

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Vogtle Units 3 and 4 Draft EIS
 Public Meeting

Docket Number: (n/a)

Location: Waynesboro, Georgia

Date: Thursday, October 4, 2007

Work Order No.: NRC-1800

Pages 1-175

NEAL R. GROSS AND CO., INC.
Court Reporters and Transcribers
1323 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 234-4433

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
+ + + + +
PUBLIC COMMENTS ON
EARLY SITE PERMIT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT SITE
UNITS 3 AND 4

+ + + + +
Thursday, October 4th, 2007

+ + + + +
Waynesboro, Georgia

The Public Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. in the
Waynesboro Campus Auditorium, at the Augusta
Technical College, 216 Highway 24 South, Waynesboro,
Georgia, Francis Cameron, Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

FRANCIS CAMERON - FACILITATOR

JIM LYONS

CRISTINA GUERRERO

MICHAEL SACKSCHEWSKY

CHRIS COOK

MARK NOTICH

CHRISTIAN ARAGUAS

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

AGENDA

WELCOME - FRANCIS CAMERON 3

NRC EIS PROCESS AND COMMENT SUBMITTAL 9

RESULTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW 17

PUBLIC COMMENTS 47

CLOSING COMMENTS 173

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

7:05 p.m.

FACILITATOR CAMERON: Welcome to all of you and thank you very much for coming out tonight, to help us out with our evaluation.

My name is Chip Cameron, and I'm with the office of General Counsel at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which we will be referring to as the NRC tonight.

Our meeting, tonight, is going to address the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that the NRC has prepared, as one part of this evaluation of an application that we received from the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, for an Early Site Permit, which I think you are going to hear it called an ESP.

We will try not to use many acronyms at all, tonight. But you will hear NRC, and you might hear ESP for Early Site Permit.

But we received an application for an Early Site Permit for a potential new nuclear power plant at the Vogtle site, again, from the Southern Nuclear Operating Company.

So we are going to be talking about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. And it is my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for tonight's

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 meeting.

2 And in that role I will try to help all of
3 you to have a productive meeting tonight. I just want
4 to say a couple of words about the meeting process.
5 First of all, the format for the meeting and, second
6 of all, some simple ground rules that will allow all
7 of us, I hope, to have a productive meeting tonight.

8 The meeting format is pretty simple, also.
9 It is a two part format. The first part we are going
10 to try to give you some information, we will have a
11 couple of brief presentations, one of which will be on
12 the Environmental Review process, and then we are
13 going to have a presentation on the findings, the
14 preliminary findings, in the Draft Environmental
15 Impact Statement.

16 We will then go on to you for questions.
17 We will have a little bit of time for questions
18 tonight. And the second part of the meeting is where
19 we will have an opportunity to listen to you, to your
20 advice, to your comments, to your recommendations on
21 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

22 And as the Staff, the NRC Staff will tell
23 you tonight, we are taking written comments, also, on
24 these issues. But we wanted to be here with you
25 tonight, in person, to listen to you.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And any comments you give us tonight will
2 carry the same weight as a written comment. And,
3 obviously, you can talk tonight, and you can
4 supplement that with longer written comments.

5 In terms of ground rules, after the NRC
6 presentations, we will go on to you for questions. If
7 you have a question just signal me and I will bring
8 you this cordless microphone.

9 And if you could introduce yourself to us,
10 and give us any affiliation, as appropriate, we will
11 try to answer your questions. I would ask you to try
12 to be brief.

13 Unfortunately we are not going to have
14 time to take a lot of questions, because we want to
15 make sure that we hear all of your comments, and we
16 have about 50 people, plus, maybe more, who have
17 signed up to speak tonight.

18 So we want to try to get you out by the
19 advertised closing time. But I think we will probably
20 be going over that, at least for a little bit.

21 And during the question period, just keep
22 it to a question. And sometimes questions can morph
23 into comments. And if you could just save those for
24 the comment period, we would appreciate that.

25 Also I would ask you, and this is not

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 something that needs to be said, especially in the
2 south, where everyone enjoys the hospitality that you
3 offer. But if we could just extend courtesy to every
4 speaker?

5 You may hear opinions that differ from
6 your own tonight. And if you could just respect the
7 person giving that opinion.

8 When we get to the comment part of the
9 meeting I'm going to have to ask you to keep your
10 comments to around the three minute range. That is a
11 guideline.

12 I know that is a short time, but we need
13 to try to get everybody on tonight. We are not going
14 to time it with an hour glass, or anything. But try
15 to keep your comments brief.

16 And if only one person could speak at a
17 time, any time during the meeting, so that we can give
18 our full attention to whomever has the floor. And,
19 also, so that we can get a clean transcript.

20 We have Mr. Ed Johns here as our court
21 reporter. He is going to be taking a transcript of
22 everything that is said tonight. And we want to make
23 sure that he knows who is talking, and what they are
24 saying.

25 Now, the focus, as I mentioned, is the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. But we know
2 that people might have broader concerns than that. So
3 we are here to listen to what you have to say tonight.

4 And I would thank you for being here,
5 again. And I just want to introduce the people who
6 will be speaking to you tonight, so that you have an
7 idea of who they are, and what their expertise is.

8 We are going to start off with an
9 introduction to the NRC by our senior manager, here,
10 who is Mr. Jim Lyons, who is director of the division
11 of site and environmental review, in the office of new
12 reactors at the NRC.

13 Jim has been with the NRC for 26 years,
14 and he really was the leader, I think, in terms of NRC
15 management, in regard to new reactor licensing,
16 because in 2001 he started the new reactor licensing
17 project office, which is now the office of new
18 reactors.

19 He is a graduate of the United States
20 Naval Academy, and he was a naval submariner for seven
21 years.

22 After Jim talks we are going to go to
23 Ms. Cristina Guerrero, who is right here. And
24 Cristina is the deputy project manager for the
25 environmental review portion of the Early Site Permit

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 evaluation.

2 And she is going to be giving you an
3 overview of the Early Site Permit Review process,
4 particularly the environmental review. She has been
5 with the NRC for five years, she has lots of
6 experience in license renewal, and in new reactors
7 now. She has a bachelor's from the University of
8 Illinois in environmental sciences.

9 Then we are going to go to
10 Dr. Mike Sackschewsky, who is right here. Mike is the
11 team leader for the group of experts that we have had
12 doing the environmental review. And he is going to
13 tell you about the Draft Environmental Impact
14 Statement, what the NRC looked at, what the findings
15 are.

16 He is a senior research scientist from
17 Pacific Northwest Laboratory. He has 20 years of
18 experience in environmental impact analysis. His PhD
19 is in botany from Washington State University. And he
20 also has a bachelor's in environmental biology from
21 the University of Colorado.

22 And, just finally, let me introduce some
23 other key people. We are going to be here after the
24 meeting formally closes to talk with you. I don't
25 know what time that is going to be, but the Staff is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 here to entertain any questions that you have.

2 And right here is Mark Notich, and Mark is
3 the project manager for the environmental review on
4 this Early Site Permit application.

5 We have Mr. William Butch Burton over
6 here, who is the chief of one of the environmental
7 project branches, in the office of new reactors.

8 We have Christian Araguas right here. And
9 he is the project manager for this review, this ESP
10 review, for Vogtle, of the safety issues. And I think
11 Cristina is going to be giving you a little bit of an
12 overview on that.

13 And with that I'm going to let the Staff
14 start off. Jim, could you -- and we will try to be
15 brief, and then we will get out to you.

16 MR. LYONS: Thank you, Chip. What I would
17 really like to do is just welcome everybody here. I'm
18 very happy that everybody showed up today to come out
19 and give us their opinions.

20 My staff has been working, for the last
21 year, in this Environmental Impact Statement. They
22 have been spending a lot of time here in the local
23 area. The environmental folks are out in the field,
24 you know, taking boat trips up and down the Savannah
25 river, checking out the various wetlands that are in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the area, talking with your elected officials, talking
2 with your school board, talking with community
3 leaders, to find out how building two new nuclear
4 plants could affect your community.

5 So they have done a lot of work. I think
6 it shows in the document that they have put together.
7 But I would hope that you would have the same feeling
8 that I do, when I read it, is that they have done a
9 lot of review, that they have done a thorough review,
10 and that the report that they put out there is one
11 that comprehensively covers everything that they have
12 done.

13 But, at the same time, we want to listen
14 to your comments, we want to understand them, we want
15 to be able to respond to them, when we put out our
16 final Environmental Impact Statement.

17 So with that I would like to turn it back
18 to you, Chip. Or should I just give it to Cristina?

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I think we can just
20 have Cristina come up.

21 MR. LYONS: Thank you very much.

22 MS. GUERRERO: Thank you, Jim. Good
23 evening, everyone. My name is Cristina Guerrero, and
24 I'm the deputy project manager for the Vogtle Early
25 Site Permit.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 On behalf of the NRC I would like to thank
2 you for joining us tonight, and for participating in
3 this meeting. I hope that you find the information,
4 that we share with you, to be helpful in understanding
5 our environmental review.

6 And we look forward to receiving your
7 comments tonight, and in the future. We are here
8 today to solicit your input on the Draft Environmental
9 Impact Statement, on the Early Site Permit application
10 for the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant site.

11 The NRC is an independent regulator. The
12 NRC does not promote, build, or operate nuclear power
13 plants. The NRC's mission is to ensure the adequate
14 protection of public health and safety, to promote the
15 common defense, and security, and protect the
16 environment.

17 This mission includes regulation and
18 oversight of nuclear power plants. To carry out this
19 mission we have experienced professional staff with
20 experts in the areas required to safely regulate the
21 operation of a nuclear power plant.

22 We also have, at least, two resident
23 inspectors at each site, who also live in the area.
24 Gerald McCoy is the senior resident inspector for the
25 Vogtle plant. Gerald McCoy, could you please stand

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 up? He may not be here.

2 The National Environmental Policy Act was
3 enacted in 1969, and requires all federal agencies to
4 use a systematic approach to consider environmental
5 impacts during certain decision-making proceedings.

6 It involves a process during which
7 information is gathered to enable federal agencies to
8 make informed decisions. And then, as part of the
9 National Environmental Act process, we document the
10 information and invite the public participation to
11 evaluate it.

12 In accordance with the National
13 Environmental Policy Act an Environmental Impact
14 Statement is required for major federal actions
15 significantly affecting the quality of the human
16 environment. Issuing an Early Site Permit is such a
17 major federal action.

18 You might be wondering, what is an Early
19 Site Permit? An Early Site Permit is a site
20 suitability review. The Staff evaluates if the site
21 is suitable for the construction and operation of one
22 or more nuclear power plants.

23 It does not give an applicant permission
24 to build or operate a nuclear power plant. In order
25 to actually build and operate a plant, an applicant

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 would have to submit another application, and would
2 have to perform another Safety Evaluation Report.

3 An Applicant can conduct site preparation
4 activities, and limited construction activities,
5 provided the Staff finds the Applicant's site plan
6 would not result in any significant adverse impacts
7 that could not be redressed.

8 The purpose of the site redress plan is in
9 case the site preparation that is started, and the
10 plant is never built. Then the site redress plan
11 would be activated to return the proposed site to an
12 environmentally stable and aesthetically acceptable
13 condition, suitable for future alternative use, that
14 conforms with local zoning laws, thus minimizing long
15 term environmental impacts.

16 Why would an Applicant want an Early Site
17 Permit? If an Early Site Permit is approved, it gives
18 the Applicant an approval location of 20 years.
19 Having this issue resolved early reduces the
20 uncertainty an Applicant might face in pursuing a
21 license for a new reactor, later, because less issues
22 remain to be resolved.

23 This figure lays out the major steps in
24 the review process for an Early Site Permit
25 application. Significant points of public involvement

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 are shown in the irregular yellow shapes.

2 As reflected here, the first opportunity
3 for public involvement occurred before we received the
4 application. We came here, back in May of 2006, to
5 explain the process, holding the meeting here.

6 The Applicant arrived in August 2006,
7 initiating the review by the NRC. There are two major
8 branches, because this review involves implementation
9 of both the Atomic Energy Act, and the National
10 Environmental Policy Act.

11 The top portion shows the review related
12 to site safety, under the Atomic Energy Act. This
13 part of the review involves an evaluation of site
14 safety issues, and emergency planning, along with
15 inspections related to site safety attributes.

16 I will be going into further detail, on
17 the lower half, in the next slide. In addition, an
18 adjudicatory hearing will be held to consider this
19 application for an Early Site Permit.

20 As you can see, in the figure, the public
21 has an opportunity to participate in the hearing. The
22 hearing will be conducted by the Atomic Safety and
23 Licensing Board.

24 The Board's judges are independent of the
25 NRC Staff. During the hearing the Board decides any

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 contested issues. Regarding of whether there are any
2 contested issues, the Board must determine whether the
3 application, and review of the application, by the NRC
4 Staff, documented in the Final Safety Evaluation
5 Report, are sufficient to support the necessary
6 findings under the Atomic Energy Act.

7 The Board also must determine whether the
8 National Environmental Policy Act has been complied
9 with, and must independently balance any conflicting
10 factors in the Final Environmental Impact Statement
11 and whether the Early Site Permit should be issued,
12 denied, or conditioned, to protect the environmental
13 values.

14 Decisions by the Board are reviewable by
15 the Commission. This slide shows a little more detail
16 of the environmental review, under the National
17 Environmental Policy Act.

18 There are certain steps that we, at the
19 NRC, are required to follow to perform the
20 environmental review. After the application was
21 submitted, in August 2006, we issued a Notice of
22 Intent, to let the public know that we are going to
23 prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

24 The Notice of Intent was issued in the
25 Federal Register, on October 5th, 2006. The Notice of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Intent initiated the Scoping Process, during which we
2 identified issues to be addressed in the Environmental
3 Impact Statement.

4 We held a public meeting, on October 2006,
5 as part of that process. During that time we held a
6 public comment period to provide members of the public
7 an opportunity to provide input.

8 In October 2006 our review team went to
9 the site to become more familiar with the area, to
10 gather information about the site, and to discuss any
11 questions that we had regarding the application.

12 We refer to this as a site audit. We also
13 issued a formal request for information to document
14 key information. Last month we issued the Draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement for public comment.

16 The report is a draft not because it is
17 incomplete but, rather, because we are in the
18 intermediate stage in the decision-making process.

19 With the issuance of the Draft
20 Environmental Impact Statement we began a 75 day
21 comment period, and are holding this public meeting to
22 describe the results of the NRC review.

23 After we gather your comments, and
24 evaluate them, we will incorporate, as appropriate,
25 into portions of the Environmental Impact Statement.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The Staff will comment on those responses.

2 The NRC is anticipating issuing the Final
3 Environmental Impact Statement on July 3rd, 2008.

4 This document will be considered during the
5 adjudicatory hearings, on the application, and will
6 then be used as one input to the final agency decision
7 on whether to grant the Early Site Permit.

8 The Staff got the information using
9 development of the Draft Environmental Impact
10 Statement from a number of different sources,
11 including the application, federal, state, local and
12 tribal agencies, the site audit, and the public,
13 through your comments.

14 To perform the review the NRC assembled a
15 team of NRC staff, along with the assistance from
16 Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Members,
17 within the team, have backgrounds in the specific
18 technical, and scientific disciplines, required to
19 perform these environmental reviews.

20 This slide gives you an idea of the types
21 of things we looked at during the environmental
22 review, ecological issues, water use, and water
23 quality issues, health issues, and socioeconomic
24 impacts.

25 In relation to these issues shown here we

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 also looked at the environmental impacts of
2 construction and operation of reactor, or reactors, at
3 the Vogtle site.

4 Alternatives to the proposed action,
5 including potential alternative sites, and the impacts
6 that could result from those alternatives; possible
7 mitigation measures, which are things that could be
8 done that would increase the environmental impact of
9 construction and operation of the site; postulated
10 severe accidents, uranium fuel cycle, and solid waste
11 management; transportation of radioactive materials,
12 decommissioning, and postulated design basis
13 accidents.

14 Next Mike Sackschewsky, the team leader
15 from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, will
16 discuss what we found during our review.

17 MR. SACKSCHEWSKY: Thank you all for
18 coming out tonight. The NRC and the PNL team
19 evaluated the potential construction and operation
20 impacts for the proposed Vogtle ESP units using the
21 environmental parameters of the Westinghouse AP1000
22 certified design.

23 As part of the overall review we also
24 evaluated Southern's Site redress plan. In addition
25 to that we evaluated the environmental impacts for the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 alternative sites identified in the ESP application,
2 which included two other nuclear facilities owned by
3 Southern, Plant Hatch and Plant Farley, and a
4 greenfield location in central Alabama, called the
5 Barton site.

6 For each issue an impact level is
7 assigned. This is described in chapter one of the
8 report. These impact levels are consistent with the
9 Council on Environmental Quality Guidance for a NEPA
10 analysis.

11 To be categorized as a small impact the
12 effect would not be detectable, or would be too small
13 to destabilize, or noticeably alter, attributes of the
14 resource.

15 So, for example, the plant may cause the
16 loss of adult or juvenile fish at the intake
17 structure. If the loss of fish is so small that it
18 cannot be detected, in relation to the total
19 population, the impact would be small.

20 To be categorized as moderate, the effect
21 is sufficient to alter noticeably, but not
22 destabilize, important attributes of the resource.

23 Using the fish example, again, if losses
24 at the intake cause the population to decline, but
25 then stabilize at a new level, the impact may be

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 moderate.

2 And, finally, for an impact to be
3 considered large, the effect must be clearly
4 noticeable, and sufficient to destabilize important
5 attributes of the resource.

6 So if losses at the intake structure cause
7 fish population to decline to the point where it
8 cannot be stabilized, and continues to decline, that
9 would be a large impact.

10 In chapter 2 of the Environmental Impact
11 Statement, we describe the environmental baseline for
12 the analysis, and discuss some general attributes
13 about the environment at the proposed Early Site
14 Permit site.

15 In Chapter 3 we briefly discuss the
16 proposed site layout, and the proposed plant design.
17 In Chapter 4 we evaluated construction impacts at the
18 proposed site and, in Chapter 5, we evaluated impacts
19 of station operation.

20 In Chapter 6 we considered the impacts of
21 the uranium fuel cycle, transportation of fuel and
22 radioactive waste, and decommissioning of the plants.

23 Now, I will briefly discuss the findings
24 that we found in several areas. During the scoping
25 process many people expressed concerns about potential

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 impacts to the Savannah River, both in terms of water
2 availability and water quality.

3 In its application Southern has proposed
4 to use the Savannah river as the source for makeup
5 water for the proposed unit's closed cycle cooling
6 systems.

7 We evaluated the potential impacts of this
8 usage on the Savannah river, and considered the other
9 major uses and users of the Savannah river.

10 The hydrologist on the NRC team carefully
11 modeled the potential impacts of operating two
12 additional units at the Vogtle site on the Savannah
13 river, including the cumulative impacts of the
14 existing Vogtle operations, and other major users of
15 the Savannah river.

16 The increased consumptive water loss would
17 cause very little change in the level of the Savannah
18 river, and the thermal plume would be very small
19 relative to the size of the river.

20 Chemical releases would be minor but
21 additional permitting would still be required. The
22 ESP permit does not alter the requirement that the
23 Applicant obtain appropriate permits from the State of
24 Georgia to alter the water supply and water quality of
25 the river.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The overall conclusions were that
2 construction and operation of the proposed new units
3 would have a small impact on water quality and
4 quantity.

5 Development of the site would require that
6 about 500 acres of land be cleared. However, most of
7 this land is previously disturbed old fields and pine
8 plantations.

9 Approximately 23 acres of wetlands may be
10 disturbed on site. In the aquatic realm, the intake
11 structure of the existing units at Vogtle appear to
12 have very low levels of entrainment or impingement of
13 aquatic biota, and the new units are not likely to
14 differ greatly from the existing units.

15 Overall Vogtle site's ecological impacts
16 are likely to be small. However, along the
17 transmission line the impacts could not be fully
18 assessed and, therefore, might be moderate.

19 The Staff considered potential impacts on
20 threatened and endangered species and determined that
21 the construction and operation of the proposed new
22 units would not adversely affect any federally listed
23 threatened or endangered species.

24 Impacts along the new transmission
25 corridor are also likely to be small, but additional

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 field surveys will be needed to reach a final
2 conclusion.

3 The Staff found that many of the
4 socioeconomic impacts of construction and operation of
5 the proposed units 3 and 4 would be beneficial to
6 Burke County because of increased tax revenues and
7 increased economic activity.

8 There would be a few moderate adverse
9 impacts, especially regarding aesthetics along the new
10 transmission corridor, traffic, especially along river
11 road, and demography, there would likely be a
12 substantial influx of construction workers into Burke
13 County.

14 Although the proportion of minority and
15 low income people in the local population is high
16 compared to the State of Georgia as a whole, the Staff
17 found no adverse impacts of construction, or
18 operation, that would disproportionately affect these
19 population segments.

20 Therefore, the Staff found no
21 environmental impact, or environmental justice
22 impacts. Minority and low income populations would,
23 likely, economically benefit, similar to the
24 population as a whole.

25 Southern has found some archeological

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 sites on the bluff near the Savannah river, that may
2 be affected by construction of the water intake
3 pipeline.

4 However, Southern has been consulting with
5 the State Historic Preservation officer, and that
6 office has not expressed concern about these potential
7 impacts.

8 We carefully looked at radiological
9 impacts and the Staff estimated that the annual
10 radiological doses from operation of units 3 and 4 to
11 the public and to plant workers, and determined that
12 these doses would be well within regulatory standards
13 and guidelines.

14 Chapter 7 summarizes the cumulative
15 impacts of proposed station construction and
16 operation. The Staff evaluated cumulative impacts of
17 the proposed action with other reasonably foreseeable
18 past, present, and future actions, in the site
19 vicinity.

20 All impact areas were covered but a few
21 appear to be of greater interest to the public, based
22 on scoping comments that we received.

23 Regarding use of the Savannah River, even
24 under severe drought conditions all four Vogtle units
25 would consume approximately three percent of the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 available water in the Savannah river.

2 Ground water use to support all four units
3 would result in a minor draw-down of the aquifer.
4 Cumulative impacts on water quality were also
5 determined to be small, including thermal impacts on
6 the Savannah River, saltwater intrusion, and tritium
7 in the groundwater, and the Savannah River itself.

8 There were some concerns about the
9 simultaneous construction of large facilities at
10 Vogtle and the Savannah River Site, especially the new
11 proposed MOX facility.

12 We found that there is, likely, a large
13 enough labor pool in the area to support both
14 projects, such that the cumulative impacts would be
15 small.

16 Regarding radiological impacts, the Staff
17 considered the combined effects of the new units, the
18 existing units, the current and future operations at
19 the Savannah River Site, including the MOX facility,
20 and found that the combined doses to the public would
21 be well below regulatory limits.

22 An analysis of the need for power is
23 provided in chapter 8 of the Environmental Impact
24 Statement. Generally if a suitable analysis is
25 performed for a state regulatory body, the NRC Staff

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 will defer to that agency's determination if it
2 adequately covers a time frame that is appropriate for
3 the construction and operation of the new units.

4 In this case Southern, through Georgia
5 Power Company, submits an integrated resource plan, or
6 IRP, to the Georgia Public Service Commission, every
7 three years. The NRC Staff evaluated the most recent
8 IRP and determined that it provides ample
9 justification that the power produced by the proposed
10 new units would be needed by the time the plants are
11 finished. This need for power was accepted by the
12 Georgia Public Service Commission.

13 Alternatives to the proposed action are
14 discussed in chapter 9. The team considered
15 alternatives to the plant design, specifically
16 alternatives to provide condenser cooling. We
17 considered alternative means to generate power. And,
18 finally, we considered alternative locations for the
19 proposed new nuclear units.

20 Southern proposes to use natural draft
21 cooling towers similar to those used by the existing
22 Vogtle units. These are called wet towers because the
23 cooling water is directly exposed to the air that
24 flows through the tower resulting in evaporative
25 cooling, and some loss of water in the form of vapor.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Thus the plume that is often visible from the towers.

2 A dry or hybrid tower system is similar to
3 the radiator in your car. Air moves through it
4 cooling the liquid, but there is no evaporative loss
5 from the system.

6 Although a dry or hybrid system would use
7 less water than the proposed wet tower design, the
8 Staff determined that neither would be environmentally
9 preferable to the proposed system.

10 As discussed earlier the water use impacts
11 of the proposed system would be small, therefore the
12 incremental benefit of dry or hybrid towers would not
13 justify the significant loss of efficiency that would
14 result.

15 Finally, once-through cooling, means that
16 instead of using a cooling tower, like the existing
17 Vogtle units, water would be directly pulled from the
18 river, run through the condenser, and sent back to the
19 river.

20 The Staff determined that once-through
21 cooling is not a viable alternative because of the
22 significant amount of water that would be drawn from
23 the Savannah River and the potential impacts on
24 aquatic biota.

25 The team considered a number of

1 alternative forms of electrical generation, as well as
2 options such as conservation and purchasing power. We
3 found that of the alternatives, only coal and natural
4 gas could provide over 2,200 megawatts of baseload
5 electrical power.

6 Both coal and natural gas would have some
7 adverse environmental impacts, especially in the areas
8 of air quality and land use. Coal would also have
9 significant waste management impacts.

10 We also considered a combination of
11 alternatives that included natural gas, wind,
12 hydropower, biomass, and conservation. This
13 combination had adverse air quality, land use, and
14 waste management impacts.

15 Alternative sites that were evaluated
16 including the Plant Hatch site, near Baxley, Georgia;
17 the Plant Farley site, near Dothan, Alabama, and the
18 Barton site near Clanton, Alabama.

19 Southern identified these sites, in its
20 application, through a process wherein they first
21 identified their total service area as their region of
22 interest, then identified a large number of potential
23 sites that included existing power plant sites as well
24 as green field sites.

25 They then whittled down this list to the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 final four based on environmental, economic, and
2 operational considerations.

3 The Staff considered potential impacts in
4 all of the same environmental areas at each
5 alternative site as we did at the Vogtle site.
6 Although each site had some advantages and
7 disadvantages, none of the alternative sites was
8 determined to be environmentally preferable to the
9 Vogtle site.

10 To summarize the alternative analysis, the
11 Staff found that none of the alternative energy
12 generating technologies is a clearly preferable means
13 to produce 2,200 megawatts of baseload electrical
14 power.

15 None of the potential alternative system
16 designs would be preferable to the proposed system.
17 And none of the alternative sites would be
18 environmentally preferable to the Vogtle site, and
19 none are obviously superior.

20 So, in summary, the Staff found that with
21 a few exceptions, most of the environmental impacts of
22 construction and operation of two new units at the
23 Vogtle site would be small and that none of the
24 alternative technologies, designs, or locations were
25 environmentally preferable to the proposed actions at

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the Vogtle site.

2 After evaluating Southern's ER, consulting
3 with federal, state, and local agencies, performing
4 the Staff's independent review, consideration of
5 comments received during the public scoping process,
6 and considering potential mitigation actions, the
7 Staff's preliminary recommendation, to the Commission,
8 related to the environmental aspects of the proposed
9 action, is that the ESP should be issued.

10 Cristina will now discuss the schedule for
11 the remaining review activities, and how to contact
12 the NRC with any comments that you may have.

13 MS. GUERRERO: These are the key dates,
14 the remainder of the environmental review schedule.
15 In September we issued the Draft Environmental Impact
16 Statement, and initiated the 75 day public comment
17 period.

18 That comment period ends on November 28th.
19 Today you can give us your comments, on the results of
20 our review, or you can provide them, in writing, by
21 the November date.

22 After we consider your comments we will
23 incorporate, as appropriate, the Staff's responses,
24 into the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

25 The Final Environmental Impact Statement

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 is currently scheduled to be issued on July 3rd, 2008.
2 The hearing is tentatively scheduled to begin on
3 January of 2009.

4 Now, I know we have given you a lot of
5 information to digest tonight. So over the next
6 couple of weeks you might have questions that you
7 didn't think to ask.

8 So you can contact Mark Notich, the
9 project manager, at the phone number shown here. The
10 application can be viewed, from our website, at the
11 address shown here.

12 In addition, the Burke County Public
13 Library has been kind enough to allow us shelf space
14 to make some room for the key documents, like the
15 application, or the Environmental Impact Statement,
16 available in hard copy form, and electronically, on
17 CDs.

18 And, finally, if you would like to be
19 placed on the mailing list, for the environmental
20 review, make sure that you provide your name and
21 address, up front, at the registration desk.

22 We will then mail you key documents, such
23 as the Final Environmental Impact Statement, when it
24 is issued.

25 Other than making oral comments, tonight,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 which are being transcribed, to make sure that we
2 understand your concerns, you may submit comments on
3 the results of the environmental review, in a number
4 of different ways.

5 If you do not wish to stand up and speak
6 tonight, you can write down your comment, on one of
7 the comment sheets, in the back, and we will make it
8 part of the meeting transcript, as if you just spoke.

9 If you need a little more time please
10 write us a letter, and mail it to the address shown
11 here. If you would like to come up and see our
12 government in action, you can stop by our offices in
13 Rockville, Maryland, and hand us your written
14 comments.

15 And, finally, if you prefer you can also
16 submit comments to the special email address that we
17 set up for this review.

18 And that completes the NRC's presentation.
19 I just want to thank you for coming out, and attending
20 this meeting, and for your attention for this
21 presentation.

22 And with that I will give it back to Chip.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
24 Cristina, well done. Thank you, Mike.

25 We have a few minutes for questions. I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 know that a lot of you have been here in the past when
2 we talked about the process. But we will entertain
3 any questions on the process.

4 And the new information you heard tonight
5 was what is in the Draft Environmental Impact
6 Statement. I realize we could just provide a pretty
7 brief summary of that.

8 But any questions? Yes. And, Mary,
9 could you introduce yourself to us?

10 MS. OLSON: Mary Olson, director of the
11 Southeast Office of Nuclear Information Resource
12 Service.

13 I apologize, I have been on the road a lot
14 since you issued this document, and I tried,
15 literally, for two hours this morning, and could not
16 open it on line. And I did call and hope that
17 somebody has addressed that. But your links just
18 didn't work on any browser, or any computer I could
19 get my hands on.

20 So I need you to speak a little bit more,
21 to me, tonight about your radiological approach to
22 adding two more units under the Part 20 regime. Could
23 you tell me how, you know, do you go from 100 millirem
24 per year, under one end of the spectrum?

25 I'm not saying that is the only limit but,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 you know, if it is 100 millirems do you go to 400, how
2 do you handle that?

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, good question.
4 And, Mike, that is a basic question about or radiation
5 protection standards, and emission limits. So do you
6 want to handle that for us? And you have the gist of
7 the question, right?

8 MR. MASNIK: Basically what happens is a
9 licensee submits an application. And, in that
10 application, there is an estimate of what the dose
11 would be to a member of the public, a maximally
12 exposed member of the public.

13 And we then look at the design, and we do
14 our own independent calculations, and determine
15 whether or not that is a reasonable number. And then
16 we compare that with our regulations to see if, in
17 fact, that number is below the limits that we
18 prescribe.

19 In the case of this application the
20 licensee has predicted about 2.3 millirems, to the
21 maximally exposed individual. And that is an
22 individual that, essentially, lives at the fence line
23 of the facility, outside the owner-controlled area,
24 and eats fish out of the river, and drinks water from
25 a well, and grows a substantial portion of his food,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 in the shadow of the plant.

2 That number of 2.3 is well below the
3 federal guidelines.

4 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And that information
5 is available for people to --

6 MR. MASNIK: Yes. Actually, if you look
7 at section 2.5 it talks about the background radiation
8 regime, and talks about the contribution that units 1
9 and 2 make to the radiological environment.

10 And then section 5 talks about the, of the
11 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, talks about the
12 contribution of the two additional units.

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thanks, Mike.
14 Other questions? Yes, sir. And please introduce
15 yourself to us.

16 MR. NOIBI: My name is Yomi Noibi, I'm
17 with Equal Action, Atlanta, Georgia.

18 The question is this. The effect, are you
19 defining small, when the effect is not detectable, or
20 is too small? The question is if, in your prediction
21 of the nuclear power the activity, the impact of an
22 activity is not detectable, does it mean, in your
23 assessment, does it mean it is not causing harm?

24 Just because it is not detectable it
25 doesn't mean it is not harmful. So how do you include

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 that in your assessment?

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And Yomi, maybe you
3 are referring to the effect of low level doses of
4 radiation? Okay, thank you, Yomi.

5 I don't know if this is for Mike, again.
6 But, Mike, I think you've heard the thrust of the
7 gentleman's question. And could you talk to us, a
8 little bit, about that?

9 MR. MASNIK: First I will answer it in a
10 broad sense and then, specifically, with respect to
11 radiation.

12 CEQ put out some guidelines years ago --

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: The Counsel on
14 Environmental Quality.

15 MR. MASNIK: -- Environmental Quality,
16 right. Which is the organization, within the federal
17 government, that has overall oversight over compliance
18 with NEPA.

19 And their guidelines talk about the small,
20 moderate, and large. And, obviously, for each of the
21 disciplines that we looked at, and each of the
22 particular potential impacts, how we define small,
23 moderate, and large, would be different.

24 I happen to be, by training, an aquatic
25 biologist. So building on Mike's explanation of what

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 small might mean, there are attributes in the
2 environment that we can measure.

3 And in the case of fish we can measure
4 what the standing crop, or the population of fish is,
5 in a segment of river. We know that operation of the
6 facility will have some effect on the fish population,
7 only because it is withdrawing water.

8 It may withdraw larvae of the fish. And
9 it may also impinge adults of the fish. So we can
10 measure the losses associated with the operation of
11 the facility, at the facility.

12 But when we look at the population, the
13 actual fishery in the river, if we can't detect any
14 change in that population, due to the operation of the
15 facility, we will come to the conclusion that the
16 impact is small.

17 I could go on and explain what moderate
18 and large is. But I think I have tried to explain it
19 reasonably well.

20 Now, with the case of radiation we do have
21 a very good understanding of what is released from the
22 facility. You know, activities involving
23 contamination, or radioactive material, in the
24 confines of the site, are done in inside buildings,
25 inside enclosed structures.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 This material isn't handled out in the
2 open. Those structures are under negative pressure,
3 so that any release of radioactivity, from the action
4 that they might be doing, will be confined to that
5 building.

6 The air that is exhausted from that
7 building goes through filters, and those filters, and
8 the air that is actually released to the atmosphere,
9 is very closely and continuously monitored.

10 And based on those records the licensee
11 can develop a very accurate estimate of how much
12 radioactivity is released from the plant. And then
13 knowing the pathway that that radiation will take in
14 the environment, they have a very good understanding
15 of what the potential dose is.

16 And the dose is, typically, computed for,
17 again, this maximally exposed individual. Just in
18 case there is a problem with the facility, and there
19 is a hole in the wall, or something is released,
20 inadvertently, the licensee maintains a string of
21 TLDs, which are a monitoring device around the plant.

22 It turns out the State of Georgia also has
23 TLDs. The Department of Energy has TLDs, and the
24 South Carolina DHAC also has a TLD string.

25 So if there is a release, from the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 facility, that release will be picked up in this
2 external monitoring network.

3 Again, that has not been the case here.
4 There hasn't been any major releases during the
5 operation of this plant. So we know what the release
6 is.

7 We also know what the effect of radiation
8 is on humans probably better than just about any other
9 pollutant. We have a very good understanding, and a
10 long history, of thousands of studies to show what
11 that effect will be.

12 And at the levels that are being released
13 from this plant, we don't expect any additional health
14 risks to the members of the public.

15 So based on that we have come to the
16 conclusion that the impact would be small.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very
18 much, Mike. Is there another question? Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. LICHTENFELS: I'm Lynn Lichtenfels,
20 and you mentioned something about drawing on the
21 aquifer, that there would be a slight draw on the
22 aquifer.

23 What amount, and how far does that extend?

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Great. Mike, do you
25 want to answer that? Or do we have Chris? Please

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 introduce yourself to us, Chris.

2 MR. COOK: My name is Chris Cook, I'm a
3 senior hydrologist at the Nuclear Regulatory
4 Commission, and was involved in doing some of those
5 calculations.

6 The aquifer that this plant is going to be
7 tapping into is going to be the deep aquifer, it is
8 called the cretaceous aquifer. There are actually
9 three different aquifers as you look down; the water
10 table, tertiary, and then the cretaceous, at the
11 bottom.

12 The cretaceous, if you were to go to the
13 very top of that, it is about 200 feet below sea
14 level. And if you were to put a straw in there, and
15 look at the water, it would rise up 400 feet above
16 that level.

17 The pumping, we went through and computed
18 what the draw-down would be. And the draw-down from
19 these new units, plus the existing one, is going to go
20 down about 13 feet.

21 So there will be a change in that 400 feet
22 of pressurization that is there. But at no time is
23 that aquifer is ever going to become unpressurized.
24 So any wells that are already tapping into that
25 aquifer, at the well casings that are there, will

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 never go dry.

2 What will change, though, is a bit of the
3 pressure, there, for any of the wells that happen to
4 be tapping into that. There may be a slight change.

5 And that calculation was done, by the way,
6 at the property of the site. So it is looking at the
7 closest, it was at that location, on the property of
8 the site, where we have the 13 foot draw-down.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you for that
10 question and thank you, Chris. Yes, sir?

11 MR. RHODES: My name is Doug Rhodes, and
12 I live on the river at Hancock Road. My house is the
13 first house from the plant, full time residents.

14 And the question I have is the same as
15 this lady's right here. The water, I mean, I read the
16 book, but you know, from what I can read in the book,
17 and what I could understand, was that the calculations
18 you all did were on-site.

19 And since the first plants were built,
20 there has been a population increase on Hancock, from
21 my best count there has probably been half a dozen
22 wells, private wells, within three or four hundred
23 foot of the property line, of the plant.

24 And most of these wells are shallow wells,
25 125, 150 foot. I also read in the book where the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Southern Company is going to take care of the county
2 infrastructure, if something were to happen to the
3 roads, or signage, or this kind of stuff, with the
4 public stuff.

5 My question is, if we do have a problem
6 with our wells, what is going to happen then? And I
7 don't know if you can answer that question or not, but
8 there has to be an answer somewhere, you know, if
9 something happens what would be --

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: So your question is
11 that if the forecasts are completely wrong, and
12 something happens where you can't draw your water up,
13 any more, what would be a remedy for that?

14 MR. RHODES: In the publication they list
15 what they are going to do for the roads, and the
16 infrastructure around. How about our wells in that
17 immediate area?

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: That would be a
19 really unusual unique situation, and it is something
20 for the company to think about. I think that the only
21 answer we could give you, on that, is that would there
22 be some intervention by the company, would there be
23 some intervention by the local government, or the
24 state government?

25 And in our country we also have a system

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 of tort law, also, where if someone is damaged by the
2 act of another, and it can be shown to be negligence,
3 as one standard, that you might be able to recover
4 damages from that.

5 That is not a place that we want to be.
6 But I'm just offering that as possibilities. But one
7 reason to do the Environmental Impact Statement, and
8 also to get all of your comments on it, is to make
9 sure that that possibility is remote. Thank you, Mr.
10 Rhodes.

11 Okay, let's -- I think we only have time,
12 we will take two more questions. We will go right
13 here to Peter, and then we will go to that gentleman
14 over there. And then we have to move on.

15 MR. SIPP: My name is Peter Sipp, and I'm
16 a former resident of Richmond County, Georgia, I lived
17 there for 21 years.

18 And on page 10 of your, what you had on
19 the chairs, on the top, I'm seeing where there isn't
20 anything about the most geologically stable site, as
21 part of the criteria.

22 And I know that Vogtle sits on the
23 Charleston fault line. And we just had an example, in
24 Japan, where they have seven reactors that are all
25 shut down. And where is that mentioned? And why

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 isn't it mentioned, why isn't it that you all are
2 choosing the most geologically stable site? Why isn't
3 that in here?

4 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Peter, let me borrow
5 that back, and then we will find out.

6 PARTICIPANT: Who is taking pictures of
7 everybody who speaks?

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Various people, I'm
9 sure, including the NRC. And let me go to seismic.
10 How do we consider seismic? We are going to go to
11 Christian Araguas.

12 MR. ARAGUAS: Yes. How are you doing? As
13 far as your question, why didn't we pick the most
14 geologically stable, I don't have the best answer, but
15 I can assure you that we do look at, as part of the
16 safety review, we do do an analysis as far as
17 considering the geology of the site.

18 We look at the seismology of the site, we
19 look at the history of the site, and make sure that
20 there aren't any issues associated with building a
21 plant on this site, with respect to those issues.

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Christian.
23 And I have to apologize for not being able to get to
24 everybody's question. But we do want to get to the
25 comments, and we do have a lot of speakers. Yes, sir.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. BOVE: My name is Frank Bove. On the
2 environmental justice issue, I think it is important
3 that a comprehensive assessment of the already
4 existing pollution, and the disease burden, in that
5 community, be assessed and conducted, before you start
6 making a case to add to that burden.

7 But yet there is a chart out there, in the
8 lobby, with 101 sites on it, both landfills,
9 radioactive waste dumps, existing polluters. And this
10 is not a complete list, I might add.

11 And none of that is in this report, nor is
12 there mention about the high disease burden. I mean,
13 there is a high infant mortality rate in these areas,
14 for example.

15 I would expect that if you are going to
16 deal with the environmental justice issue, that you do
17 a comprehensive assessment of the area, both the
18 pollution burden, and the disease burden, before you
19 start trying to make a case of adding to that burden.
20 So that is my question, why wasn't that done?

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Frank.
22 And I think we also need to consider that, obviously,
23 as a comment on the Draft Environmental Impact
24 Statement, something that we should look at.

25 Mike, do you want to -- all right.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. MUSSATTI: Hi, my name is Dann
2 Mussatti, I'm the economist that worked on the
3 socioeconomic impacts for the Vogtle review that we
4 just did.

5 And there is a whole bunch of things that
6 are going on in the comments that we just received,
7 there. Some of them are cumulative impacts, and how
8 do we address the straw that broke the camel's back,
9 type of an attitude, about what is our little
10 contribution to, two things, doing in combination with
11 everything else.

12 And we have taken a long, serious, look at
13 all of these things here. I didn't really see much of
14 an environmental justice question in the sense of what
15 we normally consider to be environmental justice in
16 the government, in that what we are looking at is
17 minority populations, and issues towards those
18 disproportionate effects, and what was asked in the
19 question, except for the infant mortality issue.

20 Those issues were addressed, and looked
21 at, by us. And we felt that there would be very, very
22 minor effects, and not a substantial impact on the
23 minority, or environmental justice populations.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I guess two things,
25 thank you very much. One is we need to make sure that

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 we capture that as a comment on the Draft
2 Environmental Impact Statement.

3 And I think that it is a legitimate
4 comment to consider apart from, even apart from the
5 environmental justice issue. But a finer point is put
6 on it by the environmental justice issue. Thank you,
7 Mr. Bove.

8 We are going to get started on comments.
9 The Staff will be here after the meeting, and
10 available through the address, and phone number, and
11 email that you have.

12 If you have additional questions we are
13 glad to entertain them. In the interest of time, we
14 have a bunch of letters from federal legislators, and
15 state legislators, that are in support of the early
16 site permit.

17 And I'm going to read, not the letters,
18 but I'm going to read who they are from. We are going
19 to attach this to the transcript, so that all of you
20 can see these.

21 And, obviously, they will be up here after
22 the meeting, if anybody wants to take a look at them.
23 But let me just read who we got letters of support, or
24 not -- the NRC received letters supporting the
25 granting of the Early Site Permit.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Senator Johnny Isakson, Senator Saxby
2 Chambliss, Congressman Jack Kingston, Congressman Jim
3 Marshall, Congressman Paul Brown, and on the state
4 level we have Representative Ron Stevens,
5 Representative Jeff Lewis, Senator Ross Tolleson,
6 Senator Tommy Williams, Representative Jerry Keen, and
7 Representative Glenn Richardson.

8 So we did get those comments in and you
9 can look at them up here, and they will be attached to
10 the transcript. The transcript is publicly available.
11 We will put a copy in the Burke County Library over
12 here.

13 And is it available when you go to the
14 website, the NRC website? Will the transcript be
15 available? Just available through the document
16 management system? If people have, want to ask about
17 how to get a copy, please contact us.

18 We do have a lot of speakers, and I would
19 just ask all of you to be patient. We will get to
20 you. I'm going to try to give people a little bit of
21 flexibility in talking. But, obviously, we need to
22 try to move through these comments.

23 And the three minutes may not seem like a
24 lot of time. But usually your main points can be
25 addressed. But it does something valuable for us. It

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 alerts us to issues, right now, that we can start
2 thinking about tonight, that we can start talking to
3 people who made those comments.

4 And you always have the ability to
5 supplement your comments by submitting them in
6 writing. And we are going to just start through. I
7 know a lot of you, we have a lot of people from the
8 community here.

9 We also have a lot of people who have
10 driven substantial distances from within Georgia. So
11 we will just try to keep moving. And I guess I'm
12 going to start with some of the local officials, and
13 then we are going to go to others. I think we have a
14 few local officials who want to say a few words.

15 And I guess I would go to Mayor Stone, if
16 he is still here? Mayor Stone, Mayor of the city of
17 Waynesboro. And then we will go to Dick Byne,
18 Alphonso Andrews, and Margaret Evans, and then we are
19 going to go to Sarah Barczak.

20 MAYOR STONE: I want to thank the NRC for
21 all the fine work that has been done, being able to
22 answer the tough questions that are being asked, and
23 for listening to all the concerns of the community,
24 and from people from outside the community.

25 I want to remind the NRC that 12 months

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 ago, October 16th, '06, the City Council of Waynesboro
2 unanimously adopted a resolution strongly supporting
3 approval of the Early Site Permit for this project.

4 We see it as a very positive project and,
5 all along, we have viewed the site that was selected
6 by Southern Company, and its partners, Oglethorpe
7 Power, City of Dalton, to be perfect for this project.

8 You've heard the alternative sites that
9 were mentioned. They have their negatives, but this
10 is a good site for this kind of project. And this
11 kind of project is good for not only our community,
12 but for our state, and for this part of the country.

13 We believe it is a positive for the
14 environment, and we hope that it will go full speed
15 ahead, with all the due considerations taken into
16 account.

17 Nothing has changed our opinion, over the
18 last 12 months. After reviewing all of the materials
19 that have, periodically, been issued in this process,
20 we still stand behind our resolution that this is the
21 right project, at the right place.

22 And, thanks again for being here today.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mayor.

24 And this is Dick Byne from the City Council.

25 MR. BYNE: I'm from Waynesboro, and I'm on

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the City Council, and I'm a lifelong resident. I
2 appreciate the NRC and what they are doing. They are
3 giving us the opportunity to really listen, to address
4 some issues here, and I really do appreciate your
5 coming.

6 And I appreciate the job that you all have
7 done. And I know just the little bit that I have
8 heard so far is very detailed, and I appreciate that.

9 Our future is at stake, and we should
10 never take these meetings for granted. I have been to
11 every single one of them. They serve as a genuine
12 need, and the information we receive is vital to our
13 future.

14 I have learned a lot during these
15 meetings, a lot of questions have been generated, and
16 a lot of answers that have been addressed.

17 I feel our country is going through a real
18 energy need, and this needs to be addressed. The
19 first vibration we got was in California, not too long
20 ago. And I knew, then, that they would be looking at
21 Burke County as one of the issues, or one of the
22 places, or the sites that would build a nuclear plant.

23 I felt like when the time came, that we
24 should do our homework, and be careful how we should
25 maneuver because our decision, good or bad, would

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 affect us for a lifetime, maybe two lifetimes.

2 I'm personally a very conservative
3 individual. But I believe in conservation, I believe
4 in organic farming, I believe in recycling. I have
5 everything to lose, and nothing to gain with our
6 decision.

7 I believe in wind power, I believe in
8 solar power, I believe in water power. I also believe
9 in thermal power. But none of these will meet our
10 energy needs in the short run.

11 We have to be proactive and search for
12 ways that will keep us productive, but also safe, and
13 keep our environment clean. I have listened to both
14 sides of the issues of nuclear power, and I'm more
15 sold on nuclear power than I was two years ago.

16 The plant that is in existence today has
17 the best management team, that I know of. They have
18 always treated me with respect, and like a
19 professional.

20 I believe in nuclear power because I
21 believe in the men and women who run the plant. They
22 are very capable of running the plant, because I have
23 watched them for 30 years.

24 I know of no other group of employees who
25 are as knowledgeable about what they are doing, about

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 nuclear energy. I appreciate what they are doing. I
2 feel like they have the country, the state, the
3 county, and the city at heart. Their families live
4 with us.

5 I feel this would be a good decision to
6 have these two new reactors to come to plant Vogtle,
7 and look forward to coming. If so the nuclear passes
8 the test that is before them.

9 Please, NRC, do the best job that you can
10 do. And if the City of Waynesboro can be of any help,
11 and if we need to be advised of anything, please keep
12 us posted.

13 Thanks again for the job that you do, and
14 we are looking forward for what you can do for this
15 community. We want these reactors, but not at the
16 expense of going too fast, and overlooking anything
17 that needs to be checked and double checked. Thank
18 you so much.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you,
20 Councilman Byne. Mr. Andrews?

21 MR. ANDREWS: I'm Alphonso Andrews, a
22 local County Commissioner here in Burke County. I
23 came here in June of 1965. I worked with the U.S.
24 Department of Agriculture, as a loan officer with the
25 Farmer's Home Administration for 33 and a half years.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I'm very familiar with the area down there
2 at plant Vogtle. We had a lot of loans paid off when
3 the land was being sold down there, to put the plant
4 in.

5 I have listened to both sides of the
6 issues on issuing the two permits for the two reactors
7 down there. And I have reviewed them, and I'm of the
8 opinion that it is the best thing that could happen to
9 Burke County.

10 We have a lot of people here who depend on
11 the Plant Vogtle, and they are assets to this
12 community. And the people who work with Georgia Power
13 are very friendly to this community, and we are very
14 proud of having Plant Vogtle here.

15 And we, at this point, as a county
16 commissioner, and a citizen, I ask for the speedy
17 issue of the permit to build the two reactors at Plant
18 Vogtle. Thank you.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
20 Alphonso. Margaret Evans. Margaret is the Mayor of
21 Sylvania.

22 MAYOR EVANS: I'm Margaret Evans, Mayor of
23 the city of Sylvania. And I'm going to read a
24 resolution that was passed and adopted by the Mayor
25 and Council, at a recent council meeting.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the
2 city of Sylvania, Georgia, supporting Plant Vogtle
3 expansion. Witnesseth: Whereas the Mayor and Council
4 of the City of Sylvania support the concept of nuclear
5 energy, as a means of supplying a clean and reliable
6 source of energy for the citizens of Georgia, and
7 elsewhere, and whereas the city of Sylvania is located
8 approximately 30 miles from the Plant Vogtle site, and
9 whereas Plant Vogtle has, during its existence, been
10 beneficial to the local economy, and a good neighbor
11 and, whereas, Southern Nuclear Operating Company has
12 filed an application for an Early Site Permit for the
13 Vogtle site, with the NRC which, if granted, could
14 lead to the construction of additional nuclear
15 facilities on the site and, whereas, the Mayor and
16 Council of the City of Sylvania support this project,
17 and request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
18 consider the application of Southern Nuclear Operating
19 Company favorably.

20 It, therefore, be resolved by the Mayor
21 and Council of the City of Sylvania, it is hereby
22 resolved, by the authority of the same, that the
23 application of Southern Nuclear Operating Company, for
24 an Early Site Permit, has the support of the city of
25 Sylvania, and the city requests that said permit be

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 granted.

2 Unanimously adopted the 2nd day of
3 October, 2007, signed by me, Margaret D. Evans, as
4 Mayor, and attested by Stacy Mathis, clerk.

5 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mayor.
6 And should we attach that to the transcript? All
7 right. And just a public service announcement. I
8 guess in the interest of economic development for
9 Waynesboro, and sustenance for those of you who have
10 traveled a long way, the Camino Real restaurant on 6th
11 street, in Waynesboro, if you call in an order before
12 9 o'clock, they are going to keep the restaurant open
13 for people to come over there.

14 And I will put this back here. They do
15 have a monster Texas margarita for 11.50. Back here
16 if anybody needs it.

17 We are going to go to Sarah Barczak and
18 then A.K. Hasan, and then Mr. Noibi -- I'm not sure
19 I'm pronouncing it right, but we will go to you after
20 Mr. Hasan. This is Sarah Barczak.

21 MS. BARCZAK: Good evening, my name is
22 Sarah Barczak, and I'm the safe energy director of the
23 Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, a non-profit
24 energy policy organization with members throughout
25 Georgia.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 We promote responsible energy choices that
2 create global warming solutions, and ensure clean,
3 safe, and healthy communities in the southeast. I'm
4 also a resident of the downstream community of
5 Savannah, which stands to lose, especially from added
6 water problems, if more nuclear reactors are built at
7 Plant Vogtle.

8 Expanding Vogtle will affect not just this
9 local community but Georgia, as a whole, and our
10 region overall. We disagree with the NRC
11 recommendation in the Draft Environmental Impact
12 Statement, that supports approval of the Early Site
13 Permit.

14 But given our limited time tonight we
15 intend to submit more detailed written comments. And,
16 for the NRC staff, tonight, I did have more of the
17 detailed comments that I know you want, and I will
18 hand that into the record.

19 But skimming through, to keep this to
20 three minutes, we are observing serious notable gaps
21 in review of the Vogtle proposal, at the level of the
22 Georgia Public Service Commission, at the level of the
23 Georgia Environmental Protection Division, at the
24 level of the Governor's office, and at the level of
25 the federal NRC.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 It is your job to ensure that a full
2 Environmental Impact Review is done. Some state
3 agencies think you are going to do that and
4 communities in the surrounding area think you are
5 going to do that.

6 There are a lot of people, including every
7 Georgia ratepayer, who will rely on the NRC to have
8 done a sound review of this proposal. Georgia
9 ratepayers will be harmed in the future from a
10 negligent NRC review.

11 And there are serious gaps in the review
12 thus far. It is your job to correct this problem.
13 Where is the analysis, in the NRC review, of the
14 cumulative impacts for ratepayers in Georgia, who face
15 serious harm from potential adverse impacts down the
16 road?

17 Isn't that part of the socioeconomic
18 impact on all of us? Who is doing any analysis on the
19 implications of the Southern Company proposal included
20 in its application to have the new radioactive waste
21 that it will generate go to a fictitious federal waste
22 repository?

23 A repository that doesn't even exist and
24 that ratepayers have been paying for, over many years,
25 and that states have been forced to sue the federal

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 government on, that translates into ratepayer dollars.

2 The NRC largely ignores this reality in
3 its review of Vogtle's proposal. But you can know
4 that ratepayers and state agencies, and the public,
5 would think that, surely, the NRC as the federal
6 agency charged to oversee or review, would have fully
7 addressed this issue in reviewing a new reactor
8 proposal.

9 The Georgia Public Service Commission has
10 directed Georgia Power, who is a large partner in the
11 new Vogtle proposal, to put its new capacity needs out
12 to bid in the open market.

13 During integrated resource plan
14 proceedings this summer, PSC experts, and other
15 parties, questioned the cost numbers that Georgia
16 Power presented for the proposed Vogtle expansion.

17 The company tried to circumvent the PSC
18 rules on competitive bidding this year, and tried to
19 make the case that Vogtle expansion is such a unique
20 situation that it warrants special consideration
21 outside of the rules.

22 But the Georgia PSC hasn't fallen for that
23 argument yet. The NRC shouldn't fall short by giving
24 the company a pass on crucial issues that will have
25 long term irreversible impacts on Georgians, either.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 There are key items that the Georgia
2 Public Service Commission failed to analyze in its
3 preliminary look at Plant Vogtle's expansion. It did
4 not address the nuclear waste issues fully; neither
5 the high level radioactive waste issues, nor the low
6 level waste issues.

7 In fact Georgia Power's plan, filed with
8 the PSC did not even mention low level waste handling
9 as an issue it needed to address, despite the fact
10 that South Carolina's compact disallows Georgia's
11 nuclear waste into its borders after 2008.

12 The PSC review did not address the
13 implications of future security regulations that the
14 federal government is responsible for addressing
15 which, thus far, it appears NRC is also neglecting in
16 this Environmental Impact Statement review.

17 Our point is that these uncertainties all
18 have potential, and serious, negative impacts on
19 ratepayers as well as taxpayers. So don't ignore
20 these, or you will be harming the entire ratepayer
21 population in our state.

22 This Draft Environmental Impact Statement
23 presents the impacts on people, their health, and that
24 of the environment from the Vogtle expansion would be
25 small.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 We ask that you move beyond the fact that
2 some of the wallets in Burke County, and those of
3 Southern shareholders, and those companies involved in
4 the expansion, stand to benefit financially, and
5 conduct the proper review on the full socioeconomic
6 impacts for people who have to pay their power bills,
7 and their taxes.

8 And in closing, because I can't cover
9 everything, we do want to talk about water. We have
10 strong concerns about the analysis on the impacts of
11 Vogtle's proposed expansion would have on our water
12 resources.

13 Vogtle is the largest water user in the
14 Savannah river basin, and its expansion essentially
15 doubles that water use, and water loss. We would
16 suggest, to the NRC, that water use should be reported
17 in different ways to help people actually understand
18 the numbers.

19 For instance, in section 7.3, water
20 consumption is reported in cubic feet per second.
21 Though I did the math, I don't think most people have
22 the time to convert all of those figures to gallons
23 per day, which is what most of our surface water
24 withdrawals permits, in Georgia, are licensed under.

25 When you do the math it shows that the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 current reactors are losing 43 million gallons of
2 water per day and that the new reactors will lose
3 about 40 million gallons per day.

4 This means that more water will be lost
5 from the two existing, and two proposed reactors, at
6 Plant Vogtle, than is currently used by all residents
7 of Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah, combined.

8 And on page 2-3.4, the Draft Environmental
9 Impact Statement says that Burke County is predicted
10 to have a 50 percent increase in water demand by 2035
11 and that neighboring South Carolina's water demand
12 will also increase by 50 percent between now and 2045.

13 And it acknowledges that people will be
14 shifting off of the Floridan aquifer, to the Savannah
15 river, and simply states that all of this would also
16 increase demands for the Savannah river water
17 downstream of Vogtle.

18 But, in the end, because the NRC
19 calculated that the two new reactors would not
20 decrease the Savannah river flow of today by more than
21 five percent, it acts as though all is good.

22 Well, nowhere in this document does it
23 appear that the NRC has evaluated how the Savannah
24 river is going to be able to handle the Georgia and
25 South Carolina that we will live in, decades from now.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 That by the NRC's own statements, appears
2 to be a future in which the Savannah river is going to
3 see extreme increases in demand. Further, that the
4 Draft Environmental Impact Statement has no analysis
5 of climate change predictions on our water systems,
6 such as the prospects for severe, long-lasting, mega
7 droughts, of which Georgia may encounter as global
8 warming impacts are realized.

9 Again we ask, who stands to gain, and who
10 stands to lose? Thank you.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Sarah.
12 Mr. Hasan?

13 MR. HASAN: My name is A. K. Hasan, I'm a
14 life-long resident of Augusta, Georgia. And I just
15 want to say that we are a society of people that live
16 by rules and regulations. And those regulations are
17 set on our federal and state levels.

18 And, of course, on the federal level those
19 guidelines are set by our congressional people, and
20 the NRC must comply with that, in addition to the
21 rules and regulations that are represented with the
22 National Environmental Policy Act, and that we must
23 make sure that the guidelines are adhered to.

24 In listening to the information in
25 reference to the Early Site Permit, we find that the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 NRC has done due diligence in terms of trying to
2 address the many problems that have been brought to
3 the NRC's attention, over these many years, in terms
4 of preparation for units 1 and 2, in addition to the
5 renewal of units 1 and 2, and now the Early Site
6 Permit with the anticipation of expanding to units 3
7 and 4.

8 With such a historical record to count on,
9 in terms of so many different types of proposals, and
10 different levels of research, and examinations having
11 been done relevant to the environment, etcetera, it
12 would be fair to say, after such a thorough
13 examination, as reported, that with the guidelines in
14 place, and that the Southern Nuclear Operating Company
15 is a company whom has demonstrated, or that has
16 demonstrated that it is capable of operating within
17 the guidelines, capable of operating within the
18 tolerances that are allowed by law.

19 It is very important that we understand
20 that what would be the justifiable reason for not
21 allowing them to go forth in terms of helping us, as
22 a state, meet our nuclear, our energy needs pardon me;
23 helping us as a nation to not be dependent upon
24 foreign sources for fuel.

25 So we have to look at the guidelines. We

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 are a nation that operates by governmental guidelines.
2 When those guidelines are met, we must give people an
3 opportunity to do business, and we as citizens, that
4 live here in this area, we are not so naive to believe
5 that we should not be concerned about our environment.

6 We are very much concerned about it. We
7 come here with the attitude of expecting the NRC to
8 tell us how they have approached these issues, how
9 those issues have been addressed, and what answers
10 they will offer to us in relationship to our many
11 concerns, that have been reported to them over the
12 years.

13 So we look at the reports, we look at the
14 findings, we realize that we have made a conscious
15 decision, by choice, to live here in the local
16 community. Yes, we benefit from it, but our benefits
17 do not blind us to our environment, our other
18 concerns, etcetera.

19 Having said that, we support it, we look
20 forward to this particular project going forth, in
21 terms of the issuing of the Early Site Permit, and we
22 see no justifiable reason for delaying it.

23 If we want to be speculative we can always
24 do that. But we are a nation that operates, again, by
25 rules and by scientific evidence. And there is no

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 such evidence, to our knowledge, that would justify
2 doing anything other than going forward. Thank you
3 very much.

4 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.
5 Hasan. Mr. Noibi?

6 MR. NOIBI: Thank you very much for the
7 opportunity to share my thoughts on this Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement.

9 I have, of course, read these two
10 documents. If you read it, raise up your hand. Less
11 than ten people. This is a very big, big document,
12 that many people that I work with, my name is Yomi
13 Noibi, and I work with grassroots groups all over
14 Georgia.

15 I'm representing Environment Community
16 Action, and we are popularly known as Eco-Action. As
17 you can tell from my accent, I was born in Nigeria.
18 In that country I have seen what Shell Oil Company has
19 done working with agencies and government, to
20 perpetuate injustice among the Ogoni people.

21 I work here in Georgia with communities
22 that are threatened with environmental health risks.
23 Here, in Burke County, I see it appears, by this
24 process, that that injustice is going to be
25 perpetuated again.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Now, this process appears, to me, to be in
2 the best interest of profit, and not in the best
3 interest of the people, not in the best interest of
4 public health, not in the best interest of the
5 environment, that is a part of the NRC's mission.

6 Now, I have not read this, I skimmed
7 through it. And what did I find? Most of the
8 Environmental Impact Statements, according to the
9 analysis, suggest they have small impact.

10 And I stand here to share with you the
11 voice of caution. We have credible evidence that
12 nuclear power plants is dangerous, is costly, and
13 actually the radiation from it kills. I would pray we
14 don't have an accident.

15 There is enough evidence, and we have
16 alternatives, some of which have been analyzed here,
17 but analyzed based on the guidelines that my brother
18 was talking about.

19 Listen, guidelines put us in a box.
20 Guidelines put us in a box, and we need to get out of
21 that box if we want to prevent harm, and not permit
22 harm.

23 This Draft Environmental Impact Statement
24 is a process of perpetuating the harm. Listen, it
25 says, small impact. This is some of the community

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 that we work with. They are already burdened, and
2 then you want to add two more.

3 That impact may not show right away. But,
4 guess what? It will eventually show up. By that time
5 you and I will be gone. So what I'm saying to you,
6 saying to myself, is to listen to the voice of
7 caution.

8 We are at an intersection. The yellow
9 light is blinking, what do you do? You want to go?
10 No, you yield to caution.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, there are two points
12 here that I just want to focus upon in terms of facts.
13 Sarah already pointed out about the water quality, I
14 want to look at human health. In 1992 Congressional
15 Report estimated that if a meltdown of core, at just
16 one of Vogtle's reactors, it could cause 39,000 peak
17 L injuries, 4,000 peak cancer deaths, and 200 peak
18 fertilities would cost 60 billion.

19 Folks, building more reactor, two more
20 reactors would only worsen this terrible impact, and
21 put more people's life and health at risk. Do you
22 want to put your children at risk?

23 These communities are already heavily
24 burdened by pollution in the area. You have the
25 power, you have the power of choice to look into this

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 assessment and make a choice not to approve, not to
2 grant this.

3 And, in closing, there is a book called
4 "Learned lessons from Early Warnings", 1896 to 2000,
5 by European Union. It talks about 12 learned lessons.
6 I just want to focus on two that I strongly believe
7 should be a part of the review in this Draft
8 Environmental Impact Statement.

9 One is to provide adequate long-time
10 environmental health monitoring and research into
11 early warning signs of dangers of nuclear emissions.
12 There are early warning signs that we should be
13 yielding to, and that is not here.

14 The second one is to avoid paralysis by
15 analysis. By acting to reduce potential harm,
16 mitigation. Yes, mitigation there, it doesn't prevent
17 the harm. So we should avoid paralysis, and when
18 there are reasonable grounds for concerns.

19 And, friends, there are numerous grounds
20 for concerns that adding two more nuclear reactors is
21 not in our best interest.

22 Finally, nuclear power is dangerous, it is
23 costly, and totally unnecessary. This Draft
24 Environmental Impact Statement process and
25 recommendation is based on the premise that nuclear

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 power plant is not dangerous.

2 Can you believe that? That it is not
3 costly, and it is highly necessary. There are
4 alternatives to meet our energy needs.

5 NRC, let us show some change in the
6 interest of preventing harm, and not permitting it.
7 Thank you very much.

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.
9 Noibi. Our next three speakers will be Susan
10 Bloomfield, then William Mareska, and William Johnson.
11 This is Susan Bloomfield.

12 MS. BLOOMFIELD: My name is Susan
13 Bloomfield, and I live in Augusta, Georgia. I'm here
14 today to voice my concerns regarding the licensing of
15 two new reactors at Plant Vogtle.

16 These new reactors will requires tons of
17 millions of gallons of water above the huge amount
18 Vogtle is already pulling from our Savannah river.

19 Augusta is located on the banks of the
20 Savannah river, across from another nuclear plant, the
21 Savannah River Site. The state of Georgia is under
22 severe water restrictions.

23 Water shortages are now, and will
24 continue, to be a problem in the future. I'm also
25 concerned about the lack of a workable plan for the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 disposal of high level radioactive waste that already
2 exists in our area.

3 Two new reactors will produce additional
4 radioactive waste. This waste will remain here, at
5 Plant Vogtle, for generations, posing a threat to our
6 health and environment.

7 If there is no clear safe plan for the
8 disposal of nuclear waste, we should not continue to
9 generate it. I'm concerned about radiation exposure
10 and the possibility of cancer.

11 Last week the Associated Press reported
12 that federal officials are providing potassium iodide
13 pills to neighborhoods surrounding two Charlotte,
14 North Carolina area nuclear power plants.

15 The pills will help to reduce the thyroid
16 cancer caused by radiation exposure in the event of a
17 radiation release. Is such a release likely? No.
18 Can it happen? Sure, it can.

19 I'm concerned about security. Nuclear
20 power plants present a prime target for terrorists.
21 The effects of a nuclear disaster, intentional or
22 otherwise, would be devastating.

23 Why are we willing to risk such
24 consequences? Perhaps I'm not saying anything this
25 evening that has not been said before. However, I'm

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 forcing myself to speak out because we, in Georgia,
2 deserve clean, safe energy.

3 Please realize that nuclear power is not
4 safe, it is not clean, and it certainly is not cheap.
5 The construction of nuclear power plants costs
6 billions, and it is subsidized by the Georgia
7 ratepayer.

8 These reactors should not be built. Thank
9 you for your attention.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Susan.
11 We are going to go to William Mareska right now.

12 MR. MARESKA: Thank you. I'm William
13 Mareska from Augusta, Georgia.

14 I have security concerns. The old-
15 fashioned carrying an explosive device, in a backpack,
16 into a sensitive area. I know there are multiple
17 levels. But just this last month we have had six
18 nuclear weapons carried out and loaded in a B-52
19 bomber, through six levels of security.

20 Additionally it has now been revealed that
21 a high altitude detonation has the ability to defeat
22 electronic controls, and send a power facility out of
23 control.

24 And, as of last week, it was revealed no
25 site is safe from hackers, to override electronic

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 computer controls, and this was demonstrated to result
2 in equipment failure.

3 Last month the Department of Energy moved
4 to transfer this nation's plutonium to the Savannah
5 river site. With four nuclear reactors on our side of
6 the river, and the Department of Energy, and plutonium
7 on the other side, this presents an even larger
8 footprint for a target for terrorists.

9 But not only terrorists. Folks, we are
10 back in a major war. Russia Air Force is now
11 conducting training flights, transpolar, for the
12 purposes, sole purpose of delivering nuclear tipped
13 intercontinental ballistic missiles.

14 In the case of a critical event our
15 plutonium across the river may be compromised. And if
16 security fails, unlike September 11th, and the twin
17 towers, the greater Savannah river area will become a
18 sacrificial area forever.

19 I think the Draft Environmental Impact
20 Statement needs to address security concerns. A
21 review of water resources needs to be done. I do not
22 agree with the small footprint conclusion.

23 For Georgia the mentality of load the
24 cart, the mule will pull it, may be a thing of the
25 past, for a number of reasons. Georgia is under

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 drought restrictions. It is obvious climate change is
2 occurring, and is volatile.

3 The EPD, water planning for the future
4 growth of Georgia, and energy production, ought to be
5 working together, not in isolation.

6 Additionally, impacts on the Savannah
7 estuary, water dynamics, and the fisheries habitat,
8 need to be included. This facility, Vogtle, will be
9 discharging into the atmosphere, twice the daily water
10 needs of the city of Augusta, while the rest of
11 Georgia is subject to having their water shut-off,
12 reconnection fees, and penalties, for failing to
13 conserve.

14 Over the last 100 years the flow of the
15 Savannah river has decreased from 15,000 cubic feet,
16 per second, and today 6,000 cubic feet per second.
17 And with growth, and climate change, I anticipate that
18 flow rate will decrease even further.

19 The footprint that Vogtle makes, on the
20 state of Georgia will be -- well, let me put it this
21 way, it will be the tail that wags the economic growth
22 of Georgia, because Vogtle will absolutely mandate its
23 water supply, at the expense of the rest of the state.

24 A review of radioactive waste disposition.
25 Over 60 years high level waste disposal, and the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 eventual decommissioning of nuclear facilities has
2 been the elephant in the room, and has been
3 systematically excluded.

4 This, by itself, makes nuclear power
5 prohibitively expensive. It is immoral to create more
6 waste without addressing its end. A major economic
7 disruption, by any of several scenarios, could forever
8 put an end to any hope of dealing what will become
9 sacrificial areas by default.

10 The panacea of a Yucca Mountain repository
11 is, again, on hold. And there should be a review of
12 cost analysis. I'm concerned what effect the
13 collapsing dollar, the american dollar, will have on
14 an open-ended construction checkbook, and the true
15 construction costs and, ultimately, what will be
16 passed onto ratepayers.

17 In my position I believe the Draft
18 Environmental Impact Statement should be reconsidered,
19 and we should have some solid answers before the Early
20 Site Permit is approved. Thank you.

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.
22 And William Johnson is coming up, and then we are
23 going to go to Glenn Carroll, and then Merv Waldrop,
24 and Jimmy Dixon, and we will go on from there.

25 DR. JOHNSON: My name is Dr. Bill Johnson.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I have been a resident of Augusta for over 25 years.
2 I'm a retired physician, over 25 years of federal
3 experience.

4 In addition to a medical degree I have
5 degrees in economics, public health, and industrial
6 health. I wish to speak, today, about socioeconomic
7 issues that I think need to be looked into further.

8 Apparently it takes a village to build a
9 nuclear power plant. Apparently it takes a trailer
10 village, here. And, apparently, that involves several
11 thousand people. It involves issues of sanitation,
12 appropriate water supply, and space.

13 And those are things that are going to
14 have to be addressed in this community. I would also
15 say that this is a pro-nuclear community, it is an
16 agricultural community. It is a low population
17 density community, and there are pro-military and
18 conservative attitudes in this community, that are not
19 as prevalent in other parts of the United States.

20 If I were to use some of these same
21 criteria, for the siting of a -- I would also use some
22 of these criteria for the siting of a federal or a
23 state prison. That may sound ridiculous, but this is
24 just the type of an area where those things wind up
25 being placed.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 There are very pro-nuclear attitudes in
2 this area which some of us just do not share. And you
3 have heard some of those in the last few speakers.

4 We are concerned about poverty. This is
5 one of the most poverty stricken areas in the state of
6 Georgia. We have a lot of poverty in Burke County,
7 and Richmond County, and even pockets of poverty in
8 Columbia County.

9 That is in spite of the fact that we have
10 had two nuclear reactors in operation here, for some
11 time. And I'm not sure exactly what the environmental
12 impact really has been for everybody.

13 There is always a possibility that we may
14 be just increasing the disparity in incomes of the
15 poor and the rich, which is very obvious in this area.

16 There is a concern about generating tax
17 revenues, property taxes for schools, and so on.
18 Apparently that has already taken place in Burke
19 County. It is my understanding there is already
20 excess capacity in your schools, with empty classrooms
21 sitting there waiting for the kids that are expected
22 to come here with the next nuclear power plants.

23 I would say, also, that some of these
24 political statements, or endorsements, were witnessed
25 by some of us just last year, in hearings by the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Department of Energy in North Augusta, for the
2 Savannah river plant, and for the resumption of the
3 use of plutonium for nuclear weapons.

4 The Mayor of Augusta even endorsed that.
5 The two senators from Georgia endorsed it. And many
6 officials endorsed it, and many organizations endorsed
7 it, including United Way in Aiken County.

8 Yes, there is a pro-nuclear attitude here.
9 And I think we have to realize that there are other
10 parts of the country where we have more of a balance.
11 For example, our Mayor in Augusta supported the
12 resumption of nuclear activities at the Savannah river
13 plant, with plutonium production, for military
14 weapons.

15 The Mayor of Atlanta was opposed to it,
16 the Mayor of Boston was opposed to it, the Mayor of
17 New York was opposed to it, the Mayor of San Francisco
18 was opposed to it. Lots of mayors in the United
19 States, and around the world, were opposed to it.

20 We are very, truly, pro-nuclear here. And
21 I think we need to take a look at that, and look with
22 caution. Because I think there are still lots of
23 unanswered questions. Thank you.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Dr.
25 Johnson. Now we have Glenn Carroll. And after Glenn

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 we are going to go to Merv Waldrop, and then Jimmy
2 Dixon, and then Mr. Stubbs. Glenn Carroll

3 MS. CARROLL: I'm Glenn Carroll, I'm
4 coordinator of Nuclear Watch South, formerly Georgians
5 Against Nuclear Energy.

6 We have been involved with Vogtle since
7 the beginning. In fact, it inspired the formation of
8 my -- and I stayed up late, and I looked at it. Now,
9 this is what happened to me.

10 Well, first, let me start this way. The
11 last time I was here I learned something really cool,
12 at the end of the hearing. And that is that Burke
13 County is named after Edmund Burke. And Edmund Burke
14 said all that is needed for evil to flourish is for
15 good folk to do nothing.

16 And that has been very inspiring to the
17 activist community. And I just thought that was
18 really amazing. And I talked to a friend I have here
19 today, just hoping to get together, while I was in
20 town.

21 And it really changed a little bit about
22 what I want to say, and what she talked about was the
23 polarity on this issue, and how when people come from
24 Atlanta, to talk to Waynesboro, we aren't entirely
25 welcome, you don't bring the band out, or whatever.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And I wanted to say, and I think it is a
2 long-term project, and a long-term relationship we are
3 in. But we really are trying to be helpful. And I
4 would like to cite two things that Georgians Against
5 Nuclear Energy did.

6 One, in 1991 there was a really unusual
7 experience where there was -- it was very serious.
8 And the way it is, is that a truck backed into a power
9 pole, during an outage, and we lost power, and it was
10 extremely dangerous situation.

11 And the good news is, we got it together.
12 And even better news, it shook the industry, nation-
13 wide, and we changed the way we do outages. So that
14 is really good.

15 Well, we got involved in that, and so did
16 a high level manager here, who lost his job over it.
17 And, together, we worked and put pressure. And those
18 diesel generators got fixed. The power source that
19 failed got fixed.

20 And that was us being really helpful. And
21 we are volunteers, and we really extended ourselves,
22 over three years, and it was really, really hard. And
23 that was a wonderful outcome.

24 Another thing I want to say, that we have
25 been working on, is that Yucca Mountain isn't going to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 open, and everybody knows it. And we do have nuclear
2 waste here. And there are better ways to store it.

3 And we have worked, really hard, on this
4 controversial issue, within our community, to come up
5 with a position, and some guidelines to try and get a
6 dialogue going to help make the waste here be safer,
7 while it is here.

8 Now, I'm going to blast through some
9 comments, and I will tell you why. I got to phone in
10 my dinner order. And I hope you will take advantage
11 of it. They are staying open, if we will just get our
12 order into the kitchen, we can go there and eat it.
13 The bar will be open. So avail yourself of it. Maybe
14 Chip will give us all a break.

15 So let me just blast through some points,
16 and leave myself a minute or two. I looked through
17 it. Do I understand it? Not hardly. My hat is off
18 to you, Sarah, for doing the math. I had to hire an
19 expert.

20 So what I looked for is what do I think
21 the impact ought to be, what should they look at? And
22 then I would look and see if it got looked at. And I
23 was careful. I turned every page, and I really looked
24 at it to see did they get looked at it?

25 And when I hit a section with a topic

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 title, I read it. And here is what is missing.
2 Terrorism and insider sabotage should be analyzed,
3 because if it happens, there is an environmental
4 impact.

5 If there is an environmental impact, and
6 an emergency, how are the emergency people supposed to
7 handle it? We need this analysis. And the pressure
8 is on. The 9th Circuit has already decided, in
9 California, this will be looked at, at all nuclear
10 facilities.

11 The DOE, Department of Energy, facing this
12 in December of 2006, issued an agency-wide memo that
13 from now on, terrorism and insider sabotage will be
14 analyzed, in every Environmental Impact Statement, for
15 every nuclear and non-nuclear facility.

16 So the pressure is on, and we have, it was
17 articulated wonderfully, a uniquely hazardous site
18 here, with a concentration of nukes. There is
19 Barnwell 2, and if we have two more reactors, which is
20 what you are looking at, this is really an issue here.
21 It is an issue anywhere, and it is an issue.

22 Water. Water vapor, I learned by watching
23 millionaire, I think it was, is classified by the
24 Clean Air Act, as an air pollutant. And it didn't get
25 analyzed. So you need to be looking at this water

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 vapor as not only -- well, as an air pollution,
2 because it is hot, and that is where our water is, not
3 going back in the river, it is floating around up
4 here, and that needs to be looked at.

5 I was a little PO'd to see that the
6 downstream residents, that draw their water from the
7 aquifer, excuse me, the groundwater that the NRC
8 acknowledged that there is a serious water, saltwater
9 intrusion issue, from overuse of the fresh water and
10 they went, oh well, just drink the river water. And
11 I just think that is not okay.

12 Now, I already talked about the nuclear
13 waste problem that I see, and we will be putting
14 principles for safeguarding nuclear waste at reactors,
15 which has been endorsed by almost 100 environmental
16 groups, nationwide. And I have some copies on a table
17 out there, if you would like it, and it will be in the
18 record.

19 And alternatives -- now, keep in mind, we
20 saw that glamorous powerpoint thing on this. On
21 alternatives, what it looked at is can you use solar
22 and wind for some big, you know, megalopolis plant of
23 2,000, you know, to generate 2,000 watts on any of
24 these sites. No, you can't.

25 So what we want you to look at, is you

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 really gotta think out of the side of the megawatt and
2 the box here. What if the power company, for-profit,
3 is putting the stuff out on everybody's businesses,
4 and houses, and on industry, and they are plugging it
5 into the grid.

6 And so the users are generating their own
7 power. And if they don't use it all they get to sell
8 it back to Georgia Power. That could have a major
9 impact on transmission lines, which I was really
10 shocked that the impact of putting those transmission
11 lines on, that is really a heavy impact of this.

12 And the other thing is that it is an
13 incentive to conserve. So that would actually change
14 the production consumption equation. Taxes. You
15 didn't cover that this whole project is being used,
16 federal taxes are being used on this whole project.

17 Southern Company is convinced it is in
18 line to get this whole project paid by federal taxes,
19 by the people's money. This is people that won't,
20 maybe, get health care because of it, or maybe they
21 won't get education, or maybe they won't have housing.

22 This has got to be looked at, it is a
23 major omission. Workers' safety, what if there is an
24 accident, at 1 or 2, while the workers are working at
25 3 and 4? That isn't in there.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And then I just want to say that closing
2 this EIS down, holy mole, closing this EIS down before
3 you get the reactor license is just wrong, and just
4 don't do it. It is just crazy to think you can look
5 20 years down the road, in this era of rampant
6 development, and you can predict what environment a
7 plant might be built in, in 2027.

8 Okay, get your phone ready.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Glenn.
10 And this is Merv Waldrop, he is the County
11 Administrator of Burke County.

12 MR. WALDROP: I have a resolution to read.

13 The Board of Commissioners, of Burke
14 County, who are elected by the people, represent some
15 25,000 citizens of Burke County, approve the following
16 resolution in a unanimous vote:

17 Whereas the Vogtle electric generating
18 plant has been operating in Burke County for 20 years,
19 and whereas Plant Vogtle has an excellent safety
20 record for the life of its operation, and whereas
21 Plant Vogtle has been an outstanding corporate citizen
22 through the years, and whereas Plant Vogtle has
23 provided safe, clean energy for our state, and jobs
24 for our community, and whereas Southern Nuclear is
25 considering expanding the plant by constructing two

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle, and whereas the
2 proposed expansion of Plant Vogtle will bring even
3 more jobs, and be a boost to the economy of our
4 county; now therefore be it resolved, that the Board
5 of Commissioners of Burke County fully supports the
6 idea of constructing two nuclear reactors at Plant
7 Vogtle.

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Merv. Is
9 Jimmy Dixon still here? Okay. Mr. Stubbs.

10 MR. STUBBS: My name is Roland Stubbs, I'm
11 a member of the Board of Directors of Commissioners in
12 Screven County, and I have a resolution in support of
13 Vogtle 3 and 4, which I would like entered into the
14 record. I am brief.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you,
16 Mr. Stubbs. Ashley, do you want to speak next? This
17 is Ashley Roberts.

18 MS. ROBERTS: Good evening. And let me
19 just say, welcome to Burke County. I'm Ashley
20 Roberts, and I'm with the Burke County Chamber of
21 Commerce.

22 And I would just like to reiterate the
23 invitation to please order dinner, stay and shop at
24 Wal-Mart, get gas, anywhere you can spend money, we
25 would love for you to.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Last October we also issued a statement of
2 support for this project. But I would just like to go
3 on the record and reiterate that the Burke County
4 Chamber of Commerce continues in our full support of
5 Georgia Power in its proposed expansion of two nuclear
6 reactors at Plant Vogtle.

7 We believe this expansion will allow us to
8 continue to receive clean, cost-effective, and
9 reliable electric energy to serve our community.

10 There has been a lot of things said
11 tonight, and I won't stand up here and debate them.
12 I think maybe we will just, in the interest of time,
13 submit a written response to the record.

14 But I can assure you, as far as the
15 socioeconomic impact, our community stands ready to
16 plan to be ready for the possible expansion, and the
17 growth that our community faces.

18 The Chamber, the City, and the County, and
19 the other community leaders, are working together to
20 make sure that it is in the best interest of our
21 community.

22 I can say, on a personal note, as a 13
23 year resident here, having an eight year old at home,
24 and a five week old baby, that of all the things I
25 worry about for their safety, and their well being,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 having Plant Vogtle in our community, and two nuclear
2 reactors, is not even close to one of them.

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Ashley.
4 Is Roland here? Okay, Mr. Hendrix.

5 MR. HENDRIX: Good evening. I'm James
6 Hendrix, the Executive Director of the SRS Community
7 Reuse Organization. I will read a letter that we have
8 already provided to your Staff.

9 The SRS Community Reuse Organization is a
10 two state, five county, economic development board,
11 established by Congress, to assist communities
12 surrounding Department of Energy facilities.

13 Our mission is to apply Savannah river
14 site assets to achieve a diversified and growing
15 economy for our communities. Our 22 directors include
16 community leaders, appointed by business
17 organizations, local governments, and United States
18 congressmen.

19 These directors volunteer their time to
20 serve as the voice of the community on things related
21 to the Savannah river site. We are also taking a more
22 proactive stance on issues related to the development
23 of the commercial nuclear industry in the southeast.

24 This board fully supports the Early Site
25 Permit request for Vogtle generating station.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Although Vogtle resides in a county adjacent to our
2 service area, our relationship is mutually dependent
3 and beneficial.

4 We depend on Vogtle for clean, reliable
5 power. And, in turn, we provide many of the business
6 services, supplies, human resources, and educational
7 infrastructure, which Vogtle needs to meet the
8 region's fundamental need for electricity.

9 Clean, affordable, and abundant
10 electricity correlates directly to the quality of life
11 achieved in every nation on earth. Based on this
12 important fact, and the successful operation of the
13 existing Vogtle operating units, we believe that
14 Vogtle is an excellent host site for additional
15 nuclear power units.

16 NRC approval of the Early Site Permit
17 request is in the best interest of the citizens of
18 this region. We want to look, to the future, and know
19 that electricity will never be in short supply.

20 We have attached a list of our board
21 members, to the letter, and you may contact any of
22 them through our office.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very
24 much, Mr. Hendrix. Andrea Stein and Ellis Sabe, and
25 Billy Hopper are the next three speakers. This is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Andrea.

2 MS. STEIN: Hello, my name is Andrea
3 Stein. My father was an environmental engineer back
4 when it was the Savannah river plant, and he has also
5 been an environmental engineer at several other sites
6 throughout my lifetime.

7 I am comfortable, and my family is very
8 comfortable, with the clean energy produced by nuclear
9 power. One year ago I moved from Raleigh, North
10 Carolina, to Waynesboro, when I accepted a new
11 position with the Downtown Development director with
12 the city of Waynesboro.

13 My job involves economic development, and
14 the city's revitalization efforts of downtown
15 Waynesboro. Georgia Power has a strong positive
16 presence in Burke County, not only as the largest
17 employer, but also as a key community partner working
18 toward making Burke County a great place to live,
19 work, raise children, and enjoy many diverse quality
20 of life activities.

21 Georgia Power's involvement in the
22 community reaches from the schools, to civic clubs,
23 the Chamber of Commerce, and the up and coming Main
24 Street Program in the city of Waynesboro.

25 Their presence and assistance has provided

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Burke County, and EMA, that is one of the best in the
2 state, and affordable county property taxes.

3 The expansion of Plant Vogtle will bring
4 more people which will, in turn, impact economic
5 development of Burke County for the better. I'm
6 confident that Burke County and Waynesboro will be
7 ready for the influx of people when the time comes.

8 I have attended all of the public meetings
9 about this issue, and I fully support Georgia Power in
10 the Plant Vogtle expansion, and I'm excited to see the
11 forthcoming positive effects that this expansion will
12 bring to Burke County and the city of Waynesboro.
13 Thank you.

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Andrea.
15 Let's go to Billy Hopper, and then Linda Bailey, and
16 Annie Spears.

17 MR. HOPPER: Thank you for the opportunity
18 to make a brief statement about the addition of units
19 3 and 4 at the Plant Vogtle.

20 My name is Billy Hopper, my address is 413
21 McIntosh Drive, Waynesboro. I'm retired from the
22 position of county administrator of Burke County. I
23 served as county administrator from November of 1973
24 until January of 2002.

25 Prior to that I was city administrator for

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the city of Waynesboro, for approximately eight and a
2 half years, giving me a total of approximately 37
3 years in local government in Burke County.

4 Please note that my involvement in local
5 government began before the start of construction of
6 Plant Vogtle, and ended some 12 years after unit 2
7 went on line.

8 During this time I had the opportunity to
9 work very closely with Georgia Power, and their
10 partners, as well as contractors, on the Vogtle
11 project.

12 Therefore I feel that I am qualified to
13 comment on the relationship between the project and
14 the local community. There was always an excellent
15 working relationship between the owners of Plant
16 Vogtle and the local government.

17 Local government officials were kept
18 informed as to how the project was progressing and, in
19 return, attempted to cooperate in any way possible.

20 By working as closely with the local
21 officials, Georgia Power and its partners gained the
22 respect and trust of the local community. To my
23 knowledge they still have this trust today.

24 Plant Vogtle has been good for Burke
25 County, and Burke County has been good for Plant

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Vogtle. I see no reason why this excellent
2 relationship between Plant Vogtle and the Burke County
3 community will not exist for many years to come.

4 Therefore I wholeheartedly support the
5 application for the construction of units 3 and 4 at
6 Plant Vogtle. Thank you for allowing me to make these
7 comments.

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Billy,
9 very much. Linda Bailey? And then we will go to
10 Annie Spears.

11 MS. BAILEY: Good evening. As the
12 superintendent of the Burke County school system, and
13 as a 27 year resident of Burke County, I would like to
14 express my appreciation for those that are affiliated
15 with Plant Vogtle.

16 Having the plant located in our county has
17 provided the students of Burke County with experiences
18 and opportunities that could otherwise have been
19 lacking in their lives.

20 From Georgia Power mentors, to Southern
21 Company career and partnership opportunities, the
22 school system has been truly blessed. I would like to
23 offer special thanks to Mr. Walter Dukes, and Mr.
24 William Edwards, for their support of the Burke County
25 school system.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The work that they undertake, each day,
2 certainly makes a positive difference in the lives of
3 our students. So many times we look at what is
4 negative in life, rather than looking at the
5 positives.

6 And what I can honestly, and truthfully
7 say, from the bottom of my heart, is that I have seen
8 nothing negative. The positives so outweigh anything
9 that could come our way. Our students are so truly
10 blessed, are so deeply touched by what is offered, by
11 having this plant here, that you need to live in this
12 system, you need to live in this community, and you
13 need to experience what we experience, to understand
14 the depth.

15 Yes, sir, our proactivity, our pro-nuclear
16 approach because, to be honest with you, unless you
17 are here, and unless you live it every day, you truly
18 probably do not understand it. Thank you.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: This is Annie
20 Spears.

21 MS. SPEARS: Good evening. My name is
22 Annie Spears and I'm here representing the North
23 American Young Generation and Nuclear, an organization
24 with more than 2,900 members nationwide, and a local
25 chapter here in the Vogtle area.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I'm a past president of the Young
2 Generation, and have worked in the nuclear power
3 industry for 3 years. Nuclear energy plays an
4 important role in our daily lives, supplying power to
5 1 in 5 american homes and businesses.

6 America's 104 nuclear reactors play a role
7 in keeping air emissions low. Nuclear plants have one
8 of the highest efficiency ratings at more than 90
9 percent, while achieving low cost.

10 Nuclear energy is an important part of a
11 balanced fuel mix. Because I work in the nuclear
12 industry, I have first hand knowledge of safety level
13 at a nuclear power plant.

14 Safety is the first priority in operating
15 nuclear plants. Safety was emphasized during plant
16 design and construction, and it is emphasized daily in
17 oversight, training of employees, validation of
18 monitoring instruments and controls, and testing of
19 safety systems.

20 Nuclear plants are among the safest work
21 places in the United States. And the public supports
22 nuclear energy. In a study conducted in July and
23 August of this year, by the Sconti Research,
24 Incorporated, 77 percent of those surveyed agreed that
25 we should definitely build more nuclear power plants

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 in the future.

2 Eighty-five percent agree that utilities
3 should prepare now so that new nuclear power plants
4 can be built in the future, if needed. And 91 percent
5 believe that nuclear energy will be important in
6 meeting future energy needs, which is up from 85
7 percent in 2005.

8 New nuclear energy plants are important in
9 providing clean, safe, reliable energy for my
10 generation, and for our future. New plants will also
11 create stable jobs, in Georgia, for my generation, and
12 those to follow.

13 On behalf of the North American Young
14 Generation in Nuclear, thank you for allowing me the
15 opportunity to voice my support of the Early Site
16 Permit submitted by Vogtle. Thank you.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Linda Bailey
18 mentioned Mr. Walter Dukes, and it is probably a good
19 time to bring Walter up, the Regional Vice President
20 for Georgia Power.

21 MR. DUKES: Good evening. My name is
22 Walter Dukes, region vice president for the east
23 region, and that includes Burke County, and all the
24 surrounding counties.

25 And I'm happy to make comments on behalf

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 of Georgia Power, Plant Vogtle, and all of our
2 partners. That would be our co-partners of
3 Oglethorpe, city of Dalton, and Miag.

4 I want to share with you that I lived in
5 Burke County most of my life, so I'm from Burke
6 County, and I have worked for Georgia Power some 26
7 years, now.

8 I began with Georgia Power back 26 years
9 ago, down at Plant Vogtle, I worked as an engineer,
10 construction engineer, for almost five years. I came
11 to work in Waynesboro for another five years.

12 Then I worked as area manager for another
13 three or four years, here in Waynesboro. I only spent
14 about seven, eight years, outside of this region. And
15 I now live in South Augusta.

16 So, certainly, Plant Vogtle is certainly
17 of some concern to me, my family, and certainly to all
18 of my friends.

19 I want to address, first, a need for Plant
20 Vogtle. Certainly there is a big need for Plant
21 Vogtle. Right now we think that 40 percent of the
22 population will be in the southeast by 2030.

23 Four million of those people will move to
24 Georgia by 2030. The last three years we alone, at
25 Georgia Power Company, have added 127,000 customers.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 With that kind of growth comes an increase in demand.

2 And we are challenged to meet that demand.

3 And we can meet that demand, we believe, with nuclear
4 energy safely, with new nuclear energy, efficiently,
5 with nuclear, effectively, and at affordable prices
6 for our customers.

7 These new nuclear units will help meet
8 that future demand, by adding some 2,300 megawatts of
9 electricity. Nuclear is a proven technology. It is
10 clean, and most of you have already mentioned, it is
11 safe, it is reliable, and it is low cost.

12 We have proven that over the last 20
13 years, in unit 1 and unit 2. Our record is very
14 clear. We have operated it safely, we have operated
15 it reliably, and we have operated it at very low cost.

16 Also, our employees live here, too. We
17 live here, too. We are certainly concerned about any
18 negatives that you are concerned about, as well. We
19 have well trained employees.

20 We have been good stewards, and good
21 partners, with the community, as you have already
22 heard. We believe that good partnership is based on
23 trust. That is one thing about trust with our
24 company, it is imbedded in our core values,
25 unquestionable trust, superior performance, and total

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 commitment.

2 We are totally committed to this
3 community, totally committed to what we do. We
4 perform very superiorly, we operate those plants real
5 well, and we have had great success over the last 20
6 years.

7 We believe this is the right thing to do.
8 As in the past we have been committed to providing
9 safe, clean, and reliable electricity. We would do
10 nothing different in the future.

11 Thanks for your time this evening, in
12 letting me come and speak on behalf of our partners,
13 Plant Vogtle, and Georgia Power.

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
15 Mr. Dukes. The next three speakers, we are going to
16 go to Ryan Patterson, Mary Olson, and Peter Sipp. And
17 then we will go to McKibben and Mel Buckner. This is
18 Ryan Patterson.

19 MR. PATTERSON: For the Journal, my name
20 is Ryan Patterson, I'm a field organizer for
21 Greenpeace, based on the 12th Congressional District
22 of Georgia. And I will keep it to three minutes.

23 Greenpeace has thousands of members in
24 Georgia, and hundreds in this district alone. And I
25 speak, today, as a representative for the thousands of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 members that are in Georgia.

2 Greenpeace is the world's largest
3 organization working for the environment, and nuclear
4 disarmament. And, as you know, at the NRC, I want to
5 make it very, very clear, Greenpeace stands in very
6 firm opposition to the issuance of the Early Site
7 Permit, and the expansion of nuclear energy, at all,
8 in Georgia or anywhere else.

9 This is because we recognize the
10 devastating impacts that global warming is already
11 having on Georgia. We are seeing more intense heat
12 waves, and drought, both of which lend themselves to
13 forest fires and crop failures.

14 Our farmers, here, are being affected by
15 this issue. People who live near the coast are being
16 affected by rising sea levels. And scientists have
17 shown that warmer conditions intensify hurricanes, and
18 predict that a Katrina sized hurricane will eventually
19 make landfall in Georgia.

20 Nuclear power will never, ever, solve
21 global warming. To address the climate change
22 industry would have to build 1,000 to 2,000 new
23 nuclear power plants globally. And this is neither
24 politically, nor physically feasible.

25 In addition to the global warming issue,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 there are a multitude of other problems with nuclear
2 energy. Nuclear energy is too expensive, building new
3 nuclear power plants would cost billions of dollars.

4 The new plants that have been built in
5 Japan and Finland, recently, have been grossly over-
6 budget. And it will be here, too, it will be over-
7 budget, mark my words.

8 By contrast, every dollar spent on energy
9 efficiency goes up to ten times further in reducing
10 global warming and pollution, than a dollar spent on
11 nuclear energy.

12 Nuclear power is dangerous. Everybody has
13 talked, or several people have talked about the fact
14 that every new nuclear power plant is another
15 potential terrorist target. And we don't want any
16 more of those here.

17 We don't any more in Georgia, and we don't
18 want any more anywhere else. And every power plant
19 also increases the likelihood of a Chernobyl sized
20 incident.

21 There is no solution to the waste. The
22 industry has no long term solution for nuclear waste
23 storage in the U.S., or in any other country. And any
24 tank that we can build to hold that waste, right now,
25 will not outlast the radioactive waste that we stick

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 inside of it.

2 The proposed nuclear power plants also
3 pose a global security risk. Reprocessing, as
4 proposed by our President, has not solved the nuclear
5 waste problem in any country. In addition to being
6 expensive, and polluting, reprocessing also increases
7 nuclear weapons proliferation risks.

8 Nuclear power is too dirty. From start to
9 finish it pollutes. Uranium mining and refining
10 pollutes the air and water, while processing an energy
11 production produces between 20 and 30 tons of high
12 level nuclear waste every year, for every single
13 plant.

14 Georgia already has some of the dirtiest
15 power plants in the country. We should be ashamed of
16 it. This permit should be denied to build another
17 dirty plant in the state of Georgia.

18 In contrast to the research done by the
19 NRC, Greenpeace research suggests that we can meet our
20 energy needs here with a combination of energy
21 efficiency and renewable sources of energy, like wind,
22 and solar.

23 By pursuing these goals, aggressively,
24 Georgia can build its economy in the blossoming
25 renewable energy market, and protect its citizens from

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the threats posed by dirty, dangerous, nuclear energy.

2 Energy efficiency, and renewable energy,
3 could not only circumvent the major problems posed by
4 the type of energy you propose but, also, can protect
5 natural resources, like the water that is required to
6 cool the plants.

7 These approaches result in a safe,
8 reliable, and sustainable energy for Georgia's
9 citizens, and businesses. Today you have an
10 opportunity to pursue a cleaner, brighter future for
11 Georgia. You know it is the right thing to do.

12 And, instead of promoting expansion of
13 nuclear energy, which threatens citizens and
14 businesses, you should pursue programs that include a
15 focus on energy efficiency, and renewable energy
16 sources, as a means to combat global warming. Thank
17 you.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
19 Ryan. And this is Mary Olson. And this doesn't, in
20 any way, affect the -- Ryan's remarks. But I just
21 didn't want people to think that the NRC was in the
22 promotional business for nuclear power, as opposed to
23 regulating it. But I think your remarks still carry
24 through. Mary?

25 MS. OLSON: My name is Mary Olson, I'm the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 director of the Southeast Office of Nuclear
2 Information and Resource Service, which is a national
3 organization based in Tacoma Park, Maryland.

4 We have members in all 50 states, and I'm
5 very pleased and proud to be in this room, tonight,
6 with many of our colleagues and members. As a matter
7 of fact I sat in this room, and added it up, there is
8 34 people that I know and recognize, who are out here
9 tonight together.

10 And that is pretty amazing, that we all
11 made it to this community. And the reason that is so
12 important is because every single reactor is a local
13 project but it is also, quite frankly, something that
14 could have a global impact.

15 And we have to remember that. So while we
16 are traveling here, to be with you this evening, we
17 are also coming because it is our opportunity to speak
18 to these federal regulators, whose responsibility it
19 is to listen to us.

20 So that said, I'm here representing
21 Nuclear Information and Resource Service, in
22 opposition to this apparent readiness, by the
23 regulators, to grant an Early Site Permit for what we
24 really have to, honestly, call Vogtle 5 and 6.

25 I mean, 1 and 2 came on line, and the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 largest rate hike in Georgia's history happened, and
2 3 and 4 were officially cancelled. They are in the
3 information digest listed as cancelled. So we are on
4 5 and 6 here.

5 So that said, here is a few of my
6 concerns. I came here, a year and a half ago, in the
7 pre-submission meeting, and said the same thing I'm
8 going to say tonight, only I think you need to hear it
9 again.

10 Waynesboro officials, you sound ready; NRC
11 officials, you sound ready to potentially create the
12 largest commercial nuclear power site in the United
13 States. Palo Verde has three, Vogtle would have 4,
14 even though they are called 5 and 6.

15 So, you know, you are going to be number
16 one in the commercial fleet, in the age of the war on
17 terror, okay? And where is Vogtle? Federal agency
18 please talk to your other federal agencies.

19 I don't particularly like Savannah river
20 site's mission. But there is a national security
21 concern about a loaded gun with two units pointed at
22 Savannah river site, whether it is internal malicious
23 event, accident, hurricane, I don't care. Prepiat
24 could be Savannah river site, Savannah river site
25 could be Prepiat.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I think that should be analyzed in this
2 EIS. It is not particularly a terrorist concern, it
3 is a geopolitical concern. They are taking all of the
4 plutonium there, remember?

5 So that said, here are a few other
6 omissions. I think you do have to look at taxes. We
7 are in this deficit spending here. The impact of
8 spending on nukes, versus other things, okay Congress
9 already did it, but it is an impact that should be in
10 the EIS.

11 Water vapor, greenhouse gas, guys. When
12 are you going to start talking about it? Two-thirds
13 is evaporated. Water vapor is a greenhouse gas. You
14 have to put that in there, it is an impact, huge.

15 Low level waste, we said it, I'm going to
16 say it again; 2008 is around the corner. Georgia has
17 federal responsibility for all so-called low level
18 waste generated within the state. What are you going
19 to do with it?

20 Okay, maybe you are going to deregulate
21 it. You've tried that, you called it below regulatory
22 concern, then you called it clearance levels, we are
23 calling it out of control, and it is on purpose, and
24 I'm going to submit this report as a comment, with a
25 very small number of pages designated as part of this

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 transcript, because it is a comment on the radiation
2 stuff that was said earlier, and it is all annotated
3 on the cover.

4 Out of control on purpose. That takes us
5 to the issue of being pro-nuclear. It feels like a
6 position of control. It feels like you have it down,
7 and you know how to do it. The problem is, the point
8 has been made once, I'm going to make it again, that
9 you are being a magnet.

10 We have, already, missions across the
11 river called the MOX fuel factory, which has to have
12 pit disassembly and plutonium processing. You've
13 already got tritium processing over there.

14 Okay, so what else is going to come in?
15 You are going to have the largest nuke site in the
16 state. Wouldn't it make sense if the so-called low
17 level waste being generated here, that all the state's
18 low level waste might come and be here, too, you know?

19 So you've got this magnet effect. So I'm
20 really glad that the radiological consequences of that
21 was looked at. But I'm not sure you looked at any of
22 the other socioeconomic other sorts of impacts that
23 you would have by a proliferation of nuclear
24 activities.

25 You know, there is bomb plex 2030 that

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 people are boosting for. There is global nuclear
2 energy partnership. And did you know that highway out
3 there, AKA U.S. 25, they are upgrading it. Well, gee,
4 it could be part of that proposed I-3 that goes all
5 the way to Oakridge, Tennessee, port of Savannah being
6 connected by SRS, up to Oakridge. That becomes a
7 nuclear trail.

8 Have you analyzed the magnet effect of
9 Vogtle 5 and 6 on that? And the impact on this
10 community of continuous high level nuclear waste
11 shipments coming into the Savannah river site instead
12 of going west, coming in?

13 Jump to the last little point. You did
14 look at multiple exposures, and you didn't answer my
15 question about do you give them 100 millirems a year
16 a piece.

17 So I did a calculation on the back of my
18 note pad and came up with what happens if you give
19 each reactor up to 100 millirems? Which is, actually
20 you give them a lot more than that, if you consider
21 water, and sewage sludge, and unusual circumstances,
22 and all those other things.

23 But let's just take that nice round 100
24 millirems. You go to four units. Oh, boy. If
25 everybody gets that, and you know they might, because

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 you allow it. Well, 3.5 fatal cancers in 1,000.

2 You have to add one non-fatal cancer for
3 every fatal cancer. So that becomes, you know, 7 in
4 1,000. And when you do the math, I always like the 1
5 in 286, that is what I remember, so it becomes 2 in
6 286.

7 And then by the time you say that is
8 background radiation, and you add the two units that
9 are there now, and then two more units, then two more
10 units, you come up to ten cancers, half fatal, half
11 non-fatal in 286.

12 Do that simple math and it is 1 in 29,
13 with your standards of what is allowable and legal.
14 One in 29 cancers. This room has 200 seats in it.
15 Well, you know, there is some damage in this room from
16 your allowable levels.

17 And then you go to your critics, like
18 Rosalee Bertell and the recently late Dr. John
19 Goffman, and they would tell you, with good data to
20 back them up, that you are off by a factor of 10.

21 So there is a little bit more radiation,
22 and there is a little bit more cancer, if you really
23 do the math, and you consider that maybe your
24 standards allow all this, and it might happen, you are
25 up to 1 in 3, under your critic's rather gentle

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 prodding.

2 So, please, please, please, don't just say
3 you did the math. Consider the fact that your
4 standards would permit, without very much pushing, and
5 not even talking about fetus, and elders, and the fact
6 that women are more susceptible, and all this is based
7 on the standard man, very significant impacts.

8 Say no.

9 MR. SIPP: Good evening, everybody. Chip,
10 I thank you for having a variety of speakers. That is
11 a great thing, I appreciate how you are handling the
12 program tonight.

13 I'm a former resident of Richmond County,
14 I lived in Georgia from 1979 to 1999. And I happen to
15 lived and watched what was happening. And in 1987 my
16 light bill went up three times what it was,
17 originally. And I didn't add even so much as a night
18 light in my house.

19 It was because unit 1 was ten percent
20 finished. And so this stuff about it being
21 economical, no. You are not selling me on that.

22 And I would like to see, on the part of
23 the EIS, to where you consider the fact that
24 Charleston fault line, that goes from Charleston, and
25 then it goes west, I want that to be in the EIS.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And I also want you all to consider that
2 the fuel pools that are over at Plant Vogtle now,
3 could they take an earthquake, if it was to come? And
4 then what I would also like to see, and I'm sure the
5 woman from the school board, I think she would like to
6 rest knowing that the next two reactors in the fuel
7 pools could take an earthquake, because the first two
8 are not, and we've been lucky so far.

9 And the reactors in Japan, where there are
10 seven at one site, they are all shut down. And Tokyo
11 Electric Power, they are having to scramble -- they
12 had to scramble, back in the summer, to get enough
13 electricity for their customers. And do you all want
14 that here? No, I don't think so.

15 And I'm sure we don't want to have it be
16 on our conscience that we didn't build the next two
17 reactors so that they could take an earthquake. We
18 can do it, because they are not built yet, and that is
19 what we need to do.

20 And that would include the fuel pools,
21 also. So in your Environmental Impact Statement
22 please consider, please figure it out about the
23 reactors need to be able to withstand an earthquake of
24 maybe 5, and the fuel pools, also.

25 And I thank you, again, and that is pretty

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 much everything.

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, thank you
3 Peter. We are going to go to Al McKibben, and then
4 Mel Buckner, and then our next three speakers will be
5 Becky Waters, Brad Bennett, and Teresa Carter.

6 MR. MCKIBBEN: Thank you, yes. I'm Al
7 McKibben, I live in north Augusta. I'm the executive
8 director of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness,
9 CNTA.

10 We think we are the largest pro-nuclear
11 education and advocacy group in the United States, and
12 perhaps on the planet. We have about 2,000 members,
13 35 corporate and business sponsors. And we do nuclear
14 education, factual, objective information.

15 We appear here today in full support of
16 the conclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact
17 Statement that two more reactors can be added at Plant
18 Vogtle without significant environmental impact, and
19 without any significant effect on public health. We
20 believe that. We think the facts support that.

21 Georgia Power and their parent company,
22 the Southern Nuclear Operating Company, have a very
23 long and very distinguished record of environmental
24 responsibility and responsibility to the communities
25 in which they are existing.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 One young lady here, from youth -- I'm not
2 sure I get that right, yes, Youth for Nuclear
3 Education, or whatever it was, but she cited a few
4 statistics, which are very true.

5 And what they say is that people who live
6 in the communities where nuclear power plants exist,
7 about 87 percent of them support building more plants,
8 right there, because they have seen the evidence, they
9 know the record, and they know the people who run
10 them.

11 Waynesboro, Georgia, is no exception to
12 that rule. Georgia Power has been a very good
13 neighbor, and fully deserves the overwhelming
14 community support that they have here, and we are very
15 pleased to endorse what they are doing.

16 Thank you very much.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Al. And
18 we have Mr. Buckner coming up.

19 MR. BUCKNER: I'm Mel Buckner, I live in
20 North Augusta, South Carolina, and I'm a retiree from
21 the Savannah river site. I worked there for 35 years,
22 helping to protect the nation.

23 And I'm also a part-time consultant now,
24 since I retired, and a professor at the University of
25 South Carolina.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I would like to say that Georgia Power has
2 made a wise decision in choosing to build more nuclear
3 plants at the Vogtle station, because nuclear energy
4 is and will continue to be a key player in the U.S.
5 energy mix.

6 There are three primary reasons for this.
7 First is the industry has become more efficient, and
8 has improved economic competitiveness over the last 20
9 years.

10 The young lady talked about the 104 plants
11 that are operating in this country, and they operate,
12 90 percent of the time, at full power. During the
13 summer sweltering heat wave that we had, across the
14 nation, these plants operated at 98 percent
15 efficiency, providing the air conditioning that we
16 expect. Not that we expect, that we demand in our
17 current environment.

18 The cost of nuclear generation has been
19 competitive with coal generation, over the last
20 several years, and is now lower than coal generation,
21 and much lower than natural gas or oil.

22 Only hydroelectric generation is cheaper
23 and, certainly, that is in short supply. The second
24 important fact is that there have been continuous
25 improvements in safety performance over the last 25

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 years.

2 Since the Three Mile Island accident in
3 1979 the nuclear industry has made steady improvements
4 in safety performance. And, of course, even though
5 the Three Mile Island core partially melted, no
6 substantiated on-site, or off-site health effects
7 occurred as a result of the accident.

8 And because of Three Mile Island we have
9 an improved safety culture within the industry.
10 Improved regulations, improved training, and improved
11 safety systems.

12 These improvements have contributed to an
13 excellent safety record, which is second to none in
14 industry.

15 The third important fact is there is a
16 growing awareness of the environmental benefits of
17 nuclear energy. Nuclear plants have little or no
18 releases of green house gases, which are a major
19 contributor to global warming that was spoken of
20 earlier.

21 In the period from 1973 to 2002, the
22 operation of nuclear plants avoided the release of
23 three billion metric tons of carbon into the
24 atmosphere, in addition to millions of tons of other
25 greenhouse gases.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The world market is highly favorable for
2 nuclear energy growth. There are, currently, 441
3 nuclear power plants operating around the globe,
4 providing 16 percent of the electrical generation.

5 There are 27 nuclear plants that are being
6 built around the globe. Primarily in the southeast
7 Asia region, and in Japan. And there are many more
8 that are on the drawing boards.

9 At one time the U.S. led the deployment of
10 nuclear technology through the Atoms for Peace Program
11 that was initiated by President Eisenhower. Now we
12 are struggling to catch up with the rest of the
13 industry around the globe.

14 Issues that are often raised with regards
15 to nuclear power include transportation and disposal
16 of nuclear waste. From the beginning of the nuclear
17 age, to now, there have been millions of radioactive
18 material shipments around the world.

19 Not one has resulted in death, or serious
20 injury, from release of radioactive material. In
21 addition, stringent testing and regulations are
22 followed in licensing nuclear waste containers to
23 minimize the risk of radioactive exposure, to the
24 public, and the release of radioactive material in the
25 case of a severe accident.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 In the case of nuclear waste the
2 technology for disposal is well established, and the
3 U.S. government needs to get on with the licensing and
4 opening of the federal repository at Yucca Mountain.

5 In addition, the Global Nuclear Energy
6 Partnership that was spoken of, earlier, provides the
7 opportunity for greatly reducing the quantity of
8 nuclear waste. And, also, to reclaim 90 percent of
9 the energy content that remains in the used fuel.

10 This will help in providing energy for
11 developing countries, where over two billion people
12 are without electricity. The emerging vision for the
13 future of nuclear energy is very bright, with
14 potentially as many as 30 new orders in the coming
15 years.

16 And I strongly endorse the decision that
17 Georgia Power has made to build two nuclear power
18 plants at the Vogtle site. Thank you very much.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you. And we
20 are going to go to Becky Waters now. And while Becky
21 is coming up I just wanted to note, for Peter, your
22 concern about seismic, our safety project manager
23 Christian over there, said that the seismic issues are
24 addressed in the Safety Evaluation Report, which
25 should be on the web.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 But if you guys can get together before
2 the evening is over, he can give you that information.
3 Becky?

4 MS. WATERS: Thank you, good evening. I
5 appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight, to the
6 NRC, in support of an Early Site Permit for Vogtle
7 units 3 and 4.

8 My name is Becky Waters, I work at Plant
9 Vogtle, and I'm a member of the United States Women in
10 Nuclear, commonly called WIN, which was established in
11 1999.

12 This organization is a network of more
13 than 2,200 men and women, who work in nuclear and
14 radiation related fields across the country. The
15 strategic objectives of Women in Nuclear, are to
16 support an environment in nuclear energy, and nuclear
17 technologies, in which women and men are able to
18 succeed; to provide a network through which the women
19 in these fields can further their professional
20 development, and to provide an organized association
21 through which the public is informed about nuclear
22 energy and nuclear technologies.

23 U.S. WIN members participate in their
24 local chapters and in regional organizations that
25 include local chapters, in geographical regions,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 across the United States, and at events sponsored on
2 a national level.

3 WIN is inclusive of all disciplines, and
4 occupations, in the nuclear industry, and provides
5 opportunities for members to further their personal,
6 technical, and professional development.

7 This facilitates our ability to attract,
8 and retain, highly skilled and motivated career
9 professionals. Historically the number of women,
10 working in nuclear related fields, especially in
11 leadership position, has been low, compared to other
12 occupational groups.

13 The WIN organization has been instrumental
14 in communicating the value and diversity of the role
15 that women have in support of nuclear energy, and in
16 providing encouragement, and mentors, to members to
17 support career advancement.

18 Additional units at Plant Vogtle would
19 create new job opportunities at the Vogtle site, for
20 many different occupations for local residents, tech
21 school graduates, college graduates, as well as for
22 additional economic growth in the surrounding
23 communities.

24 These opportunities would offer more
25 career choices to local residents, allowing more

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 citizens to remain in your community. This would
2 foster growth for Women in Nuclear as I would expect
3 women would receive some of these new jobs.

4 WİN members represent another voice for
5 the nuclear industry, a clear voice, reaching out to
6 educate and inform the public to ensure that both
7 sides of the story are told, and to build a strong and
8 broad network that encourages our members to succeed,
9 in an industry that is critical to the infrastructure
10 of our country.

11 On behalf of the 200 members of the
12 Southern Nuclear Chapter of U.S. WİN, we support the
13 Early Site Permit for Vogtle units 3 and 4. We
14 believe that the region, and local economy, will
15 benefit from the additional units.

16 We believe that nuclear energy is a safe,
17 reliable, and cost effective source of electricity,
18 that helps to improve the environment by not emitting
19 carbon dioxide, or other greenhouse gas emissions.

20 As mothers, daughters, grandmothers,
21 aunts, wives, professional women, and mentors of our
22 young people, we believe that nuclear power is
23 important, not only right here in Burke County, but
24 important to our nation.

25 Women have always been the nurturers of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 our families. Working women have an additional role
2 to mentor employees and coworkers. Just as we nurture
3 our children, we need to support the nuclear power
4 industry. Both are important to our country's future,
5 and that is a win-win for everybody. Thank you very
6 much.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Becky.
8 We will go to Brad Bennett, and then Teresa Carter,
9 and Susan Parr. And we have a number of speakers
10 left, but I would predict that we will probably be
11 done by 10:30.

12 MR. BENNETT: Good evening. My name is
13 Brad Bennett and I speak, tonight, on behalf of the
14 Clean and Safe Energy Coalition.

15 We support construction of new reactors
16 and are, actively, engaged in generating a public
17 dialogue to educate others about the ways nuclear
18 power enhances America's energy security, and economic
19 growth, helps attain cleaner air, and improves the
20 quality of life, health, and economic well being for
21 all Americans.

22 Led by our national co-chairs, Christine
23 Whitman, former EPA administrator, and Governor of New
24 Jersey, and Dr. Patrick Moore, co-founder and former
25 leader of Greenpeace, the coalition boasts a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 membership of more than 1,300 individuals and
2 organizations across the nations and locally, too, who
3 support our mission.

4 In short, our nation is addicted to
5 electricity. And that addiction will only grow in the
6 future. the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that
7 electricity demand will increase 40 percent by 2030.
8 And it is easy to see why.

9 As technology advances our economy
10 expands, and our population increases. So, too, will
11 our need for energy grow. Any frequent traveler will
12 tell you the most coveted areas and seats in an
13 airport these days are the ones next to a power
14 outlet.

15 We have so many devices, laptops,
16 cellphones, blackberries, Ipods, etcetera, that
17 require electricity to recharge. And in the not too
18 distant future we may be driving cars powered by fuel
19 cells that will also be plugged in for nightly
20 recharging.

21 How will we handle the enormous increases
22 in electricity that we will need? Conservation and
23 more efficient electrical appliances help. And a
24 deeper commitment to renewable resources, such as
25 wind, solar, and geothermal, are needed. But greater

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 conservation, and renewable energy, don't provide the
2 baseload power we require to ensure the lights go on
3 any time we flip the switch.

4 Consider that today all renewable
5 resources produce 2 percent of our electricity while
6 nuclear power accounts for 20 percent, or one out of
7 every five homes and businesses in the U.S.

8 In Georgia, nuclear power provides more
9 than 23 percent of the state's energy needs. The
10 reality is we will require more from these sources,
11 and all others in the years ahead.

12 A wise energy policy recognizes the virtue
13 of diversity and in that diverse plan nuclear energy
14 is a critical component. It is clean, it is the only
15 large-scale, emission free source of electricity that
16 we can readily expand to meet our growing energy
17 demand.

18 The environmental impact at nuclear plants
19 is far lower than many other types of power generating
20 plants. And, therefore, it is not surprising that
21 wild life often flourishes near nuclear power plants.

22 It is safe. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of
23 Labor Statistics has shown that it is safer to work at
24 a nuclear power plant than in the manufacturing sector
25 and even in real estate, and the financial industries.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 A nuclear plant makes a good neighbor. It
2 supports high paying jobs directly, at the plant,
3 generates Additional jobs in the community and
4 contributes by helping to build good schools, roads,
5 and other civic improvements.

6 We all have a shared stake in America's
7 energy future. Now is the time for our country to
8 build more new nuclear power plants to enable us to
9 generate electricity with a clean, safe, and
10 dependable source of power.

11 The Vogtle plant has been a reliable
12 generator of electricity, for Georgia, for many years.
13 And we hope it will continue to do so for many more in
14 the future.

15 We support the NRC's preliminary
16 recommendation and a continuation of the Early Site
17 Permit and licensing process that would lead to new
18 construction at Vogtle.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.
20 Bennett. Now Teresa Carter from the American Cancer
21 Society, I believe.

22 MS. CARTER: My name is Teresa Carter, I'm
23 a former public health educator for the East Central
24 Health District.

25 I am a Burke County resident. And, today,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I stand before you as the American Cancer Society's
2 community manager for Burke County. No, I'm not here
3 to offer an opinion on Plant Vogtle's expansion.

4 However, I am here to equip you with
5 information on Plant Vogtle's support for the American
6 Cancer Society, Burke County's cancer patients, their
7 caregivers, and families.

8 Plant Vogtle has been a dedicated
9 supporter of the American Cancer Society, and the
10 Relay for Life, of Burke County, for several years,
11 raising money and awareness to support lifesaving
12 cancer research, programs, and services.

13 Plant Vogtle is a corporate sponsor of the
14 Society's Relay for Life, with teams of employees who
15 raised nearly one-third of the total 77,000 dollars
16 raised at the Burke County relay.

17 The plant's strong support for our cancer
18 fighting activities ensures that Burke County's cancer
19 patients, their caregivers, and families, receive
20 education, advocacy, services, such as Reach to
21 Recovery, Road to Recovery, Look Good, Feel Better,
22 and 24/7 patient resources to help them in their fight
23 against cancer. Thank you for your time.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Teresa.
25 And we are going to have Janet Marsh, and then Lou

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Zeller.

2 MS. MARSH: My name is Janet Marsh, I'm
3 the executive director of the multi-state Blue Ridge
4 Environmental Defense League. We have a staffed
5 office in Augusta, Georgia.

6 In June of this year our organization
7 released a very large cancer study of the 11 counties
8 nearest to Plant Vogtle. And the time periods that
9 we used in this study were a comparison between the
10 cancer death rates, between 1987 and '90, and then the
11 second time period, with which we compared the rates,
12 to that first one, was 1991 to 2003, a rather long
13 period of time.

14 And we were pretty startled by the results
15 of this study. We found that for adolescents, and for
16 children of all ages, in the 11 county area, the
17 cancer death rates increased by 58.5 percent, and that
18 compared with 14.1 percent reduction for adolescents
19 and children of all ages nationwide.

20 Burke County's specially riddled with
21 cancer. In the 1980s the cancer death rates in Burke
22 County were lower than the national average. And by
23 the time that this second period of study, 1991 to
24 2003, when we looked at that we saw that it is an
25 increase of 21.5 percent, if you look at all ages, and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 all persons, rising from below the national average.

2 And there is a disproportionate cancer
3 death rate for black residents of Burke County.
4 Almost twice as much for black residents of all ages,
5 as far as the increase.

6 There is radionuclide contamination that
7 has occurred during that same period. We looked at
8 beryllium 7, cesium 137, tritium, and other
9 radionuclides; double digit increases in the
10 environment during the same period, of radioactivity
11 in the environment.

12 And this included drinking water, surface
13 water; the river specifically, and also sediment. And
14 so ionizing radiation causes cancer. Adding any kind
15 of additional ionizing radiation in new nuclear
16 plants, a the Vogtle site, would be irresponsible.

17 The Draft Environmental Impact Statement
18 does not address the burden of cancer that already
19 exists, and the disparate burden for black residents.
20 I reject Georgia Power's computerized dose estimate.

21 And I dare the company to do actual dose
22 assessments of Plant Vogtle's neighbors. I don't
23 think that the NRC can claim to be protecting public
24 health when you look at the difference between EPA
25 regulations and NRC regulations.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 A coal plant can legally kill only one
2 person in a million, but one in 10,000 can die legally
3 from the NRC regulations. So I can't -- I hope that
4 you will eliminate that part in your presentation,
5 because I don't see protection of public health when
6 it is 100 times more deadly to make power in this
7 fashion. Thank you.

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Janet.
9 And now we have Lou Zeller, and then we are going to
10 go to Marci Culley.

11 MR. ZELLER: Thank you, Chip. My name is
12 Lou Zeller, and I'm with the Blue Ridge Environmental
13 Defense League. I had the pleasure of meeting,
14 yesterday, with a former commissioner with the Nuclear
15 Regulatory Commission, Peter Bradford.

16 And I found him quite convincing. That
17 may be a surprise, but what he had to say was that
18 nuclear power has never been viable, in any country,
19 with competitive power supply procurement. He went
20 on. In fact, no nuclear plant has won an open
21 competitive power supply auction.

22 But what about climate change? He pointed
23 to a study by Picollo and Zocollo, but Princeton
24 professors several years ago published in scientific
25 journals, that looked at the next 50 years by mid of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the 21st century, that 25 billion tons of carbon
2 dioxide must be removed in order for us to continue
3 our way of life.

4 The professors looked at 15 methods of
5 reducing carbon emissions, to achieve that kind of
6 reduction. These were existing methods, such as
7 energy efficiency, conservation, transportation
8 changes, carbon sinks, such as more forests, combined
9 cycle, and nuclear.

10 In that list there were no new types of
11 technologies, such as wind and solar. The professors
12 said that it would take a tripling, with a tripling of
13 nuclear power, at a cost of between two to three
14 trillion dollars, over the next half century, that the
15 world could achieve from 10 to 15 percent reduction of
16 the necessary amount of carbon reduction in the
17 atmosphere, producing climate change world-wide.

18 Nuclear power has never been viable, in
19 any country, with competitive power supply
20 procurement. No nuclear plant has won an open
21 competitive power supply auction. Loan guarantees,
22 direct subsidies, have been the hallmark of nuclear
23 power.

24 The first wave of nuclear energy happened
25 when regulated monopolies, in the United States,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 ordered utility programs, directed them. For the last
2 three decades there have been no new plants ordered.

3 The deregulation of the electricity
4 markets, in the United States, ended new nuclear power
5 plants. They will not, they did not begin, again, to
6 surface until the last few years, when regulations
7 were changed, loan subsidies, direct subsidies, were
8 introduced by the United States Congress.

9 The question here, today, I believe is why
10 is Georgia Power in Congress, today, lobbying for more
11 loan guarantees, and direct subsidies, at taxpayer
12 expense? If we value free enterprise, and private
13 industry, then nuclear cannot be the answer.

14 And according to what the professors at
15 Princeton say, it does not even contribute
16 significantly to the global climate crisis, because
17 among the 15 methods outlined by the Princeton study,
18 all those methods, nuclear power suffers from one
19 unique vulnerability, that is a large accident which
20 would not, perhaps, shut the plant down, or wipe out
21 a large city, just something on the order of Three
22 Mile Island, would end nuclear investment, and its
23 financial prospects in the United States, and
24 elsewhere.

25 None of the other methods suffer from that

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 vulnerability. The nuclear power resurgence now under
2 way is not based on economy, efficiency, new designs,
3 open competition, or need.

4 Rather, it is the direct result of
5 government subsidies, licensed shortcuts, financial
6 risks, shifted from stockholders to taxpayers, and
7 political influence of powerful corporations. Thank
8 you.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.
10 We have Dr. Marci Culley coming up now.

11 DR. CULLEY: Thank you. In the interest
12 of time I will keep my comments short. A lot of folks
13 have already talked about some things that I wanted to
14 talk about tonight.

15 But one of the things that haven't been
16 brought up, that I'm curious about, and that I would
17 like to see the EIS consider, has to do with the newly
18 proposed NRC rule change with respect to reactor
19 vessel requirements, specifically regarding how
20 pressurized water reactors account for aging, the
21 aging of vessels.

22 And how, in particular, I was disturbed by
23 one of the quotes that I saw when this came through.
24 "Increasing the realism of calculations." And what
25 I'm curious about is how this will impact the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 assessment of risk for reactor vessel cracks during
2 emergency or sudden cooling events.

3 So many of you are familiar with this in
4 terms of pressurized thermal shock, or PTS. So if
5 that could be addressed, with respect to these new
6 reactors.

7 Many of the other issues, like I said,
8 have already been brought up by folks, specifically
9 water issues, a number of them. The fact that water
10 vapor has not been addressed is concerning,
11 particularly since the amount of water that Vogtle 1
12 and 2 are using, at this point, in comparison to other
13 large cities in this state, adding Vogtle 3 and 4, 5
14 and 6, whatever you want to say, the amount of water
15 that is added is only going to increase some of the
16 issues associated with that.

17 Particularly given the exceptional drought
18 conditions that we are experiencing now. Since
19 banking the site, being able to predict 20 years later
20 is something that is concerning.

21 Many folks brought up questions regarding
22 terrorism, inside sabotage potentially, or accident,
23 and how this might come into play, particularly since
24 this is a unique site, that is in the vicinity of the
25 Savannah river, the Barnwell facility and several

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 others.

2 The NRC must consider this in a serious
3 and meaningful way. Or it should consider it. Also,
4 related to the drought there has been, in the news
5 lately, some accounts of plants, nuclear plants in
6 particularly, not being able to operate at full
7 capacity, or sometimes operate at all, because of some
8 of the compromising situations that drought has put
9 them in for their cooling systems, how this might be
10 addressed.

11 And then with respect to nuclear waste,
12 again, this is something that was brought up by some
13 of the others this evening. Addressing the impact,
14 in terms of environmental impact, economic impact, and
15 human health impact, of the long-term storage of spent
16 nuclear fuel on sites, for the long haul, particularly
17 since it is unlikely that Yucca Mountain is going to
18 come to be. That should be taken into account.

19 And the potential for the 20 years down
20 the road, what has accumulated over 20 years at this
21 site is banked.

22 Finally, about health, I just want to
23 reiterate concerns about the disproportionate burden
24 that appears to exist, given some of the health data,
25 in this county, and in this area, and how the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 cumulative effects don't appear to have been taken
2 into account in the EIS.

3 Again, the EIS process, in some ways, is
4 piecemeal in this regard, and not taking into accounts
5 some of these cumulative or synergistic effects is
6 concerning.

7 And, thank you for allowing us the
8 opportunity to speak tonight.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Marci.
10 I'm going to go to Susan Parr, and Rocky Sams, and
11 Gerald Murry. And then we are going back to Tom
12 Ferguson, Joan Steele, and Betsy Rivard. This is
13 Susan Parr.

14 MS. PARR: Good evening, my name is Sue
15 Parr, I'm the president of the Augusta Metro Chamber
16 of Commerce. Welcome to Georgia.

17 On behalf of our membership of
18 approximately 1,100 businesses and organizations
19 throughout the region, we would like to offer some
20 comments this evening.

21 We support the issuance of the Early Site
22 Permit for the Vogtle electric generating site, by the
23 NRC. We feel that the Environmental Impact Statement
24 is an important step in the process. And we feel that
25 a thorough job has been done considering the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 appropriate factors, and so forth.

2 We feel that the EIS supports the case for
3 proceeding with the process for permit issuance.
4 Plant Vogtle has a history of environmental
5 stewardship, and safety.

6 The confidence of the local area, and the
7 abilities of the professionals who are the plant is
8 very strong. Augusta is home to many employees of
9 Plant Vogtle and we appreciate the opportunity to be
10 a good neighbor.

11 In addition to local environmental
12 factors, we believe that the expansion of generating
13 capacity of Plant Vogtle is -- has a beneficial impact
14 at a broader environmental scale.

15 Nuclear power is our best source of
16 dependable, cost effective, low emission energy. Let
17 me repeat. Nuclear power is our best source of
18 dependable, cost effective, low emission energy.

19 And as our region grows, which it is,
20 there is little doubt that we need more electrical
21 power. And Plant Vogtle is a source of power that we
22 can all depend on.

23 The Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce is
24 pleased to support the expansion of Plant Vogtle. We
25 believe that the facility is a good neighbor,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 supplying a needed commodity, and in an efficient and
2 safe fashion. Thank you very much.

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Sue. Is
4 Rocky here, or Gerald? Okay, then let's go to Frank
5 Bove, Tom Ferguson, Joanne Steele, and Betsy Rivard.
6 This is Frank Bove.

7 MR. BOVE: My name is Frank Bove, I'm on
8 the Board of Eco-Action, and I work as an
9 epidemiologist.

10 I want to make some quick comments about
11 some major omissions in the EIS. One is the published
12 reports on research that has been done at nuclear
13 power plants, operating nuclear power plants, not ones
14 that have had accidents, but operating ones, in the
15 peer review literature.

16 The first one is a study in Spain at a
17 power plant, nuclear power plant, where they found a
18 70 percent increase in all tumors, and a doubling of
19 cancers that are linked to radiation, in that study.

20 Another study in Germany they found a
21 cluster of childhood leukemia. And when they looked
22 at those -- that area nearest to the site, they found
23 a three and a half fold increase in childhood
24 leukemia.

25 And I'm going quickly over this, and I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 have these studies with me, and I will hand them to
2 you at the end. At Pilgrim nuclear power plant in
3 Plymouth, Massachusetts, looking at adult leukemia in
4 this case, residents less than four miles from the
5 site, they had about a four-fold increase in leukemia
6 risks.

7 Then there was an analysis done, just
8 recently. A med analysis looks at a lot of studies,
9 and tries to synthesize them and come up with an
10 overall risk that represents what is going on in all
11 those sites.

12 And this study looked at 17 studies, 136
13 nuclear power sites, and other nuclear facilities in
14 eight countries, including the U.S. And they found a
15 24 percent increase in childhood leukemia across the
16 board, in that study. And I will hand that study to
17 you as well.

18 There have been studies of workers at
19 nuclear facilities, lung cancer and leukemia have been
20 found in those studies. I don't have them with me,
21 but I can get those references for you.

22 It was mentioned about Three Mile Island,
23 that there were no health effects. Well, that is not
24 true. There are two studies looking at cancer
25 incidents at Three Mile Island. They don't entirely

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 agree with each other. One was the first study, and
2 then a reanalysis. But they both found increase in
3 lung cancer. They both found increase in leukemia,
4 they both found a 40 to 50 percent increase in all
5 cancers at TMI, okay?

6 And I have -- those studies I don't have
7 with me, but are available. I don't want to talk
8 about Chernobyl, that is a different situation
9 altogether.

10 I did want to mention, someone mentioned,
11 I guess Dr. Noibi, mentioned that a major accident at
12 a nuclear power plant could cause, something at
13 Vogtle, actually, could cause 70 billion dollars worth
14 of damage. That was 1982 dollars, by the way. If you
15 use 2005 dollars that would be considerably higher.

16 Now, just three quick points and then I'm
17 done. The first thing is a quote on page 9-18, on
18 wind power. I want to quote it from the EIS.
19 "Technology limitations and regulatory restrictions
20 will make development of offshore wind projects
21 difficult in the southeast."

22 Now, who did they quote? They quoted
23 Southern Nuclear Operating Company. Now, that
24 inspires confidence in me when I see that they quoted
25 a company that doesn't want to build wind power, that

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 wants to build nuclear power plants.

2 Please find another quote, at least, on
3 wind. Because there is so much research on wind that
4 shows that it is cheaper than nuclear power, and
5 feasible to be used, both here and elsewhere, that I
6 would like to see other quotes besides Southern
7 Nuclear Operating Company in your section.

8 Second point, we have heard a lot about
9 inside, people who live here, and people who are
10 outside here, and all that. And I see a quote on page
11 -- do I have the page number? No, sorry I don't.

12 But in the document it says, that they
13 assume that jobs in the plant, once it is built, will
14 go to outsiders, quote, unquote. Outsiders, imported
15 into the area.

16 There is a 2004 article in the Augusta
17 Chronicle which said that 13 of the 160 plus managers
18 at Vogtle, are African-American, or other minority; 13
19 out of 160 plus, 8 percent. Yet Burke County has over
20 50 percent African-American.

21 So there are minorities working at Vogtle,
22 and they get the riskier, most hazardous jobs. But
23 most of the good jobs are going to come to outsiders.

24 The third and final point is on 9-24,
25 there is a chart. And it says, it has nuclear power

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 and it says, for socioeconomic it says: "large
2 beneficial to moderate adverse."

3 And then for alternatives it has moderate
4 beneficial, to moderate adverse. Now, this, every
5 study I have seen, on the job side of the issue, on
6 nuclear versus alternatives, and there are so many of
7 them, so many of them, have shown that investment in
8 solar, or energy efficiency is at least one and a half
9 to five times, produces one and a half to five times
10 more jobs, per dollar, than nuclear power.

11 There are so many of them. None of them
12 are quoted in this EIS, okay? And I'm not talking
13 about crappy jobs, here, I'm talking about good
14 quality jobs, construction, operation and maintenance
15 jobs, that linger, that don't just disappear when the
16 construction is over.

17 And we are talking about improving
18 people's homes with energy efficiency. That is what
19 we are talking about. You know, in a region where
20 there is such poverty, and such disparities in wealth,
21 these kinds of approaches can improve people's lives.

22 And then you build a nuclear power plant
23 and what do you have? If you even do build a nuclear
24 power plant, and we have seen cancellations all across
25 the country.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 That is all I need to say. Thank you for
2 listening.

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Bove.
4 And Tom Ferguson.

5 MR. FERGUSON: I want to read from an
6 article I wrote for the Great Speckled Bird. Key
7 words for this article would be credibility and
8 denial.

9 In 1952 the Paley Commission, appointed by
10 the Truman administration, to study U.S. energy needs,
11 recommended that the U.S. build itself a solar future.
12 The Commission specifically warned against going
13 nuclear.

14 Asserting the promise of renewable energy
15 sources to be greater than that of nuclear power for
16 meeting energy needs, and preventing economic
17 dislocations due to disruptions in foreign oil supply.

18 Dwight Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace
19 Program intervened the next year, with its propaganda
20 promises of energy too cheap to meter. The program
21 aimed to distract a population uneasy with nuclear
22 weapons, providing a shield of commercial nuclear
23 power behind which Dr. Strangelove could amass
24 unhindered mega tonnage.

25 More than a trillion dollars has since

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 been squandered, for which we now receive a 20 percent
2 of our electricity, and the dubious security of
3 thousands of nuclear devices.

4 Each nuclear power plant, and its cooling
5 pond, is a pre-placed nuclear bomb to any determined
6 terrorist wishing us harm.

7 As a footnote, spent fuel bursts into
8 flames when it is exposed to air. If this were the
9 whole story we could move on. An expensive lesson
10 learned, a dangerous historical moment passed, its
11 irrationality attributable to reckless youth.

12 Unfortunately there is a legacy in the
13 form of radioactive waste already released into the
14 environment. More waste in questionable containment,
15 with nowhere to go. Warheads up the gazoo. And the
16 ever youthful Dr. Strangelove and friends in the
17 wings, forget wings, on stage, panting for another
18 trillion dollar go-round.

19 This mini tour of a grimy and terrifying
20 terrain might lead a citizen to conclude that nuclear
21 facilities, weapons, and their deadly byproducts, are
22 not good for young children, parents, old or young
23 pets, pet owners of all ages, nor old mother earth.

24 The credibility of those who have
25 conducted this little charade is to be kind, poor in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the extreme. They have plans. They would like to
2 build more nuclear power plants. Safe, of course.

3 They expect the public to be responsible
4 for the liability in case of an accident, via the
5 Price-Anderson Act. They would like to burn plutonium
6 as fuel in some of these plants. And they are just
7 itching to reprocess nuclear waste, one of the
8 dirtiest aspects of the whole business.

9 They want to build more bombs, and
10 allocate lots of money for the national emission
11 facility, so as to maintain an old and cultivate a new
12 generation of weapons designers.

13 They want to build weapons in space under
14 the guise of missile defense. And to demonstrate
15 their profound regard for future generations, they are
16 willing to divert funds earmarked for cleaning up the
17 mess, to their exciting new projects.

18 What this situation calls for is a little,
19 actually a lot of citizen intervention. Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Tom.
21 Betsy, go ahead, and then we will get to Joanne next.

22 MS. RIVARD: Hi, I'm Betsy Rivard, and I
23 actually -- I was born in St. Louis but moved, almost
24 immediately, to Oak Ridge, where my father was a
25 nuclear engineer. His specialty was metallurgy.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And I'm concerned about the expansion of
2 nuclear power. One reason is nuclear proliferation.
3 I think that this sends a message, to the rest of the
4 world, and I think since we are breaking the barrier
5 between weapons, and nuclear power, that other
6 countries will too.

7 And I just think that it is not a good
8 message to send. There is a possibility of serious
9 accidents, and as other people have said, it would, as
10 the number of plants increase around the country, and
11 around the world, the likelihood of a serious accident
12 goes up. That is just probability.

13 And once there is a large accident I do
14 think it will shut everything down. And we will be
15 without a backup. We do have leaks in the area,
16 already, into the Savannah river, partially from the
17 Savannah river site. But nuclear power plants do leak
18 tritium.

19 There is more and more information now
20 about tritium leaking from nuclear power plants.
21 There is the Kewaunee nuclear site in Wisconsin, on
22 the shore of lake Michigan, it has contaminated
23 groundwater, contaminated with tritium.

24 Up to one quarter of the U.S. reactors, in
25 the U.S., have leaked tritium. There is an

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 unacceptable number of tritium leaks. There is
2 Missouri, Callaway in Missouri, St. Lucy in Florida,
3 Diablo Canyon in San Onofree, California, and San
4 Onofree California, Braidwood, Dresden and Byron in
5 Illinois.

6 There is just this long, long list of
7 nuclear power plants that have leaked tritium. The
8 groundwater beneath Braidwood, Dresden, Brookhaven,
9 Palo Verde, Indian Point, Diablo Canyon, San Onofree,
10 and Kewaunee sites are all at contamination levels,
11 above EPA and NRC standards.

12 And those standards are not adequate. We
13 are talking -- there was mentioned before, in the
14 powerpoint presentation, about the exposure, and they
15 used the pronoun "he". And they really do mean he,
16 because they are talking about referenced man.

17 They are talking about a white man who is
18 20 to 30 years old, weighs 154 pounds, and is 5 feet
19 7 inches tall. And western european, or north
20 american in habitat and custom. They do not take into
21 account pregnant women.

22 They know that tritium crosses the
23 placental barrier. And it is not a barrier in this
24 case, because tritium becomes part of water. Our
25 bodies are 80 percent water.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 So the effect on the population, I think,
2 will be measurable. I mean, it is -- and the problem
3 is this whole area has so many impacts. As Yomi was
4 saying, there is a huge burden on this population, all
5 of these spots are contaminating your environment.

6 And to add on to it, I think, is foolish.
7 And there is, let's see, the -- I was going to address
8 the problems with hot water, and as the global
9 warming, as Marci was talking about global warming,
10 and the hot summers, and the droughts.

11 This was from 2006, not this last 2007
12 summer; Minnesota's Monticello and Prairie Island
13 units had to be shut down; Illinois Quad City, Zion,
14 and Dresden unit. There is a whole long list of
15 reactors that have to deal with water that is hot, in
16 the river, in their water source. It is already hot.

17 And then you are going to take that hot
18 water and put it in hotter, back in the river. They
19 had, in Germany, they shut down a plant this last
20 summer. And I don't know all the statistics, but I
21 know that it is a really bad problem.

22 And we are going to have hotter summers,
23 and if our drought continues -- so we put all this
24 stuff into nuclear power. And I just have to comment,
25 ESP, you have to have ESP to know how much this plant

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 is going to cost, and to know when it is actually
2 going to go on-line. Thank you very much.

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Betsy.
4 And this is Joanne. And then we are going to go to
5 Charles Utley.

6 MS. STEELE: I'm Joanne Steele with Action
7 for a Clean Environment, up in northeast Georgia. And
8 you might ask what I'm doing down here. The I-3
9 corridor will be coming right through, if it comes
10 through, from Oakridge, down your way, come right
11 through my neighborhood.

12 I live in an unincorporated little town.
13 Not even a town, a community called Sautee Nacoochee
14 that has been redistricted three times because way up
15 there, in the mountains, we are concerned about what
16 is happening in this area.

17 And Augusta used to be part of our
18 district but now we have been moved out of there
19 because we've voiced our concerns about things. So I
20 agree with Yomi who says that this whole process is
21 not really fair and equitable.

22 It is what is called institutional racism,
23 and classism, and it does exclude folks who are
24 impacted by the decisions that are made in this
25 process.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And I will speak to the concerns of native
2 people's. When 90 percent of uranium is mined on
3 native lands, globally. And in our country only about
4 a million people, native people, are left.

5 So they don't have much of a voice without
6 advocates, from the United States citizens, for the
7 justice that needs to happen. And Southern Nuclear
8 Operating Company, and other power companies, are
9 looking to dump the nuclear waste on the Skull Valley
10 Goshute, who are a very small group, out in Utah.

11 But because of advocacy, and support of
12 conscientious United States citizens, that will stop.
13 And I'm very happy about that.

14 But there are alternatives that are
15 cleaner. And I think if you have any concern for, you
16 know, from whatever spiritual ilk you might be, that
17 we should have faith that we can provide for our needs
18 without doing harm to others, to those that have less
19 representation in this process.

20 And Science for Democratic Action, from
21 the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research,
22 has done a wonderful document on how to become carbon
23 free, and nuclear free, in our energy policies. And
24 I have offered this as a document to submit.

25 Obviously the type of data that they have

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 done here is not included in your alternative energy
2 research. So I don't think I need to say any more.
3 Thank you very much.

4 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Joanne. And
5 will you leave the pamphlet -- he already has it,
6 okay. Then this is Mr. Charles Utley, and here he is.

7 MR. UTLEY: Just have a few things that I
8 want to just share with you. And, you know, I'm glad
9 that one thing about it is that you have been sitting
10 on a muscle that can't take very much.

11 And I'm glad that we are recording it,
12 that this message can be played back later. But I
13 have a few things with the EIS that I'm concerned
14 with.

15 Because, I said that early, because the
16 mind won't abstain more than that muscle that you are
17 sitting on. That is the reason why I said that.

18 And with the EIS, I think we need to look
19 very, very closely, at what we are saying about our
20 environmental justice communities. They are alive,
21 they are well people. And they are the silent ones
22 that you may not see or hear, but they are being
23 impacted.

24 They are impacted by one thing, is the
25 amount of water that is going to be used. I'm a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 fisherman. I tell them at work every day, the more I
2 get close to retirement, the better I can go, because
3 my arm is jumping to go fishing.

4 But I'm afraid if you keep adding those
5 plant 1, plant 2, plant 3, plant 4, on up, will I have
6 an opportunity to fish? Or will the river be dry?

7 And when you start going into the aquifers
8 I'm even more concerned. Because, and it is no secret
9 to my friends at Plant Vogtle, we are very good
10 friends. But they know that I'm going to be straight
11 up with them.

12 And we have to find some way of reserving
13 our water because, as I said, when the water is gone,
14 ladies and gentlemen, it is gone. And we look at how
15 much we are drawing out of Savannah river. We love
16 Clark's Hill. We go up there, and we ride in our
17 boats.

18 But every now and then look at 612 and 26,
19 and they tell you, be careful because it is so low
20 your boat may hit the bottom. I think we need to
21 realize what they are really saying. You are sucking
22 more than is being produced.

23 So I'm saying look around you and make
24 sure, whatever you are doing, save some water for the
25 next generation. Our children deserve to be able to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 go down the river and then have, at least, some form
2 of recreation in a God-given area, where there is a
3 natural flow that we can fish and enjoy what is there.

4 But if we use it, and throw it away --
5 yes, farmers had a hard this past summer. It was hot.
6 So hot I thought one time it was worse than being in
7 Vietnam, when you have 120 degrees in the shade. But
8 you have to remember, farmers were pulling off the
9 river, too, trying to irrigate their farms, trying to
10 make a living, trying to feed their children, that
11 they can go and get that education, excellent
12 education here in Burke County, because of Mr. Walter
13 Dukes, who is a product of here.

14 And I'm a lifetime resident of here. But
15 I say, too, money is good, but Lord have mercy, I love
16 life. And I think all of us should love it too. So
17 let us preserve life above all. Thank you very much.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Mr. Utley.
19 I forgot to add, when I made that prediction about
20 being done at 10:30, except for the last ten speakers.
21 So we do have about ten more people, and we have saved
22 some of the best for the last part. And I know we are
23 all getting tired, and everything, but I would just
24 ask that we all give our attention to the rest of the
25 people who are going to speak.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 And we are going to go to Kristin Russell,
2 Colleen Schwarz, and Beth Bird are the next three
3 speakers. And this is Kristin.

4 MS. RUSSELL: Thanks. My name is Kristin
5 Russell, I'm a resident of Savannah, Georgia. I'm not
6 a scientist, I'm not with any environmental
7 organization. I barely understand most of the stuff
8 that is in that report.

9 But this has been an absolutely
10 fascinating observation of what should be a democratic
11 process. However, I think it is interesting to note
12 that the people who are charged with making sure that
13 this is an okay place to put a nuclear facility is the
14 Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

15 And I'm just interested what would happen
16 if you decided, and I'm sure that you all really
17 competent in doing your job. But your job depends on
18 this being a reality in the future.

19 And we are all entrapped in systems in
20 which we wouldn't, you know, the nature of a system is
21 to propagate itself. And so I think that an
22 independent review should maybe be conducted by
23 somebody whose job doesn't depend on nuclear energy
24 being our future.

25 I also think that it is interesting, I

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 mean, I drove with some people from Savannah, I'm
2 stuck here until the end of this. I feel like it is
3 a little bit silly to get up and speak, because
4 everything is a foregone conclusion.

5 I mean, the people who are against it, are
6 against it, and the people who are for it, are for it.
7 And I'm concerned that there is not a lot of listening
8 to each other going on.

9 But I'm excited that we are in here trying
10 to listen to each other. And so, and I also, it is
11 interesting to note that there is completely
12 conflicting evidence being given by both sides.

13 We have an epidemiologist saying, and
14 other people saying, absolutely there is more cancer
15 around nuclear energy. And then we have somebody from
16 the cancer society saying, no, there is not, and
17 thanks for the donation.

18 So I'm a little, I mean, but there are
19 some things I have heard that I think are -- you know,
20 I don't know what is true, I don't know what is true,
21 I don't know the science.

22 But there are some things I have heard
23 tonight that I believe are true. One of them is a
24 couple of people who have said we demand more air
25 conditioning, and every time we flip a light switch on

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 we had better more lights.

2 I mean, when did this country get so lazy
3 that we couldn't conserve a little bit, and consider
4 that a viable option? It is immoral, in my opinion,
5 to not seek out the best and cleanest energy, and I
6 don't even have any children. So that is it.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Kristin.
8 I just wanted to make a note, since Kristin brought up
9 the epidemiology issue. I don't think -- I think
10 Teresa's remarks were not related to cancer incidence,
11 but just what the company does for the American Cancer
12 Society.

13 But perhaps a more important thing is that
14 there is some epidemiology evidence that the Georgia
15 Department of Natural Resources has in regard to
16 cancer incidents around, in this area. And I believe
17 that they are going to, that it will be submitted as
18 a comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

19 So I would just ask everybody to pay
20 attention to that. And how about Colleen Schwarz?

21 MS. SCHWARZ: Hello. My name is Colleen
22 Schwarz, and I'm a freshman at Georgia Southern
23 University. This is my first time at one of these
24 things, and I'm not going to act like I understand all
25 of it, because I don't. I don't think anyone really

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 does.

2 But with these reactors, you are just
3 trying to meet your energy needs. But what about long
4 run? The damage that will be caused? I mean, who
5 cares, really? It is not your generation, it is going
6 to be my generation, and your children, and our
7 children.

8 I mean, I heard a great quote recently.
9 We didn't inherit the earth from our fathers, but we
10 are borrowing it from our children. You probably,
11 hopefully, never have a nuclear disaster.

12 But all this minimal damage you are
13 talking about, the radioactivity, well, it is going to
14 add up. There is going to be an impact over time. It
15 is eventually going to show up.

16 Environmental impact is impact, no matter
17 how minimal. It is never going to be enough. The
18 demand for energy is just going to keep going up, as
19 we keep using all the resources.

20 And so even with the new reactors, we are
21 just going to need to put new ones in, in about five
22 or ten years. So is it really worth it? Thank you.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Colleen.
24 And this is Beth Bird coming up. And next we are
25 going to go to Terrence Dicks.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MS. BIRD: My name is Beth Bird, and I'm
2 from Georgia Southern University as well. And I just
3 would like to say that we really wouldn't need all
4 this air conditioning if you guys would just take off
5 your coats, because it is cold in here, it is not hot.

6 And, also, yes, thank you. Now we can
7 turn it down. I live on a fixed income, as a college
8 student. So I'm really worried about what is going to
9 happen to me and my friends when our power bills go
10 up. And where are we going to get that money to pay
11 our power bills? Are we going to take it from our
12 food, what we buy our food with?

13 So I don't want to have to make the choice
14 of whether I'm going to turn on the stove, or if I'm
15 going to buy food to cook on the stove. So that is
16 all.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Beth.
18 And this is Terrence Dicks, and then we are going to
19 go to Ramsey Eden.

20 MR. DICKS: Good evening. I'm Terrence
21 Dicks, 2007 A Steiner Avenue, Augusta, Georgia. I'm
22 a lifelong resident, basically a lifelong -- I spent
23 all my adult life in Augusta.

24 The bottom line, folks, is that our
25 plants, our power plants, and I say this to the NRC,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 seriously, that the waste water, the solid waste that
2 is going to be generated, there is no magic mountain
3 to put the stuff in.

4 It is hazardous. I have grown up in the
5 shadow of the Savannah river nuclear power plant, the
6 cold war is over. And I will just be very honest with
7 you, I stand in absolute, total, and complete
8 opposition to these reactors being brought on line.

9 We don't have solutions for the ones that
10 we already have here. And if people have got friends
11 and family who live here, I have family who is buried
12 here in Burke County, and if the people who live here,
13 that I know, if they truly understood the danger, it
14 would fill this place up, and they would make sure it
15 was filled up.

16 Because everything is great so long as
17 everything is all right. But as soon as everything
18 goes wrong, and I pray God it doesn't, then what is
19 going to happen to them? Katrina has been a wakeup
20 call for all of us. Bhopal, India was a wakeup call
21 to all of us.

22 And I know you are thinking, well that was
23 chemical, that wasn't -- well, you know, it was poor
24 people. It was poor people. And they trusted
25 industry, and capitalism to look out for them, and it

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 didn't happen.

2 And so I say, right now, I'm in
3 opposition. Because you can't guarantee the safety of
4 this community. Your job is only to regulate it. You
5 can't guarantee it. Thank you.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, sir.
7 Ramsey Eden.

8 MR. EDEN: My name is Ramsey Eden, and I'm
9 from Georgia Southern University. My really big
10 issue, I think everything that I thought over the last
11 three and a half, six hundred hours, I realize that I
12 don't really know a whole lot about the problems that
13 we face, as people accept nuclear power.

14 But the issue I have is the bureaucracy of
15 the NRC. Because we have to make a choice of what is
16 our limit as far as what are we willing to accept as
17 a risk. And I don't think there should be a risk.

18 I don't think we should have to weigh our
19 options and have a cost benefit analysis of whether
20 our kids will get cancer, or whether our water will be
21 poisoned.

22 When you have alternatives to that, when
23 you have alternatives to, let's say, eating bacon to,
24 I don't know, eating lean turkey breast, or something,
25 if you have those options, if you have the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 alternatives, why don't you go straight for it, you
2 know?

3 I mean, we do have those options, and we
4 can afford to do those options, because we spend a
5 great deal of money on nuclear power, no doubt. But
6 that is how I see it, man, sustainable energy is the
7 way to go.

8 But for some reason we are incapable of
9 doing it, as Georgians. But I'm glad to be a
10 Georgian, I love it here, I've been living here all my
11 life. So it is like, I love the school. But good
12 luck. I wish you guys well here in Waynesboro.

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: That was Ramsey
14 Eden. And Seth Gunning, and Tray Gunning.

15 MR. SETH GUNNING: My name is Seth
16 Gunning, I'm a student organizer for the Southern
17 Alliance for Clean Energy, and I'm here today
18 representing over 100 students from across the state,
19 in a coalition called Georgia Students for
20 Sustainability, made up of youth student environmental
21 groups on campuses across the state.

22 And I appreciate the Commission giving me
23 time to speak. I feel it appropriate that since this
24 issue is going to affect youth, the youth generation
25 more so than any other, over the lifetime of the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 proposal, that it is appropriate that the youth voice
2 be heard and weighed appropriately.

3 Climate change, cited by the United
4 Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is
5 a real and present danger. And it is a threat to
6 populations, and communities exactly like this one.

7 If we are to defuse any of these potential
8 devastating threats, we have to act right now. And,
9 before I go any further, I want to reiterate that
10 water vapor is a greenhouse gas, and needs to be
11 addressed as such, in this EIS.

12 And I would like to address some solutions
13 that I didn't see on the synopsis of the EIS report.
14 I didn't get a chance to read it because I am a
15 student organizer, and I can't read 2,000 pages in a
16 month's notice.

17 So energy efficiency. I didn't see it up
18 there, maybe it is in the report, I apologize if it
19 is. The Rocky Mountain Institute says that every
20 dollar spent on energy efficiency brings a reduction
21 on CO2 gases, in carbon dioxide, seven times as great
22 as a similar investment in nuclear energy.

23 Similarly, the National Action Plan for
24 Energy Efficiency states that similar sizable
25 investments in energy efficiency have already proven

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 to reduce state forecast energy demand by 20 percent.

2 And, additionally, the American Council
3 for an Energy Efficient Economy, has called energy
4 efficiency the cheapest, fastest, cleanest, and safest
5 way to meet energy demands and grow the economy.

6 And this in contrast to what we are
7 discussing today, nuclear energy which has proven,
8 over and over again, to vastly underestimate
9 construction and operation costs, as has been since in
10 the first time Vogtle was proposed, with grossly,
11 which went grossly over budget and resulted in the
12 largest rate hike in Georgia's history.

13 In this way I think that nuclear should be
14 considered a great contributor to climate change,
15 because we are moving resources away from things like
16 energy efficiency, and renewables, that have the
17 capacity to grow the economy, and reduce our
18 dependency on electricity, and reduce our need for
19 these things.

20 Furthermore I think that there are some
21 large gaps in the EIS proposal, from what I was able
22 to skim through. And I think that a comprehensive
23 look into these things needs to be undertaken, and the
24 community expects them to be.

25 And those are the environmental

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 devastation and emissions caused from the mining
2 intensive processing, and the extensive transportation
3 of uranium products, as well as the long-term, and
4 extended storage of such materials.

5 The dangers to operate these plants, in
6 reference to severe climatic weather patterns, such as
7 rising sea levels, severe droughts, like the one that
8 we are seeing now in Georgia, strengthened hurricanes,
9 and strong heat waves that have shut down plants, this
10 past summer, in Tennessee and all over Europe.

11 I also think it is important to address
12 the sociocultural impacts of the mining process. Not
13 only here at home but in foreign regions, which it
14 should be restated that most of the uranium we use
15 comes from, the foreign nations.

16 So given the ability of similar sized
17 investments into energy efficiency, and renewables, to
18 meet demands, grow the economy, and more immediately
19 address the dire and urgent challenges of climate
20 change, and given the extreme security, financial,
21 ecological, and health risks, caused by exploration,
22 and the further development of this nuclear plant, it
23 seems irresponsible, and a threat to the health and
24 financial futures, to the youth generation, to invest
25 in anything other than energy efficiency, renewable

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 energy, and a new, clean, safe, energy economy.

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
3 Seth. This is Tray Gunning.

4 MR. TRAY GUNNING: Good evening. My name
5 is Tray Gunning, I'm also a student of Georgia
6 Southern University. I am speaking as a member of the
7 youth of Georgia, and this nation.

8 Building these reactors affects my
9 children, my grandchildren, and the future
10 generations, more than anyone else in this room.

11 We need to start thinking about clean
12 energy sources, and energy efficient programs, that
13 are not going to add to our already large supply of
14 toxic waste, programs that are not going to increase
15 cancer and heart disease, and other health effects.

16 The National Academy of Science states:
17 Radiation damages reproductive cells, and can lead to
18 mutations from generation to generation. And, as we
19 have heard, it does not take an accident to release
20 radioactive materials in our water, soil, and air, it
21 only takes the daily operation of these reactors.

22 The Government allows radioactive water to
23 be released at permissible levels. And we understand
24 that permissible does not mean safe. Also, it is
25 morally irresponsible to put the problem of dealing

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 with massive amounts of radioactive waste on future
2 generations, who can't be here tonight to make efforts
3 to stop this plant.

4 Instead of leaving future generations with
5 the burden of dealing with nuclear waste, let's give
6 them the gift of renewable energy sources that keep on
7 giving.

8 Like someone said, earlier, we are
9 addicted to electricity, and we will continue to be.
10 Well, I say, let's go to rehab and break this
11 addiction.

12 I encourage, everyone here, to look to the
13 future and be responsible for the outcomes of your
14 efforts here today. We are responsible for the health
15 of our environment, and the future generations.

16 It is time people speak out against
17 nuclear for negatively affected people, and for our
18 future, and not for the health and longevity of
19 corporations in the southeast.

20 Why does California, and states like that,
21 have to lead the way in truly clean energy practices?
22 Why can't Georgia lead the way? Thank you.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Tray. We
24 are going to go to Julia Jordan, and then Jessica
25 Sparrow, and Nicholas Seward. And this is Julia

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 coming up to join us.

2 MS. JORDAN: Hi, I'm Julia, and I'm a
3 student at Georgia Southern. You already know the
4 data, so I'm not really going to talk about that too
5 much.

6 But I am also from Savannah, and I feel
7 I'm directly affected by this nuclear plant. We
8 already have, like, an International Paper, and the
9 nuclear plant at the Savannah site. I don't think we
10 need another one. And that is about all.

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
12 And, Jessica?

13 MS. SPARROW: Hi. I know it is kind of
14 late, but my name is Jessica Sparrow, and I'm a
15 student at Georgia Southern University, as well as a
16 member of Student Alliance for a Green Earth.

17 And I know there is a lot of conflicting
18 data out there. And I just wanted to say I know that
19 I'm not a citizen of the Waynesboro area, and that
20 somebody did say that we do not have a right to talk
21 about our issues with the Vogtle plant, about adding
22 the reactors.

23 But I say that we do, because of the fact
24 that it does affect me, and it affects everyone,
25 basically, in Georgia because it is -- it does create

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 lots of problems.

2 And I just wanted to say that we are
3 creating all this waste, this radioactive waste, that
4 we don't know what to do with. We have, in 1980,
5 Congress proposed that Yucca Mountain would be where
6 we are going to have a facility to take all this waste
7 that we are going to transport to them.

8 Twenty-seven years later we are no closer
9 to having that facility there. So how can we suggest
10 to make more reactors, when we have no idea what to do
11 with this waste?

12 We are generating all this waste for
13 future generations, that they have no idea, no choice
14 as Tray said, where to put this, all this waste.

15 So I say that right now we are being very
16 selfish, as a generation. We are saying, we are now,
17 we want it now, we are only worrying about what we are
18 concerned about.

19 We had, already, two people from the
20 Chamber of Commerce come in here and go, like, go
21 shopping out there, bring us money. They are just
22 worried about right now, getting jobs for the people
23 right now, just getting enough energy for right now.

24 Well, guess what? The population is going
25 to grow, and we are going to need more reactors. So

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 then we will have more waste. We are going to have
2 more waste and not know what to do with it.

3 So I say let's not get the reactors, get
4 more sustainable practices so that way we can actually
5 have a generation after this, for our children, and
6 children after that, that will actually have renewable
7 energy and that will keep giving back to them.

8 So thank you for your time, and have a
9 great evening.

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Jessica.
11 And this is Nicholas, Nicholas Seward. And then we
12 have Judith Stocker, and Brittany Weinstein.

13 MR. SEWARD: For the journal, my name is
14 Nicholas Seward, I'm with Greenpeace. I have been an
15 active volunteer of Greenpeace for a year, and I'm
16 also with the Student Alliance for a Green Earth at
17 Georgia Southern University.

18 The NRC should be aware that the new
19 certified maps of Georgia were released by the
20 National Renewable Energy Laboratory in October 2006,
21 that showed that there is substantial wind power
22 available, especially offshore, with the potential of
23 well over 10,000 megawatts.

24 Go to the Georgia Wind working group
25 website at www.gawww.g.org for background. Yet

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 section 9.2.3.2 on wind power doesn't mention the
2 potential, instead relying on Southern's slant -- I'm
3 just going to say something from my own words.

4 I don't agree with nuclear power. I think
5 it is kind of dangerous considering that we are in the
6 middle of a terror war. And, again, we are only
7 thinking about ourselves, and the money in our pocket
8 that comes from it.

9 It takes the average, typical, eight year
10 old today can hack into the computer system and
11 disable all of our electronic security. It takes one
12 person to infiltrate the faculty and facility, and
13 walk in there with a briefcase with a nuclear bomb.

14 So you are actually having a nuclear
15 attack and, basically, everyone within a 70 mile
16 radius would die instantly, tens of thousands of
17 people would die instantly, hundreds of thousands of
18 people would die later from the aftermath.

19 I mean, what good is energy if we are not
20 alive to use it? Why can't we use wind energy, solar
21 energy, water generated energy?

22 I mean, there is lots of reusable energy.
23 I mean, nuclear power isn't the best way to go. You
24 give a man a fish, you feed for him a day. You teach
25 a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. Why are

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 we teaching our children, today, that nuclear power is
2 safe? It is not safe.

3 Why don't we teach our children something
4 good that will guide them for the rest of their life?
5 Two hundred and fifty years ago we didn't have nuclear
6 power, we used candles to light our way, and read our
7 books. Five hundred years from now, if we continue
8 using this nuclear power, this is probably just going
9 to be a bunch of wasteland depleted by acid rain, and
10 stuff.

11 The greenhouse gases that we emit, every
12 day, driving cars, power from nuclear power plants,
13 are depleting our ozone, making it that much easier
14 for gamma rays to come into the earth and heating it
15 more, making more heat waves.

16 It is not good for us. We are just
17 hurting ourselves in the long run. Thank you.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Nicholas.
19 Is this Judith?

20 MS. STOCKER: Good evening, everyone. My
21 name is Judith Stocker, I live in the city of
22 Keysville, about 20 miles down the road.

23 I keep hearing people say what a good
24 relationship they have with the folks at Plant Vogtle.
25 Let's make no mistake, we are not here to vilify the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 folks at Plant Vogtle, they have a job to do. I'm
2 sure they are, and want to be, and will continue to be
3 good neighbors.

4 But the truth of the matter is we can't
5 afford to continue down this slippery slope. We need
6 to start looking, seriously, at renewables, and better
7 energy efficiency.

8 We cannot afford to continue to stockpile
9 nuclear waste. We are already sitting right in the
10 middle of the most radioactive spot in this country.
11 There is no alleviation in sight. We can't continue
12 to go there.

13 It is irresponsible, it is suicidal, to
14 continue with what we are doing. Now, I don't know
15 what religion or spirituality any of ascribe to, but
16 I've always been taught that man was given dominion
17 over the earth. And that dominion does not mean
18 ownership, it is stewardship.

19 And good stewardship means that you use
20 what is there, at your disposal, and you leave it in
21 good condition for those who follow. Nuclear energy
22 does not give us an option to do that.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Judith.
24 Brittany is here.

25 MS. WEINSTEIN: Hi, I'm Brittany

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Weinstein, from Georgia Southern. I'm wondering if we
2 are fortunate enough to have the technology to create
3 alternative energy uses, why aren't we considering it
4 more seriously?

5 The sun is a renewable source that is free
6 at our use. With so many risks discussed tonight,
7 such as the fact that there is no safe level of
8 radiation, and there has not been a solution of how to
9 effectively handle nuclear waste, I believe it is a
10 very dangerous threat to build two more nuclear
11 plants.

12 It is not worth the risk of the health of
13 people of Georgia. There are so many problems like
14 water loss, vapor, quality and climate change, and
15 radioactive waste. All these issues will negatively
16 impact the community of Waynesboro, and other parts of
17 Georgia.

18 I think if alternative energy sources,
19 such as solar power, were seriously looked at, we
20 would see there is more benefit to solar energy than
21 nuclear power.

22 Like nuclear power, solar power will also
23 provide jobs. Solar energy is much safer. You will
24 save money, and they are less costly to build, and
25 will have no harmful effects on the environment.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Thank you.

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Brittany.
3 I want to thank all of the students for being here,
4 tonight, through the whole meeting.

5 And I think our last speaker is Mr. Merz.

6 MR. MERZ: Hello, and almost goodbye, I
7 hope. My name is Jerry Merz. I'm a 12 year resident
8 of Augusta, and prior to that a 40 year resident of
9 Aiken County across the river.

10 With that I think I will give back my
11 middle two and a half minutes in the interest of time.
12 And because I think everything, and then some, has
13 already been said tonight.

14 The only thing that I would like to do,
15 just because nobody has done it yet, is to thank the
16 NRC staff for a very informative presentation and,
17 more aptly, for the obviously diligent analytical work
18 that went into it. Thank you.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Merz.
20 I believe that is the last of our speakers. Did I
21 miss anybody? I'm sorry, we do have one more. Come
22 on up.

23 MS. CARTER: (Inaudible)

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I'm sorry, you will
25 have to repeat that for the transcript, we can't --

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MS. CARTER: My name is Ruby Carter, I'm
2 a former health professional at the Burke County
3 school system, and I don't know of any class that has
4 an empty seat in the Burke County school system.

5 I stand before you to bring you this
6 little short thought that I had in my mind. I'm also
7 a former soldier, fought on the front line with the
8 24th Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

9 If anybody should be nervous about nuclear
10 radioactive, or what have you, I should be one of
11 those people. I say to the NRC I'm a realist. Let's
12 clean up what needs to be cleaned.

13 Because any caring parent is going to do
14 whatever is necessary to feed a starving child. In
15 this well developed country I feel like, especially if
16 a child is starving, we are going to do whatever is
17 necessary.

18 So I ask this of you. Do whatever is
19 necessary to clean up what needs to be cleaned up.
20 Bring these two more reactors to this area. Because
21 it is a lasting impression.

22 Because if we don't clean up now, it won't
23 be another generation. Thank you.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.
25 I'm going to ask Jim Lyons to just close the meeting

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 out. I would just like to thank you from a
2 facilitator's point of view.

3 You have been very patient, and good
4 comments, and a lot of courtesies. I thank you. Jim?

5 MR. LYONS: Thank you, Chip. I really
6 want to thank everybody for coming out tonight. I'm
7 glad to see you left the students until the end,
8 because this is still early for them, and they are not
9 -- my children, about your age, actually a few years
10 older than you are.

11 I really appreciate all the thoughtful
12 comments, and questions that we got tonight. We are
13 going to use the transcript to capture those, and to
14 keep them, so we can respond to them.

15 I also encourage you, if you -- any
16 comments you weren't able to give us tonight, that you
17 want to send in, to please get them in by November
18 28th, which is the end of the public comment period.
19 That should give you some time.

20 I would also like to ask you to take the
21 time to take and fill out one of the meeting feedback
22 forms that we will have at the back, in the tables,
23 the same tables where you signed up, they will be on
24 those.

25 If you could grab one of those, give us

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 any comments about this meeting, about ways that we
2 could do better. We do read those, we try to use
3 those to make these meetings better, be more
4 informative to the public.

5 So, again, thank you very much, thank you
6 for your hospitality, and have a good, safe drive
7 home.

8 (Whereupon, at 11:05 p.m., the above-
9 entitled matter was concluded.)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1

2

3