on last fall at Vogtle was
24 a Visit Burke Tour, and they're always willing to try
25 to help the community understand more about Vogtle and

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1 understand more about what they do out there.

2 So I have a peace of mind about this and
3 I truly support Plant Vogtle and I do hope the permit
4 process can move forward so we can have them build
5 these two units.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Chip.
8 Betsey.

9 MS. MIKLETHUN: I want to thank you for
10 all being here tonight and for listening to what we
11 all have to say. Our ability to speak to you and the
12 ability of you to listen to us is democracy in action.
13 And I certainly affirm this and I think we all do.

14 I want to tell you -- because I've heard
15 your concerns about the economy of this area, I want
16 to tell you an experience that I had recently. I was
17 traveling in eastern Europe, in Austria in fact, and
18 Austria had a national referendum about nuclear energy
19 and decided that they didn't want to take the risk.
20 As we were traveling on the bus into Austria, we were
21 coming through a state or province that was the
22 poorest province in the country and this was pointed
23 out to us. It was an agricultural, farming province.
24 Lo and behold, within a few minutes, we started to see
25 windmills off on the horizon and then the bus driver

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1 explained to us that this poor province was now
2 producing energy that went to the rest of the country
3 and was getting in money that it never dreamt of, it
4 was economically stable and on its own.

5 This is a personal issue to me, the safety
6 and security issues are. I've had two brothers die of
7 cancer and last month my third and last brother went
8 on chemotherapy. So I'm very concerned about safety
9 and I'm delighted to hear your reports tonight about
10 how good the safety is from these plants.

11 However, it's interesting to me that
12 insurance companies refuse to insure the plants and
13 that the United States government, I believe, has had
14 to develop a consortium of insurance companies that
15 will insure the various plants because they are so
16 difficult to guarantee, as far as safety goes.

17 I would like to ask some questions
18 tonight, just three of them. One question is how are
19 those insurance companies paid, by our taxes? I don't
20 know but I suspect so if the government, the U.S.
21 government, is the one that organized them.

22 My second question is are there studies
23 that compare the incidents of cancer here in Burke
24 County and birth defects with a comparable county in
25 another state where there isn't nuclear energy, and

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1 what are the results. I have no idea. There should
2 be these kind of studies going on for your sake and
3 for mine.

4 The third question I would ask is are
5 there plans for the development of an evacuation
6 system in case of an incident. After Katrina, we know
7 the importance of evacuation plans. And I hope from
8 the very beginning that there will be, in terms of the
9 planning for this addition to the plant. I don't
10 know, but I hope those questions will be answered at
11 some point.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Betsey. Those
13 are good questions and I know that you and some of
14 your colleagues have to go back to Atlanta and may not
15 have the opportunity to talk to the NRC staff about
16 those questions. But if we know how to contact you;
17 for example, Ms. Poole is right here from our Office
18 of General Counsel, who could address your first
19 question about the Price-Anderson Insurance Fund, and
20 we can also address emergency planning and the second
21 question. So if you can just make sure that you leave
22 us an e-mail or something like that, then we'll get
23 back to you.

24 We're going to go to our next block of
25 speakers. Krista Brewer, Elizabeth Baldwin, Judith

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1 Gordon, Dianne Valentine and Charles Sexton. And this
2 is Krista.

3 MS. BREWER: Thank you. My name is Krista
4 Brewer, I'm President of the Atlanta Chapter of
5 Women's Actions for New Directions, WAND, which is
6 also a national organization.

7 I took the time to drive over here tonight
8 because I am concerned about the health and the safety
9 and the energy health of all of Georgia. And we are
10 excited that the New Reactor Office is coming to
11 Atlanta, we'll try to welcome you and try to be good
12 neighbors.

13 My organization, Atlanta WAND, has long
14 been concerned about the amount of nuclear weapons and
15 radioactive waste that is stored at Savannah River
16 Site. We urge the NRC in this ESP application process
17 to consider all of the radioactive waste, fuel and the
18 processing that is in this whole area, it all needs to
19 be taken into consideration. My position is that no
20 radiation is really safe and we need to protect not
21 only the citizens and the unborn children of Burke
22 County and this area, but really all of Georgia.

23 I believe that there are a number of
24 things that concern me about nuclear power and about
25 the resurgence of these new reactors that are being

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1 proposed really all over the country, but for some
2 reason they're proposing a lot more of them in the
3 southeast. In some ways we wonder if we're not
4 understanding why some of the other parts of the
5 country don't want these reactors.

6 One problem is the problem of waste. The
7 nuclear industry has really not figured out how to
8 deal with their waste. It's sort of like my teenage
9 son who can't clean up his room. And I think that
10 until they can figure out how to really deal with the
11 waste, and I know there's been a lot of work on this
12 and there's the problems with Yucca Mountain, there's
13 the problems of transporting waste to whatever storage
14 dump they could eventually figure out, if they can.
15 But I do think that until the nuclear industry can
16 really figure out this waste problem, it's unwise to
17 create more waste and more reactors are going to
18 create more waste.

19 I'm also concerned that the permitting
20 process that we're starting right now will allow a
21 potential two new reactors in this area to be built
22 sometime in the next 20 years and possibly another 40
23 years. The state of Georgia, our energy needs, the
24 water, the population could change really dramatically
25 in the next 20 or 40 years and I think that that's a

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1 test that the NRC really needs to look at.

2 Another problem is the NRC really needs to
3 look at the problem of cost overruns. I know that
4 Plant Vogtle had huge, tremendous cost overruns and
5 maybe Georgia Power, Southern Company is saying that's
6 not going to happen again. But somehow, we, the
7 ratepayers of Georgia, need to be assured that that's
8 not going to happen again.

9 Another issue that I just want -- that
10 some people have touched on is the possibility --
11 since 9/11, the possibility of terrorist attacks. We
12 never dreamed that a plane would run into a skyscraper
13 and we do need to consider the impact that might
14 happen if a plane crashed into Plant Vogtle or into
15 another reactor, and what would happen then.

16 I do have a lot of faith and sympathy
17 really for the workers of Georgia Power and how it has
18 impacted the economics of this area. I'm sure they
19 are very well-meaning. But I'm also -- we just have
20 to look at the fact, I'm sure that the people, the
21 workers at Three Mile Island were very safety
22 conscious and very sincere in what they did and here
23 was a major meltdown that had very severe health
24 impact on the people in the immediate area and still
25 long-lasting effects of that meltdown at Three Mile

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1 Island. And also with Chernobyl also.

2 We also need to consider that the nuclear
3 reactors coming on line are going to create a lot more
4 nuclear fuel and nuclear waste that could get in the
5 hands of terrorists around the world. And this is a
6 huge problem that we're seeing right now with North
7 Korea.

8 So I just think that there's a whole lot
9 of other evidence out there that I hope that the
10 people of all of Georgia, but particularly of this
11 area, will look with an open mind at all the evidence
12 and seriously consider the pros and the cons. All
13 Georgia needs safe, reliable energy, we also need a
14 good, strong, diversified economy, as I'm sure you all
15 want here.

16 And then lastly, a lot of people are
17 saying that nuclear power is the answer to global
18 warming. It is true that each plant does not emit --
19 does not contribute to greenhouse -- to global
20 warming. But we would need a whole lot of nuclear
21 power plants coming on line to actually affect global
22 warming in any way. It's really not a very good
23 short-term solution to global warming.

24 Thank you very much.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Krista.

1 Elizabeth Baldwin.

2 MS. BALDWIN: Good evening, everyone.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I don't want
4 to repeat what lots of people have said.

5 I just wanted to address the stewardship,
6 since it was brought up. Nuclear power -- there's no
7 place to put waste that lasts tens of thousands of
8 years and all containment strategies fall apart over
9 time. We are called to be stewards of the land, it
10 doesn't belong to us, we have the privilege of using
11 it while we're alive. But we're morally required to
12 pass on to future generations an environment that's no
13 worse than what we inherited.

14 Someone born hundreds of years from now
15 may have my nuclear waste in their water, even though
16 they had no say in the matter. They weren't alive
17 today to have any impact on this decision. I question
18 the morality of that.

19 We know that the best minds have been
20 working on figuring out how to dispose of this waste
21 for 60 years. They haven't been able to come up with
22 a plan that works. A lot of that waste is sitting in
23 cooling pools around the country because nobody wants
24 it permanently stored in their state.

25 Let's take those same good minds and put

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1 them to work to discover how to best use the clean
2 alternative technologies. We can solve our energy
3 problems while being good stewards of the environment.
4 This is the wave of the future and I ask the Southern
5 Company to phase out what I think is a dirty energy
6 and step into the path of the future to create jobs in
7 the field of clean, sustainable energy.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. CAMERON: Judith Gordon.

11 DR. GORDON: I am Dr. Judy Gordon, I'm Co-
12 Chair of the Savannah River Group of the Sierra Club.
13 I am also a retired university professor of botany and
14 ecology and I do research on the Shoals Spider Lily in
15 the Savannah River.

16 I want to bring to your attention tonight
17 some facts that can't be disputed and I want you to
18 know where I'm getting these, these are not my
19 opinions. This is the most widely used ecology
20 textbook in the country. It is in its 15th edition.
21 It is used throughout the United States and in foreign
22 countries and in this book in several chapters, they
23 address the needs of energy in the United States, in
24 particular, and the quotes that I am going to give you
25 are from expert scientists, ecologists who have no

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1 vested interest in promoting one particular energy use
2 over another. So I want you to keep that in mind as
3 I go through some of these. And I can tell you right
4 now nuclear energy is pretty low on the list as a
5 means of generating electricity.

6 "Even with massive government subsidies,
7 using the nuclear fuel cycle to generate electricity
8 costs more than burning coal or natural gas or using
9 wind power to produce electricity."

10 "Building more nuclear power plants will
11 not lessen dependence on imported oil and will not
12 reduce CO₂ emissions as much as other quicker, safer
13 and cheaper alternatives."

14 "Nuclear plants themselves are not
15 emitters of carbon dioxide, but the nuclear fuel cycle
16 is -- a fact that is rarely mentioned by the nuclear
17 industry or by the press." Now the key word, folks,
18 here is cycle, because it's not just the power plant
19 generating, it is the mining of uranium, its
20 enrichment, disposal of waste as well as
21 decommissioning the plant when its service is over.

22 "Experience indicates that dismantling a
23 plant and storing the resulting radioactive wastes
24 costs two to ten times more than the building of the
25 plant in the first place."

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1 And I would like to add that if you are a
2 nuclear advocate, then you must also be willing to
3 accept the responsibility of dealing with the waste.
4 It is not something that you have a right to ship off
5 to another state.

6 "Since 1948, nuclear energy (fission and
7 fusion) has received about 58 percent of all federal
8 energy and development funds in the United States" --
9 58 percent -- "compared to 22 percent for fossil
10 fuels, 11 percent for renewable energy, and 8 percent
11 for energy efficiency and conservation." Only 8
12 percent.

13 And as Dr. Eugene Odum said, the father of
14 ecology in the United States, now deceased professor
15 emeritus at the University of Georgia, stated that he
16 believed that conservation by itself could save about
17 50 percent on our energy expenditures.

18 "But a 2002 study by the Nuclear Control
19 Institute found that the plants were not designed to
20 withstand the crash of a large jet traveling at the
21 impact speed of the two hijacked airliners that hit
22 the World Trade Center.

23 "This is not surprising because in 1982,
24 the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ruled that
25 owners of nuclear power plants did not have to design

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1 the plants to survive threats such as suicidal airline
2 crashes. According to the NRC, requiring such
3 construction would make nuclear electricity too
4 expensive to be competitive."

5 All right, that's the end of the quotes
6 and I want to add all environmental problems, whether
7 we're talking about endangered species, pollution,
8 what to do about our energy needs, these can be
9 traced, according to the ecologists, to our failure to
10 recognize that the key word here is sustainability.
11 And when ecologists say sustainability, they have four
12 things in mind, and this is in every ecology textbook
13 in the country:

14 The four things are (1) reliance on solar
15 energy in its many forms; (2) biodiversity; (3)
16 nutrient recycling; and (4) population control, the
17 one problem no one ever wants to address.

18 Our failure to recognize and frame our
19 approaches to environmental problems without
20 recognition of these principles is going to leave us
21 up the proverbial creek (maybe the Savannah River)
22 without a paddle. As the founder of the Sierra Club,
23 naturalist John Muir, stated, when we try to pick out
24 anything by itself, we find it connected to everything
25 else in the universe. So keep that in mind.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Judy, could you,
4 for the record, just read the title and author of the
5 book, so that we have that on the record?

6 DR. GORDON: Oh, sure, and it is in the
7 record. The author is G.T. Miller, 15th Edition,
8 Living in the Environment". And again, it's the most
9 widely used ecology textbook in the United States.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Judy; thank you
11 very much.

12 Dianne Valentine. I'm not sure I got that
13 right, but here she is.

14 MS. VALENTINE: Good evening. My name is
15 Dianne Valentine and I spoke with you a little earlier
16 about my granddaughter.

17 I did have a few things that I wanted to
18 say prior to coming up and I'll get them out of the
19 way. But the rest of my comments will be reflective
20 of some of the things that I heard speakers comment
21 on.

22 One of the things that really strikes me
23 is that I went to the Physicians for Social
24 Responsibility -- I think that's their name -- their
25 site. They stated state statistics on power plants

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1 and children. In Georgia, major power plants in the
2 state was 12; number of power plants within 30 miles
3 of a state border were 18; number of children in a 30-
4 mile radius of a power plant, 1,148,023; number of
5 children in the state with asthma, 121,251. And that
6 number is 10.6 percent. And the reason I mention it
7 is because it's probably a low number because there
8 are a lot of children who can't afford to be diagnosed
9 and who are suffering.

10 One of the things that I wanted to comment
11 on is that I don't think nuclear waste is either safe
12 nor environmentally friendly. I don't think that --
13 I'm not sure about the professionals in the nuclear
14 industry. I heard a lot of comments from them when
15 they came up about how safe it was and it stopped me
16 in my tracks because I know families who have suffered
17 deaths, who have been workers in plants. So I'm not
18 sure about the statistics that were quoted and I'm
19 really going to have to go find that CDC report that
20 was mentioned. I think it's really unfair to make
21 light -- I don't know if it's intentional or whatever,
22 but people die and we need to acknowledge that and
23 respect that.

24 And also, a lot of the economic issues
25 were addressed. That's not why we're here really.

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1 But I come from a place originally in Maryland, we
2 were a Naval facility and when the plant was going to
3 close, we changed our tack. Rather than go after
4 something that was a dinosaur, we looked forward.
5 There's a lot of technology in that area now. And I
6 think maybe the civic leaders here probably need to
7 start looking forward. We have nano-technology, we
8 have a lot of things that can take us out of the muck
9 and mire of nuclear waste.

10 So we really need to think about safety
11 and nuclear waste needs to be dealt with.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dianne.

15 Charles Sexton.

16 MR. SEXTON: Thank you. My name is
17 Charles Sexton, I'm with Beaufort-Jasper Water and
18 Sewer Authority, Beaufort, South Carolina and I just
19 have a specific scoping question.

20 The environmental report gives the tritium
21 level based on the yearly average. We only ask that
22 you evaluate the tritium level in an instantaneous
23 historical average and not on a yearly average based
24 on an environmental report.

25 Thanks.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Charles.

2 Our next group is going to be Glenn
3 Carroll, Natalie Garber, Bill Harrell, Bill Hatcher,
4 Sam Booher and Laurie McDaniel.

5 Glenn.

6 MS. CARROLL: My name is Glenn Carroll,
7 I'm Coordinator of Nuclear Watch South. Our group was
8 formed almost 30 years ago and was known as Georgians
9 Against Nuclear Energy and we formed specifically to
10 address the first two units at Plant Vogtle.

11 It was a boondoggle. It took 20 years.
12 Georgia Power started construction and in ten short
13 weeks filed for bankruptcy. Now what's different?
14 Oh, that's right, they're not using their money --
15 they're using ours. And so analyze that.

16 How many homeless people, how many people
17 don't get health care, how many people don't get
18 educated and yet a company that in Sunday's paper, it
19 said that David Ratcliffe gets \$6 million a year in
20 salary. That's up from \$4 million a year in 2004.
21 How do you analyze a for-profit company, how do you
22 compare a project largely underwritten -- completely
23 underwritten by taxpayers and ratepayers; how do you
24 compare a project that will be funded by ratepayers
25 and taxpayers, being done by a for-profit company that

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1 has zero motivation not to make and sell electricity?

2 Well, here's one idea. We really have to
3 get progressive. We can't compare nuclear to coal,
4 that is over, just a waste of energy. What we want to
5 do is think outside the box. Southern Company is
6 determined to make a profit and here's one suggestion.
7 They are buying and leasing equipment to us, house-by-
8 house, business-by-business, then I suggest that we
9 start in Burke County as a pilot project. But how
10 many houses would it take -- let's compare that, look
11 at the cost of that. Let's give them a profit but
12 let's not add to the global warming and let's not add
13 to the nuclear waste burden. We have to consider, we
14 have over 400 tons of nuclear waste at Plant Vogtle
15 now. It's not going anywhere. Thirty tons of high
16 level nuclear waste per year per reactor and it's not
17 going anywhere. Low-level waste, you've got one dump
18 across the river, it's closing in 2008. What are we
19 going to do with the low-level waste?

20 Security -- since 9/11, no change. We are
21 for Plant Vogtle, we're for securing it, we're for
22 dealing with the nuclear waste, we're for dealing with
23 it. Our group did a little legal intervention with
24 volunteers, without a lawyer. A whistleblower came
25 forward, a top-level guy from Plant Vogtle, validating

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1 our concern, and together we made -- we forced
2 Southern Company to fix their emergency generators so
3 that we would never be without power to keep water
4 cooling that reactor core. We do care about this
5 community, we do care about Plant Vogtle.

6 Something else that has to be analyzed
7 here is that the thermal efficiency of nuclear power
8 is 33 percent. A 1000-megawatt power plant that's
9 generating 3000 megawatts of heat, 2000 megawatts of
10 heat are going out into the environment. That's seven
11 million BTUs per hour of waste heat going into Burke
12 County. So, you know, maybe we can get a little ding
13 on global warming overall over the planet with a
14 little nuclear power, but you're eating heat here in
15 Burke County, and that needs to be analyzed. And for
16 anybody who doesn't know, a BTU is the unit of energy
17 needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water
18 by one degree. Let's revisit -- seven million BTUs of
19 heat per hour pouring out of this nuclear plant, and
20 we don't want to double that.

21 Security -- it's a glaring hole you can
22 fly a jumbo jet airplane through. Since 9/11, NRC has
23 done nothing to increase security at nuclear plants,
24 including here. The California Ninth Circuit has
25 decided that all nuclear plants in California will

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1 have this considered. It's a brand new decision
2 that's being appealed and it will take awhile. The
3 NRC is promulgating a rule -- I don't know how you're
4 going to crunch this, but it's time to start analyzing
5 the effects of this.

6 Not only are we not monitoring to the
7 degree we should in Georgia because of lack of
8 funding, but a lot of our monitoring data is coming
9 from Georgia Power and you need to analyze the
10 accuracy and effect on the environment of not --

11 VOICE: Chip, excuse me, I think the
12 battery might be dying. Can you give her yours?

13 (Brief pause.)

14 MS. CARROLL: And so I would just
15 underscore that I think it must take a pretty fancy
16 equation to look at a company that pays its CEO \$6
17 million a year -- David Ratcliffe -- gives its
18 shareholders 12.5 percent dividend. And by the way,
19 Waynesboro, we also support you in this regard, the
20 ratepayers all over the state of Georgia are helping
21 you to build your schools and stuff. So we're all in
22 this together.

23 So how do you analyze a for-profit company
24 taking tax dollars as an enticement to look into
25 nuclear and the risk to the environment from that and

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1 the pressure on that company that's designed to make
2 a profit? How can they resist?

3 Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Glenn.

5 This is Natalie Garber.

6 MS. GARBER: Hello, everyone. Thank you
7 for lasting this long, I know we're all kind of tired.
8 My name is Natalie Garber, and I'm a graduate student
9 at the Savannah College of Art and Design. My major
10 is advertising design and I'm currently doing my
11 thesis on sustainable consumerism. I'm trying to help
12 clients and consumers promote sustainable and green
13 goods to help the economy, society and the
14 environment.

15 I'm here today to say no thank you to
16 nuclear power, more nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle.
17 Nuclear is being praised as an environmentally safe
18 form of energy, and it is simply not true. Nothing
19 that produces deadly levels of radioactive waste for
20 the next 250,000 years, waste that must be carefully
21 monitored, delicately transported and buried away from
22 all forms of life, just can't be designated as safe.
23 Heaven forbid, a single accident, and over that amount
24 of time, there's a good chance that accidents possibly
25 could happen.

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1 It is not sustainable to have a small town
2 entirely dependent on one economic form, especially
3 when nuclear reactors are only supposed to operate for
4 20 to 40 years. What then will sustain the town after
5 the nuclear plant shuts down?

6 Wouldn't it be more sane to devote our
7 time, money, energy, jobs and everything to safe,
8 clean, renewable forms of energy? I know my
9 grandchildren will appreciate it, I'm sure your
10 economy would appreciate it.

11 I think we all want to bring energy to the
12 southeast that creates the greatest good for now and
13 the future and we can do far better than nuclear.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Natalie.

16 Bill Harrell, then Bill Hatcher. Bill
17 Harrell, then Bill Hatcher -- sorry.

18 MR. HARRELL: Good evening. I'm Bill
19 Harrell. I drove down -- up -- from Savannah tonight
20 to say one brief thing.

21 The consortium that proposes this new
22 plant is doing virtually nothing in the field of
23 energy conservation. I suggest that if the money they
24 propose to spend on these plants were spent to
25 encourage energy conservation, the ratepayers of the

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1 state of Georgia would be better off. There are
2 megawatts of megawatts available in conservation that
3 would not add to the nuclear waste burden, the mercury
4 burden or the CO₂ burden of our current short-sighted
5 electrical generation system.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Bill.

8 Bill Hatcher.

9 MR. HATCHER: Thank you. My name is Bill
10 Hatcher. I own land that adjoins the Savannah River
11 and is about a mile and a half, maybe two miles as the
12 crow flies, from Vogtle.

13 I'm here kind of on a personal and I guess
14 altruistic mission. The altruistic part has pretty
15 well been covered by a lot of community leaders
16 because they said -- you know, they've told what the
17 jobs would do and particularly for a county I think
18 that's in the probably top two, three or four in
19 unemployment in the state. So I'm not going to go
20 there.

21 But I am going to tell you my experience
22 as a landowner in Burke County with Plant Vogtle. In
23 1970, I bought a piece of land, 500 acres, on the
24 river for hunting and fishing, to bring my children
25 and grandchildren down here. And this was before

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1 Plant Vogtle. And then later in the '90s, I acquired
2 more land. This was after Plant Vogtle. So now I own
3 or am paying for about 3000 acres within a mile and a
4 half of Vogtle. The personal part of this with me --
5 and I'm trying not to seek anything selfish here
6 except to protect the legacy that I'm trying to leave
7 to three children, ten grandchildren and seven great
8 grandchildren -- if I thought for a minute that Plant
9 Vogtle was a threat to a big part of what I own or
10 what I'm paying for, that it was a threat, I would be
11 up in arms. But I've been here since '70 -- what's
12 that, 36 years. We have a large group of hunters and
13 fishermen. We fish the Savannah River and I hope this
14 doesn't offend animal rights people, but we've killed,
15 over a period of 36 years, hundreds of animals,
16 including deer, quail, dove and other animals for
17 eating. We have never on any single occasion had any
18 problem with pollution of the water or with animals
19 that were infected.

20 And as I said earlier, we're across the
21 river from the Savannah River Plant, we're as close to
22 them as we are to Plant Vogtle. I have zero problem
23 with Plant Vogtle, they are great neighbors. I have
24 absolute confidence in the Nuclear Regulatory
25 Commission, I've had experience with them in the past

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1 in my business. I'm totally comfortable.

2 You know, I think this forum tonight has
3 been very good. I think a lot of patience has been
4 shown by those that are in charge of the meeting, and
5 I'm going to stick to my three minutes, but I just
6 wanted to endorse the expansion of Vogtle -- and this
7 is based on experience, this is not based on something
8 coming from out of town.

9 I'm not going to try to be an expert on
10 nuclear power; however, I will say this. We traveled
11 in Great Britain and Wales recently and I was
12 astounded as we drove through the countryside. I
13 thought well, I'll see a nuclear plant every now and
14 then. And I'm not saying that this is all good, I'm
15 just saying what I saw. We would see eight to ten
16 nuclear plants, units, in a row, within a mile or two
17 or three miles. A great percentage of the power in
18 Great Britain, Wales, and that area is from nuclear
19 power. I haven't heard -- and I'm not an expert on
20 this -- but I haven't heard of any nuclear accidents
21 in France or Great Britain or some of those areas,
22 those countries that generate 75-85 percent of their
23 power from nuclear power.

24 There was one other point I wanted to
25 make, if I can find my note here. Oh, not only do we

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1 fish and hunt but we have 500 cows that graze on
2 pasture that is a mile and a half, two miles, from
3 Plant Vogtle. We get the highest per pound for our
4 cattle of anybody in the entire area. I have zero
5 concern about my cattle, I have zero concern about my
6 children, my grandchildren or my great grandchildren.

7 Thank you very much.

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

9 Next we're going to Sam, is it Booher,
10 Sam?

11 MR. BOOHER: Booher. My name is Sam
12 Booher, I'm retired military and I live in Martinez,
13 Georgia. I have not heard anyone tonight talk about
14 the historic decrease in flow of the Savannah River.

15 USGS records show that river flows of
16 15,000 cubic feet per second were normal in 1884.
17 That flow cycles up and down due to rainy and drought
18 years. However, since 1884, there has been a steady
19 decrease to where the flows today are around 6000
20 cubic feet per second. Please do not quote my
21 numbers, but I encourage the NRC and others of you
22 here in the room to look them up for yourself and
23 study this further. My whole point is, do not make
24 permanent decisions based on today's flow, because
25 your decisions will be wrong.

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1 Today, all of Georgia is faced with
2 providing water for future citizens to drink or water
3 that can be lost as steam by building more electric
4 generating power plants. Georgia cannot have it both
5 ways. The NRC may not be aware that Georgia is
6 developing its first energy plan. It is due to come
7 out by the end of the year. In Georgia's draft energy
8 plan, on page 102, it states, "Electric generation is
9 the largest user of water in Georgia." Electric
10 generation in Georgia consumes more water daily than
11 the City of Atlanta.

12 We all know that Atlanta is short of
13 water. That's why they have the water wars with
14 Florida and Alabama. We're also told the population
15 of Atlanta will double in 20 years, and along with
16 that, the growing of our coastal areas. So where is
17 their new water coming from to support four million
18 new Atlanta people and the new coastal residents?
19 Coastal Georgia already has water problems. As people
20 continue to move there, water is going to be an even
21 greater concern than electricity.

22 During tours I have made of Plant Vogtle,
23 I was told that currently 62 million gallons are
24 removed with only 21 million gallons returning to the
25 river every day. With two new power plants built, the

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1 current water loss of 41 million gallons will nearly
2 double. How will 80 million gallons lost as a result
3 of steam impact Georgia? There will likely be a loss
4 to South Carolina and Georgia coastal regions new
5 drinking water needs and there may be an impact to the
6 ships coming 20 miles up the Savannah River into what
7 we continue to call that whole thing, the Savannah
8 harbor. The NRC (sic) needs to evaluate these issues
9 and not assume some other state or federal agency
10 will.

11 Before this decision is made, NRC must
12 thoroughly study the topics of water quantity,
13 historic Savannah River flow rates, climate change in
14 Georgia with all the trends and projections including
15 consideration of our next long-term drought. We all
16 need to see this needed factual information.

17 I urge the NRC to consider how the state
18 energy plan addresses the topic of new water loss for
19 electricity production and all these impacts before
20 making a decision to allow the expansion.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sam.

23 Laurie McDaniel here?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay, the next group of

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1 speakers we're going to go to Lou Zeller, Mary Olson,
2 Marci Culley, Emma Oliver, Roderick Sams and Johnny
3 Jenkins.

4 Lou.

5 MR. ZELLER: Thank you. My name is Louis
6 Zeller and I'm on the staff of the Blue Ridge
7 Environmental Defense League. My co-worker, Charles
8 Utley, is not going to be able to be here tonight, he
9 pastors a small church in Burke County and they're
10 having their revival this week.

11 Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
12 began 22 years ago over concerns of nuclear waste
13 dumping in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Over
14 this period of time, we have come to be opposed to
15 nuclear power. We did not come to this decision
16 quickly or without much thought. Among the other
17 reasons besides nuclear waste are the economics of it
18 and the public health impacts.

19 There's been much talk about energy
20 independence tonight and the economic benefits for the
21 county and the state and to the nation from nuclear
22 power. Most of the nation's uranium comes from
23 overseas, so the energy independence is a chimera
24 until and unless more uranium is discovered within our
25 borders.

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1 Regarding economics, Standard & Poor's
2 rating services found that "An electric utility with
3 a nuclear exposure" -- that is, a nuclear plant --
4 "has weaker credit than one without and can expect to
5 pay more on the margin for credit. Federal support
6 for construction costs will do little to change that
7 reality. Therefore, were a utility to embark on a new
8 or expanded nuclear endeavor, Standard & Poor's would
9 likely revisit its rating on the utility." This is a
10 report done by Standard & Poor's on a regular basis
11 issued in January of this year. The implications are
12 there for Southern Nuclear Company, also Georgia
13 Power, Oglethorpe Power, Municipal Electric Authority
14 of Georgia and for the City of Dalton, which own the
15 site.

16 Others before me have pointed out that the
17 alternatives, including wind and energy efficiency,
18 are cheaper. A Massachusetts Institute of Technology
19 study a few years ago, among others, showed that the
20 alternatives are cheaper than new nuclear power.

21 The total number of nuclear reactor orders
22 in the history of the United States is 253. Of that
23 number, just about half are actually issued, 130, 26
24 of those have shut down.

25 Building a nuclear plant is an uncertain

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1 gamble. Many attribute this to the response to the
2 accident at Three Mile Island in 1979, but nuclear
3 power plants canceled before 1979, before the Three
4 Mile Island partial meltdown, numbered 50. So the
5 economic meltdown was underway long before Three Mile
6 Island accident. Among the reactors canceled before
7 that accident were Vogtle 3 and 4, in 1974.

8 No evidence has been found to support the
9 statements that citizen opposition and regulatory
10 changes have been the primary cause for rising costs
11 and construction delays. To the contrary, statistics
12 show that management is more a detriment than
13 regulatory changes and citizen opposition. This is
14 from the U.S. House Committee on Government
15 Operations.

16 I've brought with me here today a copy of
17 the violation which was issued in its final form on
18 September 18, 2006 to Vogtle Electric Generating
19 Plant. This violation is regarding a site variant
20 emergency planning drill. The report states that the
21 Nuclear Regulatory Commission has determined that
22 Southern Nuclear Company's failure to identify the
23 above weakness during this exercise is a violation of
24 three federal regulations, violations cited in the
25 proposed notice, and circumstances surrounding the

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1 violation are described in detail in the subject
2 inspection report. In accordance with NRC enforcement
3 policy, the Notice of Violation is considered
4 escalated enforcement action.

5 What it amounted to was a false alarm.
6 The exercise was designed to uncover weaknesses but
7 Southern Nuclear Company did not discover the
8 weaknesses and when they did their review did not
9 catch the weakness again. This is more than one
10 incident, this is a series of incidents.

11 And I'm assuming that officials in Burke
12 County know about this, have heard about it, it's no
13 secret.

14 The disturbing thing that I find is that
15 Southern Nuclear Company has persisted and continues
16 to persist in this error, arguing that no, they made
17 no mistake. I only hope that the Nuclear Regulatory
18 Commission will continue to hold Southern Nuclear
19 Company's feet to the fire. The question for us today
20 I believe is can we trust Southern Nuclear Company to
21 build two more reactors in Burke County.

22 The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense
23 League will soon issue a report on public health
24 impacts in Burke County. What we are finding is that
25 infant mortality before and after the Vogtle reactors

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1 1 and 2 began operating in 1987 and 1989, compared
2 with infant mortality after that period have increased
3 by a large margin. Before the reactor started, Burke
4 County was actually below the statewide rate. So
5 Burke County has suffered more in infant mortality.
6 Also, local cancer rates are higher for children,
7 young adults and the elderly. Our report will be
8 based on public health statistics.

9 Nuclear reactors, even under normal
10 operations, without an accident scenario, routinely
11 emit radioactivity into the air and water including
12 Strontium-90, Iodine-130, 131 and Cesium-137. These
13 have known predictable impacts on not only cancer but
14 the immune system. We suspect that these
15 radionuclides are contributing to large negative
16 health consequences in Burke County.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Lou.

19 Mary Olson.

20 MS. OLSON: Thanks for still being here.

21 My name is Mary Olson, I work for Nuclear Information
22 and Resource Service. We're a national organization
23 allied with World Information Service on Energy, so
24 we're now actually global. But in the United States,
25 we've been around for almost 30 years serving people

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1 who are concerned about commercial nuclear power.
2 We're the only organization that is solely devoted to
3 this one piece of the energy issue. But we are also
4 advocates for a very strong sustainable, renewable
5 energy future. And I too am proud and excited to be
6 here because I am sharing this evening with so many
7 people in this room who have bothered to come all this
8 way to speak to this process. And this is a process
9 and we are here to talk about the National
10 Environmental Policy Act. So you will please forgive
11 me that I'm here primarily to speak to the Nuclear
12 Regulatory Commission and to Southern Company, because
13 of the NEPA process.

14 NEPA stands for National Environmental
15 Policy Act and it is really the only time that the
16 public gets to go on record in a non-adversarial
17 relationship. >From here on out, other than the rest
18 of the EIS process, any input from the public will be
19 either unofficial or in the context of intervention.
20 And so I think it's really, really important to note
21 the importance of this process.

22 I want to really focus on that, but just
23 for a moment, I want to indulge myself and say I'm not
24 really happy to be here tonight for the reason I'm
25 here, but I do thank the process for giving me an

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1 excuse to come home, to one of my homes. I no longer
2 live in this area, but I was married on Whidby Creek,
3 my husband's children were born here, we had what was
4 for me the second business of my life here in
5 Waynesboro and I haven't been back a whole lot since
6 we moved in the year 2000, and I like being here. So
7 it's nice to be here.

8 That said, back to the issue at hand,
9 National Environmental Policy Act. You know what, we
10 have a mess. Everything is changing, all the rules
11 are changing. One of the biggest changes that I've
12 not heard mentioned except in passing is that there is
13 federal money involved in this program. I don't have
14 my map here in my hand, but if you look at the map of
15 where the new nuclear power reactors are going to be
16 sited, supposedly 30 new ones under plan and all but
17 two are in the south and the block goes Texas,
18 Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida,
19 South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, maybe
20 Tennessee we hear, and Maryland.

21 So you know, this is our region, and when
22 we talk about the licensing of a nuclear reactor, this
23 early site permit for Vogtle, that's piecemeal on what
24 is a big federal new program with tax dollars behind
25 it. And the fact is that NRC is licensing more and

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1 more of the Department of Energy's activities. I'm
2 going to talk about those in a minute, I'm not going
3 to string them all in here.

4 But if you are here tonight, who are we
5 talking to? We are talking to leaders, right? What
6 the NRC does, the world follows. And at some point,
7 I really hope you take a cold, cold look at the
8 success and failure of Atoms for Peace and all the
9 projects that are on your current plate from that
10 perspective, and remember Pakistan, India, Iraq, Iran,
11 North Korea -- are we now talking Japan?

12 How many more in the line, because what
13 we're really, really talking about here is source
14 term. When you license a new reactor, you are
15 licensing a nuclear waste factory. We heard it from
16 many people tonight, waste is the issue. Why?
17 Because the electricity is used by this generation,
18 and the waste is forever more. Your true impact of
19 having Vogtle here in this community is not this
20 electric power, it is the waste.

21 So if a reactor equals waste and licensing
22 equals more waste, let's talk in very specific terms,
23 there's 830 metric tons of high level nuclear waste at
24 Vogtle tonight, if you believe the EIS on Yucca
25 Mountain. By 2011, there will be 1080 metric tons of

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1 high level waste and by 2046 when it winds down,
2 there's 2450 metric tons. Now maybe some of it is
3 going to get moved to Yucca Mountain if it ever opens,
4 but you've still got 980 metric tons of high level
5 nuclear waste left over. And guess what, by the time
6 you take in all the new proposals for many centralized
7 sites, for transporting it here, transporting it
8 there, by the time you look at low level waste -- what
9 about low level waste? Barnwell. No, Barnwell is
10 closing in 2008 to Georgia, you've got nowhere for
11 that waste to go. It's a massive shell game and what
12 is it? It is source term laced with plutonium ready
13 to be the proliferation of the world. And this agency
14 should take the bull by the horns and be doing a
15 programmatic EIS on source term, not piecemeal, site-
16 by-site-by-site.

17 Okay, are you independent of the industry?
18 We don't know. The next question is are you
19 independent of Congress? We really don't know. Now,
20 there's an even bigger question, are you independent
21 of the White House? Is anybody? So turning to the
22 White House, there is one and only one issue and that
23 is security. Let's take for just a moment -- you've
24 heard that you need to look at it, I agree. Let's
25 take for one moment the idea that the Supreme Court

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1 does uphold the decision that the environmental
2 impacts of the Terrorist Act should be analyzed in the
3 EIS. Y'all are going to yell safeguards, safeguards,
4 you can't go there. Well, guess what? You don't have
5 to. Mohammad El-Fareda (ph.) said on public record
6 one week after 9/11 -- and remember, 9/11 changed
7 everything, right? It did. Vogtle is not just a
8 power plant, it's a target, okay? So it changed
9 everything, and Mohammad El-Fareda (ph.) said that if
10 there was a direct hit by a jumbo jet, you would have
11 a Chernobyl. So you have to take it down the case,
12 you have to take a Chernobyl and you have to analyze
13 it for Georgia and South Carolina and the rest of the
14 world since it's a global impact. And you can't call
15 that economic development -- I'm sorry.

16 So now finally to wrap up, I have a couple
17 of really specific things to say about scoping, but
18 first I really need to say this to Southern Company.
19 I really think you ought to be thinking very, very
20 carefully about investing in any more reactors because
21 the Price-Anderson Act excludes acts of war, by
22 definition. And our President has said we are at war.
23 There is no way that if someone had the incredible
24 gall to actually do what I've been talking about and
25 attack a reactor -- believe me, I never want to live

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1 to see that -- it would be an act of war on this
2 country. That means there is no liability cap and
3 there are no other corporations that would be called
4 in to help Southern Company.

5 Okay, now just some very quick specifics.
6 There is at the Savannah River Site plutonium storage,
7 low level waste storage, low level waste burial, low
8 level waste incineration, tritium storage, tritium
9 processing, high level waste storage, high level waste
10 processing, high level waste disposal thanks to
11 Lindsey Graham. There is going to be, if approved,
12 pit disassembly, MOx fuel production, pit production
13 proposed and now we hear high level nuclear waste
14 reprocessing. All of those indicate exposures to the
15 public on multiple pathways from both routine and
16 potentially accident conditions and they must be
17 considered dedicated exposures when considering adding
18 two new Vogtle units. I think everything within a 50-
19 mile radius should be considered as a very
20 conservative thing. The NRC says there's 100
21 millirems a year to the general public. Well, that
22 should mean that Vogtle can only contribute whatever
23 is left over to make up 100 millirems.

24 Second, there are aging reactors on the
25 site. You've got to consider all of the impacts of an

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1 accident at the existing reactors on the new reactors
2 and on the environmental impacts. You know, this
3 includes everything like fire and so on.

4 We've already talked about the land,
5 you've already heard about water, we've heard about
6 low level waste, but what about earthquakes? Got to
7 really focus in on this because there's major stuff
8 going on in that area in this region.

9 And finally, I want to just touch briefly
10 on climate. We talk about climate change and nuclear
11 power is the solution, but we have not talked about
12 how vulnerable nuclear power is to turbulent weather.
13 It is now documented that the hurricanes are
14 increasing in force, strength and number due to
15 climate change. Maybe not every year, but over time.
16 This site is definitely impacted by hurricanes. I've
17 been here, I've been through it. So we've got to look
18 at the potential for increased station blackout
19 hazard.

20 And finally, I really appreciate people
21 talking about the CO₂ from the fuel cycle because over
22 time we will get to the point where it will take more
23 energy to actually burn the fossil fuels used to
24 process uranium to make power than to process the
25 uranium. In other words, over time, nuclear power is

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1 a black hole.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Marci Culley.

5 DR. CULLEY: Thank you for the opportunity
6 to speak tonight. I'm going to keep this short
7 because I know that so many people have actually
8 covered things that I wanted to say. And I thought
9 until the last second, Mary, that I was going to be
10 the one to talk about the southeast as being the focus
11 with 30 proposed and all but two in the southeast, and
12 that is a disproportionate burden for this region.
13 This is concerning for many reasons that were brought
14 up tonight. But again, I'm only going to mention a
15 few, given the late hour. I know that we all agree on
16 at least one thing, and that's that we'd like to get
17 out of here before midnight.

18 I would like to request that there is a
19 full EIS. I would also like to say that cumulative
20 effects from all of the sources in the area should be
21 addressed and just a couple of other points.

22 I think we are very creative people. We
23 need an energy plan that has a real vision. I think
24 we're capable of this, we can do that, and that
25 considers both short-term economic gain potentially

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1 and long-term effects. Okay, we are creative people.
2 I don't know that more reactors at the Vogtle site is
3 really the answer for looking at and addressing some
4 of those long-term impacts.

5 I think that in many ways, we are looking
6 backward instead of forward and we're using
7 unsustainable means to move forward. The waste has
8 been talked about over and over again tonight.
9 There's no solution in sight. More reactors means
10 more waste.

11 And one question that resonates with me
12 is, you know, if you are building a house, you or I,
13 would you be able to get a building permit if you had
14 no plan for your sewage or wastewater? No way, not a
15 chance. Why should we even consider or allow that
16 Vogtle 3 and 4 will be able to be built without that
17 taken into consideration. I think that should be
18 addressed.

19 This is not a green energy, not a solution
20 to our energy problems or climate change and there are
21 many environmental and public health impacts, many of
22 which were talked about tonight, that the EIS should
23 address very carefully.

24 The EIS should also address why we have
25 not -- why Southern Company, Georgia Power and others

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1 haven't adequately explained how renewable,
2 sustainable energy sources and efficiency,
3 conservation alternatives would be looked at. These
4 have been abandoned and the EIS should address that.

5 I would also like to see the demonstration
6 of the increase in demand, that this actually exists.
7 And why nuclear is something that would be much more
8 advisable than these renewable, sustainable efficiency
9 or conservation options.

10 One thing that wasn't brought up I don't
11 think tonight in terms of some of the long-term
12 impacts, the uniqueness of this area because of the
13 Tuscaloosa Aquifer. It's unique as the major
14 freshwater recharge aquifer in North America and
15 provides drinking water for multiple states. Vogtle
16 1 and 2 already is using more water per day than most
17 of the towns in Georgia, I think someone mentioned
18 this earlier, and we've all heard about water
19 resources debates. I know Lou talked about this in
20 Alabama, Georgia, Florida. We've all heard about
21 those on the news. And new reactors would actually
22 worsen this. The EIS should absolutely address this.

23 Security, I won't go into detail, many of
24 those details were covered earlier. This area and new
25 reactors -- Vogtle is already special given its

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1 juxtaposition to the Savannah River Site. God forbid
2 anything were ever -- I would never want to see this
3 happen -- but God forbid, what's going on at Savannah
4 River Site is very much linked to what we're talking
5 about in terms of North Korea, Iran and so on. People
6 that we hope are not using so-called peaceful atoms
7 for weapons. Are we doing that here? This is a
8 special area and the juxtaposition of the Savannah
9 River Site is problematic, the EIS should address
10 this.

11 Finally, the EIS should contemplate the
12 implications of self-monitoring versus independent
13 monitoring. We have been cut in Georgia tremendously,
14 the folks at our state regulatory agencies have had
15 major cuts. This is a problem for existing reactors,
16 let alone wanting to bring more on line. And
17 monitoring the releases that are routine, because
18 there are routine releases, should be looked at in
19 addition to the accidental releases. The EIS should
20 address and should contemplate the implications of
21 self versus independent monitoring. Already, we are
22 depending largely on Georgia Power data for this, this
23 is incredibly problematic and the region is already
24 burdened with releases, including radioactive tritium
25 from Savannah River Site and Vogtle. But the EIS

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1 should absolutely address and discuss the plans for
2 monitoring in the EIS.

3 Again, I think we're creative people, and
4 I think that we can take all of these things into
5 account, with taking into account the economic
6 prosperity and the health of people in Burke County
7 and in the wider state of Georgia and in the region.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Marci.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Emma Oliver.

12 MS. OLIVER: Thank you very much for
13 allowing me this opportunity to speak today. We
14 really appreciate your ear to hear about what we
15 think. I'm a student from Georgia State University
16 and I came down here today because I'm concerned that
17 the health and safety issues regarding the
18 construction of new nuclear reactors are not being
19 taken seriously.

20 If this construction goes ahead, this will
21 be the first since Three Mile Island. Based on our
22 experiences from Three Mile Island, I would hope that
23 we could look into sustainable options, clean and safe
24 energy options, not nuclear power.

25 I would like to leave you with a few

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1 things to consider and to reaffirm what has been said
2 tonight. The Savannah River Basin is already
3 suffering. Building more nuclear reactors will only
4 make the situation worse. Another thing, high level
5 radioactive waste created, or spent fuel, has no place
6 to be stored or disposed of. It is not likely that we
7 will have a solution in our lifetime. Building more
8 nuclear reactors will only make the situation worse.

9 Another point, nuclear plants are
10 vulnerable to terrorist attacks and sabotage.

11 One last point, a 1982 Congressional
12 report estimated that if a meltdown occurred at just
13 one of Vogtle's reactors, it could cause at least
14 39,000 early injuries, 4000 cancer deaths and 200
15 early fatalities with costs of over \$60 billion.
16 Considering this information, we must produce
17 electricity that we need through less dangerous energy
18 supplies such as energy efficiency, solar, wind and
19 fire power.

20 To read more about power secrets, the
21 nuclear power secrets, I'd like to refer you to
22 Fission Stories: The Nuclear Power's Secrets It was
23 written by David Lochbaum and he is currently a
24 nuclear safety engineer with the Union of Concerned
25 Scientists. He was a former employee within the

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1 nuclear power industry for nearly 20 years before
2 joining the Union of Concerned Scientists. I think we
3 can trust David Lochbaum, a nuclear safety engineer.

4 For those of you not up in arms about the
5 proposed nuclear construction, please read this, it's
6 good for bed time stories, but it may give you
7 nightmares. I think we have to go through the
8 nightmares to realize what a situation we're in.

9 All I can say is I hope that the guy is
10 here who brought up the situation in the U.K. with the
11 nuclear power plants we have there. All I can say is
12 that the people from my home were bamboozled into
13 thinking that nuclear energy was a good thing. I
14 don't want this community, my new community, to be
15 bamboozled into thinking that this is a viable option.

16 We just need to think about long-term
17 versus short-term costs. Short-term, yes, nuclear
18 power may be cost-effective, but I think it's very
19 important to look at the long-term cost. We need to
20 look to the future and not be complacent with short-
21 term economic gains. We need to provide a safe
22 community and a safe world for our children.

23 Thank you very much for your time.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Emma.

25 We do have a few speakers left that we're

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1 going to go to now. Is Roderick Sams -- then Johnny
2 Jenkins, Leonard Hill and Al Rutledge and Arthur
3 Brengetts.

4 MR. SAMS: Thank you, my name is Roderick
5 Sams and I'm principal at one of the local elementary
6 schools here. And I'm sleepy, it's been a long night
7 and so my students will probably have fun with me
8 tomorrow.

9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. SAMS: But I'm not going to speak
11 about the school where I currently am because of
12 course any of you who have had an opportunity to see
13 our facilities, you know they're fantastic and again,
14 that relationship with Plant Vogtle has definitely
15 paid dividends for us here in Burke County.

16 But I do want to talk about -- and I know
17 this hearing was primarily for environmental purposes,
18 but again, for those of us who are from here and live
19 here, we can't talk about environmental purposes
20 without talking about the overall impact of Plant
21 Vogtle. And I'm primarily talking about the
22 humanistic point of view, not necessarily what they've
23 done for us economically.

24 I served for the last five years as
25 principal of SGA Elementary School which is in Sardis,

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1 which is probably the closest school to Plant Vogtle.
2 There was a strong partnership between SGA Elementary
3 School and Plant Vogtle from the standpoint of
4 employees and them serving vital roles in supporting
5 the students at the school. Many of them served as
6 volunteers, served as mentors, served in other
7 capacities that have truly impacted our school. And
8 I got a chance to see those relationships first-hand.

9 Now of course, you can't talk about a
10 company without talking about how they foster
11 relationships with the communities that they serve.
12 And I can honestly say that Georgia Power, Southern
13 Company, Southern Nuclear, they definitely believe in
14 fostering those community relationships because I
15 lived it and I saw it first-hand.

16 And just simply to say that Plant Vogtle
17 has been a tremendous asset, it continues to be. If
18 we are able to benefit from the additional reactors,
19 then that means of course that the children and
20 everybody else in this community will continue to
21 benefit.

22 And again, I do thank you for this
23 opportunity from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, we
24 do thank all of our leaders for being here. We don't
25 have to agree, but at the same time we can disagree

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1 without being disagreeable.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Roderick, good
4 message.

5 Johnny Jenkins.

6 MR. JENKINS: I'm Johnny Jenkins, I'm a
7 member of the Board of Education in Burke County.
8 I'll say something that nobody else has said tonight,
9 so I approve of this message.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. JENKINS: I had a speech, but it's
12 been so long, I threw it away. I just want to make a
13 few statements about what's happening.

14 Before Plant Vogtle got here, we had old
15 schools, no air conditioning. Now we have the finest
16 facilities in the state of Georgia. We had old school
17 buses, broke down a lot. Now we have air conditioned
18 school buses to take our kids to school. We had a
19 shortage of teachers. Now we can pick and choose the
20 teachers we want. We had an old boarding house that
21 we used to meet in, that's where the central office
22 was. Now we have a new central office.

23 We just thank God for Plant Vogtle and we
24 ask you to bring your reactors on because we're ready
25 for them.

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1 Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Johnny.

3 Al Rutledge and then Leonard Hill. Is
4 Leonard still here? Okay. Al Rutledge.

5 MR. RUTLEDGE: Good evening. I'll keep
6 this short. I'm going to give you a new perspective
7 though.

8 I'm a new person here in Burke County,
9 I've been here a little over a year, and when we came
10 here, I'm not going to pretend I am an expert at
11 nuclear, because I'm not. I'm not going to tell you
12 that I believe everything I hear, I don't believe
13 everything I read. For everything I see that is for
14 nuclear, I can find something equally that is against
15 nuclear.

16 The thing that helps me decide whether I
17 am for or against Georgia Power to proceed with this
18 is the people that I talk to. Now the people don't
19 know how I'm listening or what I'm looking for. I'm
20 just listening. And when I talk to people that are
21 brand spanking new to me, I have no idea where they
22 work, what they do, I don't know anything about them,
23 but they tell me good things about Vogtle.

24 I remember driving down the road when I
25 first moved here and I see "Plant Vogtle"

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1 (mispronouncing). I could not figure out what that
2 was.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MR. RUTLEDGE: But I started asking
5 around, you know, what is Plant Vogtle, they corrected
6 me pretty quick. And it took me ten months to hear
7 anything bad about Plant Vogtle, ten months. The
8 first time I heard anything at all bad was when I was
9 in this very room back in May, and that's when I heard
10 some activists come up. They made very good points,
11 I'm not going to say that they're wrong. I think in
12 order for us to proceed with this, we have to look at
13 some of the things that they bring forward. We have
14 to make sure that we are good citizens, we're good
15 stewards of the land here. That's all good, but what
16 is the risk, what is the true risk of everything that
17 they're bringing up.

18 If they were alive back in the late '50s
19 and we had the manned capsule that went into outer
20 space, would we visit outer space today? Look at all
21 the different improvements we've seen in our daily
22 lives just because we sent men up into outer space.

23 Yes, I'm nervous. I'm way out of my
24 comfort range right now because I just don't get up in
25 front of people and express my opinions very often.

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1 I feel like I have to though because I hear too many
2 negative things on things that I don't agree with. I
3 wanted to at least voice my opinion and say okay, yes,
4 I am for this. Do I like it? No. But I'm not going
5 to let some activist come in here and rule this floor
6 and say okay, let's go against this for all these
7 different reasons. I think they're good reasons, but
8 what is the risk? What is the real risk factor.
9 That's really what I'm against.

10 So I want you to understand I am for going
11 forward with this. I think the risk of all the
12 negative things that we hear is very low, and I think
13 that with the impact of the community, it's going to
14 be phenomenal. Waynesboro has a lot of growth --
15 there's a lot of room to grow, number one; and I think
16 that I'm going to be here for it, I've been here a
17 little over a year and I'd like to retire here. I
18 think this is a great community and I really thank
19 Plant Vogtle for that.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Al.

22 Is Arthur Brengetts here?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. CAMERON: I know Eugene -- is it
25 Tanzymore?

1 MR. TANZYMORE: Tanzymore.

2 MR. CAMERON: And then we're going to go
3 to Brad Bennett.

4 Eugene.

5 MR. TANZYMORE: Thank you very much. Good
6 evening to everyone. I'm a minister, so I won't talk
7 long, but my other hat -- my name is Eugene Tanzymore,
8 I'm the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for
9 Jefferson Energy, which is headquartered in Wrens,
10 Georgia. We serve 32,000 customers in 11 counties.
11 Now there are 39 co-ops in Georgia and we own 30
12 percent of Plant Vogtle, we are non-profit.

13 You must know that Georgia is one of the
14 fastest growing states in our America. And one of the
15 things -- it's growing so fast, that we've got to have
16 at least 400 megawatts of energy on a yearly basis
17 just to keep up with the present growth. And if it
18 starts to growing faster, I don't know what we're
19 going to do.

20 Other parts of the country have blackouts
21 and all kind of outs, some no lights at all. We are
22 for it. I'm a father, I'm a grandfather and I live
23 just across the line out of Burke County and I hope
24 that when 2030 year comes around that my daughters, my
25 son and my granddaughters won't be walking around in

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1 the dark because there was not enough generation of
2 electricity so we could turn the lights on like other
3 parts of our great country is going through now.

4 Thank you and may God bless.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Eugene.

6 Brad. And is Tom Hinton still around?
7 Okay.

8 MR. BENNETT: Thank you. I know it's been
9 a long evening, so I'll try to keep my remarks fairly
10 brief. My name is Brad Bennett and I speak tonight on
11 behalf of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition. We're
12 a national grassroots coalition that unites unlikely
13 allies across the business, environmental, academic,
14 consumer and labor communities in support of nuclear
15 energy.

16 Our members support the use of nuclear
17 energy now and the construction of new nuclear plants
18 in the future. The gentleman right before me
19 mentioned it, I think it's worth reiterating that
20 demand is only increasing. When today's children
21 become tomorrow's adults, America will need 45 percent
22 more power than we currently use. How will we handle
23 this enormous increase? Conservation and greater
24 efficiencies in the production of natural gas, oil,
25 coal and hydro power will help, and a deeper

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1 commitment to renewable resources such as wind and
2 geothermal will be needed. But they won't be enough.

3 Consider that currently all renewable
4 sources produce two percent of our electricity,
5 whereas nuclear power accounts for 20 percent or one
6 out of every five homes and businesses in the United
7 States. Today in Georgia, nuclear power provides more
8 than 23 percent of the state's energy needs.

9 The reality is we will require more from
10 these sources and all others to meet the electricity
11 needs of tomorrow. We should continue to seek
12 diversity in our energy sources and nuclear energy has
13 an important role to play.

14 According to a nationwide public opinion
15 survey conducted for our organization earlier this
16 year, 76 percent of Americans do not believe enough is
17 being done to increase affordable electricity supplies
18 for the future. And 69 percent do not believe enough
19 is being done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and
20 air pollution associated with electricity production.

21 Nuclear energy is clean, it is the only
22 large-scale emission-free source of electricity that
23 we can readily expand to meet our growing energy
24 demand. In 2004, U.S. nuclear plants prevented nearly
25 700 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, nearly as

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1 much carbon dioxide as is released from all U.S.
2 passenger cars combined. In Georgia, nuclear power
3 reactors in operation today avoided the emission of
4 179,000 tons of sulphur dioxide, 41,000 tons of
5 nitrogen oxides and 28 million metric tons of carbon
6 dioxide in the year 2005.

7 Nuclear energy boosts economic growth and
8 supports high-paying jobs. For each construction,
9 manufacturing or operations job created in a nuclear
10 power plant, four new jobs are created to provide
11 goods and services to that plant and the surrounding
12 community.

13 Let me close by reiterating what others
14 have said tonight. Nuclear plants make good
15 neighbors. This community's strong support isn't
16 unique. According to a national survey conducted last
17 year by Bisconti Research, they found that 76 percent
18 of Americans living in close proximity to nuclear
19 power plants are willing to see a new reactor built
20 near them.

21 We all have a shared stake in America's
22 energy future. Building new nuclear power plants
23 enables us to generate electricity with a clean, safe
24 and reliable source of power.

25 Thank you.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Brad.

2 While Tom Hinton is coming up, just let me
3 read you what I have left here. Henry Tinley, Howard
4 Davis, Gerald Murray, Jennifer Royal, Tom Reynolds,
5 Doug Rhodes, Wayne Weddon and last, but not least
6 William Mizell. So if there's anybody else, let me
7 know.

8 Tom Hinton.

9 DR. HINTON: Thank you. This reminds me
10 of a seminar speaker giving a talk, he looked out in
11 the audience and there was only one person left and he
12 thanks the person in the audience for staying, and
13 that person says -- he stands up and says, "Don't
14 thank me, I'm the last speaker."

15 (Laughter.)

16 DR. HINTON: Good evening, my name is Tom
17 Hinton, I live in South Carolina. I'm quite fortunate
18 to have a home right on the Savannah River. My porch
19 looks out on the flowing river. So Plant Vogtle is,
20 in essence, in my backyard. So I have a vested
21 interest in the planned expansion of this facility.

22 I also have an interest from the
23 standpoint of my professional perspective. I work at
24 an ecology laboratory, one that specializes in
25 studying environmental contamination including

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1 radionuclides. In addition to being an ecologist, I
2 also consider myself an environmentalist. By that I
3 mean that protecting the environment is a high
4 priority to me.

5 I am aware of the environmental impacts of
6 nuclear energy. Many years ago, I worked as an
7 environmental engineer at a uranium mine in Wyoming.
8 As the company carved a huge gaping hole in the earth,
9 I desperately tried to refill it, remediate it and
10 restore it. I have also been to Chernobyl, I have
11 seen the destroyed reactor. In fact, I am one of the
12 few individuals, Western individuals, that is, that
13 has been inside the Chernobyl sarcophagus.

14 I earned my doctoral degree in radiation
15 ecology from Colorado State University in 1989. I
16 then went to the Paul Scherrer Institute in
17 Switzerland for three years to study the effects of
18 the Chernobyl accident. I have continued this course
19 of study throughout my career as a university
20 professor.

21 Just two weeks ago, I was in Gomel,
22 Belarus, one of the three former Soviet satellite
23 countries most affected by the Chernobyl accident. I
24 was an invited speaker at an advanced research
25 workshop on the effects of multiple contaminants

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1 including radionuclides. I thus bring some
2 professional credibility to my stand on the expansion
3 of Plant Vogtle.

4 I fully support nuclear energy for
5 commercial power use. I fully support the expansion
6 of the Plant Vogtle facility. My support stems from
7 knowledge of contaminants in the environment. We live
8 in a chemically sophisticated world. Better living
9 through chemistry is a reality. Humans are masters at
10 combining chemicals in magical ways to produce goods
11 that truly enrich our lives. The price we pay,
12 however, is that complex mixtures of metals, nicotine
13 and benzene are found in our blood. PCBs, PAHs and
14 POPs settle in our fat. Pesticides cling to our house
15 dust. Endocrine disrupters are excreted in our urine.
16 Infants begin life with detectible PCBs and DBTs from
17 their mother's milk. All of this occurs while the ice
18 melts in our polar regions from global warming. These
19 are the things that threaten our environment, our
20 existence -- not the emissions from nuclear power
21 plants.

22 From an environmental standpoint, nuclear
23 power is good for this country and thus I fully
24 support the expansion of the Plant Vogtle facility.

25 Thank you.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Tom.
2 Henry Tinley.

3 MR. TINLEY: I think one thing about being
4 able to get up here and talk is that I get to stand up
5 and get some blood flowing in the rear end of my
6 torso.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. TINLEY: I'm not used to sitting this
9 long in a meeting. I think after about 45 minutes,
10 everybody's ready to go. Anyway, if you'll bear with
11 me for a few minutes.

12 My name is Henry Tinley and I've lived
13 here in Waynesboro, Burke County, for over 50 years.
14 I've had an opportunity to do many things and a couple
15 of those things that I've done is not only a citizen,
16 I've worked here in Burke County for Burke County
17 Health Department for over 40 years. I've also had
18 the opportunity to work in the emergency management
19 area with Chief Sanders, as an operations officer,
20 especially any time we had a Plant Vogtle exercise or
21 any kind of emergency that came up in the county. I
22 also retired from the military, so I've had some
23 opportunities to work with the federal people and I
24 know what they have to do.

25 One of the things I would like to say

1 about Plant Vogtle and Georgia Power and Southern
2 Nuclear is that we've had a great working relationship
3 with them. They have been an asset to the community
4 and they have helped develop strong growth of our
5 community, they've helped with leadership of the
6 people in our community and they have helped the city
7 and county government with the relative goals for
8 growth and other development of our people in the
9 county.

10 Many of the infrastructure needs of the
11 county have been met because of Plant Vogtle. We've
12 had many other things brought into the county because
13 of Plant Vogtle, you're sitting in one right now.

14 One of the other things I'd like to say
15 too is that we're excited and proud of the
16 relationship that the community and Georgia Power and
17 Plant Vogtle have with each other and we're pleased to
18 have them as part of the community. We want to
19 continue this partnership support and this expansion
20 of Plant Vogtle will be greatly appreciated by the
21 community.

22 And on behalf of the American Legion Post
23 120, Burke Infantry and many citizens of the county,
24 I thank you for this time to express how we the
25 citizens of Burke County feel about Georgia Power,

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1 Plant Vogtle and the Southern Nuclear Company.

2 I thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Henry.

4 Gerald Murray.

5 MR. MURRAY: It's getting late and I'll be
6 brief. I am one of the people who e-mailed and I
7 thought I was going to get to talk earlier, but anyway
8 I got in here late and I'm glad I did because I've
9 heard a lot of good stuff tonight.

10 I'm Gerald Murray, I'm currently the
11 Chairman of the Burke County Hospital Authority. I am
12 a native of Burke County, I'm one of those baby
13 boomers, going to be turning 60 this year, so I've
14 been here awhile. As I said, I'm here as Chairman of
15 the Hospital Authority, but more importantly I'm here
16 as a father and grandfather of children growing up in
17 Burke County.

18 My original intent was to come up here to
19 night and support Plant Vogtle. After what I've heard
20 tonight, my support has not changed, I am still in
21 support of Burke County.

22 I wanted to just take a couple of minutes
23 to answer a few questions of some of the people here
24 that are somewhat opposed to Plant Vogtle. Being a
25 native of Burke County, growing up in Burke County all

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1 my life and being the age I am, I'll first answer the
2 young lady I think that mentioned something about
3 having nightmares about terror attacks and everything
4 else. Well, when I was growing up, we were in the
5 middle of something called the cold war and from the
6 first day in school until the day I graduated school,
7 we went through nuclear attack drills once a month or
8 once a year, whatever. So I don't have nightmares
9 about terror attacks. We grew up in the worst of
10 times.

11 But anyway, I just want to say that I am
12 here to support Vogtle in any way. I support Georgia
13 Power, Southern Nuclear and anything I can do, I'll be
14 glad to help.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

16 Jennifer Royal.

17 MS. ROYAL: Good evening, I'm Jennifer
18 Royal, I'm the Administrator of Burke Medical Center
19 here in Waynesboro, Georgia. Everything that I wanted
20 to say has already been said and I'm too tired to say
21 anything else, so I'm just going to be real brief.

22 In my position as administrator, I can
23 attest to Southern Nuclear's commitment to the safety
24 of our community. I've had the privilege of
25 participating in many drills with Vogtle and I'm also

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1 grateful for their willingness to participate in the
2 hospital's hazardous materials analysis. I'm a member
3 of various organizations in Burke County, I can attest
4 to Southern Nuclear's commitment to the community.

5 As Ashley Long said earlier, I haven't
6 been involved in anything in the community that
7 Southern Nuclear was not.

8 And last, as a citizen of Burke County and
9 a resident of the City of Girard for the last eight
10 years, and also as a mother, I'm voicing my support of
11 the new reactors at Plant Vogtle because I do believe
12 it's a safe venture.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Great, thank you. Thank
15 you, Jennifer.

16 Is Howard Davis still here?

17 MR. DAVIS: Right here. My name is Howard
18 Davis and I live in Waynesboro. I have a background
19 in nuclear power generation, I have a degree in
20 chemical engineering from Georgia Tech. I think
21 actually everything that's been spoken here tonight
22 has probably already been reviewed in the initial
23 safety review when Plant Vogtle was first started
24 quite a few years ago.

25 If anyone has ever tried to get into Plant

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1 Vogtle, I can't see how someone could say they need to
2 increase security out there. It's always been a fence
3 around it and other kinds of monitors around the site,
4 plus the security personnel is there. And also, it's
5 been mentioned about a terrorist event using aircraft.
6 That containment there is like three foot thick
7 concrete filled with rebar two to three inches thick.
8 A passenger plane, what it actually is is an aluminum
9 tube meant to carry people, it's not any kind of a
10 battering ram even at speeds that would be involved in
11 any kind of crash.

12 Also, a baseload unit like we're talking
13 about, you know, you need a baseload unit like when
14 these industries start up in the morning, you know,
15 there's a load that's put on the system right then and
16 how are you going to sustain and carry that load when
17 all these 2, 3, 4000 horsepower motors kick in, you
18 know, with a windmill. I just don't know if that's
19 possible.

20 Also, the economic impact on the United
21 States from these -- you know, these proposed
22 Westinghouse units, which is actually about a second
23 generation from the pre-Three Mile Island and what
24 caused the cost overruns and caused the time delays on
25 the initial two units was the TMI emissions. And now

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1 we're looking at this AP-1000 from Westinghouse which
2 is proposed for Plant Vogtle. These units will be I
3 think a lot safer even than the units that are there
4 now. Plus, you know, when you look at the
5 manufacturing impact that these units will do for
6 Westinghouse and for this nation, you know, as far as
7 I know, they'll probably be built in Chattanooga, plus
8 all the suppliers will be all over the United States
9 and the world, for that matter.

10 So all in all, I think just on the
11 economic aspect, which I think is of great importance
12 to this nation in the balance of payment problem the
13 U.S. has right now, I just urge that this ESP be
14 expedited and issued.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Howard.

17 Tom Reynolds. Here you are, Tom.

18 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you, sir.

19 I guess some you know me, probably some of
20 you don't. I'm Tom Reynolds. I have the distinction
21 of my grandfather many years back, in the year of
22 1753, settled on the Java's Bottom (ph.) which is down
23 on Beaver Dam Creek just below here, and I would like
24 to thank the Georgia Power Company and Southern
25 Nuclear for taking some of that poor land off my

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1 hands.

2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. REYNOLDS: My father used to say that
4 that land was not worth anything but to keep the rain
5 from falling in hell. If you've ever tried to cotton
6 farm it, you know that to be true.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. REYNOLDS: What I'm here about today
9 is I'm concerned because I am a stockholder of not the
10 Georgia Power Company but the Southern Company, I'm a
11 stockholder of Duke Power Company and I'm a
12 stockholder of Idaho Power Company. And the Idaho
13 Power Company was given the privilege of our President
14 Bush when he gave his second address when he was
15 elected the second time, of their technology being
16 presented.

17 The Idaho Power Company has a technology
18 that is now licensed to the Germans and this
19 technology is a hydrogen technology and a generator
20 about the size of this room will generate enough
21 electricity for a town of 10,000 people. Now
22 unfortunately, the Idaho Power stock has gone up and
23 gone down because they actually have been selling the
24 power from the Snake River to the people in
25 California. And that stock has gone down somewhat and

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1 all of a sudden it's come back.

2 So I would say that the future technology
3 is going to be in hydrogen power and the SRS will be
4 a major player in hydrogen power.

5 And the Kimberly-Clark Company is now
6 building in Beech Island their biggest installation in
7 the United States of America and that installation
8 already has the water permits for the Savannah River.
9 Now lower South Carolina is very much up in arms about
10 the fact that the water going down the Savannah River
11 is not very usable and their wells are drying up over
12 there because of irrigation and so forth, they're
13 getting saltwater in their wells. This is Hilton Head
14 I'm talking about, Bluffton and that area. And the
15 City of Savannah is also having trouble with their
16 water.

17 I would just like to say that I was on
18 this committee in 1998 that -- I was on the Burke
19 County Planning Committee in 1998 when we had a
20 meeting of the old Central Savannah River Area Group
21 to determine how much water we were going to have
22 available. And we badly under-estimated the water we
23 were going to have available and how long the water
24 that can be pulled out of the Savannah River
25 successfully was going to last.

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1 But if the SRS does build a hydrogen
2 generator at that plant across the river, we are going
3 to see a power that produces water when it's through.
4 It's not going to be a technology that's going to
5 pollute the atmosphere or anything like that.

6 So I would say that I would buy stock in
7 Idaho Power Company rather than the Southern Company
8 at the present time, which I have. I've doubled my
9 stock in Idaho Power, not because of Mr. Bush's
10 endorsement of it, but because I've seen the
11 technology work and it works.

12 Thank you, sir.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Tom.

14 Doug Rhodes. How you doing, Doug?

15 MR. RHODES: It's kind of past my bedtime.
16 Good evening. My name is Doug Rhodes. I'm going to
17 put a new twist on this for you.

18 I am the closest resident to Plant Vogtle
19 on the Augusta side. I'm on one side of the road,
20 Plant Vogtle is on the other. I've had that property
21 17 years, I brought my family out here four years ago
22 and built a house. All I'm going to tell you is I
23 stay in the river, my boat's in the river now.
24 Talking about the water flow, I think y'all need to
25 look at the Corps of Engineers up in Augusta, they

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1 control the flow of the Savannah River, that's where
2 it comes from, the guys at the switch.

3 As far as environmental, the people next
4 door are just fine, so I come down here to put a good
5 word in for my neighbors. I think it'd be a good
6 thing, I've never had a problem with them.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thanks for coming down.

9 Wayne Weddon.

10 (No response.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay, we have two speakers
12 left and one is James Cleary and then we're going to
13 go to William Mizell.

14 MR. CLEARY: Thank you. I'm James Cleary,
15 I'm a retired research chemist, so far I've retired
16 three times. Last boss I had said, "Jim can't do
17 anything right, he can't even retire properly."

18 There's just a few things that hit my
19 buttons here. I'm again a chemist and any time I use
20 a new chemical, the first thing I do is pick up Merck
21 Index and check its physical properties and then go
22 down to the bottom and look at its toxicity. And some
23 things just scare the hell out of me, and others
24 don't. Radioactivity is not too bad, we've been
25 living with radioactivity for years, it's a very

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1 important element, which is called potassium which is
2 essential for life. If you have too little in your
3 body, you're dead. If you have too much, you're dead.
4 Potassium happens to be the very nature of radioactive
5 element. Potassium 40 is decaying in every one of us
6 right now, it goes in and out of the cell at will and
7 when it's popping off, it can do the most damage right
8 in the middle of a cell. But we've learned how to
9 cope with it and it's not doing any problem at all.

10 The lady from Savannah was worried about
11 all this water vapor in the air and there's such a
12 thing called vapor pressure, which water can only hold
13 so much vapor and then it condenses and that's why we
14 have clouds. If you look at the water vapor clouds
15 coming out of the cooling towers at Plant Vogtle,
16 those are clouds, the excess water is condensing, and
17 you can actually find rain sometimes on cold days. If
18 it's cold enough, I guess you'd get snow.

19 My first life was at Phillips Petroleum
20 Company in Texas, Oklahoma and Texas. We had for
21 awhile alternate energy as a group in our branch. And
22 I learned an awful lot, one was Phillips was spending
23 a lot of money supporting fusion research in
24 California and to me it was always a pie in the sky
25 because they were always almost getting it done, but

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1 we find out that clean fusion is extremely dirty and
2 because there's so much radiation emitted from it, all
3 the equipment around it turned extremely radioactive
4 and you couldn't handle it.

5 Another was oil sands up in Canada, we
6 didn't do any research on that because the vice
7 president says there's a man up there that keeps
8 writing us letters, every couple of months we get a
9 letter from him, very long letters, and some of them
10 started out "Can you imagine what these idiots are
11 doing now?" Like putting all the equipment down in
12 the bottom of the pit, then there was a heavy rain and
13 it was all under water.

14 Then there was the oil shale out in the
15 Colorado plateau. We did a lot of research in getting
16 oil out of that, but the only problem with that was
17 that the EPA had -- at that time, it was so pristine,
18 that the ambient air out there was in violation, so we
19 said how are we ever going to be able to operate out
20 there.

21 I heard about this hydrogen power.
22 Hydrogen is incredibly hard to handle. When I was in
23 the Texas panhandle there at a helium plant that the
24 government has, and they said we ship iron, we have
25 these trailers, these tanks, we fill it up with

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1 helium, we send it to a place, they empty it, it comes
2 back and it weighs still the same. The hydrogen is
3 half -- is as much as the weight of two helium, not
4 the weight of four, so it'd be as much the weight of
5 hydrogen because you can ship it in steel around the
6 country and hydrogen likes to get out of tiny cracks,
7 it's very hard to hold in.

8 The nuclear waste, I'm hearing a lot about
9 that. The United States is the only country that
10 doesn't reprocess the nuclear waste. It's insanity to
11 go and put it into Yucca Mountain. It has uranium, it
12 has plutonium, a mixture they call MOx, stick it back
13 in the reactor. The other byproducts you can use for
14 other things. If there's cobalt-60 in that, you can
15 use it, and it's going to really reduce the amount of
16 nuclear waste that has to be buried somewhere.

17 MR. CAMERON: I guess they pushed a lot of
18 buttons.

19 MR. CLEARY: Yeah, I have a few more.

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, James.

21 And finally, William Mizell.

22 MR. MIZELL: Thank you. Last but not
23 least. I promise you, there won't be another one
24 after me.

25 A lot of what I wanted to say has been

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1 said -- and I'm sorry, I need to lay this down --
2 Georgia Power is not the only one to say we need more
3 power. I read in the Wall Street Journal and the New
4 York Times last week talking about the shortage of
5 power in this nation. We've been lucky in the south
6 that we've not had our power grids to go out like they
7 have in the north. But locally -- when I say locally,
8 regionally -- there have been peak times that we have
9 even been asked to conserve and America basically is
10 not a country that's going to conserve, you know, it's
11 just not our nature.

12 Three Mile Island has been talked about.
13 You know, that's the worst nuclear accident we've had
14 on North America, but you know, Three Mile Island
15 still exists, it still produces power to this day in
16 reactor number one. Reactor number two has been
17 contained and -- you know, has been contained.

18 We talked about how good a corporate
19 citizen and employer Georgia Power, Southern Nuclear
20 is.

21 They talked about security. Anything can
22 happen. You know, if the world was a perfect place,
23 Georgia would be undefeated, number one in the nation
24 --

25 (Laughter.)

1 MR. MIZELL: -- the Braves would be in the
2 World Series and Mark Martin would be driving a Ford
3 next year.

4 (Laughter.)

5 MR. MIZELL: But the people, they do the
6 best they can. I know the drills that they go
7 through. I know how serious they take their jobs, I
8 know how seriously the operators take their jobs.

9 I think the real purpose of this place
10 tonight -- excuse me, there was one other thing, it
11 was talked about how large in the economy that
12 Southern Nuclear was of our industries. And make no
13 bones about it, they are the big dog around here. But
14 this county also has a little over half a dozen
15 industries, it's very big in agriculture and
16 businesses that support agriculture and with the four-
17 lane going through, I think it will help that industry
18 grow. So we're not dependent totally on one industry,
19 though they are the big dog.

20 I really think the purpose of tonight's
21 meeting was not economics, security, but was the
22 environmental issue. And we have to put trust in the
23 NRC to do their job. And when they do the site
24 survey, if the site survey comes out clean, which I
25 believe it will -- the place was designed to have four

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1 reactors, the community supports four reactors --
2 bring it on.

3 We have clean air here, unlike the City of
4 Atlanta, I know because I moved here from there. And
5 I've never had a glass of water to glow in the night.
6 When we moved here, I have never felt for the safety
7 or health concerns of my family, not then, not now,
8 nor in the future.

9 Good night.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, William.

12 I'm going to turn it over to Chris Nolan
13 to close the meeting for us in a minute, but I just
14 wanted to thank you, from a facilitator's point of
15 view, for your interest and your patience and for
16 following the ground rules. It was a great, great
17 audience.

18 Chris.

19 MR. NOLAN: Again, I'd like to thank each
20 and every one of you for coming tonight and sharing
21 all your value-added comments with us. It really
22 helps our process.

23 Just a sampling of some of the comments
24 that I heard: Tritium in the Savannah River, looking
25 at that from both an instantaneous and an average

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1 perspective.

2 Water usage on the Savannah River,
3 historical flows, water management plan, downstream
4 impacts on Savannah.

5 We heard a lot about the impacts of the
6 plant on the community. Those are socio-economic
7 impacts and they are part of our environmental impact
8 statement. We spent a lot of time this week in the
9 community trying to assess what those impacts really
10 were.

11 Fuel cycle is part of our evaluation, so
12 we appreciate those comments as well as the cumulative
13 impacts.

14 I'd like to thank you for the courtesy
15 that you've shown each other and all of you for
16 staying until the end of the meeting, that's quite
17 impressive.

18 I'd like to thank local law enforcement
19 for making this a safe and secure meeting for all of
20 us and the hospitality of the ATC regarding this
21 facility.

22 I think this has been a successful meeting
23 and a capstone on a successful week from the NRC's
24 perspective.

25 I'll make myself available afterwards in

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1 case anyone has some burning question they'd like to
2 talk about individually. My staff is going to be
3 closing out the room, so if anyone wants to raise
4 issue with them, we can get you to the right person,
5 but don't be shy because I'm sure the people here want
6 to close the building out soon.

7 So again, thank you and have a great
8 remainder of the week.

9 (Applause.)

10 (Whereupon, the meeting was
11 adjourned at 11:18 p.m.)

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