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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS

THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR

GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3

COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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AFTERNOON SESSION

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2008

1:00 PM

City of Port Gibson City Hall

1005 College Street

Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

FACILITATOR: CHIP CAMERON

SPEAKERS: RICHARD RAIONE

TAMSEN DOZIER

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

(1:00 p.m.)

1  
2  
3 MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone.  
4 My name is Chip Cameron. I work for Executive  
5 Director for Operations at the Nuclear Regulatory  
6 Commission. And we're going to try not to use  
7 acronyms today, or at least we'll explain what they  
8 are. But we will be using NRC for Nuclear Regulatory  
9 Commission.

10 And I want to welcome you to this  
11 afternoon's meeting. And our topic for today is to  
12 describe the NRC review process, the NRC evaluation  
13 process for the review of applications to build and  
14 operate new nuclear reactors. And we do have an  
15 application from Entergy to build a new reactor at the  
16 Grand Gulf site.

17 And it's my pleasure to serve as your  
18 facilitator for today's meeting. And in that role  
19 I'll try to help all of you to have a productive  
20 meeting today. And I just wanted to talk for a few  
21 minutes about meeting process issues so that you'll  
22 understand what's going to be happening today. And  
23 I'm going to tell you about the format for the  
24 meeting, some simple ground rules to allow us to have  
25 a good meeting, and to introduce the NRC speakers to

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1 you today.

2 The format basically it's a two-part  
3 meeting. The first part of the meeting we have two  
4 brief presentations by NRC Staff to give you an idea  
5 about the NRC's review process and, more importantly,  
6 how the public -- how you can participate in that  
7 review process.

8 And we'll have some time after that to go  
9 out to you for any questions that you have about the  
10 process.

11 Second part of the meeting is going to be  
12 our opportunity to listen to all of you to get your  
13 advice and your recommendations, hear any concerns  
14 that you might have about our process.

15 Our focus today is on the Environmental  
16 Review part of the NRC process. And the NRC speakers  
17 will be describing the entire process to you. We're  
18 here to hear your comments and particularly any  
19 comments that you might have relative to the types of  
20 things that the NRC should look at as it prepares its  
21 Environmental Impact Statement, a Draft Environmental  
22 Impact Statement.

23 So the NRC Staff will tell you that we're  
24 also taking written comments on these issues. But we  
25 wanted to be here today to meet with you personally

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1 and talk with you. And anything that you say today  
2 will carry the same weight as written comments that we  
3 receive.

4 Is there a buzz? Or is it -- I thought  
5 maybe it was my night last night or something.  
6 (Laughter) And is it really bothersome to you? Shall  
7 we try to fix this? Can we do anything about that?

8 MR. EMCH: It's been going on all day.  
9 It's something in the building.

10 MR. CAMERON: All right, well, let me just  
11 talk a little bit about ground rules for the meeting.

12 We do have the NRC presentations. And if you could  
13 just hold your questions until after the speakers are  
14 done, then we'll go on to you for questions.

15 If you do have a question, just signal me.

16 And I'll bring you this cordless microphone. And if  
17 you could just introduce yourself to us, we'll try to  
18 answer your question. I would ask that only one  
19 person speak at a time so that we can give our full  
20 attention to whomever has the floor at the moment and  
21 also so that we could get what I call a clean  
22 transcript.

23 We have Stephen Anderson with us who is  
24 our Court Reporter. And his grandson is tagging  
25 along. And Steve is going to keep a transcript of

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1 this meeting. It will be your record. It will be our  
2 record of the meeting. It will be publicly available.

3 So one person speaking a time. And we  
4 want to always make sure that we can hear from  
5 everybody so that we'll just ask you that you'll try  
6 to be as concise as possible in your questions and  
7 comments. I don't think we're going to have a big  
8 problem with time this afternoon. But I usually have  
9 a three to five-minute guideline in terms of when you  
10 come up to make your comments. If you could try to  
11 limit it to that, it would be helpful. But I think  
12 we're going to have plenty of time this afternoon.

13 And finally, and this is -- we do meetings  
14 all over the country. And usually this is something  
15 that doesn't need to be said in the South. But if you  
16 could just give courtesy to everybody here this  
17 afternoon. You may hear opinions that are different  
18 from yours. But please respect the person giving  
19 that.

20 And with that, I would thank you for all  
21 being here to help the NRC with our evaluation  
22 process.

23 Since we do have the luxury of a little  
24 bit of time, we did bring several staff members. And  
25 I just want to you. They'll be here after the meeting

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1 if you have any questions. But let me introduce the  
2 NRC speakers first.

3 We're going to have Richard Raione, who is  
4 the Environmental Projects Branch Chief at the NRC, is  
5 going to start us off today. And he's going to tell  
6 you a little about the NRC, who the NRC is. And  
7 Richard's branch is in the division of Environmental  
8 and Site Review. And it's in the Office of New  
9 Reactors. That's where all of our work on new reactor  
10 applications takes place.

11 And I'd like to tell you a little bit  
12 about our speakers and I'll do that for Richard. And  
13 Richard will do that for our second speaker who is  
14 going to cover the main part of the presentation and  
15 that's Tamsen Dozier right here. And Tamsen is the  
16 Project Manager for the Environmental Review of the  
17 Grand Gulf Application.

18 Now Richard Raione, he is from the South.  
19 And he holds degrees in biology and geology from  
20 Tennessee. That's the University of Tennessee. And  
21 he has a Master's in geology from the University of  
22 Kentucky. He's a Licensed Professional Geologist in  
23 19 states, including the state of Mississippi. He's a  
24 Certified Groundwater Professional by the Association  
25 of Groundwater Scientists and Engineering.

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1           And he's worked for several agencies:  
2           Department of Defense, Department of Energy,  
3           Department of Interior. Now we're lucky to have him  
4           at the NRC. And he's had 25 years of professional  
5           experience in both with the Federal Government and  
6           with the -- in the private consulting area. And he's  
7           going to introduce Tamsen in a minute.

8           Just let me introduce some of the NRC  
9           Staff here. I'll start with Richard Emch, who is a  
10          long time senior person. I didn't say old. I said  
11          long time senior person with the NRC. And he's here  
12          with Andy Kugler in the back. Also he's been here for  
13          a while. They're Senior Environmental Project  
14          Managers. They've been through the licensing process  
15          for the renewal of operating licenses and for new  
16          reactors for Early Site Permits. And they give us a  
17          lot of comfort because they can answer the questions,  
18          any questions that come up if we need to amplify.

19          And we have Dan Mussatti here, who is  
20          another one of our experts from NRC Headquarters. And  
21          Ron, Ron Schmitt, is also from NRC Headquarters. And  
22          he is our Emergency Planning Expert. So if we do have  
23          questions or if you have questions after the meeting  
24          about Emergency Planning issues, he can answer them.

25          And we have Eric Oesterle. And Eric is --

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1 he is the Project Manager for the Safety Review of the  
2 Grand Gulf Application. Tamsen, Environmental Review.  
3 Eric, Safety Review.

4 We also have brought along one of our  
5 attorneys from the Office of General Counsel, Ms.  
6 Renee Holmes. So if you have questions about the NRC  
7 hearing process, whatever, Renee is here to answer  
8 those.

9 In the back we have Steve Lemont, also  
10 from the NRC staff. And I guess our Resident Andrew  
11 Barrett. Andrew didn't come yet; did he? He didn't  
12 make it. Okay.

13 And we have Adrienne who's helping out at  
14 the desk here.

15 And did I miss anybody?

16 Oh, yeah, how could I forget. This is Dr.  
17 Darby Stapp. And he is the Team Leader for the group  
18 of experts that are helping the NRC evaluate the  
19 environmental aspects of this application. He's from  
20 the Pacific Northwest National Lab in Richland,  
21 Washington.

22 Anybody else that I missed?

23 Okay. Well, I'm going to turn it over to  
24 Richard at this point.

25 And again thank you.

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1 MR. RAIONE: Everybody hear me in the  
2 back?

3 Well, thank you, Chip, for the  
4 introduction.

5 My name is Richard Raione. I'd like to  
6 thank you all for being here this afternoon. We were  
7 here last in February of `08 and it was dark and  
8 rainy. So it's nice to be here on a day like today.  
9 So thank you all for the good weather.

10 I'd like to start out with my introduction  
11 by giving you all a quote which goes something like  
12 this. "I am he as you are he as you are me and we are  
13 all together. See how they run from pigs from a gun.  
14 See how they cry. I'm crying." Some of you may  
15 recognize this as John Lennon's lyrics from the song,  
16 "I Am the Walrus," from the Beatles Magical Mystery  
17 Tour released back in the Middle Ages. I'm talking  
18 about 1967. (Laughter)

19 Why am I bringing this up? Well, the real  
20 meaning of this song still escapes me, assuming it  
21 even had a meaning back then. But we in the federal  
22 government have invented a language with a lot of  
23 acronyms, a lot of phrases that are not commonly used  
24 by the public, to say the least. So if you've heard  
25 something from our open house here earlier today,

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1 during the course of our presentation, or something  
2 that's in our literature that remotely sounds like  
3 English but the meaning alluded you, make sure you let  
4 us know.

5 We do these public meetings periodically.

6 Each time we do these we try to improve our  
7 communication skills. And we recognize that those of  
8 us that live in the Washington, D.C. area, our lingo  
9 may not be very commonly used around the country. So  
10 make sure you let us know if you hear something that  
11 doesn't quite ring -- that you don't understand very  
12 well because we do try to communicate effectively.

13 Might talk a little bit about the NRC. We  
14 manage the civilian use of radioactive materials.  
15 Examples include over 100 nuclear power plant  
16 reactors, approximately 4,500 medical, industrial,  
17 government, and academic materials licensees. This  
18 includes things like radio pharmaceuticals. And of  
19 course as everyone knows, these are used to help treat  
20 cancer and other types of diseases.

21 We are an independent agency or an  
22 independent federal agency typically with five  
23 Commissioners. Currently we have four Commissioners.

24 We have three Republicans and one Democrat. These  
25 folks are appointed by the President. And they are

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1 approved by Congress.

2 The reason that this -- that we have this  
3 arrangement is that this keeps politics as much out of  
4 the Agency as much as possible. We don't have a  
5 Secretary of the Interior. We don't have a Secretary  
6 of Defense. These high-level managers and appointees,  
7 they basically go when a new administration comes in.  
8 So when a new president is elected, often times these  
9 folks are let go.

10 What's the advantage to the NRC and to the  
11 public? Well, in the NRC there's a lot more  
12 continuity. So by inference there's a lot more  
13 accountability because our leaders are there for the  
14 longer term. So that's an advantage for this  
15 particular agency.

16 Another thing I like to point out is that  
17 NRC, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has been voted  
18 the best place to work in the Federal Government.  
19 This is quite an accomplishment when you consider the  
20 fact that there's over 280 federal agencies. And if  
21 you're like me, you're still scratching your head.  
22 You didn't realize there were so many.

23 I only mention this to indicate that our  
24 staff is highly motivated, enthusiastic, and  
25 competent. With all the challenges and potential

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1 threats facing our country today, this is especially  
2 important because this helps us recruit and keep the  
3 best and brightest in the government's service.

4 Many of you all know we're headquartered  
5 in Rockville, Maryland, just north of the District of  
6 Columbia. We also have regional offices in Atlanta,  
7 Philadelphia, Chicago, and Arlington, Texas.

8 Now specifically my branch manages the  
9 environmental aspects of New Reactor License  
10 Applications. We review the Environmental Report  
11 which is part of the application package. And we  
12 produce what is called an Environmental Impact  
13 Statement.

14 If you like acronyms, you'll see the  
15 acronym, EIS. But it's an Environmental Impact  
16 Statement.

17 My staff consists of scientists and  
18 engineers who are assigned as the Environmental  
19 Project Manager for a particular application. We  
20 currently have four applications in-house. These  
21 include Calvert Cliffs, Maryland; Virginia; the Duke  
22 site, it's Cherokee, South Carolina; and of course,  
23 Grand Gulf. All of these applications are in various  
24 stages of review.

25 Also within the next five months or so, we

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1 should be getting five more applications. These  
2 include Levy County, Crystal River, Florida; River  
3 Bend, Louisiana; Farley, Michigan; Victoria County,  
4 Texas; and Nine Mile Point up there in New York.

5 My branch interacts closely with other  
6 branches within my division such as the Hydrology  
7 Branch, the water folks, the Environmental Technical  
8 Support Branch. These are people with specialized  
9 disciplines such as ecology, socioeconomics, health  
10 physics, etcetera.

11 We also interact with meteorology and  
12 others both within and outside our division because  
13 there's a lot of people on the team just from the NRC  
14 side of the house.

15 We also rely on the expert technical  
16 advice and expertise provided by our nation's National  
17 Laboratories within the Department of Energy community  
18 headed up by Pacific Northwest National Lab in  
19 Richland, Washington and others such as Brookhaven  
20 National Lab in New York and Oak Ridge National Lab in  
21 Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

22 We also use the services of private sector  
23 consulting companies. All of this brain power is  
24 collectively used to produce the Environmental Impact  
25 Statement in about two years time.

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1           So what are we doing here today? Well,  
2 the main purpose for us being here is to solicit  
3 information or data from you as members of the public  
4 as part of the process which is called scoping. This  
5 scoping process helps us as a federal agency meet the  
6 intent behind what is referred to as the National  
7 Environmental Policy Act, otherwise known as NEPA.

8           Let's go back in time to the mid to late  
9 1960s, when alternative music was being played and a  
10 lot of things were happening in our country. There  
11 was a general realization back then that our  
12 environmental practices could not continue as they had  
13 over the previous 100 years. Our country had grown  
14 dramatically in population. And polluting a river at  
15 one point meant that another user down stream was  
16 being affected. So basically we couldn't pollute at  
17 will.

18           Perhaps the final straw was the fact that  
19 the Cuyahoga River, which means Crooked River in  
20 Iroquois, in Cleveland, Ohio actually caught on fire  
21 because it was so polluted. Those folks even had a  
22 River Fire Department charged with putting out fires  
23 on the river. I'm still amazed that something like  
24 that could have happened. I'm not sure about you all  
25 but it just flips me out that a river could catch on

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1 fire in our country.

2 At any rate to the credit of the Nixon  
3 administration and the Congress at the time, they  
4 passed the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969  
5 with the lofty expressed goal of protecting human  
6 health and the environment. This goal is shared by  
7 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as is evidenced by  
8 our published strategic objective statement which says  
9 in part that we will conduct our mission in a manner  
10 that protects public health and safety and the  
11 environment.

12 At any rate we are here again today to  
13 solicit information from you relative to the  
14 environmental aspects of this proposed project.

15 What am I talking about here? Well, I'll  
16 give you some examples. You may have a grandfather  
17 that used to do a lot of hiking in the vicinity of the  
18 plant back in the '40s or the '50s. And he used to  
19 talk about this old graveyard, presumably Civil War in  
20 age, with a graveyard that had grown over with a bunch  
21 of vines. And you kind of take him out there and say,  
22 "Hey, that sounds to me like a historic resource. A  
23 historic resource that needs to be protected." So you  
24 want to bring that to our attention.

25 Another example could be a good friend of

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1 yours has been fishing ever since he was six years  
2 old, best fisherman around these parts. He went out  
3 fishing the other day and brought in this wild and  
4 crazy looking fish. He couldn't identify it. Showed  
5 it to all the neighbors, they couldn't identify it.  
6 So you're kind of scratching your head, "Hey, this may  
7 be a rare species, may be a threatened, endangered  
8 species."

9 So you want to bring this out to say,  
10 "Hey, take a look at this watershed."

11 And we all know environmental typically  
12 deals with air, land, and water. But our  
13 Environmental Impact Statement is a much more detailed  
14 analysis than just those type of perspectives. We  
15 also look at socioeconomics, for example.

16 An example where that could apply is that  
17 you've been thinking about if this plant is licensed  
18 and built what happens to local churches and roads if,  
19 say, two or three thousand folks come in and these  
20 construction folks come into the area and move to the  
21 area. So these are some examples of the kinds of  
22 input we're hoping to get to today.

23 But I want to emphasize right here that if  
24 you are interested in participating in our process you  
25 don't have to speak this afternoon; you don't have to

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1 speak tonight. What you really need to know is who to  
2 contact, how to contact those folks: e-mail, phone  
3 call, you could use U.S. Postal Service to write a  
4 letter. Heck, you can even come to Rockville and see  
5 us in person. And you need to know like anybody else  
6 we have schedules and we do have deadlines. So those  
7 are some of the important points that you want to walk  
8 away with.

9 My Environmental Project Manager for this  
10 task, as Chip indicated earlier, is Ms. Tamsen Dozier.  
11 She is going to be providing a lot more information  
12 shortly and she is going to talk in more details about  
13 our licensing method, our schedule and how the public  
14 can participate. I'm sorry. It's Mrs. Tamsen Dozier.

15 Okay, this slide what I really wanted to  
16 show in this slide which illustrates the participants  
17 in our process is the middle column, the Stakeholder  
18 column. This slide indicates that we as an agency do  
19 not make decisions in a vacuum. There are many  
20 players in this process which is designed so that  
21 people who have a stake in the proposed project are  
22 given a chance to participate and be heard. Hence the  
23 name stakeholder. So what we are talking about here  
24 is that you as the folks who live and work here are  
25 stakeholders in this process. This is how it should

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1 be. After all this is your community and your home.  
2 If this project proceeds, we recognize that this  
3 activity will have more of an impact here locally than  
4 on other folks living further away.

5 By the same token, you folks that live and  
6 work here are also the best to solicit any  
7 environmental information from since you are the  
8 source for localized site specific information.

9 This slide also indicates that public  
10 interest groups, other federal agencies such as the  
11 Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, the  
12 Environmental Protection Agency, tribal nations, state  
13 agencies, in this case, the Mississippi National  
14 Heritage Program, the Mississippi Department of  
15 Archives and History to list a few, are also involved  
16 and utilized.

17 So with this being said, I appreciate your  
18 time, interest, and input here today. I'd to ask Mrs.  
19 Tammy Dozier to come up. Tammy used to live in  
20 Vicksburg. She does have a master's degree in Civil  
21 Engineering from Mississippi State University. She  
22 previously worked for the Waterways Experiment  
23 Station. And she's currently headquartered in  
24 Rockville, Maryland. And we're glad to have her also.

25 Thank you.

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1 MRS. DOZIER: Thank you, Richard. Can  
2 everyone hear me from back there?

3 As Richard said, my name is Tamsen Dozier  
4 and I am also with the Division of Site and  
5 Environmental Review with the NRC's Office of New  
6 Reactors. And as he said also, I am the Project  
7 Manager, the Environmental Project Manager, for the  
8 Grand Gulf Unit 3 COL Application. There I go again  
9 with the acronym -- Combined License Application. You  
10 might hear me accidentally refer to it as COL.  
11 They're the same thing.

12 But before I get started, I'd like to --  
13 I'm happy to be back in Mississippi. I'd like to  
14 thank every one of the citizens of Port Gibson.  
15 You've been gracious and hospitable as our -- to me  
16 and my staff as we've been trying to prepare this  
17 meeting. And I'd especially like to thank the Mayor  
18 of the city for allowing us use of this beautiful  
19 building. We don't normally get a chance to have our  
20 meetings in such a great location.

21 But with that we'll go ahead and start on  
22 the next slide. Now what is a combined license? Now  
23 as we see here, it is the authorization from the  
24 Nuclear Regulatory Commission to construct and operate  
25 a new nuclear power plant in accordance with the laws

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1 and regulations.

2 Now Entergy submitted an application to  
3 the NRC on February the 27th of this year to construct  
4 and operate a new nuclear facility at the Grand Gulf  
5 site adjacent to Unit 1.

6 Now to avoid confusion, I'd like to  
7 clarify there is still only one currently operating  
8 reactor at the Grand Gulf site. Entergy has  
9 designated the planned new unit as Unit 3 to  
10 differentiate it from the old plans that had been  
11 underway some years ago for a Unit 2.

12 The NRC review of a combined license is a  
13 rigorous process. There are currently three separate  
14 reviews occurring simultaneously on the Grand Gulf  
15 application. The first two are related to the safety  
16 of the plant. The one discussed in the top line here  
17 is the review of the plant design that Entergy plans  
18 to use, the ESBWR. Now the ESBWR is a design that is  
19 currently being reviewed under a public rule-making  
20 process to determine if it is appropriate for  
21 certification. The second review is a site specific  
22 safety review. And then the third review that happens  
23 at the same time as the previous two is that of the  
24 environmental effects associated with construction and  
25 operation of that design at the Grand Gulf site.

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1           This slide is just an overview of the  
2 Combined License Review Process. The safety review is  
3 shown along the top portion of the diagram which if  
4 you remember is both the review of the design and then  
5 the site specific safety review.

6           And along the bottom portion of the  
7 diagram we have the environmental review process. And  
8 then the path in the middle represents the hearing  
9 process. And I'm going to be talking a little bit  
10 about that later.

11           And then the final step is the  
12 Commission's decision on whether to not to grant the  
13 license.

14           Now even though the primary purpose of  
15 this meeting is to discuss the environmental scoping  
16 portion of the Grand Gulf review and to of course hear  
17 your comments, I will briefly present a list of some  
18 of the areas of the site safety review.

19           Now the Safety Project Managers for the  
20 Grand Gulf Combined License Review are Mr. Eric  
21 Oesterle and Mr. Mark Tonacci. Mr. Oesterle is here  
22 with us today, as Chip introduced him earlier. And as  
23 we can see from this slide, Mr. Oesterle and Mr.  
24 Tonacci and their team are quite busy. I won't read  
25 all the points outlined here. But if you have any

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1 questions on these or any other matters of the safety  
2 review, then please talk to Mr. Oesterle after the  
3 meeting. He'll be happy to help you.

4 And I would also encourage everyone to  
5 take a look at the vast array of literature and  
6 booklets that we've brought with us today. We  
7 probably have a booklet to address your general -- any  
8 general concerns that you may have.

9 Now many of you may remember that the NRC  
10 was here a couple of years ago holding meetings and  
11 doing reviews. And that was for an early site permit.

12 A few utilities have elected this licensing option of  
13 seeking approval of a site prior to applying for a  
14 combined license. Entergy was one of these. And as  
15 Richard said, their Early Site Permit was granted by  
16 the Commission in April of 2007.

17 Now the Environmental Review, which is the  
18 subject of today's meeting, is guided by the National  
19 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 or, as Richard said,  
20 we refer to as NEPA.

21 NEPA is the federal statute which requires  
22 that all federal agencies evaluate the impacts of  
23 proposed action and to use a systematic approach in  
24 doing so. Now for major federal actions which have  
25 the potential to significantly affect the human

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1 environment, an Environmental Impact Statement is  
2 required by this law.

3 Because I will be referring to the  
4 Environmental Impact Statement so often, I'm going to  
5 go ahead and define it as an EIS. So if I  
6 inadvertently use the term EIS, you'll know I'm  
7 talking about an Environmental Impact Statement.

8 The NRC has determined that issuing a  
9 combined license for a new nuclear facility is a major  
10 federal action. And so the staff will develop an  
11 Environmental Impact Statement before the Commission  
12 takes final action on any Combined License  
13 Application.

14 Now many of the environmental effects  
15 related to the construction and operation of an  
16 additional unit at the Grand Gulf site were analyzed  
17 and resolved during the early site permit review. And  
18 an Environmental Impact Statement was prepared and  
19 issued in April of 2006. And I have a copy of it  
20 here.

21 Now as part of the combined license review  
22 process, the staff will prepare a supplement to this  
23 Environmental Impact Statement from the early site  
24 permit review. Now the process in incorporating  
25 analyses previously conducted into a supplemental

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1 document is known as tiering.

2 And for the Grand Gulf COL environmental  
3 review, the NRC staff will tier off or incorporate by  
4 reference the Early Site Permit EIS analysis into the  
5 Supplemental Impact Statement.

6 Just one second. I'm going to go back. I  
7 want to talk just a minute that the scope of this  
8 Supplemental EIS that we prepare will focus on the  
9 environmental issues that were not analyzed or  
10 resolved in ESP, our Early Site Permit. An example of  
11 an environmental issue not analyzed or resolved in the  
12 Early Site Permit Environmental Impact Statement is  
13 the need for power. A need for power analysis was not  
14 conducted during the early site permit review because  
15 the NRC regulations do not require it, this  
16 assessment, at that stage. But we will be conducting  
17 this analysis as part of our current combined license  
18 review.

19 Now for issues that were evaluated and  
20 resolved during the early site permit review, the  
21 staff will look at those issues to make certain  
22 nothing has changed that could call into question the  
23 conclusions that were previously reached in that  
24 review.

25 Now we'll talk about the detailed steps we

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1 will take during the environmental review. As I  
2 explained, Entergy submitted the application -- I'm  
3 sorry. Yes, submitted the application with their  
4 Environmental Report to the Agency on February the  
5 27th of this year. Next the application was evaluated  
6 to ensure that it met our technical sufficiency  
7 guidance and was accepted for docketing by the Agency.

8           Once this decision was made the NRC issued  
9 a Notice of Intent -- that was actually a few weeks  
10 ago on May 30th -- to notify the public of the  
11 Agency's intention to develop a supplement to the  
12 previous EIS and to conduct scoping.

13           Now scoping is the process of providing  
14 all stakeholders outside the NRC an opportunity to  
15 provide information regarding issues that the NRC  
16 should consider during its NEPA Review. So the  
17 scoping comment period for the Grand Gulf Review began  
18 on May 30th and it ends on July 29th. This public  
19 meeting also serves as an opportunity to provide  
20 comments because it's being transcribed, as Chip  
21 mentioned.

22           Another step of the environmental review  
23 is the environmental site visit or audit. Now this  
24 week members of the NRC environmental team have been  
25 at both the Grand Gulf site and at Entergy

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1 Headquarters in Jackson to conduct an independent  
2 evaluation of the information that was provided by  
3 Entergy in the Environmental Report that's part of  
4 their application.

5 We do further information gathering in the  
6 coming weeks. We will ask questions of the applicant  
7 through a process called Request for Additional  
8 Information. We will investigate comments from the  
9 public and other state and federal agencies.

10 After analyzing the information we obtain  
11 during all of this, the NRC will then develop its  
12 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.  
13 Now we call this document a draft not because it is  
14 incomplete, but because the public has not yet had a  
15 chance to comment on it.

16 When the Draft Supplemental EIS is  
17 published, this initiates another comment period. Now  
18 during this period we will come back to Port Gibson  
19 and we will have another public meeting that explains  
20 the results of our review. And we will collect  
21 comments on that document.

22  
23 Now after we evaluate the comments on the  
24 Draft EIS, we may decide to modify it. And once we  
25 complete that action, we will then issue the

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1 Supplemental EIS as a final document. That document  
2 will be used as one of several different inputs into  
3 the formal hearing process which I describe in a bit.

4 Now as we said earlier, the result of the  
5 combined license process in this last box is a  
6 decision by the Commission on the application.

7 Now the scoping period is a big  
8 information gathering time for us. This slide shows  
9 the various sources that we use -- some of the various  
10 sources that we will use.

11 The key point that I want to make here is  
12 that the staff Supplemental EIS is an independent  
13 evaluation. So although we will start with the  
14 applicant's Environmental Report and the Early Site  
15 Permit, we're investigating information from many  
16 other sources.

17 Now to conduct the combined license  
18 environmental review, we have assembled a team with  
19 backgrounds in the necessary scientific and technical  
20 disciplines. And as Richard explained, they are -- as  
21 Chip explained, the NRC has contracted with Pacific  
22 Northwest National Laboratory to assist us in  
23 preparing our Supplemental EIS. The NRC team along  
24 with the Pacific Northwest National Lab contractors is  
25 comprised of nationally and internationally recognized

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1 experts on wide ranging topics related to the  
2 environmental issues and nuclear power plants. This  
3 slide gives you an idea of some of the areas we will  
4 consider during our review.

5 Now this slide shows where we are in the  
6 environmental review. As you can see in the dark type  
7 -- we're just about four -- well, we're actually  
8 today we're at the third line down. So we are  
9 currently in the early weeks of the scoping public  
10 comment period. It is scheduled to end on July 29th.  
11 We plan to issue the Draft Supplemental EIS in May of  
12 2009.

13 We will then come back, present our  
14 results, and take comments on the draft in a public  
15 meeting tentatively planned for June of 2009. And  
16 finally we plan to issue a Final Supplemental  
17 Environmental Impact Statement around May of 2010.

18 Now there are several ways you can provide  
19 comments. You can provide comments today during the  
20 comment period of this meeting. You can send your  
21 comments via regular mail if perhaps you're not ready  
22 to provide comments today. And you can send us your  
23 comments to the e-mail address that we have set up  
24 specifically for the Grand Gulf Environmental Review,  
25 which is GrandGulf.COLAEIS, which stands for COL

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1 Application Environmental Impact Statement. That  
2 helps you remember it. And that's at nrc.gov. You  
3 can also submit comments in person at the NRC  
4 Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland.

5 And all comments received, including the  
6 ones received at today's meeting, will be included in  
7 the Scoping Summary Report and will carry the same  
8 weight, as Chip explained earlier.

9 Now the NRC Regulations require a hearing  
10 for any new reactor license application. The results  
11 of the combined license process is a decision by the  
12 Commission on the application, as we have said. An  
13 opportunity for public involvement is available  
14 through the hearing process.

15 Now the public will have 60 days after the  
16 date of the Notice of Opportunity to participate and  
17 this Notice will be filed soon. This Petition to  
18 Intervene must be filed electronically and you must  
19 obtain a Digital Certificate of Approval in advance or  
20 a waiver from the Digital Certificate requirement.  
21 Please allow a minimum of 10 business days to receive  
22 this Digital Certificate or waiver. Now detailed  
23 instructions for e-filing are on the NRC website  
24 that's listed on this slide and will be described in  
25 the Hearing Notice.

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1           So I'd like to take this time to recap  
2 some very important public involvement information.  
3 As I said before, the scoping public comment period  
4 ends on July 29th of this year.

5           After the Draft Supplemental Environmental  
6 Impact Statement is complete, the public meeting on  
7 the draft will be held again here in Port Gibson  
8 sometime around June of 2009.

9           The opportunity for Petition to Intervene  
10 in the hearing process will be announced. Please keep  
11 in mind that you must receive a Digital Certificate of  
12 Approval before you can file a petition. And the  
13 hearing covers both the safety and the environmental  
14 issues.

15           Now this slide identifies me as your  
16 primary point of contact at the NRC for the Grand Gulf  
17 Combined License Environmental Review. It also has  
18 the contact information for Mr. Oesterle and Mr.  
19 Tonacci. Next it identifies where documents related  
20 to the Grand Gulf Environmental Review may be found in  
21 the local area, which for Port Gibson is the  
22 HarriettePerson Memorial Library.

23           Now I'll close this presentation by  
24 saying, if you wish to be on our environmental review  
25 mailing list, please fill out and turn in one of the

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1 blue cards at the registration desk out front and just  
2 make sure that your name and mailing address or e-mail  
3 is provided to one of the NRC Staff at the table.  
4 This is one way of ensuring you will be notified of  
5 upcoming meetings and that you will get copies of the  
6 Draft and Final Supplemental EIS.

7 And with that I would like to say thank  
8 you to each and everyone for coming out today. And I  
9 will return the meeting back over to Mr. Cameron.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Tammy. Thank  
11 you, Richard.

12 Tammy covered a lot of ground in terms of  
13 the process for reviewing these applications. And you  
14 may have some questions you want to add, so we're  
15 going to go on to her questions now.

16 Is there anything that we could be clearer  
17 about? Is there anything we could provide more of an  
18 explanation on?

19 And Renee Holmes from our Office of  
20 General Counsel just wanted me to make sure that we  
21 clarify. In terms of the hearing that Tamsen was  
22 talking about and the need for a certificate for e-  
23 filing, you can get a waiver from the requirement to  
24 do e-filing. Is that correct?

25 MS. HOLMES: Right, you don't have to wait

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1 and do a certificate.

2 MR. CAMERON: It's not a waiver from the  
3 certificate. It's a waiver from e-filing.

4 So any questions that any of you have  
5 about the process, about when things are going to  
6 happen, or what the hearing is all about?

7 As opposed to what the NRC calls public  
8 hearing, this is a public meeting. We use the hearing  
9 term to describe the adjudicatory process. Some  
10 agencies like EPA, for example, they call public  
11 meetings hearings. Okay, there's a distinction in NRC  
12 parlance between public meeting and hearing.

13 Anybody?

14 And we'll be here after the meeting to  
15 answer questions and also after we hear from some of  
16 the people that want to make comments, if you have  
17 questions then, we'll be ready to answer them.

18 So if there are no questions right now, so  
19 let's go to our people from the public who would want  
20 to make a comment to us.

21 And first of all, we're going to go to  
22 Charlie Horhn. Did I pronounce that correctly?  
23 Charlie is -- I may not have pronounced it correctly.  
24 But Charlie is from Congressman Thompson's office.

25 And if you could -- you think you could

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1 get up here? Is there room on the side to come up and  
2 talk to all of us?

3 Thank you.

4 MR. HORHN: Good afternoon. My name is  
5 Charlie Horhn. And of course, I live here in the  
6 state of Mississippi in Hinds County, Mississippi. Of  
7 course, over the years I've had the opportunity to  
8 visit Claiborne County, Port Gibson, Mississippi. I'm  
9 here to speak as a citizen, but I'm also here to speak  
10 as an employee of Congressman Bennie Thompson. And I  
11 thank you for the opportunity to let me have your  
12 stand.

13 One of the things that the Congressman has  
14 to make clear that -- I represent him -- is that in  
15 all his public meetings both in this immediate  
16 community as well as surrounding areas, he has made it  
17 clear that, No. 1, his concern of the safety of the  
18 nuclear reactor. The other is his concern about  
19 engaging the local community and opening and planning  
20 of the reactor as well as construction of it. And  
21 then what will be the impact getting it built?

22 One, as I said, is the concern about  
23 safety. But the other part of it is when we look back  
24 at the present reactor here now the Congressman's  
25 position is that we feel that the community have not

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1 been quite as well economically and should have when  
2 it comes to how the community has been benefitted  
3 economically, education and those kinds of things. We  
4 think that opportunity might have been squandered.

5 But we think it's going forward with  
6 another issue that there is some opportunity to try to  
7 make good on those things that were left out in the  
8 other one. One of the things that Entergy has not  
9 actively engaged the local community in the region in  
10 and around the nuclear facility whereby the community  
11 could benefit.

12 So we think that recognizing the economic  
13 depression that's in this community that some  
14 commitments need to be made for greater opportunities,  
15 both in the area of health care, education, job  
16 opportunities and job training, business  
17 opportunities, and the long term investment in the  
18 infrastructure also is very critical to this  
19 community.

20 So in looking ahead in whatever it is that  
21 we're going to do here, we're taking the position that  
22 Entergy should definitely engage the local community  
23 in all of its planning and all its activities and when  
24 they come. Because this local community as already  
25 been indicated will bear the brunt of whatever it is

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1 that goes on with this next. We have a great need in  
2 this particular area generally underserved in those  
3 areas that I just mentioned. So in moving forward we  
4 definitely ask Entergy to further and to richly engage  
5 the community in planning.

6 Thank you, thank you very much.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,  
8 Charlie.

9 MR. HORHN: And I do have a copy of a  
10 letter from the Congressman for each presenter. I'd  
11 like to present those for the record.

12 MR. CAMERON: Great, we'll consider that  
13 formal comment and we'll also attach it to the  
14 transcript.

15 MR. HORHN: Thank you very much.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

17 Next we're going to go to A.C. Garner.  
18 And Mr. Garner is from the Claiborne County NAACP.

19 MR. GARNER: That's true. That's one of  
20 the organizations that I represent.

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

22 MR. GARNER: Thank you very much. First  
23 of all, I hadn't planned to speak today, but I had  
24 planned to speak later on. But since I have the  
25 opportunity, I probably will just go ahead and speak

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1 now and later on tonight.

2 As the person who introduced me said, I am  
3 A.C. Garner. That's the absolute truth. And I live  
4 here in Claiborne County, which I am a lifelong  
5 resident of Claiborne County. Another thing is I am a  
6 father and grandfather of people who live here in this  
7 particular county.

8 I've served for some 15 years as Director  
9 of Emergency Management here in Claiborne County. So  
10 when I say something concerning what's happening in  
11 and around Grand Gulf Nuclear Station and other things  
12 concerning Claiborne County and Grand Gulf, in some  
13 cases I may know what I'm talking about.

14 There is certain situations here which  
15 cause me to question, a third or second -- well,  
16 Reactor No. 3 coming to Claiborne County. In the  
17 first beginning, I wanted to award my consent to  
18 support reactors coming to Claiborne County. But  
19 somewhere along the line my feelings is that some  
20 things got crossed up.

21 Unit 1 at Grand Gulf came on the line in  
22 1985. At that time I was serving as the Director of  
23 Emergency Management. It was what I thought to be a  
24 smooth operation. The county wanted to support this  
25 100 percent because it allowed some aggressive things

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1 to take place here in Claiborne County. But just a  
2 few months after the plant went on line, some other  
3 things started to take place.

4 If I remember correctly, Mississippi Power  
5 and Light Company was the one who was operating Grand  
6 Gulf in the beginning. So Mississippi Power and Light  
7 Company and the State of Mississippi decided for some  
8 reason that it was necessary to take and split the tax  
9 money that came to Claiborne County. At that time  
10 Claiborne County was receiving something in the  
11 neighborhood of \$16 million per year. You could feel  
12 somewhat good about that because funds were available  
13 to do almost anything for the protection of people and  
14 properties here in Claiborne County.

15 It has changed here now, drastically.  
16 Since the funds was taken away and distributed in  
17 other parts of the State of Mississippi, Claiborne  
18 County only receives about \$8 million in 2008.

19 Let's just think about the comparison.  
20 Let's just think about certain things that have to  
21 take place. An Emergency Management group is not a  
22 group that you can put together one time and forget  
23 about it and it last forever. That doesn't happen.  
24 With Emergency Management, you have to continue to  
25 prepare. Claiborne County has not been able to do that

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1 because of a short of funds.

2 So I question concerning the operation  
3 around Grand Gulf Nuclear Station is whether or not  
4 some things need to be changed and should be changed  
5 where that Claiborne County can be somewhat more  
6 comfortable than what they are now.

7 And I would just point out a few of them  
8 to you. The Emergency Operations Center that house  
9 emergency respondents during the time of emergencies  
10 is no longer in operation for the simple reason  
11 Claiborne County cannot afford to repair or replace  
12 this facility. To go a little bit further, there is  
13 only one hospital located in Claiborne County. Right  
14 now it's at a dilapidated stage. And I don't think  
15 this is called for. I think someone somewhere needs  
16 to become involved in what's taking place here.

17 So what we do we call on the Nuclear  
18 Regulatory Commission, we call on Federal Emergency  
19 Management, we call on the State of Mississippi, we  
20 call on Mississippi Emergency Management, and we call  
21 on the Mississippi Legislature to do something about  
22 the situation here in Claiborne County.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Garner.

25 Does anybody else want to speak at this

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1 afternoon's meeting? Anybody else have a question?  
2 We do have time for questions.

3 Yes, sir. If you could just introduce  
4 yourself to us, please.

5 MR. MARTIN: My name is Ted Martin. I'm a  
6 Mississippian by birth. My question is can any part  
7 of the construction of this facility begin prior to  
8 the issue of the license?

9 MR. CAMERON: Let me get an answer to  
10 that. Let's give a broader answer. You know what the  
11 gentleman's concerns are. Let's go to Rich Emch will  
12 tell you the whole story on this. Richard.

13 MR. EMCH: Yes, sir, there are some parts  
14 that can be begun before the license is issued. Site  
15 grading, excavation of the holes for where they're  
16 going to build the buildings, construction of  
17 transmission lines -- these are some examples of  
18 things that can be begun before the license is issued  
19 since those things that I just described don't really  
20 have any connection to protection of the public from  
21 radiation.

22 Is there more to your question, sir?

23 MR. MARTIN: Yes, one other part, please.  
24 Can you tell me approximately how long after the  
25 license is issued before the plant will go online?

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1 MR. CAMERON: Eric, isn't that something -  
2 - thank you, Rich.

3 Okay, if the license is issued, Eric,  
4 could you talk about not only how long it would take  
5 but also about the fact of whether the applicant, the  
6 license holder, actually needs to start right away.

7 MR. OESTERLE: Right, that's a great  
8 point. Thank you. What we're looking at right now is  
9 the license review. And all along what we have been  
10 informed by Entergy of is their commitment to proceed  
11 with this license application and get the NRC to  
12 review the license application and receive a license  
13 to construct and operate this plant.

14 What we haven't heard yet from Entergy is  
15 they have not expressly made a commitment to go ahead  
16 and build this unit. And that decision is theirs to  
17 make. Just getting a license does not require you to  
18 go ahead and build this plant. Obviously that's a  
19 business decision that Entergy needs to make.

20 But if that decision was made and was  
21 communicated to us, there are estimates of how long it  
22 would take to get the plant online after the license  
23 was issued. And assuming that construction would  
24 begin either immediately after the license was issued  
25 or some activity took place before the license was

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1 issued to prepare the site and build roads and direct  
2 construction work out and that sort of thing, industry  
3 estimates have ranged around 48 to 60 months work or  
4 construction time.

5 And not all of that is what we call hard  
6 core construction. But there are certain activities  
7 that need to take place which the NRC still remains  
8 involved in during the construction phase. And those  
9 activities require us to confirm that certain  
10 activities have taken place that verify design  
11 features have been constructed correctly and it will  
12 perform their function correctly.

13 And the last part of all of this is the  
14 NRC Staff providing a recommendation based on their  
15 review of all of those activities to the Commission on  
16 whether or not to authorize loading the fuel at that  
17 nuclear plant. So there is another step after we  
18 issue the license that the NRC still is very involved  
19 in before the plant can actually load the fuel and  
20 start producing power.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Eric.  
22 And just as a point of reference from another public  
23 meeting that we did on another application that we  
24 expect that particular company hopes to go through the  
25 review process, get its license, and be online in

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1 2016. That's pretty impressive schedule. But that  
2 gives you an idea of this.

3 And I'm just going to let Rich Emch  
4 clarify or expand a little bit on what he answered in  
5 terms of what types of things can be done before.

6 MR.EMCH: When I gave you the list of  
7 things that can be done before the license is issued,  
8 I mentioned that these were things that we didn't  
9 license essentially because they have nothing to do  
10 with protection of the public from radiation. I'll go  
11 a little bit further.

12 Basically we don't -- under the Atomic  
13 Energy Act our responsibility is protection of the  
14 public in the civilian use of radioactive material.  
15 And basically there's -- so we don't authorize, we  
16 don't have the authority to authorize grading and  
17 excavation and things like that. Those are things  
18 that any private citizen, any company can do. It has  
19 nothing to do with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

20 As soon as they start to do something that  
21 has what -- I'll use the word nexus -- as soon as they  
22 start to do something having a nexus to public safety,  
23 to radiation safety, then that, whatever they're going  
24 to do, then that does require a license from the  
25 Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you for those  
2 questions, sir.

3 If you want one more clarification, then  
4 we'll go to you.

5 MR. OESTERLE: I just wanted to point out  
6 that the fact that Entergy has not committed to  
7 actually build this nuclear plant is not unique. We  
8 have, I think, up to nine applications or combined  
9 licenses at the NRC and in-house for review right now.

10 And all of the applicants -- or let me put it this  
11 way. None of the applicants have publicly committed  
12 to actually building a new plant. But they want to  
13 leave that option open as a means to meet their  
14 electricity demands and demands for power among other  
15 options. And so pursuing combined licenses for these  
16 plants is a way for them to do that as part of their  
17 business strategy.

18 MR. CAMERON: Thanks for that, Eric.

19 Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. SQUARE: Good afternoon. Can you give  
21 me a snapshot of the differences between what we have  
22 already with Unit 1 and what's being proposed with  
23 Unit 3 in terms of the process and the functionality  
24 of it, the design, if there's anything different, if  
25 the unit like No. 3 that's being proposed, the design

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1 aspect of it, has it ever been -- is there another  
2 unit in the country or world like it or is this  
3 experimental?

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. And your name  
5 is?

6 MS. SQUARE: Brenda Square, Auburn State  
7 University.

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Brenda. I  
9 think you see what Brenda's concern is. If you could  
10 just talk to that, Eric?

11 MR. OESTERLE: Sure, sure. And that's a  
12 great question.

13 The type of reactor that Entergy is  
14 proposing in their license is called an Economic  
15 Simplified Boiling Water Reactor. It is a design that  
16 is currently under review by the NRC. It's proposed  
17 by General Electric Hitachi.

18 And one of the main differences between  
19 that boiling water reactor design and the boiling  
20 water reactor design that currently exists in Grand  
21 Gulf Unit 1 is the fact that Unit 1 relies upon what  
22 we call active equipment to work in case of an  
23 accident to safely shut down the plant. So we're  
24 talking about pumps that need to operate, valves that  
25 need power to close and things like that.

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1           Whereas this new design, this ESBWR --  
2           that's another acronym for you. It relies very  
3           heavily on what we call passive safety features. And  
4           what that means is you don't have any pumps that force  
5           water into the reactor core to cool it. The design  
6           actually includes large, large volumes inside the  
7           containment building itself that are filled with  
8           water.

9           So that in an accident scenario this -- we  
10          use -- they allow gravity to work to allow this water  
11          to just flow down into the reactor without it being  
12          pumped into the reactor. And there's a lot more water  
13          available with this design than there are in other  
14          designs to keep the core cool.

15          In this design they also don't rely upon  
16          power-operated valves to open or close to allow this  
17          water to get into the core to cool it. And neither do  
18          they rely upon emergency diesel generators to supply  
19          power to the plant in case they lose power coming into  
20          the plant from offsite. They rely upon station  
21          batteries which have a lifetime of 72 hours. And  
22          beyond that they have other means to provide power.

23          So the big change and the big difference  
24          here is a much more reliance upon passive safety  
25          features rather than the active type safety features:

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1 pumps and valves and things like that.

2 MR. CAMERON: And, Eric, I think part of  
3 Brenda's questions was where -- and I don't know --

4 MS. SQUARE: Where else?

5 MR. CAMERON: Where else are they located?

6 MR. OESTERLE: There currently are no  
7 other ESBWRs operating in this country or in the world  
8 for that matter. As I said, this -- the design for  
9 the ESBWR is still under NRC review. And once NRC  
10 completes its review, the design will be certified.  
11 And this review looks at safety. And once the NRC  
12 certifies this plant will be certified that it meets  
13 all of the NRC regulations with respect to safety.

14 There are elements of this design that are  
15 not unique. They have been taken from other General  
16 Electric designs that have -- that are either in  
17 operation or have -- in the United States or that have  
18 been built in other countries. They also rely upon  
19 experimental test facilities and things like that. So  
20 they do incorporate proven design features into this  
21 design.

22 MR. CAMERON: And I think we're going to a  
23 place that I think we need to perhaps expand on a  
24 little bit is that Brenda used the term experimental.  
25 And I guess that can be in the eye of the beholder.

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1 MR. OESTERLE: Sure.

2 MR. CAMERON: But we would not in our  
3 parlance, even though we're doing -- we haven't  
4 certified this design yet, we wouldn't at the NRC call  
5 it experimental; would we?

6 MR. OESTERLE: Right, we would not. What  
7 I meant by that is that the design features have been  
8 tested in testing laboratories that they use to test  
9 certain design features. But we would not certify  
10 something that is experimental. So we're not allowing  
11 this design to be certified so that it can be run and  
12 test out certain design features to make sure they're  
13 safe. We're going to certify that they're safe before  
14 we allow that to happen.

15 MR. CAMERON: And, Brenda?

16 MRS. SQUARE: And how far along are you in  
17 that process of certifying the design?

18 MR. OESTERLE: This application for the  
19 ESBWR design came into the NRC in about August of  
20 2005. And we just recently received a revision to  
21 that design application. So the schedule for  
22 completing that review is currently under review. So  
23 we're estimating probably another year and a half,  
24 maybe two years.

25 Don't hold me to that though because they

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1 are still looking at what the impact of this latest  
2 revision is on the review schedule.

3 MR. CAMERON: And Tamsen mentioned that  
4 the way that the Combined Operating License  
5 Application is evaluated -- part of that is a hearing  
6 process, adjudicatory process.

7 How is -- what process is used to certify  
8 the design? And how does the public participate in  
9 that? It's different than the hearing process.

10 MR. OESTERLE: Right. The process that is  
11 used to certify a reactor design is the public rule-  
12 making process. And so once the NRC completes its  
13 Review of that design, we issue what's called a Final  
14 Safety Evaluation Report, which would have gone  
15 through an independent review by what we call the  
16 Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards. And  
17 they're an independent review body that works directly  
18 for the Commission. And they're comprised of a lot of  
19 scientists and engineer industry experts. And they  
20 look at the status review of this application as well.

21  
22 So once we come up with a Final Safety  
23 Evaluation Report, that gets issued to the public as  
24 part of a rulemaking comment period. In fact, for a  
25 design certification what we do is take that design

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1 and propose a rule to make that design as a part of  
2 our rules in order to achieve standardization so that  
3 many other applicants can reference that same design  
4 and so that we don't end up with a situation where out  
5 of 104 operating plants that we have in the nation  
6 today we might have 104 designs. We're trying to  
7 achieve standardization through this design  
8 certification process.

9 So when we issue this rule, there is a  
10 public comment period that lasts for 75 to 90 days.  
11 I'm not sure of the number right now. But that's the  
12 process that allows the public to comment on that  
13 design and that rule-making as opposed to the hearing  
14 process that is used for COL application reviews.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Eric.

16 And as I mentioned before, for Brenda and  
17 all of you, if you want to discuss this further in  
18 further detail, we're going to have plenty of time  
19 after the meeting today. And Eric and Rich and others  
20 will be available to talk with you about that.

21 Other questions at this point?

22 Do you want to come up front? This is  
23 Norris McDonald. But I'll let him introduce himself  
24 to you also. And this is going to be a comment.

25 MR. MCDONALD: Hi. My name is Norris

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1 McDonald. I'm founder and President of the Center for  
2 Environment, Commerce, and Energy. And our outreach  
3 arm is the African American Environmental Association.

4 We support nuclear power. And this is about our  
5 eighth year of support.

6 And we have some concerns, national  
7 concerns. We come at this from a national  
8 perspective, even an international perspective at this  
9 point. We support nuclear power because of the threat  
10 from global warming and because global warming causes  
11 a smog threat. The hotter the temperature, the more  
12 it cooks up the smog. And you can see that in  
13 different areas.

14 My concern now though is that when we  
15 first started about 2000, they projected that these  
16 nuclear plants would cost about a billion dollars.  
17 Now we're hearing four and five and possibly higher  
18 prices. So when I hear NRC today say that, well, they  
19 may get the Combined Operating License, but that  
20 doesn't mean they'll necessarily make a decision to  
21 build.

22 And so that basically becomes a Wall  
23 Street decision and whether or not these companies,  
24 even when they form consortiums, whether or not then  
25 they can attract the funding to build this sort of

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1 plant. Even in competition with other areas who have  
2 the Combined Operating License approved, there will be  
3 some sort of Wall Street competition.

4 Well, what does that mean for Claiborne  
5 County? I think this is my third time here for the  
6 hearings and public meetings. And I heard today the  
7 NAACP mention additional concerns about health care.  
8 If you look in the Environmental Impact Statement and  
9 the other environmental reports under the  
10 Environmental Justice section, they have a socio-  
11 economic part that says there that the project will  
12 generate large socioeconomic benefits.

13 Well, from that standpoint I believe that  
14 locally the citizens need to get together. This is  
15 black community citizens and white community citizens  
16 and look at the possibility of entrepreneurship. I  
17 mean you can kind of come to the public meetings with  
18 NRC and list your concerns, but you're probably going  
19 to have to aggressively partner with Entergy somehow  
20 and possibly with entrepreneurs.

21 The things about these plants whether they  
22 cost a billion dollars or five or six million dollars,  
23 you're talking about a lot of steel, a lot of  
24 concrete, a lot of other supplemental sources of jobs.  
25 So that helps my concern within the context of

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1 Claiborne County and some of the economic concerns you  
2 have here and the hospital concerns.

3 My notion would be that you would try to  
4 aggressively partner with Entergy somehow to come up  
5 with some sort of a community agreement so you can  
6 develop some sort of business model business plan that  
7 really leverages the general statement made by NRC in  
8 the report. That's going to be a general statement.

9 They're not going to go into the specifics of it.  
10 But I think the community should go into the specifics  
11 themselves and leverage what's going on between NRC  
12 and Entergy because at the end of the day it goes even  
13 beyond NRC and Entergy and goes to Wall Street.

14 But you do not want to wait until they  
15 make the decision to build to start devising your  
16 community development plan. Now the frustration I  
17 have in counties is that in many cases they're bedroom  
18 communities. And they do not have businesses, office  
19 businesses.

20 So in addition to the steel and concrete  
21 and all the wiring and everything else, all the jobs  
22 that are going to come in for years during the  
23 construction of the plant, to really stimulate  
24 development in Claiborne County, you want to attract  
25 and retain these office building which will then lead

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1 to restaurants. Restaurants need a lunch crowd, a  
2 dinner crowd. And to the extent you attract those  
3 sorts of businesses, they decide to bring their  
4 families here, you never know they might decide to  
5 stay.

6 With a good business plan then that helps  
7 your case for getting a hospital. No matter where you  
8 are, hospitals are hard to maintain. It usually takes  
9 some state subsidies with that. Well, if they have  
10 the office complexes and the people who maybe did the  
11 construction to stay here in Claiborne County, then  
12 that would lead to more support possibly for the sort  
13 of health care that the NAACP mentioned earlier and  
14 that the community is talking about.

15 I'll conclude. I won't go on much longer.

16 But I did want to list my concerns. I'm right  
17 outside of Washington, D.C. I'm a creature of  
18 Washington, D.C. I get all over the world. I've  
19 toured nuclear plants in China and other facilities.

20 But my concern now is that there seems to  
21 be -- there just seems to be an unwillingness in  
22 America to move forward on items. Energy bills are  
23 coming and going up on Capitol Hill right now. They  
24 can't seem to pass anything. We also work on  
25 liquified natural gas because we believe those are

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1 sorts of plants that can and should be built. But  
2 they're not getting approved.

3 And so my fear is that we're going to end  
4 up in the same situation with electricity that we have  
5 with gasoline right now. That is these incredibly  
6 high prices because we're not building enough supply.

7 And if we're going to build supplies, build nuclear  
8 plants that don't emit greenhouse gases and smog. I  
9 am an asthmatic. So I have to be careful in the  
10 summertime.

11 And so that's my big concern is that I  
12 think high gasoline prices are a symptom. The  
13 electricity sector is having all kinds of problems  
14 figuring out which direction they're going to go in  
15 and what they're going to do. What you're going to  
16 look up with are very high electricity prices.  
17 Without the supply, there's nothing like a huge plant  
18 like this sort of unit that they want to build here  
19 that could help solve a lot of these problems.

20 So we're in Maryland right outside of  
21 Washington, D.C. We are available to cooperate with  
22 the community. We would love to. We're not far from  
23 NRC.

24 One last point is that blacks and whites  
25 here, I think, should get together entrepreneurially

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1 and try to take advantage of some of the things I just  
2 described. I would recommend that you look at the  
3 latest Black Enterprise magazine as well. It's called  
4 the Black Enterprise 100. And I would recommend that  
5 NRC look at this Black Enterprise magazine. It's the  
6 June issue of the BE-100s. It lists companies, black  
7 companies, that are in construction, that are in  
8 metals. And so those would be the sorts of people you  
9 would want to reach out to here to start talking about  
10 some sort of basically business plan, business model  
11 that could lead to some of the other amenities that I  
12 mentioned.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Thank you,  
15 Norris.

16 Anybody else that we can hear from today?

17 Oh, yes, sir. Please introduce yourself.

18 MR. INMAN: My name is Lloyd Inman. I'm  
19 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In talking with  
20 some of your representatives, I understand that from  
21 the process steam is released and also water released  
22 back into the river. Could you discuss what  
23 contaminants are contained in the steam and in the  
24 water that's released back into the river?

25 MR. CAMERON: Tamsen, can we go to you for

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1 that?

2 MRS. DOZIER: I'll address first the --  
3 you're talking about the water vapor that escapes from  
4 the cooling tower. We'll talk about that first. Now  
5 the water vapor because it's not exactly steam. It's  
6 more just evaporation just like when you're out in the  
7 cold weather and you breathe out. You can see your  
8 breath. It's just a lot of it. And what the water  
9 is, it's warm. It is hot.

10 But contaminants -- we have dissolved --  
11 there are dissolved salts in that just because the  
12 river water is used. The water that comes in is -- it  
13 does have some sediments that are dissolved salts  
14 actually. The deposit is not very much.

15 But when you're talking about  
16 contaminants, you're probably talking about  
17 radioactive releases, correct? And they're  
18 negligible.

19 MR. INMAN: And also maybe heavy metals.

20 MRS. DOZIER: Right. I'm not quite sure.  
21 The dissolved salts. It's very light. It's almost  
22 negligible kind of things. And we do evaluate them.  
23 And I can give you a copy of our Environmental Impact  
24 Statement that does have some measurements of those  
25 kinds of things. But it's -- I'm going to say the

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1 word negligible.

2 Now you were talking about into the river.

3 MR. CAMERON: Tamsen, you were ready to  
4 just address the radiation issue. When you say  
5 negligible, you mean there's no --

6 MRS. DOZIER: There is some. I mean  
7 there's radiation everywhere. But as far as that,  
8 it's negligible. But how about after the meeting you  
9 see me and we'll take a look at the Environmental  
10 Impact Statement and we can look at exactly what the  
11 amounts are.

12 Then you talked about the water release.  
13 You know the Mississippi Department of Environmental  
14 Quality regulates the discharges into any Mississippi  
15 River water body. And so in order to discharge,  
16 Entergy has to receive what we call a NPDES permit,  
17 National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System.  
18 Once we start using acronyms, then we forget what they  
19 stand for. So the Department of Environmental -- the  
20 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
21 regulates that. There are -- naturally there are  
22 sediments actually in that as well. But as far as  
23 contaminants, we can take a look at the contaminants.  
24 But they're within the permitting.

25 MR. CAMERON: So that comes from the

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1 state. And does that cover thermal issues, thermal  
2 discharge, how hot the water is that's --

3 MRS. DOZIER: Well, we do have a  
4 prediction of it. I don't carry the number in my  
5 head. But we can look it up.

6 Are you talking about the temperature  
7 differential between what we --

8 MR. CAMERON: Yeah, I thought the  
9 gentleman might be interested in --

10 MRS. DOZIER: Right. We do take a look at  
11 the -- when the water comes out, how much warmer is it  
12 than what's already there and then how fast it takes -  
13 - the Mississippi River is a pretty big waterway and  
14 water is moving pretty fast. So the thermal plume  
15 disseminates very quickly. But we can take a look at  
16 that.

17 MR. CAMERON: It getting bigger all the  
18 time from what I hear.

19 Does that answer everything for you, sir?

20 MR. INMAN: Yes.

21 MR. CAMERON: Anybody else?

22 Okay, well, Richard, do you want to close  
23 out this portion of the meeting?

24 We are going to be here again tonight.  
25 And we're here after this meeting.

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1 So it's Richard Raione.

2 MR. RAIONE: Well, I applaud you all's  
3 interest, your intellect, your communication to us  
4 here this afternoon. We've heard a lot of comments  
5 and questions. These are good comments and questions  
6 by the way. We have a lot to think about, a lot to go  
7 over when we get back to Washington. We've got a long  
8 flight. So we'll have an advantage to look at some of  
9 these notes and see how we can incorporate this into  
10 our process.

11 I know our court reporter is exhausted. I  
12 don't see how you can do that kind of job. I'd like  
13 to thank you for keeping up with everything.

14 Also like to thank the city of Port Gibson  
15 and the Mayor here for letting us use this building.  
16 Got a chance to look at the art work and the  
17 photographs and the architecture here. And really  
18 this is a nice place.

19 Remember what I said earlier about who to  
20 contact, how to contact us, when to contact us,  
21 etcetera? This information is in the handouts, up on  
22 the screen here. Remember what I said about  
23 communication. Assuming that we can do better, make  
24 some things clearer, please let us know. The more we  
25 do this, hopefully we're improving.

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1 I used to teach at the University of  
2 Tennessee. And I was always amazed about every single  
3 time you have a class, you learn some things. It's  
4 the same here. When we meet with the public, there's  
5 always something that we can take away. And so we  
6 appreciate all these comments.

7 Remember you can always come to Washington  
8 in person. Don't forget that. You can make an  
9 appointment to come see us. Use it as an excuse to  
10 come visit our nation's fantastic capital.

11 One last thought. I'd like you all to  
12 keep our nation veterans in your thoughts and prayers.

13 I have a lot of colleagues that are in the military.

14 If you see them, let them know that you appreciate  
15 their service to our country. Be safe on your way at  
16 home or to your business or whatever when we leave  
17 here this afternoon.

18 And so I now declare this meeting to be  
19 officially over. Thank you all again. Good afternoon.

20 (Whereupon this meeting was concluded at  
21 2:30 p.m.)  
22

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