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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC COMMENTS ON
BEAVER VALLEY POWER STATION
LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING

UNITS 1 AND 2

PUBLIC MEETING

+ + + + +

Tuesday,

November 27th, 2007

+ + + + +

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Public Meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. at the
Embassy Suites Pittsburgh hotel, 550 Cherrington
Parkway, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Richard Barkley,
Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

RICHARD BARKLEY - FACILITATOR

IKEDA KING

MANNY SAYOC

ANDY CARRERA

KENT HOWARD

RANI FRANOVICH

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

1:30 p.m.

1
2
3 FACILITATOR BARKLEY: Welcome to this
4 license renewal meeting for Beaver Valley. My name is
5 Richard Barkley, I'm the technical communications
6 assistant for the NRC Region One.

7 I will be facilitating the meeting this
8 afternoon, as well as this evening. Before the
9 meeting begins there is a couple of things I would
10 like to go over in the way of ground rules for the
11 meeting.

12 First of all I would ask you to please
13 turn off your cell phones and pagers, or put them on
14 a silent mode, so they don't disrupt the meeting.

15 Secondly I would ask that you remain
16 silent while the speakers are presenting, either the
17 NRC speakers here, or when members of the public speak
18 at the microphone. And I appreciate your courtesy in
19 that matter.

20 Thirdly, if you would like to speak,
21 please sign up at the rear of the room. I have, so
22 far, four people who have asked to speak. We have
23 plenty of time for more speakers, so if you would like
24 to speak, again, please sign up there.

25 And, particularly, if you are an elected

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1 official, too, and you would like to speak. I don't
2 have any indications that any elected officials would
3 like to speak. We have one? Okay, so we will look
4 for him as well. Him or her, sorry.

5 When we call you to speak, after the
6 presentation by the NRC staff, we will speak at the
7 central microphone here. I will call each one of you
8 up, individually. I would ask you to make your
9 remarks concise, so that we can get everyone through
10 to speak.

11 And I would ask you to speak very clearly.
12 This is a transcribed meeting, we do have a
13 transcription service that will record this, and a
14 transcript will be available after the meeting. So if
15 you can speak clearly, and loudly, it would be
16 appreciated.

17 Finally this is an NRC public meeting. So
18 I would ask that you direct your questions to the NRC
19 person that will be at this microphone, or who will be
20 at a hand held microphone that I will take around, if
21 other staff members ask questions this afternoon, or
22 this evening.

23 There are members of FENOC, or
24 FirstEnergy, in the audience. I would not ask that
25 you direct questions in that direction, and I won't be

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1 directing questions towards their staff.

2 If you have, and ask a detailed question
3 this afternoon, or this evening, that the Staff cannot
4 fully answer, please make sure that the Staff has your
5 name, your address, and your phone number. We will
6 get back to you with an answer.

7 So please make sure that you arrange to
8 have that information with us, so that we can be
9 responsive to you.

10 Finally, again, your cooperation today is
11 really appreciated. I hope this meeting will move
12 very smoothly, you will learn a lot about the license
13 renewal process and, hopefully, we can answer
14 questions you have.

15 You can also make statements in support,
16 or in opposition to the environmental impact statement
17 for the Beaver Valley license renewal application.

18 At this point in time I would like to call
19 up Kent Howard, the lead project manager for the
20 Beaver Valley license renewal application.

21 MR. HOWARD: Good afternoon. Thank you
22 all for taking the time to come to this meeting.

23 Today we will provide an overview of the
24 license renewal review process, which includes both a
25 safety review, and an environmental review. We will

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1 also describe, in more detail, the environmental
2 review process associated with the license renewal
3 review.

4 But the most important part of today's
5 meeting is to receive any comments that you may have
6 on the scope of the environmental review.

7 We will also give you some information
8 about how you can submit comments outside of this
9 meeting. At the conclusion of today's presentation,
10 we would be happy to answer any questions that you may
11 have on the license renewal review process.

12 However, I must ask that you limit your
13 participation to questions, only, and hold your
14 comments until the appropriate time at today's
15 meeting.

16 Once all questions are answered, we can
17 begin to receive any comments that you have on the
18 scope of our environmental review.

19 I hope the information we provide will
20 help you to understand the license renewal review
21 process, and the role you can play in helping us to
22 make sure that our environmental review considers
23 relevant information. Next slide, please.

24 Before I get into the discussion of the
25 license renewal review process I would like to take a

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1 minute to talk about the NRC in terms of what we do,
2 and what our mission is.

3 The NRC is a federal agency, established
4 by the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, that
5 regulates the civilian use of nuclear material.

6 The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 authorized
7 the NRC to grant a 40 year operating license for
8 nuclear power reactors. This 40 year term was based,
9 primarily, on economic and anti-trust factors, not on
10 safety or technical limitations.

11 The Atomic Energy Act also allows for
12 license renewal. The National Environmental Policy
13 Act of 1969, NEPA, established a national policy for
14 considering the impact of federal decisionmaking on
15 the human environment.

16 As a matter of policy the Commission
17 determined that reactor license renewal constitutes a
18 major federal action, in which an environmental impact
19 statement is warranted.

20 The NRC's regulations that govern the
21 nuclear safety, security, and environmental
22 protection, are contained in Title 10 of the Code of
23 Federal Regulations, which is commonly referred to as
24 10CFR.

25 In exercising its regulatory authority,

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1 the NRC's mission is three-fold; to ensure adequate
2 protection of public health and safety; to promote the
3 common defense and security; and to protect the
4 environment.

5 The NRC accomplishes its mission through
6 a combination of regulatory programs and processes,
7 such as establishing rules and regulations, conducting
8 inspections, issuing enforcement actions, assessing
9 licensee performance, and evaluating operating
10 experience from nuclear plants across the country, and
11 internationally.

12 The NRC has resident inspectors at all
13 operating nuclear power plants. These inspectors are
14 considered the eyes and ears of the NRC. They carry
15 out our safety mission on a daily basis, and on the
16 front lines of ensuring acceptable safety performance
17 and compliance with regulatory requirements. Next
18 slide.

19 Now turning to license renewal. The
20 Beaver Valley Power Station reactor units were
21 licensed to operate in 1976 and 1987. For units 1 and
22 2 the current operating licenses expire on January
23 29th, 2016, and May 27th, 2027, respectively.

24 The NRC received FirstEnergy Nuclear
25 Operating Company's application for license renewal of

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1 both units on August 28th, 2007. Next slide, please.

2 A license renewal application is required
3 to contain general information; information such as
4 the applicant's name and address, business and
5 administrative information.

6 Technical information; this would include
7 technical details pertaining to aging management.
8 This information is the focus of the Staff's safety
9 review.

10 Technical specifications; Technical
11 specifications define the operating parameters of the
12 plant. The application indicates what, if any,
13 changes or additions to the technical specifications
14 are necessary to manage the effects of aging during
15 the period of extended operation.

16 Environmental Information; the application
17 also includes an environmental report, which is the
18 Applicant's assessment of the environmental impacts of
19 continued operation.

20 This information serves as the starting
21 point for the Staff's environmental review. Next
22 slide, please.

23 License renewal involves two parallel
24 reviews; the safety review and the environmental
25 review. These two reports evaluate separate aspects

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1 of the license renewal application.

2 The safety review focuses on the aging of
3 components and structures that the NRC deems important
4 to plant safety. The Staff's main objective, in this
5 review, is to determine if the effects of aging will
6 be adequately managed by the Applicant.

7 The results of the safety review are
8 documented in a safety evaluation report, or SER. For
9 the environmental review the Staff considers,
10 evaluates, and discloses, the environmental impact of
11 continued plant operation for an additional 20 years.

12 The Staff also evaluates the environmental
13 impacts of alternatives to license renewal. The
14 objective of the review is to determine if the
15 environmental impacts, of license renewal, are so
16 great that license renewal is not a reasonable option.

17 The Staff prepares an environmental impact
18 statement, or EIS, to document this environmental
19 review. Next slide, please.

20 I would like to mention a few very
21 important areas of the NRC oversight that routinely
22 come up during our interactions with members of the
23 public.

24 The NRC staff addresses these areas of
25 performance, every day, as part of the ongoing

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1 regulatory oversight provided for all currently
2 operating nuclear power reactors.

3 They include emergency planning, security,
4 and current safety performance, as defined by the NRC
5 inspection findings, violations, and general
6 assessments of plant performance.

7 For specific information on current
8 performance of the Beaver Valley Power Station Units
9 1 and 2, use the links provided at the bottom of the
10 page. This is also in your handout.

11 The NRC monitors and provides regulatory
12 oversight of activities in these areas on an ongoing
13 basis, under the current operating license. Thus we
14 do not reevaluate them at license renewal.

15 That is not to say that they are not
16 important. We just do not duplicate the regulatory
17 process in these areas for license renewal. Next
18 slide, please.

19 This diagram illustrates the safety and
20 environmental review processes. It also features two
21 other considerations in the Commission's decision of
22 whether or not to renew an operating license.

23 One of these considerations is an
24 independent review performed by the Advisory Committee
25 on Reactor Safeguards. Statutorily mandated by the

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1 Atomic Energy Act of 1954, the ACRS is a group of
2 scientists, and nuclear experts, who serve as a
3 consulting body to the Commission.

4 The ACRS reviews the license renewal
5 application and the NRC Staff's safety evaluation.
6 The ACRS reports their findings, and recommendations,
7 directly to the Commission.

8 Hearings may also be conducted.
9 Interested stakeholders may submit concerns, or
10 contentions, and request a hearing. An adjudicatory
11 panel, from the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board,
12 will be established to review communications for
13 admissibility.

14 If a hearing is granted the Commission
15 considers the outcome of the hearing process in its
16 decision of whether or not to issue a renewed
17 operating license.

18 Now I'm going to describe the license
19 renewal process in a little more detail, starting with
20 the safety review process. Next slide, please.

21 The regulations governing license renewal
22 are based on two guiding principles. To effectively
23 communicate these principles, I need to describe the
24 concept, or term of art, used by the NRC. That
25 concept is licensing basis.

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1 Licensing basis consists of a wide range
2 of disruption and operational requirements, and
3 conditions, that must be met for the plant to comply
4 with its operating license.

5 It serves as the basis upon which the NRC
6 originally licensed the plant. To continue to operate
7 a plant must conform with its licensing basis.

8 As I mentioned the regulations governing
9 license renewal are based on two guiding principles
10 that relate back to the licensing basis. The first
11 principle is that the current regulatory process is
12 adequate to ensure that the licensing basis of all
13 operating plants provides and maintains an acceptable
14 level of safety.

15 The second principle is that the current
16 plant specific licensing basis must be maintained
17 during the renewal term in the same manner, and to the
18 same extent, as during the original term.

19 In other words, the same rules that apply
20 under the current license, will apply in the renewal
21 term.

22 In addition, a renewed license will
23 include conditions that must be met to ensure that
24 aging is adequately managed so that the plant's
25 current licensing basis is maintained during the

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1 period of extended operation. Next slide, please.

2 The safety review is rigorous. The Staff
3 reviews the applicant's license renewal application
4 and supporting documentation. This review includes an
5 evaluation of new and existing programs, and
6 surveillance activities, to determine with reasonable
7 assurance that the effects of aging, on certain plant
8 structures, and components, will be adequately managed
9 or monitored.

10 The safety review also includes site
11 audits to verify the technical basis of the license
12 renewal application, and to confirm that the
13 Applicant's aging management programs, and activities,
14 conform with how they are described in the
15 application.

16 The staff documents the basis and
17 conclusions of this review, and safety evaluation
18 report, which is publicly available. In addition, a
19 team of specialized inspectors travel to the reactor
20 site to verify that the aging management programs are
21 being implemented or planned consistent with the
22 license renewal application.

23 Finally, as I have mentioned, the Advisory
24 Committee on Reactor Safeguards performs an
25 independent review of the license renewal application,

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1 and the Staff's safety evaluation report, and makes a
2 recommendation to the Commission regarding the
3 proposed action to issue a renewed operating license.
4 Next slide, please.

5 Now, turning to the environmental review
6 for license renewal. This review is performed in
7 accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act
8 of 1969, or NEPA.

9 NEPA provides the basic architecture for
10 federal environmental review requirements. It
11 requires that all federal agencies follow a systematic
12 approach in evaluating potential impacts associated
13 with major federal actions and alternatives to those
14 actions. By law the NEPA process involves public
15 participation and public disclosure.

16 The National Environmental Policy Act also
17 established the US Council on Environmental Quality,
18 CEQ, within the Executive Office of the President, and
19 CEQ establishes policy for implementation of NEPA.

20 The NRC's environmental regulations,
21 contained in 10CFR Part 51, are largely based on those
22 that CEQ developed.

23 Our environmental review considers the
24 impact of the license renewal and any mitigation for
25 those impacts we consider to be significant. We also

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1 consider the impacts of alternatives to the license
2 renewal, including the impacts of not issuing a
3 renewed license.

4 The staff documents its environmental
5 review in an environmental impact statement. Next
6 slide, please.

7 For a license renewal review, the NRC
8 looks at a wide range of environmental impacts. In
9 conducting our environmental review we consult with
10 various federal, state, and local officials, as well
11 as leaders of Indian Nations, and gather pertinent
12 information from those sources to ensure that it is
13 considered in our analysis.

14 Examples include the Fish and Wildlife
15 Service, the EPA, the State Bureau of Radiation
16 Protection, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and
17 the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

18 That concludes my presentation of the
19 license renewal review process. Next Manny will
20 provide more detail on the environmental review, and
21 the scoping process.

22 MR. SAYOC: Thank you, Kent. My name is
23 Manny Sayoc, and I'm also a project manager for the
24 Beaver Valley Power Station's license renewal.

25 As Kent said, I will provide more

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1 information on the environmental review process. The
2 environmental review begins with a scoping process.
3 The purpose of the scoping process is to identify
4 significant issues that should be considered in an
5 environmental review.

6 We are now gathering information that we
7 will use to prepare an environmental impact statement,
8 which will document the staff's environmental review.
9 As part of that process we are here to collect your
10 comments on the scope of the environmental review;
11 that is the environmental impacts that the staff
12 should consider during their review.

13 The staff has developed a generic
14 environmental impact statement. This addresses a
15 number of the issues common to all nuclear power
16 plants. The staff is supplementing that generic EIS
17 with a site specific EIs, in which we will address
18 issues that are specific to the Beaver Valley site.

19 The staff also re-examines the conclusions
20 reached in the generic EIS, to determine if there is
21 any new and significant information that would change
22 those conclusions. Next slide.

23 The scoping period began on November 5,
24 2007, with a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS and
25 Conduct Scoping was published. The NRC will be

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1 accepting your comments on the scope of the
2 environmental review until January 7, 2008.

3 In general, we are looking for information
4 about the environmental impacts from continued
5 operation of the Beaver Valley power station. You can
6 assist us in this process by telling us, for example,
7 what aspects of your local community we should focus
8 on; what local environmental, social, and economic
9 issues the NRC should examine in doing their
10 environmental review; and what reasonable alternatives
11 are most appropriate for this region.

12 These are just some of the examples of the
13 input we are looking for. And they represent the
14 kinds of information we are seeking during the
15 environmental scoping process.

16 Your comments, today, should be helpful in
17 providing insights of this nature. Next slide.

18 This slide illustrates the Commission's
19 various considerations for deciding if a renewed
20 operating license will be issued.

21 So how is your input used? Public
22 comments are an important part of the environmental
23 review process. We consider all the comments that we
24 receive, from the public, during the scoping process.
25 I will pause here so that you can look at the

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1 information on the slide a little longer.

2 (Pause.)

3 MR. SAYOC: Next slide. Now, in addition
4 to providing comments at this meeting, there are other
5 ways that you can submit comments to our environmental
6 review process.

7 For example, you can provide written
8 comments by mail, and email, to our Chief of our Rules
9 and Directives Branch at the addresses provided on
10 this slide, which is also on your handout.

11 You can also make comments in person, if
12 you happen to be in the Rockville, Maryland area.
13 Please contact Kent, or myself, to make arrangements.

14 As I mentioned, comments should be
15 submitted by January 7, 2008. Next slide.

16 This slide shows important milestone dates
17 for the environmental review process. The opportunity
18 to submit contentions for a hearing closes on December
19 26, 2007.

20 And if you have comments that you would
21 like to submit, outside of today's meeting, you have
22 until January 7, 2008, to submit those comments.

23 Please note that a draft supplemental
24 impact statement will be issued for public comment in
25 September 2008.

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1 While this slide lists the milestones for
2 the environmental review, and opportunities for public
3 involvement, the safety review will also be performed
4 in accordance with its own review schedule. Next
5 slide.

6 This slide identifies the primary points
7 of contact within the NRC, Kent and myself, the
8 project managers. It also identifies what documents
9 related to our review may be found in the local area.

10 The Beaver Area Memorial Library, and the
11 Beaver County Library system have agreed to make the
12 license renewal application available for public
13 review.

14 When it is published for comment, the
15 draft environmental impact statement will also be
16 available at these libraries. In addition, these
17 documents will also be in the NRC's website, at the
18 website shown at the bottom of this page.

19 As you came in you were asked to fill out
20 a registration card at our registration table. If
21 you've included your address on the card, we will mail
22 a copy of the draft and final EIS for you.

23 That concludes my presentation, I will
24 turn it back over to Rich Barkley. Thank you.

25 FACILITATOR BARKLEY: Again, at this point

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1 in time we have six speakers who have asked to sign
2 up. The first one being an elected official, Joe
3 Spanick, who is a Beaver County Commissioner. Joe?

4 MR. SPANICK: Good afternoon. Thank you
5 for giving me the opportunity to talk about
6 FirstEnergy and renewing their license.

7 And I think it is important for Beaver
8 County, and what happens at the nuclear power plant.
9 So on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, and
10 the 180,000 residents of Beaver County, I just want to
11 say that in August of 2007 the Beaver Valley power
12 station submitted an application to the Nuclear
13 Regulatory Commission, the NRC, to renew the operating
14 license for Units 1 and 2 for an additional 20 years.

15 And I know that there are some other folks
16 here that are going to talk about the current
17 employees there, and I don't want to go into that, I
18 know he wants to say a few words about the full time
19 employee.

20 But what this means to Beaver County,
21 during the refueling and maintenance work period,
22 referred to as outages, the Beaver Valley creates more
23 than over 1,000 jobs, temporary jobs, at the
24 Shippingport Power Plant.

25 Outages take place every 18 months for

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1 each unit, and provide important economic benefits to
2 the area businesses, but also to their families, and
3 to the benefits they have to pay for maintaining their
4 household, and their house insurance.

5 So this is important to the Beaver County
6 building trades, and not only just to Beaver County,
7 the surrounding counties, and other states that are
8 around, that work at the power plant during these
9 outages.

10 The U.S. Department of Energy projects
11 that power demand is expected to increase 40 percent
12 in the United States by 2030.

13 The Beaver Valley power station needs to
14 continue to produce safe and reliable electricity to
15 meet those increased power demands.

16 Since 2002 FirstEnergy has spent more than
17 550 million to upgrade the Beaver Valley Power
18 Station, so it may continue to operate safely and
19 reliably well into the future.

20 Without the license renewal Beaver County
21 would suffer economically with the loss of more than
22 1,000 good jobs. Small businesses which surround the
23 station rely on the patronage of station employees
24 would be financially devastated with the loss of these
25 Beaver Valley Power Station.

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1 Just let me give you a review of what
2 Beaver County was all about. Back in the early '80s
3 we were a steel mill community. Now, as you all know,
4 the steel mills have collapsed since the early '80s.
5 And basically we have lost almost 30,000 jobs, and
6 just recently USAir, we have a lot of employees,
7 almost 8,000 employees who work at USAir, that had
8 good paying jobs that are no longer there.

9 Less than 1,000 jobs are available at
10 USAir. So this plant, who has over 1,000 full time
11 workers, and over 1,000 construction workers working
12 there, this plant means a lot to us.

13 But, once again, there is also another
14 very valid point of why we believe that the NRC should
15 renew the license.

16 As you are aware, we have emergency
17 management service department, or EMS, that is highly
18 involved in nuclear disaster drills that are mandated
19 by the NRC, to ensure the public safety at all times.

20 And I just might add that FirstEnergy
21 Corporation, FENOC, has been a great corporate partner
22 to Beaver County in many, many ways, in Beaver County.

23 So without renewing this license we are
24 going to see a great devastation, the economic impact,
25 and the loss of jobs, if we are not able to renew this

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1 license for another 20 years. Thank you very much.

2 FACILITATOR BARKLEY: Thank you, Mr.
3 Spanick. Are there any other elected officials in the
4 audience who would like to speak at this time?

5 (No response.)

6 FACILITATOR BARKLEY: If not, I will move
7 on to our next speaker, Larry Foulke, with the
8 University of Pittsburgh. Larry, come on up.

9 MR. FOULKE: My name is Larry Foulke, I'm
10 a resident of Allegheny County, and I have had a
11 career of almost 40 years as a nuclear engineer, at
12 the Bechtel Bettis Laboratory and Westinghouse
13 Electric Company.

14 In this career I have contributed to, and
15 managed groups of engineers in nuclear reactor
16 research, safety analysis, reactor performance
17 analysis, environmental engineering training, and
18 security.

19 After my retirement from Bettis, in 2006,
20 I was asked, by the University of Pittsburgh, to
21 develop and deliver courses in nuclear engineering to
22 students. And there I currently serve as director of
23 nuclear programs.

24 I am here to speak in favor of granting
25 the Beaver Valley Nuclear Station an extension of

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1 their operating license so they may continue to
2 generate inexpensive, reliable, secure, safe, and
3 environmentally friendly electricity.

4 The world's, and western Pennsylvania's
5 energy needs will be growing, much more steeply, from
6 now than at any time since the beginning of the
7 industrial revolution.

8 There is no doubt that we will need much
9 more energy in the future than now. Where is this
10 energy going to come from? Will it be from renewable
11 energy?

12 There is an abundance of it, no one doubts
13 that. In looking towards the future, however,
14 renewables will clearly not be able to entirely fill
15 the gap created by depleting fossil fuels.

16 Will it be from fossil fuels, oil, coal,
17 and gas? It cannot be all from coal and oil. Looking
18 towards the future, oil will become less available.
19 The use of coal cannot increase dramatically without
20 doing interminable damage to the environment.

21 And renewables will not be able to
22 entirely fill the vacuum created by depleting fossil
23 fuels.

24 Today oil is about the only way we have of
25 making transportation fuel. All our cars, planes, and

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1 ships use oil. We simply cannot replace that energy
2 need for transportation with coal, or corn from Iowa.

3 So the oil resource problem is of
4 immediate and pressing concern. I'm a great proponent
5 of the plug-in hybrid vehicle. I believe that the use
6 of nuclear generated electricity to charge the battery
7 of a plug-in hybrid, while I sleep, is the way to go
8 in the future.

9 President Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace
10 speech, in 1954, was a key event for the peaceful uses
11 of atomic energy. It led to the development and
12 construction of the Shippingport reactor a few miles
13 from where we are today.

14 It achieved its initial criticality on
15 December the 2nd, 1957. The 50th anniversary of that
16 event is only a few days away. I have worked on this
17 reactor during my career.

18 Since that time, as of the day I prepared
19 these remarks, we have accumulated almost 13,000
20 reactor years of experience in producing civilian
21 nuclear power in the world.

22 How many fatalities have occurred from
23 that experience? Very few, and none have occurred in
24 the United States. A presentation of fatality data,
25 from the Independent Paul Scherrer Institute, in

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1 Switzerland, shows that nuclear power has the best
2 safety record, and fewest fatalities, of any major
3 process for generating large amounts of electricity.
4 And that includes Chernobyl.

5 Today it is safer to work in a nuclear
6 power plant than in the manufacturing sector, and even
7 in real estate and finance industries, according to
8 the statistics from the United States Bureau of Labor
9 statistics.

10 The industrial accident rate, in the
11 nuclear industry, continues to decline for a record
12 low of .24 industrial accidents per 200,000 work
13 hours.

14 The cost of fuel, and operations, is a
15 minor cost factor for nuclear power. Increasing the
16 price of uranium would have little effect on the
17 overall cost of nuclear power. A doubling in the cost
18 of natural uranium would increase the total cost, of
19 nuclear generated electricity, by about five percent.

20 On the other hand, if the price of natural
21 gas were doubled, the cost of gas-fired electricity
22 would increase by about 60 percent.

23 While the long term radioactive waste
24 storage problems of nuclear power may have been
25 solved, technically, they have not been fully solved

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1 politically.

2 The fact is that nuclear energy is one of
3 the cleanest ways we know to produce huge amounts of
4 electricity. However, like all the ways of generating
5 electricity, it does generate waste.

6 But those nuclear wastes provide one of
7 the greatest benefits of nuclear power that the public
8 does not fully appreciate yet. Nuclear waste are
9 sequestered, and segregated from the offset. Their
10 volume is extremely small, relative to the amount of
11 energy produced. And we have sensitive instruments to
12 monitor and ensure we have control of the wastes.

13 If you believe we have a problem now with
14 carbon dioxide emissions, think about the middle of
15 this century, and consider the amount of energy that
16 the world will need.

17 The energy answer is going to be natural
18 gas, or if the energy answer is going to be natural
19 gas or coal, you have to do something with the carbon
20 wastes. Sequestration of nuclear waste is a much
21 easier problem than sequestration of fossil powered
22 plant waste.

23 A big disadvantage of nuclear is the cost
24 of new plant construction. The cost to build a
25 nuclear power plant, today, is much greater than the

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1 cost to build a natural gas powered plant.

2 But here at Beaver Valley we have plants
3 that are already built. It would be foolish to shut
4 these plants down early when the world and the region
5 needs energy.

6 Once the plant is built, and the
7 construction loan is paid off, there are few ways of
8 producing electricity that have lower operating cost.
9 On the average, for nuclear power plants in the United
10 States, in the year 2006, nuclear electricity was
11 produced for 1.72 cents per kilowatt hour.

12 Nuclear power is a mature and established
13 method of energy production. According to a recent
14 survey by MIT's Center for Advanced Energy Systems,
15 americans are increasingly looking to alternative
16 energy sources, like wind and solar, but they are
17 warming up to nuclear.

18 Americans, now, strongly wish to reduce
19 the use of oil, and they view this energy source less
20 favorably than any other source of power. Coal, seen
21 as moderately priced, but very harmful to the
22 environment, also remains unpopular.

23 James Lovelock, a leading
24 environmentalist, agrees. He writes "Nuclear energy
25 is the only logical solution. Opposition to nuclear

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1 energy is based on irrational fear fed by a Hollywood
2 style fiction, the green lobbyists, and the media.
3 Nuclear energy has proved to be the safest of all
4 energy sources."

5 For the total generating capacity of over
6 1,600 megawatts of electricity, Beaver Valley is a
7 major producer of electricity for western
8 Pennsylvania, generating enough electricity to power
9 more than a million homes.

10 The Beaver Valley Nuclear Stations have
11 operated safely since the plant was commissioned. I
12 know many employees at Beaver Valley, and I know they
13 are committed to producing energy safely and
14 responsibly.

15 The design, construction, and operation of
16 the plant are based on a multi-level safety philosophy
17 used in all U.S. commercial nuclear power plants.
18 This philosophy, combined with excellence in
19 management, training, and operations, help to ensure
20 a safe plant.

21 The Beaver Valley Nuclear Station is,
22 clearly, a regional asset that provides electricity
23 safely and economically. It is in the best interests
24 of all citizens, and businesses, to extend the
25 operating life of the two units for another 20 years.

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1 Thank you.

2 FACILITATOR BARKLEY: Thank you, Larry.
3 Our next speaker is Jeff Jones, a local citizen.
4 Jeff?

5 MR. JONES: In 2006 I became involved with
6 a south side area baseball and softball program. And,
7 as part of that program, our Board has made a
8 commitment to build a good program.

9 And in doing so we have started working
10 with our local businesses, and forming partnerships.
11 In early 2007 we approached FirstEnergy, and Beaver
12 Valley Power Station, about becoming more of a partner
13 with our organization.

14 Since the first conversation we worked on
15 a few projects together. In July the Beaver Valley
16 Power Station ran a FirstEnergy softball tournament to
17 benefit the United Way, that was played at our field
18 in Greene Township.

19 Our fields were in bad shape due to a
20 rainstorm a couple of nights before, and we had
21 several people work to repair those fields and, as a
22 result, it was a success for FirstEnergy.

23 We also worked with the Beaver Valley
24 Power Station on a successful fundraising hoagie sale,
25 where at their outage we were allowed to come down and

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1 actually set up and sell hoagies to raise funds for
2 our organization. We raised over 600 dollars.

3 And I have a feeling that our biggest
4 partnership has yet to be determined. I'm excited
5 about the partnership that is being created with
6 FirstEnergy and the Beaver Valley Power Station, and
7 hope it continues to improve.

8 I found that the Beaver Valley Power
9 Station is willing to be a partner with organizations,
10 in the community. Not only has the Beaver Valley
11 Power Station provided financial stability for many of
12 the citizens and communities, they are also working to
13 foster a stronger relationship to our organization.
14 And I support their efforts to extend their operating
15 license. Thank you.

16 FACILITATOR BARKLEY: Thanks, Jeff. Our
17 next speaker is Pete Sena of FENOC.

18 MR. SENA: Good afternoon. I'm Pete Sena,
19 I'm the site vice president of the Beaver Valley Power
20 Station.

21 I would like to thank the NRC, and members
22 of the local community, and the public, for the
23 opportunity to speak on behalf of Beaver Valley.

24 We recognize that the licenses for Beaver
25 Valley Units 1 and 2 expire in 2016 and 2027.

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1 However, we have begun the process early to allow a
2 thorough review of the license renewal application.

3 Beaver Valley has been a member of the
4 local community since the early 1970s, when the
5 construction of Beaver Valley Unit 1 began. Since
6 that time Beaver Valley has been operating in a safe,
7 secure, and environmentally sound manner.

8 In 1999 FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating
9 Company took control of the Beaver Valley facility
10 from Duquesne Light. And, since that time, has
11 continued to fund the operation of Beaver Valley in a
12 safe and secure manner.

13 License extension for Beaver Valley will
14 continue to mean high paying jobs for the local
15 community, as well as property taxes, personnel taxes,
16 and utility taxes, to fund the local government.

17 Continued plant operation will provide a
18 stable supply and low cost electricity to support the
19 region's economic growth. An additional 20 years of
20 operation will also support our regional contribution
21 to energy independence, resources of foreign energy,
22 will not adversely impact the local or global
23 environment.

24 To sum it up, extending the operation of
25 the Beaver Valley facility in years 2036 and 2047 is

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1 a safe, secure, environmentally friendly option, that
2 will provide economic stability to the region.

3 On behalf of the nearly 1,000 men and
4 women of the Beaver Valley team, again I would like to
5 thank the NRC and the members of the public, to speak
6 on Beaver Valley's behalf.

7 FACILITATOR BARKLEY: Thanks, Pete. Our
8 next speaker is Bruce McDowell, from the Boy Scouts of
9 America. Bruce?

10 MR. MCDOWELL: I always like to face the
11 audience. I'm Bruce McDowell, I'm a professional
12 scouter with the Boys Scout Council, the Greater
13 Pittsburgh Council; in our region.

14 I'm real pleased to be able to speak on
15 behalf of the Boy Scouts, and our partnership with
16 FirstEnergy, which has been many, many years now,
17 since FirstEnergy became a community partner, after
18 following Duquesne Light, and we worked with Duquesne
19 Light as well.

20 My role, working with the Boy Scouts, is
21 to work in partnership with organizations, and
22 citizens, and companies. So FirstEnergy is considered
23 a very strong partner of what our Boy Scout Council
24 tries to do in involving people.

25 FirstEnergy members get involved as

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1 leaders, they get involved in many of the projects
2 that we conduct in the community, things like Scouting
3 for Food, where we are empowered to help get food for
4 the needy; things like our National Jamboree, where
5 FirstEnergy donated pots to our Scout to be able to
6 use on a permanent basis; things like our annual Eagle
7 Scout recognition dinner, where we work with the staff
8 to get adults as role models, to work with our Eagle
9 Scouts, and their career ambitions.

10 Many of them are interested in becoming
11 nuclear engineers, electrical engineers, civil
12 engineers, and such. In fact, out of the Eagle Scout
13 class this year of 306 Eagle Scouts, over 50 want to
14 go into engineering, which was the highest career
15 field interest, out of the many fields that were
16 there.

17 That indicates the need to support things
18 like nuclear energy. We had dinner last week, and we
19 had five of the FirstEnergy staff there, with our
20 Eagle Scouts.

21 And there are many other projects,
22 locally, in the community with the Scout troops that
23 go on behind the scenes, that we don't often see, but
24 the FirstEnergy people are there to support them.

25 So where is this important in the future

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1 for the next license agreement? The responsibility of
2 good citizenship from people and companies is a
3 partnership. We are sure that they will help us do
4 our best, as well as FirstEnergy, in doing its best.

5 I'm convinced that members of the staff
6 have been doing due diligence to meet the regulatory
7 needs. They are sensitive to the needs of the
8 community, and they are sensitive to the needs of the
9 environment.

10 So I would, on behalf of the Council,
11 would support this license agreement. Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR BARKLEY: Thank you, Bruce.
13 At this point we are down to our last speaker, unless
14 anyone else wants to speak in the back of the room?

15 (No response.)

16 FACILITATOR BARKLEY: Our last speaker
17 that signed up is Rich Luczko with the IBEW.

18 MR. LUCZKO: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Rich Luczko, I'm a member of the IBEW, and have been
20 a member for 37 years with Duquesne Light, and
21 FirstEnergy.

22 And I'm here, today, in support of the
23 license renewal for Beaver Valley Units 1 and 2. We
24 have talked about how many employees, we have 1,000
25 employees in the Beaver Valley Power Station is one of

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1 the largest employers and taxpayers.

2 They contribute four million, annually, in
3 payroll, property, and real property. You know, as
4 everybody has talked about, power demand is
5 increasing, people want reasonable amount of power,
6 reasonably priced power, and nuclear is the way.

7 I just want to give you an example of some
8 safety issues. As a member of FEN team, I'm an
9 electrical engineer, and we just went over, we were
10 7.5, seven and a half million man hours, without a
11 lost time accident.

12 You talk about safety. I'm proud to be
13 part of that team. And believe it or not, we lost
14 that record on a slip. We changed three steam
15 generators, put a new reactor head, tore the
16 containment apart, and had over 1,000 workers there,
17 and we only had an accident on a slip.

18 So that says it, itself, what kind of work
19 record we have. As far as the reliability, and we do
20 more now than ever before, as far as working with the
21 radiological issues.

22 Since the '70s, things have changed since
23 Three Mile Island. I'm so proud that I can work
24 there, I'm involved as a legislative coordinator for
25 Local 29, and dealing with some of the legislators

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1 from Harrisburg, and Washington, D.C., I invited them,
2 personally, to come and see our plant. And they were
3 nice enough to have them come down, and they were
4 impressed.

5 And I'm impressed. We talk about where
6 the industry is at -- I grew up on the south side of
7 Pittsburgh, when the steel industry was going strong,
8 in the '60s and '70s.

9 And to see all those jobs go, it just
10 hurts me, still hurts me. And right now the energy
11 industry is all we have left. We can keep these jobs,
12 maintain them, keep the plants running safely, and
13 have decent paying, family sustaining jobs.

14 And I'm here, and my local, and the
15 officers of Local 29 support the renewal of these
16 plants and will actively work to make sure the process
17 goes forward. Thank you.

18 MS. FRANOVICH: Thank you, Rich. I'm Rani
19 Franovich and my staff at the NRC will be performing,
20 or managing, the environmental and safety review for
21 Beaver Valley license renewal.

22 I just want to take a few minutes to thank
23 you all for coming to our meeting. Public
24 participation in our environmental review process is
25 very important to us.

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1 And so it is always nice to come out and
2 meet with members of the public and get their input.
3 I just wanted to remind everybody that we will be
4 receiving comments, on the environmental review, until
5 January 7th, 2008.

6 And the opportunity to request a hearing
7 will close on December 26th. Those are two important
8 dates, important milestones for this review effort.

9 I also wanted to let everyone know that we
10 have public meeting feedback forms, in the back of the
11 room, where you registered with Ikeda, and if you have
12 any suggestions for things that we can do to improve
13 our public meetings, things that maybe we are doing
14 well, things we can do different, we'd love to hear
15 from you.

16 Please feel free to fill out one of those
17 forms as you leave the meeting today. And you can
18 either hand it to an NRC staff member, or you can fold
19 it up and mail it in, the postage is pre-paid.

20 And with that I would like to close the
21 meeting and, again, thank you all for coming.

22 (Whereupon, at 2:15 p.m., the above
23 entitled matter was concluded.)
24
25

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