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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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EVENING SESSION

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2008

7:00 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

(7:00 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. CAMERON: Good evening, everyone. My
4 name is Chip Cameron, and I work for the Executive
5 Director for Operations for the Nuclear Regulatory
6 Commission, which we will call the NRC tonight.

7 And I just wanted to welcome you to this
8 evening's meeting. And what we want to focus on
9 tonight is the NRC's review and evaluation process for
10 an application that we received from the Entergy
11 Company to build and operate a new reactor at the
12 Grand Gulf site.

13 And it's my pleasure to serve as your
14 facilitator for tonight's meeting. And in that role
15 I'll try to help all of you to have a productive
16 meeting tonight. I just want to spend a few minutes
17 on meeting process issues so that you'll understand
18 what we're going to be doing tonight. And I want to
19 tell you about the format for the meeting, some very
20 simple ground rules and introduce the NRC speakers to
21 you.

22 We're going to start off tonight's meeting
23 with two fairly brief NRC presentations, presentations
24 by the NRC Staff that will give you an overview of the
25 types of things that the NRC looks at when they're

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1 deciding whether to grant a license application such
2 as the one we received from Entergy.

3 And after that we'll have time for a few
4 questions about the process. We'll go out to you for
5 those questions. And then we're going to go to the
6 most important part of the meeting which is to hear
7 from you, to give you an opportunity to talk to us
8 about any advice, recommendations, concerns that you
9 might have on what the NRC should look at when we do
10 our Environmental Review.

11 And indeed the focus of tonight's meeting
12 is on the Environmental Review that the NRC does. But
13 we're going to give you an overview of the entire
14 process and how you can participate in that process if
15 you want to.

16 So when we get to the comment part of the
17 meeting if you want to talk, please fill out a yellow
18 card for us so that we'll just know who wants to speak
19 and how many people want to talk tonight. We already
20 have several people signed up.

21 The NRC Staff is going to tell you that
22 we're also taking written comments on these issues.
23 And by these issues we're looking at what should be
24 the scope of the NRC's Environmental Review, what
25 types of issues should we look at, what types of

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1 alternatives. And the NRC Staff will tell you a
2 little bit more about that.

3 But we wanted to be here with you
4 personally tonight and anything that is said tonight
5 will have the same weight as written comments. And
6 you're also free -- if you speak tonight, feel free to
7 expand on those comments in writing to us.

8 In terms of ground rules, they're very,
9 very simple ground rules. When we get to the
10 questions, I would just ask you to hold your questions
11 until both of the NRC speakers are done.

12 When we get to the question period, if you
13 have a question, just signal me. And I'll bring you
14 this cordless microphone. And if you could please
15 introduce yourself to us, and then we'll try to answer
16 your question.

17 And I would ask that only one person speak
18 at a time so that we can give them our full attention
19 and also so that we could get a clean transcript. We
20 are taking a transcript. Stephen Anderson is here.
21 His grandson is also with us again tonight. And that
22 will be our record of the meeting and your record of
23 the meeting. It will be publicly available in about
24 three weeks from today.

25 So I would also ask you to be concise in

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1 your comments. So we want to make sure we hear from
2 everybody tonight and we do have a number of speakers.

3 So I would ask you to be as brief as possible. I'm
4 going to set a three to five-minute guideline. It's
5 not a strict rule, but three to five-minute guideline
6 for when we come up to talk to us tonight. And at
7 some point I'll just have to ask you to somehow if
8 we're going outside of that.

9 And please extend courtesy to everybody
10 here. You may hear opinions that differ from your own
11 tonight. And just please respect the person who is
12 giving that comment.

13 And I would just thank you for all being
14 here to help the NRC with this decision that it's
15 making on license application.

16 And I'm going to introduce our speakers
17 now. First of all, we're going to have Richard
18 Raione, who is the Chief of the Environmental Projects
19 Branch in the Division of Site and Environmental
20 Review in our Office of New Reactors at NRC
21 Headquarters in Washington, D.C. And he's going to
22 tell you a little bit about the NRC.

23 And then we're going to go to our main
24 speaker who is Tamsen Dozier, who is the Project
25 Manager for the Environmental Review on the Entergy

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1 license application. And Richard is going to give her
2 a fuller introduction.

3 We also brought a number of people from
4 Headquarters so that we could make sure that we can
5 answer your questions. And they'll also be here after
6 the meeting to talk with you. And we have a
7 representative from our Regional Office, Region IV in
8 Arlington, Texas. Victor Dricks is Public Affairs
9 Officer back there. Someone from the Office of
10 General Counsel, Renee Holmes, who is here. We also
11 have some Senior Environmental Specialists with us
12 tonight. Richard Emch is here. Andy Kugler, Dan
13 Mussatti is here. We have an emergency planning
14 expert, Ron Schmitt, with us if you have questions or
15 concerns about that. There's Andy Kugler right there.

16
17 Oh, Eric Oesterle is the Project Manager
18 for this license application on the Safety Review
19 side. And Darby is our expert consultant from the
20 Pacific Northwest Lab. He is the Team Leader of our
21 group of experts who's looking at environmental
22 issues.

23 And it's Darby Stapp? Okay, great.

24 Who have I missed? Oh, we have some new
25 people with us. Alicia and -- you can't see these

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1 people, but they're also environmental project:
2 Alicia, Jessie, and Adrienne, who is helping us with
3 logistics tonight, and Terri from Pacific Northwest
4 Lab. Just wanted you to know who was here from the
5 NRC and what they do.

6 Let me give Richard Raione a broader
7 introduction than that. As I mentioned, he is the
8 Branch Chief of the Environmental Projects Branch. He
9 is from the South. He has degrees in biology and
10 geology from the University of Tennessee. He's got a
11 Master's in Geology from the University of Kentucky.
12 He's a Licensed Professional Geologist in 19 states,
13 including Mississippi. He is a Certified Groundwater
14 Professional by the Association of Groundwater
15 Scientists and Engineers.

16 He's worked for Department of Energy,
17 Department of Interior, as well as the NRC. And he
18 has 25 years in the environmental consulting field,
19 both with federal agencies and with private consulting
20 sector.

21 And with that I'm going to turn it over to
22 Richard.

23 MR. RAIONE: Well, good evening. Can you
24 all hear me? Good evening, everybody. Thank you all
25 for coming out this evening.

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1 I'm going to do something a little bit
2 different for this meeting than what I normally do.
3 I'm going to start this thing out with a quote. So
4 bear with me. There is a point I'm trying to make.
5 So here's the quote: "I am he as you are he as you
6 are me and we are all together. See how they run like
7 pigs from a gun. See how they fly. I'm crying. Goo
8 Goo G'joob"

9 Now some of you all may recognize this as
10 John Lennon's lyrics from the song, "I Am the Walrus,"
11 from the Beatles' Magical Mystery Tour album released
12 way back in 1967. The real meaning of this song still
13 escapes me, assuming it even had a meaning to begin
14 with.

15 But the reason I bring this up is that we
16 in the Federal Government have invented a language
17 with a lot of acronyms, a lot of phrases. Our Agency
18 is especially very technically oriented. And we want
19 to make sure that we're communicating correctly with
20 the public. So if you've heard something from our
21 Open House, if you see something in our literature, if
22 you hear something from the meeting tonight that kind
23 of sounds English like the example I gave, but it
24 doesn't quite sink in, just let us know. We want to
25 make sure that we do a good job communicating with

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1 everybody.

2 I'm going to talk a little bit about the
3 NRC in general before I get specific about what we do
4 in the Environmental Projects Branches. The NRC
5 manages the civilian use of radioactive materials.
6 Examples include over 100 nuclear power plants and
7 approximately 4,500 medical, industrial, government,
8 and academic materials licensees. These of course
9 include the use of radio pharmaceuticals which we use
10 to fight cancer with.

11 We are an independent agency within the
12 federal civil service. We are governed by five
13 Commissioners. Right now we have four. They happen
14 to be three Republicans and one Democrat. These folks
15 are appointed by the President of the United States
16 and they must be approved by Congress. We're going to
17 be getting one more Commissioner here soon.

18 The reason for this, this kind of tries --
19 this is an attempt by Congress to try to keep politics
20 out of our Agency as much as possible. We don't have
21 a Secretary of the Interior. We don't have a
22 Secretary of Defense. These high-level managers when
23 a a new administration comes in typically have to
24 leave their jobs. So the advantage that we can have
25 is that we have more continuity within our Agency.

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1 And the inference there of course is that we perhaps
2 have more accountability. So those are positive
3 things.

4 Another thing I'd like to point out is
5 that NRC has been voted the best place to work in the
6 Federal Government. This is quite an accomplishment
7 when you consider there's over 280 federal agencies
8 within the Fed. That number still astounds me, so I'm
9 sure you're kind of shocked as well. But at any rate
10 that is an accomplishment.

11 And the reason I mention it is I wanted to
12 indicate that our staff is highly motivated. They're
13 enthusiastic, and they're very competent. With all
14 the challenges and potential threats facing our
15 country today, this is especially important because
16 this helps us recruit and keep the best and brightest
17 to the government's service.

18 We're headquartered in Rockville,
19 Maryland, which is just north of the District of
20 Columbia. We also have regional offices in Atlanta,
21 Philadelphia, Chicago, and Arlington, Texas.

22 I'll tell you a little bit more about what
23 we do at my specific branch. The Environmental
24 Projects Branch II is one of two Environmental
25 Projects Branches within the Agency. We manage the

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1 environmental aspects of New Reactor License
2 Applications. We review the Environmental Report,
3 which is part of the application package. And we
4 produce what is called an Environmental Impact
5 Statement. You've probably seen this abbreviated a
6 million times by other agencies as EIS.

7 My staff consists of scientists and
8 engineers who are assigned as the Environmental
9 Project Managers for a particular application. In my
10 branch we currently have four applications in-house:
11 Calvert Cliffs, Maryland; Virginia; Duke in Cherokee
12 County, South Carolina; and Grand Gulf. These are all
13 in various stages of review at this point.

14 Within the next five months or so, we're
15 going to be getting another five applications. We're
16 talking about Levy County, Florida, outside of Crystal
17 River; River Bend, Louisiana; Fermi, Michigan;
18 Victoria County in Texas; and Nine Mile Point up there
19 in New York.

20 My branch interacts closely with other
21 branches within my division such as the Hydrology
22 Branch. These are all the water folks. The
23 Environmental Technical Support Branch, these are
24 folks that have technical disciplines such as ecology,
25 socio-economics, health physics, etcetera. And there

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1 are several other folks both within and with outside
2 our division that get involved in our work.

3 We also rely upon the technical expertise
4 provided by our nation's National Laboratories like
5 the program headed up by Pacific Northwest Lab of
6 Richland, Washington. I should mention Dr. Darby
7 Stapp. He has a staff of around 12 people in the lab
8 at Richland that are assisting us. We also use other
9 National Laboratories, including Brookhaven National
10 Lab in New York and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in
11 Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

12 We also use the services of five separate
13 consulting companies. All of this brain power is
14 collectively used to produce the EIS in roughly two
15 years time frame.

16 So what are we really doing here tonight?

17 Well, the main purpose for us being here is to
18 solicit information or data from you as members of the
19 public as part of the process which is called scoping.

20 This scoping process helps us as a federal agency
21 meet the intent behind what is referred to as the
22 National Environmental Policy Act, otherwise known as
23 NEPA.

24 Now let's go back in time to the mid and
25 late 1960s, when we had a different type of music.

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1 There was a general realization in our country that
2 our environmental practices could not continue as they
3 had over the previous 100 years. We started
4 recognizing we could not pollute at will. We had an
5 increase in our population that we couldn't
6 necessarily dump waste in a river when you had a
7 downstream user.

8 So I think perhaps the final straw was the
9 fact that the Cuyahoga -- if I'm pronouncing that
10 right -- River, which means Crooked River in the
11 Iroquois language, in Cleveland, Ohio actually caught
12 on fire because it was so polluted. Those folks even
13 had a River Fire Department charged with putting out
14 the fires on the river. These happened several times.

15 I'm still amazed by that as I'm you all are
16 especially that were living through this time.

17 To the credit of the Nixon administration
18 and Congress at the time, they passed NEPA, the
19 National Environmental Policy Act, in 1969 with the
20 expressed goal of protecting human health and the
21 environment. This goal is shared by the Nuclear
22 Regulatory Commission as is evidenced by our public
23 strategic objective statement which says in part that
24 we will conduct our mission in a manner that protects
25 public health and safety and the environment.

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1 As I mentioned, we are here tonight to
2 solicit information from you relevant to the
3 environmental aspects of this proposed project.

4 So what am I talking about here? Well,
5 some examples, I'll give you a few. Some examples may
6 be that you may have had a relative that used to go
7 hiking in the area around the plant 40, 50 years ago.

8 And you remember as a little boy or girl that he used
9 to talk about this old graveyard. It was all grown
10 over, a bunch of vines and everything. But he thought
11 it was from the Civil War. So you want to bring
12 something like this to our attention because, hey,
13 this is an historic resource. You want to make sure
14 it is protected.

15 Another example could be you've got a good
16 friend of yours that he's been fishing since the age
17 of six. He knows where all the good fishing spots
18 around within the next 100 miles. And he went fishing
19 the other day and brought back this really wild
20 looking fish. And no one could identify it.

21 So you're kind of scratching your head,
22 "Hey, this could be an example of a rare and
23 threatened species. So you want to bring this to our
24 attention. "Hey, we found this funky little fish in a
25 watershed 10 miles out of town. I think you guys

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1 should take a look at it."

2 When we think environmental, we all think
3 of air, soil, and water, and all the disciplines that
4 go along with that. But I wanted to mention there are
5 other aspects as well that we have to look at within
6 our Environmental Impact Statement.

7 For example, in the area of socio-
8 economics one thing that you may have been thinking
9 about is like what if this plant is actually licensed
10 and built, what's going to happen to local schools and
11 roads if, say, two or three thousand construction
12 folks and their families move to the area. So these
13 are examples of some of the kinds of input that we're
14 hoping to get tonight.

15 But I do want to emphasize right here that
16 if you are interested in participating in our process
17 you don't really have to speak tonight if you don't
18 want to. What you really need to know is who to
19 contact, how to contact us: e-mail, phone, you could
20 use the old fashioned U.S. Postal Service to mail us a
21 letter. Or don't forget the old fashioned way. You
22 can always come to Rockville and meet with us face-to-
23 face. And while you're there, you can check out some
24 stuff in D.C. It's a fantastic place if you like
25 museums and things like that and the history. And we

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1 also want to indicate like anybody else we do have
2 schedules and especially with this schedules and
3 deadlines also.

4 Our Environmental Project Manager for
5 Grand Gulf is Mrs. Tamsen Dozier. She is going to be
6 providing more information that relates to this slide
7 shortly and she is going to talk in more details about
8 our licensing methods, our schedule, and how the
9 public can participate in our process.

10 Okay, let me show this slide which
11 illustrates the participants in our process is the
12 Stakeholder column, the middle column. This slide
13 indicates that we as an Agency do not make decisions
14 in a vacuum. There are many players in this process
15 which is designed so that people who have a stake in
16 the proposed project are given a chance to participate
17 and be heard. Hence the name stakeholder.

18 So what we are saying about here is that
19 you as the folks who live and work here are
20 stakeholders in this process. And this is how it
21 should be. After all this is your community and your
22 home. If this project proceeds, we recognize that
23 this activity will have more of an impact here locally
24 than on other folks living further away. By the same
25 token, you folks that live and work here are also the

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1 best to solicit any environmental information from
2 since you are the source for localized site specific
3 information.

4 This slide also indicates that public
5 interest groups, other federal agencies such as the
6 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park
7 Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, Tribal
8 Nations, state agencies, such as the Mississippi
9 National Heritage Program, the Mississippi Department
10 of Archives and History to list a few, are also
11 involved and utilized.

12 So with this being said, I appreciate your
13 time, interest, and input here tonight.

14 And I'd like to ask our Environmental
15 Project Manager, Mrs. Tamsen Dozier, to come up.
16 Tammy used to live in Vicksburg, Mississippi. She's
17 got a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from
18 Mississippi State University. She previously worked
19 with the Waterways Experimental Station. And she's
20 headquartered now with -- she lives in Rockville,
21 Maryland with the NRC. And we're glad to have her on
22 board.

23 MRS. DOZIER: Hello, everyone. As Richard
24 said -- can you hear me? As Richard said, my name is
25 Tamsen Dozier and I am also with the Division of Site

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1 and Environmental Review with the NRC's Office of New
2 Reactors. And I am the Environmental Project Manager
3 for the Grand Gulf Unit 3 COL Application.

4 And before I begin, I would like to say,
5 as Richard said, I am from Mississippi. I have a lot
6 of fond memories from here, especially of the people.

7 And I would like to thank the people of Port Gibson
8 and the surrounding communities who've been so
9 gracious and hospitable to us as we've been planning
10 this meeting tonight. And I'd especially like to
11 thank the Mayor and his staff for allowing us the use
12 of this beautiful building. We normally don't have
13 such beautiful surroundings when we have these
14 meetings.

15 So let's go ahead and get started. So
16 what is a combined license? Or as we commonly refer
17 to it -- you might hear me use the acronym and refer
18 to it as a COL. I'll try not to use acronyms, but
19 unfortunately it's a habit most of us get into after a
20 while. As we see here, a combined license is an
21 authorization from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
22 to construct and operate a new nuclear power plant in
23 accordance with laws and regulations.

24 Now Entergy submitted an application on
25 February the 27th of this year for a Combined License

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1 for a new nuclear facility at the Grand Gulf site
2 adjacent to Unit 1. Now to avoid confusion, let
3 me explain that there is still only one currently
4 operating reactor at Grand Gulf. Entergy has decided
5 to designate the plan to the new unit as Unit 3 to
6 differentiate it from old plans that had been underway
7 some time ago for a Unit 2.

8 The NRC Review of a Combined License
9 Application is a rigorous process. There are
10 currently three separate reviews occurring
11 simultaneously on the Grand Gulf application. The
12 first two are related to the safety of the Plant. The
13 one discussed in the top line here is that of the
14 design of the Plant. That is the design of the Plant
15 that Entergy plans to use, and that is called the
16 ESBWR. Now the ESBWR is a design that is currently
17 being reviewed under a public rule-making process to
18 determine if it is appropriate for certification.

19 The second review is the site specific
20 safety review. And the third review that occurs
21 simultaneously with the previous two is that of the
22 environmental effects associated with construction and
23 operation of that design at the Grand Gulf site.

24 Now here we see an overview of the
25 combined license review process. The safety review

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1 shown along the top row of the diagram which you
2 remember represents both the review of the design and
3 the site specific safety review.

4 And along the bottom portion of the
5 diagram we have the environmental review process. And
6 then in the middle we have the hearing process, which
7 I'm going to be describing a bit later.

8 And then the final step is the
9 Commission's decision on whether to not to grant the
10 license.

11 Now even though the primary purpose of
12 this meeting is to discuss the Environmental Scoping
13 portion of the Grand Gulf Review and to hear your
14 comments, I will briefly present a list of some of the
15 areas of the Site Safety Review.

16 Now as Mr. Oesterle said -- I mean, I'm
17 sorry -- as Mr. Cameron said, the Safety Project
18 Manager -- we have one of them here tonight for the
19 Grand Gulf Combined License is Mr. Eric Oesterle and
20 then the other Mr. Mark Tonacci. And as we can see
21 from the slide here, Mr. Oesterle and Mr. Tonacci and
22 their team are quite busy.

23 I won't read all the points outlined here.

24 But if you have any questions on these or other
25 matters concerning the safety review, please see Mr.

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1 Oesterle after the meeting and he'll be happy to help
2 you.

3 And I would also encourage everyone to
4 take a look at the vast array of literature and
5 booklets we have available in the outer hallway. We
6 probably have a booklet to address most of the general
7 concerns that you might have.

8 Now many of you may remember that the NRC
9 was here a couple of years ago holding meetings and
10 doing reviews. And that was for the early site
11 permit. A few utilities have elected the licensing
12 option of seeking approval of the site prior to
13 applying for their combined license, and Entergy was
14 one of these. And their early site permit was granted
15 by the Commission in April of 2007.

16 Now as Richard explained earlier, the
17 environmental review, which is the subject of today's
18 meeting, is guided by the National Environmental
19 Policy Act of 1969, or NEPA.

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

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1 Impact Statement is required by this law.

2 Now I'm going to refer to it, but I'm
3 going to be referring to the word Environmental Impact
4 Statement a lot, so we refer to that as an EIS. So if
5 you'll bear with me, you probably will hear me saying
6 the term EIS and just know I'm talking about that
7 document that we produce.

8 Now the NRC has determined that issuing a
9 combined license for a new nuclear facility is a major
10 federal action. And so as I said, the Staff develops
11 an Environmental Impact Statement before the
12 Commission 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 we have several copies
20 out in the lobby if you'd like to take a look at
21 those.

22 Now as part of the combined license review
23 process, the staff will prepare a supplement to that
24 Environmental Impact Statement from the early site
25 permit review. The process of incorporating the

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1 analyses previously conducted into a supplemental
2 document is known as tiering.

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

7 Now the scope of this Supplemental EIS
8 will focus on the environmental issues that are not
9 analyzed or resolved. An example of an environmental
10 issue that was not analyzed or resolved in the Early
11 Site Permit EIS is a need for power. A need for power
12 analysis was not conducted for the Grand Gulf early
13 site permit review because NRC regulations do not
14 require that type of analysis at that stage. But we
15 will be conducting this analysis as part of our
16 current COL Review.

17 Now for issues that were evaluated and
18 resolved in the Early Site Permit EIS, the staff looks
19 at those issues to make certain that nothing has
20 changed that could call into question the conclusions
21 that were previously reached in the early site review.

22 Now here we see a presentation of the
23 detailed steps that we will take for the environmental
24 review. As I said, Entergy submitted their
25 Environmental Report as part of their application to

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1 the Agency on February the 27th of this year. And we
2 evaluated the application to ensure that it met our
3 technical sufficiency guidance and it was accepted for
4 docketing by the Agency.

5 Once this decision was made by the NRC, we
6 issued a Notice of Intent -- this was a few weeks ago
7 on May 30th -- to notify the public of the Agency's
8 intention to develop a supplement to the previous Site
9 EIS and to conduct scoping.

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

18 Now another step of the environmental
19 review is the environmental site visit or audit. This
20 week members of the NRC Environmental Team have been
21 at both the Grand Gulf site and at Entergy
22 Headquarters in Jackson to conduct an independent
23 evaluation of the information that was provided by the
24 applicant in their Environmental Report that's part of
25 their application. And when I say applicant, I'm

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1 talking about Entergy. I'm sorry.

2 We do further information gathering in the
3 coming weeks. We ask questions of the applicant
4 through a process called Request for Additional
5 Information. And then we investigate comments from
6 the public and from other state and federal agencies.

7 Now after analyzing all the information we
8 obtain during all of this, the NRC will then develop
9 its Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Draft
10 Supplemental EIS. Now we call this document a draft
11 not because it is incomplete, but because the public
12 has not yet had a chance to comment upon it.

13 With the publication of the Draft
14 Supplemental EIS, this initiates another comment
15 period. During this period we will come back -- we,
16 the NRC, will come back to Port Gibson and we will
17 hold another public meeting, explaining the results of
18 our Review and to collect comments on our document.

19 Now after we evaluate the comments on the
20 Draft Supplemental EIS, we may then decide to modify
21 it. Once we complete that action, we issue the
22 Supplemental EIS as a final document. That document
23 will be used as one of several different inputs into
24 the formal hearing process which I will be providing
25 more detail in just a minute.

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1 Then as we said earlier, the result of the
2 combined license process a decision by the Commission
3 on the application.

4 Now the scoping period is a big
5 information gathering time for us. Now this slide
6 shows some of the various sources that we use. The
7 key point that I want to make is that the Staff
8 Supplemental EIS is an independent evaluation. So
9 although we are starting with the applicant's
10 Environmental Report and with the early site permit,
11 we're investigating information from many other
12 sources.

13 Now to conduct the combined license
14 environmental review, we have assembled a team with
15 backgrounds in the necessary scientific and technical
16 disciplines. And as Richard talked about earlier, the
17 NRC has contracted with the Pacific Northwest National
18 Laboratory to assist us in preparing the Supplemental
19 EIS. The NRC team along with the Pacific Northwest
20 National Lab contractors is comprised of experts on
21 wide ranging topics related to environmental issues
22 and nuclear power plants. This slide gives you an
23 idea of some of the areas we will consider during our
24 review.

25 Now this slide shows where we are in the

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1 environmental review. We go down the slide to No. 3,
2 that's where we are today. We are currently in the
3 early weeks of the scoping public comment period and
4 it is scheduled to end on July 29th. We plan to issue
5 the Draft Supplemental EIS in May of 2009. We will
6 then come back, present our results, and take comments
7 on the draft in a public meeting tentatively planned
8 for June of 2009. And finally we plan to issue a final
9 Environmental Impact Statement around May 2010.

10 Now there are several ways you can provide
11 comments. You can provide comments tonight during the
12 comment period of this meeting. You can send your
13 comments via regular mail, or perhaps you might prefer
14 to send us your comments to the e-mail address that we
15 have set up specifically for the Grand Gulf
16 Environmental Review, which is
17 GrandGulf.COLAEIS@nrc.gov. And to help you remember
18 COLA, that's Combined License -- A stands for
19 Application -- EIS. You can also submit comments in
20 person at the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland.

21 And all comments received, including the
22 ones received tonight during the meeting, will be
23 included in the Scoping Summary Report and will all
24 carry the same weight.

25 Now NRC Regulations require a hearing for

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1 any New Reactor Licensing Application. The results of
2 the Combined License process is a decision by the --
3 as we have said, is a decision by the Commission on
4 the application. An opportunity for public
5 involvement is available in the hearing process.

6 The public has 60 days after the date of
7 the Notice of Opportunity to participate and this
8 Notice will be filed soon. The Petition to Intervene
9 must be filed electronically and you must obtain a
10 Digital Certificate of Approval in advance or a waiver
11 from the electronic filing. Please allow a minimum of
12 10 business days to receive the Digital Certificate or
13 the waiver. Detailed instructions for e-filing are on
14 the NRC website listed on the slide and will be
15 described in the Hearing Notice.

16 Now I'd like to take this time to recap
17 some of the very important public involvement
18 information. As I said before, the scoping public
19 comment period ends on July 29th of this year. After
20 the Draft Supplemental EIS is complete, the public
21 meeting on the draft will be held again here in Port
22 Gibson sometime near June 2009.

23 The opportunity for Petition to Intervene
24 in the hearing process will soon be announced. Please
25 keep in mind that you must receive a Digital

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1 Certificate of Approval before you can file a
2 petition. And the hearing covers both safety and
3 environmental issues.

4 Now this slide identifies me as your
5 primary point of contact at the NRC for the Grand Gulf
6 combined license environmental review. It also has
7 the contact information for Mr. Oesterle and Mr.
8 Tonacci, the Safety Licensing Project Managers. Next
9 it identifies where documents related to the Grand
10 Gulf environmental review may be found in the local
11 area, which for Port Gibson is the Harriette Person
12 Memorial Library.

13 Now I'll close the presentation by saying,
14 if you wish to be on our environmental review mailing
15 list, please fill out and turn in one of the blue
16 cards at the registration desk out front or just make
17 sure that your name and mailing address or e-mail
18 address is provided to one of the NRC Staff at the
19 table out front. This is one way of ensuring that you
20 will be notified of upcoming meetings and that you
21 will get copies of the Draft and Final Supplemental
22 EIS.

23 And with that I would like to thank
24 everyone for coming out tonight. And I will turn the
25 meeting back over to Mr. Cameron.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Tamsen.
2 Thank you, Richard.

3 We have some time for questions about the
4 process. Make sure that we've given you clear
5 information on this before we go to comments.

6 Questions on process?

7 Yes, sir.

8 Let me get you -- we need to have you on
9 the mic so that we can get it on the transcript. If
10 you could just introduce yourself?

11 MR. PULLEN: My name is Tom Pullen from
12 Hinds County, Mississippi. My question has to do with
13 the safety review and the certification of the reactor
14 design. Neither of those processes are going to be
15 completed for a couple of years. And I would like to
16 know how it is possible to prepare an EIS Supplement
17 until both of those processes have been completed
18 because it seems to me like that is going to affect
19 the analysis of the environmental impact.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Who's going to
21 address that in terms of we have a design that's not
22 yet certified and how can an Environmental Impact
23 Statement be prepared on a design that's not been
24 certified is one aspect of the question.

25 MR. EMCH: My name is Rich Emch. I'm

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1 Senior Health Physicist for the Nuclear Regulatory
2 Commission. I understand your question. We have the
3 documents that tell us what the design, what the
4 description of the design is that's being reviewed on
5 the safety side. And we're using that description as
6 our information for the environmental review.

7 Now clearly if something changes, if
8 there's additional changes in the design or something
9 like that, it could affect our review. But basically
10 with the belief that in the end this design will go
11 through the completion of the review process, we know
12 what the description is right now and that's what
13 we're using for the Environmental Impact Statement.

14 MR. CAMERON: Tom, does that answer your
15 question, or do you want to follow up on that at all?

16 MR. PULLEN: It simply seems to me that
17 there is a flaw in your process. Until you have done
18 the safety review and until you have decided what the
19 reactor design is going to be, I fail to see how you
20 can do an adequate job of adequately evaluating the
21 environmental impact.

22 MR. CAMERON: And I guess that -- well,
23 Eric, go ahead.

24 MR. OESTERLE: I understand the question,
25 I think -- and that's a good one. The original intent

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1 for the process that we're licensing these new plants
2 under did not envision this parallel type review. But
3 we have worked out a process within the Agency and we
4 called it Design Center Review Approach.

5 What we do is as Entergy has referenced
6 the General Electric ESBWR design, the staff is
7 reviewing that design. And that review of a design
8 and certification of that design must be complete in
9 order to demonstrate that that design meets all the
10 NRC's Regulations before we can issue a license to the
11 applicant.

12 MR. CAMERON: And that design is available
13 for people to look at and, as Eric said, the staff
14 knows what site impacts to look for. But because the
15 design has not yet been certified, the license
16 applicant is somewhat at risk because there is no
17 guarantee that the design as referenced is going to be
18 the final design that is approved.

19 And let's go to Paul. And then we'll come
20 back to you.

21 Paul.

22 MR. GUNTER: Thank you, Chip. My name is
23 Paul Gunter. I'm with Beyond Nuclear. It's a Nuclear
24 Policy Research Institute in Tacoma Park, Maryland.
25 And I think we all know that the devil is in the

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1 details. And what is of most concern is that the
2 opportunity for the public to review, challenge and
3 intervene not only on the safety issues but also on
4 the environmental impacts, that opportunity comes and
5 goes before we even get a chance to know what the
6 design is and what the environmental impact -- your
7 final -- actually even your Draft Environmental Impact
8 Statement comes after our opportunity to file a
9 challenge. So I think that the concern remains that
10 this whole process is front loaded to exclude a
11 meaningful public challenge.

12 And I would just -- I don't know if this
13 part is being transcribed. But I'm going to comment
14 on the -- so this piece is being transcribed. That it
15 is to the benefit of all concerns that the public be
16 included in a meaningful process that enhances safety,
17 that bolsters environmental protections, rather than
18 have them excluded.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, thank you,
20 Paul. And I think there's some of the questions
21 inherent --

22 MR. GUNTER: Could I just ask a follow-up
23 real quick?

24 MR. CAMERON: Sure.

25 MR. GUNTER: Could you just state how long

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1 it's going to take to complete the design
2 certification for the ESBWR?

3 MR. OESTERLE: Sure, I can give you some
4 more information about that. The design certification
5 for the ESBWR was submitted to the NRC back in August
6 of 2005. And we accepted it for Review in December of
7 2005. And we've been reviewing it since that time.
8 We're currently at Revision 5 of that design.

9 And we had a schedule to complete the
10 review, which I think took us out to close to the end
11 of 2009, maybe beyond into 2010. But now that we've
12 got Revision 5 in-house -- and this just occurred last
13 month -- we have to reevaluate that review schedule.
14 So there is no schedule that has been issued at this
15 time based on the current revision of that design
16 control document.

17 MR. CAMERON: But it would at least in
18 terms of giving some pointers on this, it would --
19 since it's a new revision, it would at least be out
20 beyond 2010?

21 MR. OESTERLE: It could extend to the end
22 of 2010. I'm not 100 percent sure. We have staff
23 back at Headquarters that are looking at that in
24 detail. And I can't predict what that schedule will
25 be at this time because we just got it in a few weeks

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1 ago. So we're still assessing the impact on the
2 review schedule of those changes to the design.

3 But let me make a comment about this
4 review process. It's certainly not without its
5 challenges. But the review process for certification
6 of designs also includes public participation. The
7 meetings that we have with the reactor vendor are
8 public meetings and they occur frequently.

9 After we review that design and prepare
10 our Final Safety Evaluation Report, it goes into a
11 rule-making process. And that is also a public
12 process in which the public can provide comments on.
13 Either prior to that the staff Review of that design
14 gets an independent review by the Advisory Committee
15 on Reactor Safeguards, which is an independent body
16 that reports to the Commission.

17 All of the staff meetings with that
18 Advisory Committee are also public meetings. So there
19 are numerous opportunities for public participation in
20 the review process.

21 MR. CAMERON: And how does the -- could
22 just you tell us a little bit about how the design is
23 certified and how the public participates ultimately
24 in that process? I don't know if you mentioned the
25 rule-making business.

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1 MR. OESTERLE: Yes, after we finalize our
2 Safety Evaluation Report, that gets issued along with
3 a Notice of Rule-Making. And along with that Notice
4 of Rule-Making, there is an opportunity for public
5 participation in the form of being able to review the
6 Final Safety Evaluation Report and to provide public
7 comments on the rule.

8 MR. CAMERON: And those public comments
9 will be evaluated before the design is certified?

10 MR. OESTERLE: Yeah, actually what gets
11 issued is a Draft Rule-Making. And the public has the
12 ability and opportunity to comment on that Draft Rule-
13 Making. And the staff looks at those comments and
14 incorporates those as necessary to make a final rule.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Eric.

16 Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. PULLEN: My name is Ruth Pullen. And
18 I live in the Byram area, which could be affected by
19 an accident at the plant. I'm a little confused and
20 concerned about the time frame of all this.

21 Are you saying -- you're saying that the
22 design review may not be completed until 2010.

23 And I just want to make sure that the
24 Environmental Impact Statement then will not be
25 completed until the design review is completed; is

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1 that correct?

2 MRS. DOZIER: The Final Environmental
3 Impact Statement will come out about May of 2010. But
4 it's actually a year after that -- correct, Eric --
5 that the DCD is going to be -- is scheduled -- the
6 review is scheduled to end?

7 MR. OESTERLE: That was before the --

8 MRS. DOZIER: That was before the -- now
9 what happens is, though, all the information right now
10 on the design is available right now. I mean people
11 can take a look at that. The staff has not completed
12 their review. But all the information on the ESBWR
13 design -- of course there are the possibilities of
14 revisions. But basically the design is there now for
15 people to comment on. And certainly we would accept
16 comments on that tonight.

17 MS. PULLEN: Okay, the way I understand it
18 is the ESP has been for 20 years. The COL is good for
19 40 years; is that right? Okay.

20 Then, say, Entergy decides in 20 years
21 that it wants to build this plant. Does there have to
22 be another environmental review?

23 Because the Environmental Protection
24 Agency recommends that an EIS be updated every five
25 years. And we're talking basically about giving them

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1 a license to build this plant 40 years down the road.

2
3 MR. KUGLER: My name is Andy Kugler. I'll
4 try and answer that question. Although the license is
5 for 40 years, that's the license to build and to
6 operate. So if they waited 20 years to build the
7 plant, first of all that would only leave them 20
8 years to operate under that license. The expectation
9 will be that if somebody applies for a Combined
10 Licence and receives that license, that they will
11 probably build in the near term.

12 But let's say they didn't do that. Let's
13 say they did wait. The example I'll use is a plant
14 in, I believe, Tennessee -- Watts Barr, Unit 1. They
15 started construction, I think, in the very early '80s
16 ceased construction at some point because of rising
17 costs. But in the late '80s or early '90s, they
18 decided they wanted to finish the plant and put it
19 online.

20 At that point what the staff -- and the
21 staff had done an environmental review for the initial
22 licensing. What we did was we went back and reviewed
23 that Environmental Impact Statement, updated it, and
24 we issued a Supplement to that Environmental Impact
25 Statement because of the period of time that had

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1 passed.

2 So if somebody waited 20 years, yes, my
3 expectation would be that we would do a further
4 environmental review to refresh the information in the
5 Environmental Impact Statement. Some things may have
6 changed. Some things may have not changed. We would
7 look at that at that point.

8 MS. PULLEN: Is that required? Or is that
9 at your --

10 MR. KUGLER: I don't think there's
11 anything actually written in the laws or regulations
12 that says you have to. As you indicated, the
13 Environmental Protection Agency generally considers an
14 Environmental Impact Statement that's more than three
15 or so years old to at least require a look to see if
16 it needs to be updated. So I don't think there's
17 anything legally binding. But it would be what I
18 would expect us to do.

19 MS. PULLEN: Well, I don't know if I'm
20 asking a separate question. And if I'm taking too
21 much time, if I am, tell me. But I wanted to ask. I
22 read the entire Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

23 I did not read the entire Environmental Impact
24 Statement. But I do know in the draft it says
25 repeatedly that the staff was unable to make

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1 determinations because the plant design had not been
2 selected. And I just want to read now. "Additional
3 site exploration, laboratory testing, geotechnical
4 analyses, whether the aquifer would be able to sustain
5 additional groundwater being used." The list goes on
6 and on.

7 Plus there was 16 pages of assumptions
8 submitted by Entergy in the report that NRC used to
9 make some of its determinations on the ESP. And I
10 just wondered if all those had to be addressed before
11 this EIS can be granted.

12 MR. CAMERON: And that's a good question,
13 Ruth. And it goes to the heart, I think, of the
14 relationship between the ESP and what's going to
15 happen now.

16 And I think, Andy, do you know what Ruth's
17 --

18 MR. KUGLER: Right. I understand the
19 question. That is a very good question. It's
20 basically the relationship between an Early Site
21 Permit and Combined Licensing.

22 At the end of the review for the Early
23 Site Permit, when we issued our Environmental Impact
24 Statement, there were a number of issues that we
25 resolved. There were a number of issues that we

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1 didn't resolve. And we really have to kind of treat
2 those two types of issues differently in the Review
3 that we're performing now.

4 Let me first talk about issues that we did
5 not resolve. So the things you were talking about
6 where we said, "Hey, we don't have enough information
7 at this point to deal with the issue." Those issues
8 we now have to review and resolve. It's basically as
9 if the early site permit had not happened because we
10 did not resolve the issue at that time. So those
11 issues are going to be reviewed just like we would for
12 any application -- an application that didn't have an
13 early site permit. So that's what happens for those
14 issues. That's fairly straightforward.

15 For issues that we did resolve, the
16 applicant is required to have gone through a process
17 to look for information that is new and significant in
18 relation to that issue. In other words, has something
19 changed significantly in such a way that it could have
20 affected the outcome of our review of that issue? And
21 they perform that review.

22 Then we go in behind them. We take a look
23 at what they did. We also do independent work to
24 reach a conclusion on our part as to whether there's
25 new and significant information on an issue. If we

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1 determine that there is no new and significant
2 information, then the issue remains resolved. What we
3 concluded at the early site permit, we basically
4 determine that's still a good conclusion.

5 If we find that there is information
6 that's both new and significant, then we're going to
7 review that new information and determine what effect,
8 if any, it has on the outcome. It may in the end not
9 change our conclusion, but we won't know that until we
10 finish our review. So that's how we handle the issues
11 that were resolved previously.

12 MR. CAMERON: And inherent in Paul's
13 question or comment on the fact that everything is
14 front loaded. When we come out with conclusions on
15 new and significant or on the issues that have not
16 been resolved, that's later on in the process after
17 the initial hearing, contentions are required.

18 But do people still have the ability to
19 submit contentions on those issues?

20 MR. OESTERLE: Well, there are provisions
21 in the Regulations to file contentions at a later date
22 if there is new information that was not available at
23 the time of the original opportunity to intervene.
24 And I don't know if we want to talk to our attorney
25 who is here about that. But there is a method to do

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1 that. If people want more detail on it, Ms. Holmes
2 would probably be the right person for that.

3 MR. CAMERON: Do you want to add anything
4 now? Or do you want to have people to talk to you
5 later?

6 MS. HOLMES: Talk to me later.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. All right. Is there
8 another question before we go to comments?

9 Okay, let's go over here. Yes.

10 MS. HILLEGAS: I'm Jan Hillegas from
11 Jackson. I'm just wondering if someone could give us
12 a quick overview of what -- for one thing how many
13 people are involved more or less full time in an
14 environmental review? And just day-by-day an
15 overview of what they do for three to five years?

16 MR. CAMERON: I think we can answer the
17 first question. I mean I note that I couldn't answer
18 the question for myself.

19 But can you talk a little bit about the
20 number of resources that go into the environmental
21 review? Because I think that's a legitimate piece of
22 information.

23 MRS. DOZIER: Okay. Well, we have several
24 -- I'm going to start down a list I guess and I'll ask
25 Staff to help me. But we have hydrologists. So as

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1 I've explained before, we have people from the Pacific
2 Northwest National Laboratory. And we have a full
3 time hydrologist who is designated to work on the
4 Grand Gulf Project.

5 We have health people, two or three of
6 those. I'm sorry, just one of those.

7 Let's see. I know a quick way to answer
8 this. We just had our Site Audit. And we brought our
9 team down. And we brought a team of 28 people.
10 That's a lot faster than sitting here mentally trying
11 to go through the disciplines. So 28 people were
12 involved in our Site Audit this week.

13 So does that answer your question about
14 the number of people?

15 MR. CAMERON: I think it maybe the
16 question was also not how many people were involved
17 but, for example, are they working pretty -- are they
18 working in a concerted pace over then next --

19 MRS. DOZIER: What happens is it does ebb
20 and flow. For right now for about the next couple of
21 months, we're going to be pretty busy. Then we sort
22 of -- we're gathering scoping comments as you guys
23 will be providing comments to us. Our staff will be
24 reading those comments, taking a look at that. We're
25 also out talking to state agencies. We'll be looking

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1 at the documents analyzing all those things that we
2 looked at.

3 We'll be doing some more looking at what
4 Andy was talking about the new and significant
5 information, making phone calls, looking at maps, all
6 those different things for a pretty intense period for
7 the next couple of weeks.

8 Then we sort of take a little bit of a
9 break while we wait for other staff then to kind of
10 gather up the scoping comments. We put out a report.

11 And we start back again doing what we call
12 a writing session. And so that's -- we'll be writing
13 the document, checking over, making sure other people
14 agreed with -- making sure we didn't miss anything.

15 So it's kind of an ebb and flow kind of
16 thing. Other people will be reviewing the document.
17 So it's off and on.

18 MR. CAMERON: And, Andy, we do have this
19 information available because we need to budget.

20 MR. KUGLER: Right. I was going to say
21 it's difficult to answer that question because there's
22 an ebb and flow in the review process. At times an
23 individual may not be very busy. And at other times
24 they are extremely busy. Maybe the best way I can
25 answer is we talked about there's a fairly large

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1 number of people.

2 But in terms of the effort involved over
3 the course of the Environmental Review, we expect to
4 expend between 15,000 and 20,000 Staff hours on the
5 reviews. So try and put that in context. That's a
6 person working full time for 15 to 20 years in that
7 range. I'm sorry, about 10 to 13 years. So it's an
8 enormous amount of effort that is put into this review
9 to try and -- we're covering a lot of disciplines, a
10 lot of areas of review. So it is a very detailed and
11 in-depth review.

12 MR. CAMERON: Renee, did you want to one
13 thing?

14 MS. HOLMES: In addition to all the
15 reviews they're doing, they have to -- a lot of the
16 things that they do come through the Legal Department.
17 And some of them will probably tell you we may take
18 longer than they would prefer to do it.

19 But seriously sometimes they find out that
20 they need more information from either the applicant
21 or from other sources. They ask questions, technical
22 questions, a lot of them have to go through the Legal
23 Department. There are time frames built in.

24 And we have -- in the Legal Department I
25 can honestly say we are changing, not changing

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1 priorities but regulatory deadlines or statutory ones.

2 And at the same time we might be responding to
3 motions to intervene in our licensing process. So
4 there's a lot of other ones in addition to all the
5 technical staff that do a great job. They also have
6 to also interact and to participate in the process.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Rob -- Renee,
8 also for reminding the Staff of how painful the Office
9 of General Counsel Review can be.

10 We're going to go to -- we're going to go
11 out to all of you for comments now. And we're going
12 to start with Dr. George Ross, who is the President of
13 Alcorn University; is that correct?

14 DR. ROSS: Alcorn.

15 MR. CAMERON: I'm never going to forget
16 that now, believe me, Alcorn.

17 Yes, please.

18 DR. ROSS: Thank you. Good evening. I am
19 the President of Alcorn State University. I'm also a
20 resident of Claiborne County, Mississippi. And I'm
21 here this evening to speak as the President and remind
22 all of you I live and work in Claiborne County.

23 Alcorn State University was created by an
24 act of the Mississippi State Legislature on May the
25 13th, 1871. The institution was created and I quote,

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1 "As a seminary of learning;" and was originally named
2 Alcorn University of Mississippi in honor of Governor
3 James Alcorn, who was then the Governor of the State
4 of Mississippi.

5 Alcorn State University is the oldest land
6 grant university in the State of Mississippi. Let me
7 repeat that. Alcorn State University is the oldest
8 land grant university in the State of Mississippi and
9 the oldest historically black land grant institution
10 in the United States. It was established in 1871 with
11 funds provided through the first real Land Grant Act
12 of 1862.

13 The University is committed to the posture
14 and practice of equal opportunity, access to all
15 qualified students, excellence in all programs and
16 services, and to the success of its students. It
17 strives to maintain a community of learners.

18 The institution perceives itself as an
19 academically strong institution that is community
20 centered and that conducts basic and applied research
21 in public service to meet the needs of the students
22 and other clients, especially the residents of
23 Southwest Mississippi.

24 Alcorn State University is proud of its
25 tradition as the preeminent four-year institution of

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1 higher learning in Southwest Mississippi, providing
2 access to higher educational opportunities to the
3 residents of Mississippi, Northeast Louisiana, the
4 nation, and the global community.

5 Alcorn is also pleased to be in Entergy's
6 service area and to a collaborative partner and
7 neighbor of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant.

8 Contrary to the comments written in the
9 June 12, 2000 issue of the Port Gibson Reveille, we at
10 Alcorn State University of necessity see ourselves as
11 a fit into the Grand Gulf situation. Our commitment
12 is to have our mutual staff involved and engaged in
13 education, training, research, and economic ventures
14 that will support the nuclear industry and the
15 University's mission.

16 It is our sincere hope that the statement
17 attributed to Mr. James Randy Douet, Vice President of
18 Operations, suggesting and I quote, "There was no
19 mandate including Alcorn State University," is
20 incorrect and/or taken out of context. We've had a
21 strong collaborative and mutually beneficial
22 relationship with Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant
23 through the placement of faculty and students in
24 internships and joint research initiatives.

25 With the growth potential of the nuclear

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1 industry and the likelihood of building a new high
2 temperature gas-coal reactor adjacent to the existing
3 Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant, it is imperative that
4 Alcorn State University strengthens its partnership
5 with Entergy Nuclear by assisting in the recruitment
6 and training of the human capital and serving as a
7 pipeline for trained technical subject area experts to
8 contribute to the production, research, and
9 development of the next generation of nuclear power.

10 There are about 104 commercial nuclear
11 power generating units in operation in the United
12 States, contributing 20 percent of the total
13 electricity produced. The nuclear industry has
14 demonstrated a record of reliability and safety.
15 There has not been one death that has been attributed
16 to a commercial nuclear generator. Therefore, the
17 State of Mississippi and Claiborne County are glad to
18 host nuclear generating stations.

19 When Grand Gulf Nuclear Station was first
20 proposed for Claiborne County, the community was
21 promised a great deal of prosperity and economic
22 development. After over 25 years of operation and
23 being in the community, the nuclear station remains a
24 high tech oasis within a social economically
25 disadvantaged community with a limited number of

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1 tangible benefits accruing to this community.

2 Entergy is capable of making its presence
3 even more pronounced than it has been so far in the
4 surrounding communities. Geographically Alcorn State
5 University is located 12 miles southwest of the Grand
6 Gulf nuclear site. Given the national sense of
7 urgency and emergency preparedness following 9/11,
8 having one of the largest nuclear power facilities as
9 a neighbor demands that we are not only -- that we not
10 only consider safeguarding our community from the
11 remote potential of an accidental nuclear-related
12 event, but also threats of terrorist attacks which is
13 a Homeland Security issue.

14 In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina
15 demonstrated devastating impact of a natural disaster
16 in Gulf Coast communities. Thus we feel a
17 responsibility at Alcorn to have in place the
18 appropriate facilities, trained personnel, mass
19 notification systems to secure and protect our on and
20 off campus constituencies if an emergency occurs.

21 While we at Alcorn and the community at
22 large realize and appreciate the good neighbor
23 relationship we have with Entergy Nuclear, we are not
24 without concerns as to the long-term economic,
25 educational, and health benefits and risks of this

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1 proposed facility. However, it is our position as the
2 regional public university located in Southwest
3 Mississippi to be engaged in the research and
4 development, planning and implementation of a
5 culturally sensitive and community focused solution to
6 actual and perceived problems.

7 Thus we at Alcorn propose that Alcorn
8 State University will seek assistance from Entergy
9 Nuclear to build an infrastructure to expand its
10 educational training opportunities and strengthen its
11 services and outreach capacities to the Claiborne
12 County community.

13 To accomplish these goals, the University
14 will need financial resources in the following areas:
15 in developing initiative and initiating degree
16 programs in nuclear engineering technology, radiation
17 science and technology, and masters and bachelors
18 degrees in emergency management; establishment and
19 management of a Grand Gulf Nuclear Site 3, near site
20 nuclear research center; creation of endowment for
21 fellowship and professorships for research in
22 chemistry and physics; and the development of a
23 workforce training facility at the ASU campus.

24 We seek assistance from Entergy to build
25 and manage a local Emergency Preparedness and Homeland

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1 Security Center in which we would house an emergency
2 shelter in place, state of the art emergency
3 management training, mass notification systems, and
4 transportation systems in case of an emergency;
5 assistance in creating a Regional Economic Development
6 Partnership; and finally to perform an in-depth
7 database study for the factors that affect socio-
8 economic and housing decision of residents in
9 relocating and living in communities surrounding the
10 Grand Gulf.

11 The anticipated cost of implementing these
12 goals and associated strategies will be approximately
13 \$200 million over a three-year period. This figure
14 represents a request of funding to meet the
15 educational, research, emergency preparedness,
16 community and economic development needs of the
17 University and the Southwest Mississippi region.
18 Funding to the University will be leveraged with
19 additional state dollars, federal dollars, and private
20 sources for a greater impact and sustained development
21 in our region.

22 I thank you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Dr.
24 Ross.

25 We're going to go to Mitch Monsour.

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1 Mitch.

2 MR. MONSOUR: Good evening. My name is
3 Mitch Monsour. I'm the Hospital Administrator in
4 Claiborne County Hospital. I have a Master's degree
5 in Hospital Administration from George Washington
6 University. I've been a Hospital Administrator for 35
7 years. And the past two years I've been the
8 Administrator here and have become acclimated to many
9 things here in Claiborne County.

10 I'd like to start off with I want to say
11 I'm very bullish on nuclear energy. So I'm just going
12 to talk about healthcare. And the words of Dr. Ross,
13 here, I'm not nearly as prepared as the beautiful
14 statements he was able to make tonight.

15 But first and foremost, I'd say that
16 nuclear energy in this Grand Gulf is, should be and
17 can be a very positive community partner here in
18 Claiborne County. It's here for economic development.

19 But for my perspective here, it's for the healthcare
20 needs of the people here in Claiborne County.

21 If you do an environmental impact study,
22 we have to be very aware of the Claiborne
23 demographics. I believe that there's one basic fact
24 that Claiborne County has a larger percentage of
25 minorities or African Americans than any other county

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1 in the United States. And with that goes some of the
2 highest instances and prevalence of chronic disease,
3 be that heart disease, stroke, cancer, arthritis, and
4 diabetes. It has one of the highest obesity rates
5 here in the United States of any county in the United
6 States. And with that comes other problems with our
7 youth, with our prenatal problems and indicators.

8 And all of these things tie in to our
9 income here. It really hasn't benefitted from --
10 average income really hasn't benefitted from Grand
11 Gulf over the last 25 years. Unemployment rates are
12 probably 40 percent higher than the rest of the State
13 of Mississippi. Keep in mind that the average income
14 is probably only about 65 to 70 percent of the average
15 of Mississippi which is way down of course near the
16 bottom of the United States. So again healthcare is a
17 very, very important aspect about this.

18 And when you start talking about 2010 for
19 the approval on something like this and the time of
20 construction, I'm making a very valid argument that
21 again you need to start planning for this
22 infrastructure today. What's going on here today in
23 the environment is a prelude for what's going on in
24 the future.

25 Generally you can say for this little --

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1 small little hospital that's 50 years old, totally
2 antiquated, out of date. But again its role and
3 mission is it's not like a tertiary care facility.
4 This hospital is here for primary care for the people,
5 for preventative care for the residents of Claiborne
6 County, emergency care, disasters like what you all
7 might be touching on tonight. And at the end of the
8 day that creates jobs. Patient care creates jobs, and
9 good-paying jobs. And that again is related to the
10 healthcare program at Alcorn State University.

11 We want to have an environment and a
12 location that when the children of Alcorn graduate in
13 healthcare specialties that they have a job to come
14 back to in Claiborne County. And this is not low-
15 paying jobs. This is \$20, \$25 on average jobs with
16 nurses and skilled health staff.

17 So again I propose environmentally that
18 there be a very, very strong partnership between
19 Entergy, Alcorn State University, Claiborne County,
20 and the Claiborne County Hospital. They all are very,
21 very synonymous to the needs of the community.

22 As we go in these things and again what's
23 the little hospital role? The hospital's role is
24 again going to the emergency site that is some kind of
25 disaster preparedness as well as true healthcare

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1 partner to the needs of Claiborne County.

2 So again let's be -- if you're thinking
3 about a two-year approval or the construction starts
4 with all these hundreds of thousands of people that
5 might come down here, this preplanning needs to start
6 today because the infrastructure in healthcare that we
7 have today in Claiborne County is totally inadequate.

8 It's inadequate. And so if you start planning and do
9 what can be done in this little hospital today, the
10 preplanning that would be infrastructure again in that
11 partnership that I described needs to occur today so
12 that by the time that you have construction started
13 for these people again the basics are in place.

14 And I promise you when you see that you're
15 going to see that environmental impact so far as the
16 community impact and the jobs and the preparedness and
17 true emergency preparedness for the disasters that you
18 all might start talking about insofar as your overall
19 impact study and preparedness.

20 So I'm here to advocate the valiant role
21 that healthcare plays along with education. And again
22 the time to start planning and openly discussing that
23 and making it happen is today.

24 Thank you very much.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Monsour.

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1 We're next going to go to A.C. Garner,
2 then to Evan Doss, Jr. and then to Paul Gunter.

3 A.C.?

4 MR. GARNER: Yes. Good evening. I spoke
5 earlier today in the first session. I wasn't planning
6 on speaking twice. But I do see some new faces that's
7 here. And I think that this is an opportunity for
8 people who make residence in Claiborne County to start
9 speaking out. We do understand that at some point in
10 time in our recent history it was a thing where that
11 speaking out didn't come very often.

12 Anyway, to introduce myself, I'm A.C.
13 Garner, retired citizen in Claiborne County. I'm a
14 life-long resident of this county. I'm also a
15 property owner. And just by incident, I do own
16 property about one mile from Grand Gulf Nuclear
17 Station.

18 I have been here, as I stated, most of my
19 life. I don't plan to leave now. I have children
20 here and grandchildren. And I'm not going to advise
21 them to leave.

22 I may just also state that I am a graduate
23 of Alcorn State University and proud of that
24 institution.

25 I have been proud of Grand Gulf Nuclear

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1 Station and Unit 1. But a few years ago, I started
2 gaining mixed feelings about this. At one time
3 Claiborne County seemed to be on a progressive path,
4 but there was something that took place. Mississippi
5 Power and Light Company and the State of Mississippi
6 decided to split up the tax monies that were
7 rightfully Claiborne County's and sent them to 45
8 other counties in the State of Mississippi.

9 I must also say that I was Director of
10 Emergency Management here around Grand Gulf Nuclear
11 Station for 15 years and was the Director at the time
12 that the Plant went online. At that time preparedness
13 was firsthand. There were things that could be done
14 whereas that the community could feel safe.

15 Right now it's a question mark. And one of the
16 reasons why it is a question mark is when you see
17 departments and agencies in this county who have the
18 responsibility of first response does not have the
19 funds to pay their employees and to get the necessary
20 equipment and what-have-you to operate successful in
21 this county.

22 To give you an example, at this particular
23 time Claiborne County does not have an adequate
24 Emergency Operations Center. They operate out of a
25 fabricated building that is too small for the

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1 department and agencies to come together.

2 I think that someone -- and I think it
3 could start with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
4 It could also go to FEMA, Federal Emergency Management
5 Agency, because they're charged with the
6 responsibility of looking at departments and agencies
7 in states and counties and municipalities that is
8 around a nuclear station. I don't think that this has
9 taken place. Someone has dropped the ball along the
10 way.

11 I can also talk about departments here
12 that don't have the personnel that they need to have
13 for responding to emergencies. Take, for example, the
14 Fire Department at one time had five fire stations
15 that operated 24 hours per day. Now they only have
16 one. If it was needed back in the late '80s after the
17 plant came on line, it's also needed today.

18 In my studies and what-have-you, I have
19 been told that an incident or an accident would
20 probably happen after the plant became older rather
21 than new. And that's understandable because I'm sure
22 that each of you have seen things that were new and
23 grow older. I am very concerned about what takes
24 place here in Claiborne County around Grand Gulf
25 Nuclear Station.

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1 So at this time what I would like to do is
2 call upon the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Federal
3 Emergency Management, Mississippi Emergency
4 Management, the State of Mississippi, and by all means
5 the Mississippi Legislature to start doing something
6 to return the tax money to Claiborne County and at the
7 same time make sure that the citizens here in
8 Claiborne County have the protection they need.

9 Thank you.

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

11 We're going to go to Mr. Doss at this
12 point.

13 MR. DOSS: Thank you very much. Good
14 evening to all. My name is Evan Doss, Jr., and I'm a
15 lifelong resident of Claiborne County, Mississippi.
16 And I just want to take about my three to five minutes
17 to just challenge a couple of things that within the
18 final report of the Environmental Impact Statement.
19 It's shocking, it's disturbing to us as residents of
20 Claiborne County. If this is environmental justice
21 then I would hate to think what environmental
22 injustice would be like for us as residents here in
23 Claiborne County.

24 I just want to read a couple of quotes
25 here, and I want to only stress about three areas of

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1 concern here that's going to affect. By building the
2 Nuclear Power Plant Unit 3, it's going to have a
3 drastic effect upon low income people here within
4 Claiborne County.

5 And this is within the Impact Statement
6 the NRC based upon in giving an Early Site Permit. It
7 says that socio-economic impacts could range from lost
8 benefits to moderate, adverse because local tax burden
9 as assessed to public service of Claiborne County
10 could either greatly improve or significantly
11 deteriorate depending on the level of public service
12 obligations imposed by new residents at a level of tax
13 revenues provided by the new unit.

14 I'm going to go to one with education. It
15 says that the impact could be considerable in Port
16 Gibson, which could experience an increase of 460
17 children, 230 households times two per household in a
18 district that has only 2,011 total.

19 I want to go to the housing situation.
20 All of this is effective -- has a drastic effect on
21 local low income people. It says that construction
22 workers would need 230 local housing units here. And
23 then it says here that after the number of housing
24 units required to support the expected permanent
25 workforce migrating into the area would be 508, half

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1 of the 1,160 new employees that will be working in the
2 new nuclear power plant.

3 I want to read what it says about the
4 hospital. In an emergency the Claiborne County
5 Hospital has the space, equipment, and staff to help
6 about three to four casualties at a time. It has one
7 Decontamination Room 14 years old that is not located
8 with the Emergency Room. Claiborne County officials -
9 - and I guess they're talking about the Board of
10 Supervisors -- are concerned this is not sufficient
11 should there be an emergency at the Grand Gulf ESP
12 facility.

13 We intend to file whatever petition that
14 it would take in order to correct this environmental
15 injustice that's going to tremendous affect low income
16 people. If you talk about the crisis of the housing
17 that we already have here and bring in a third nuclear
18 -- bring in Grand Gulf 3 to this community, it's going
19 to have a drastic impact on those individual residents
20 that are already living here.

21 The other thing is that we begin to see in
22 the social services area here individuals who are
23 migrating here who don't have houses, who don't have
24 food, but anticipate on getting jobs in this area here
25 who are now filling up our shelters here within the

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1 community that we no longer have the room or the
2 capacity to take care of some of the local individuals
3 that we have.

4 These things are going to cost a
5 tremendous amount of money if, in fact, Grand Gulf 3
6 gets built here in this community. That's going to
7 have a drastic effect on -- and therefore, a condition
8 needs to be put on Grand Gulf 3 is that if the local
9 community don't have the money, somebody has got to
10 pay for these kinds of things.

11 And one of the things that we challenge
12 the NRC to add is that this needs to be resolved in
13 terms of the education system, in the case of the
14 housing system, and the hospital system, and for
15 social service programs here that's drastically that's
16 going to effect low income people.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, thank you, Mr.
18 Doss.

19 And we're next going to go to Paul Gunter
20 from Beyond Nuclear.

21 MR. GUNTER: Thank you. My name is Paul
22 Gunter. I'm with Beyond Nuclear at the Nuclear Policy
23 Research Institute just outside of Washington, D.C. I
24 was involved in the Early Site Permit and the Employee
25 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

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1 And clearly one of the issues that's not
2 resolved is the issue of how the current tax structure
3 impacts versus the plan. And so the -- and I think
4 it's clear that if you take a tour of the
5 infrastructure here in Claiborne County, if you go out
6 to the hospital, if you observe the closed fire
7 stations, if you contemplate what it's like to have
8 one police officer on duty at night for an area the
9 size of Washington, D.C., you begin to understand that
10 this application is deficient in that the -- a new
11 reactor adds a burden to this community that if not
12 picked up will just be unresolved. And so I think
13 it's that kind of burden that not only addresses the
14 concerns of the safety and the public health of this
15 community, but is very clearly also a security issue.

16 The Environmental Impact Statement in that
17 context what we feel necessary is that the -- you
18 know, I think it's inappropriate to proceed with this
19 EIS without a certified design. And I'm going to give
20 one specific example in how proceeding in such a way
21 puts this community and national security at real
22 risk.

23 Right now if you go look at Argonne
24 National Labs, they did a study which shows that Grand
25 Gulf Unit 1 was never designed or constructed to take

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1 an aircraft impact. So there's a concern with regard
2 to the viability and the security of that Plant.

3 Now you're going to talk about adding
4 another unit, this unit as we understand it is a
5 result of a rule-making that was initiated in December
6 -- I guess closed in December of 2007. They are
7 supposed to go through and the Agency is now
8 developing an aircraft impact hazards analysis. So
9 they're going to look at what are the criteria that
10 should go into helping make these reactors more
11 aircraft penetration resistant.

12 But we're now talking about proceeding
13 with an Environmental Impact Statement without a
14 certified design and in the absence of any conclusions
15 as to what that criteria is. So I think that places
16 this community, as it does communities around the
17 country, at a real disadvantage in terms of why this
18 is on such a fast track, why the public is left in the
19 lurch without addressing these very fundamental safety
20 and security issues. And it will only work against us
21 in terms of what real security, what real safety
22 should be.

23 And so at minimum the Environmental Impact
24 Statement should look at a couple of things. First of
25 all, that we think that you should include the impact

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1 of an aircraft or a security event at Grand Gulf 1 and
2 how it relates to the safe operations of this new
3 unit. So you know because they're co-located, because
4 they're in the same spot, and because Grand Gulf Unit
5 1 was never designed or constructed, according to
6 Argonne National Laboratory, to take an aircraft
7 impact, you need to look at that in that context.

8 And more importantly we would agree with
9 all the speakers that have addressed the environmental
10 justice issue up here today that you need to address
11 how this community is disadvantaged by a
12 discriminatory tax code that undermines the
13 infrastructure for the Emergency Plan for Grand Gulf
14 Unit 1 as well as this proposed Grand Gulf 3.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Gunter.

17 Our next speaker is Clarence Scutter. And
18 after Mr. Scutter we're going to see whether Avery
19 Rollins and Jackie Rollins want to speak.

20 And this is Mr. Scutter.

21 MR. SCUTTER: Good evening. My name, as
22 you say, is Clarence Scutter. I'm with the Citizens
23 for Better Government Consulting Group. Job creation
24 and health care are major priorities here in Claiborne
25 County. Our unemployment rate here is 12.8 percent.

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1 Poverty leads to crime, drugs, alcohol, violence, and
2 mental health problems, among other things.

3 Our unemployment rate is twice that of the
4 national level. Health studies show over 20 years we
5 have major increases in cancer, heart diseases,
6 strokes, diabetes, and obesity. We must have a new
7 hospital with modern technology to provide the
8 services to the citizens of this community. Our
9 hospital is over 50 years old.

10 We are one of the poorest counties in the
11 State of Mississippi. We ask Entergy's help in
12 locating two industries that can provide jobs in this
13 area.

14 Our senior citizens and children are
15 suffering for the necessities to survive day-to-day.
16 We are also providing for the record some
17 recommendations and letters from Entergy to enhance
18 this community.

19 Thank you sincerely, Clarence Scutter,
20 A.C. Garner, Joseph Davis, Sr., J.B. Davis, and Ellis
21 Neal, Sr.

22 Some of the recommendations that we're
23 talking about are continue to support and upgrade our
24 public education system; continue to upgrade the
25 Sheriff's Department; continue to upgrade the county

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1 Fire Department; utilization of Alcorn State
2 University, Hinds Community College, and local schools
3 for workforce training programs and technical
4 assistance; develop a comprehensive plan to address
5 the needs of our senior citizens; develop a
6 comprehensive recreational program; upgrade the
7 infrastructure of water, sewage and roads; adequate
8 housing program; establish drug and alcohol and mental
9 health program.

10 And finally I'd like to leave you with a
11 letter I received from Carolyn Shanks, President and
12 Chief Executive Officer of Entergy Mississippi, Inc.
13 I'm just going to read a paragraph of this letter.
14 "Dear C.E. Scutter, It's deeply concerning to know
15 that in the State of Mississippi, one out of seven
16 elderly and disabled people live at or below the
17 poverty level. This means many of these folks are
18 trying to get by with just \$400 to \$500 a month to
19 spend on all of their living expenses. For a moment,
20 can you imagine trying to pay expenses for housing,
21 food, health care, transportation, utilities, and
22 other basic necessities on such a limited budget.
23 Unfortunately, hard choices have to be made and,
24 truthfully, sometimes no amount of budgeting will
25 handle the crisis. These seniors have worked hard all

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1 their lives only to find that now, with low or fixed
2 incomes, sometimes they simply cannot make ends meet."

3 Thank you very much.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Scutter.

5 Avery, this is Avery Rollins.

6 MR. ROLLINS: My name is Avery Rollins. I
7 am from Madison, Mississippi. I've lived in
8 Mississippi for 58 years. I spoke previously at the
9 last Public Scoping Meeting.

10 By way of background I'm a retired former
11 FBI Agent. I concentrated during most of my career in
12 international terrorism. I'm a graduate of the
13 Huntsville, Alabama Anti-Terrorist Devices School. I
14 was a bomb technician for the FBI for 19 years.

15 At the previous scoping meeting, I
16 expressed my concerns about the fact that as a private
17 public citizen now I have no way of examining the
18 emergency plans or emergency response in the event of
19 a terrorist incident at Grand Gulf 1 or possibly Grand
20 Gulf 2. I re-express those concerns.

21 Since that meeting I've become aware of
22 certain things that have been expressed here tonight.

23 The fact that it does not appear that your normal
24 emergency preparedness is presently operational in the
25 sense that it should be to respond not to Grand Gulf

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1 3, but to respond to a Grand Gulf 1 incident or
2 accident.

3 The comments made by apparently
4 knowledgeable officials or former officials here
5 tonight would seem to indicate that a closer study
6 needs to be made of emergency preparedness presently
7 in Claiborne County to see if the NRC would not be
8 putting all the residents here and those of us who
9 live within 75 miles of Grand Gulf 3 -- if you would
10 not be putting us at additional personal risk by
11 continuing to operate Grand Gulf 1 and establishing
12 and operating Grand Gulf 3 where the county does not
13 have the appropriate emergency response preparedness
14 that would be necessary.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr.
17 Rollins.

18 And Jackie Rollins.

19 MS. ROLLINS: My name is Jackie Rollins.
20 I live in Madison County and I work with various
21 individuals and other groups around the state on clean
22 water, clean air, and a healthy environment for all
23 people. Several of my concerns have already been
24 voiced.

25 I came down for this afternoon and met

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1 with several residents of Claiborne County and did a
2 very short tour of some of the facilities here in
3 Claiborne County, including the hospital.

4 And I'd just like to say very briefly some
5 of the concerns that I have, one of which is as a
6 taxpayer, I have been and all of us have been funding
7 this industry with our tax dollars. The Entergy
8 stockholders do not have as vested an interest in this
9 industry as far as dollars put in than the taxpayer
10 has. The taxpayer has funded research. Liability
11 issues come back to the taxpayer. And I am concerned
12 about the cozy relationship between the regulatory
13 industry and Entergy, the utility companies.

14 So that would be -- I don't think we get
15 objective figures when we look at estimates of final
16 costs. I've read some objective, unconnected reviews
17 of these costs and many of them say they're just
18 ridiculously low. They're not even in the ballpark.
19 Unless you believe in unicorns, these figures are just
20 impossible to believe. So the cost is a big issue.

21 The health issues is another issue. I
22 went by the hospital and Entergy -- the best predictor
23 of future behavior, many of us would say, would be
24 past behavior. And Entergy has been a member of this
25 community with Grand Gulf 1. They have been

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1 contributing a very, very small amount of money to the
2 hospital.

3 And there is a room over at the hospital
4 which I would suggest that you go over and look at.
5 It can only be described as a large closet. It has
6 one set of shelves around one wall. Now this is the
7 room that the hospital has designated for emergencies.

8 So if anyone is in an accident and is affected by
9 radiation, they come into the main door of the
10 hospital, contaminate everything that they come in
11 contact with, and then they're ushered into this
12 little room with really nothing there. There's a
13 window and, you know, a door, and two other walls.
14 That's it.

15 So where is the emergency preparedness to
16 handle a crisis, or will this be similar to Katrina or
17 forest fires in the West or flooding that we're seeing
18 now in the upper Mississippi River? I mean is it
19 going to be an after-the-fact review and sudden change
20 in looking at what we should have done beforehand, not
21 after-the-fact?

22 I'm going to submit some comments in
23 writing, but I just think we need more review before
24 we complete this EIS. We need to know what the final
25 project plan is going to be before we go any further.

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1 Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

3 We're going to go to Ruth Pullen and then
4 Tom Pullen.

5 MS. PULLEN: My name is Ruth Pullen. I
6 live in Byram, Mississippi, and I would be affected by
7 an accident at the Plant. And that's one of my major
8 concerns.

9 First, I do want to say that we've heard a
10 lot of comments about preparedness. And I just want
11 to say I think it is outrageous that there is even a
12 consideration of putting another nuclear power plant
13 in this area when they do not have adequate safety
14 measures, adequate infrastructure to protect them in
15 the case of an accident at the already existing Plant.

16 And I don't even think another Plant should be
17 considered until those measures, those needs are taken
18 care of.

19 One of the things that I do want to
20 address that I feel is real lack in the EIS was the
21 effect of a catastrophic accident in this area. This
22 is a source of power so potentially dangerous it's the
23 only one that has to have evacuation routes, has to
24 have trained emergency personnel specifically trained
25 for this kind of accident. And I also want to point

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1 out now the NRC decided not to address this issue, I
2 believe, because the risk was not considered high
3 enough, the likelihood was not considered high enough.

4 Anyway I want to point out that I don't
5 know how many of you are aware of the Price Anderson
6 Act. This was an Act enacted by Congress in the '50s,
7 I believe, because the utility and the insurance
8 companies felt that the liability in the case of a
9 nuclear accident at a power plant was so high that
10 they would not even consider building a plant. So the
11 government came up with the Price Anderson Act, which
12 is essentially a subsidy which limits the liability of
13 the nuclear power industry in the event of a
14 catastrophic accident. So now here the Congress feels
15 that this is an issue important enough that they're
16 passing legislation. That act has been renewed
17 numerous times.

18 And yet the NRC in its Environmental
19 Impact Statement is not really addressing in detail
20 what would happen if there was a catastrophic accident
21 at this plant. And I think that is a real lack in the
22 EIS and I think it needs to be addressed.

23 I also want to point out that if you're
24 looking at socioeconomic issues, the socioeconomic
25 issues -- excuse me -- the effects of a catastrophic

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1 accident at this plant are just incredible, not only
2 for Claiborne County. But you're talking about a
3 facility that's two miles from the Mississippi River,
4 one of the main thoroughfares, shipping thoroughfares,
5 in the country which carries what drinking water and
6 water down to the Gulf of Mexico. So a catastrophic
7 accident at this plant would not only affect the
8 economy of Claiborne County but would affect the
9 economy of states all through the Gulf and the health
10 of people along the Mississippi River.

11 Now I don't know if you're aware, just for
12 an example, there's a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico
13 that stretches from Louisiana to Texas. It's the
14 result of agricultural chemicals coming down the
15 Mississippi River from the Midwest. It has tremendous
16 economic impacts on the fisheries and other aspects of
17 income down in the Gulf. And an accident at this
18 plant could have the same kind of effect, if not worse
19 because it would affect the tourist industry. It
20 would just have a lot more effect. So I think that
21 that's something that needs to be addressed in this
22 EIS.

23 I also want to address just briefly
24 terrorism. Now the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
25 here, I submitted a document from United Nations

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1 Disarmament Forum written by an expert on nuclear
2 issues and terrorism. And in that document he said
3 that he did not believe there was any way to make a
4 nuclear reactor safe from an aerial attack.

5 I just want to read briefly. "The
6 severity of an aircraft crash might drive through and
7 render ineffective the normally accepted physical
8 systems that serve to limit the consequences, such as
9 safe shut down, continued availability of utilities,
10 adequate containment integrity, and on and off site
11 emergency preparedness."

12 So I think that the terrorism issue does
13 need to be addressed. We not only have to worry about
14 the air, we have to worry about land and water
15 attacks. And I just think -- assuming that the
16 facility is safe, you've got one nuclear -- you've got
17 Grand Gulf 1 now. You've got 20 years of nuclear
18 waste stored above ground, making Port Gibson
19 essentially a nuclear waste dump for the state of
20 Mississippi. All these and then you're talking about
21 putting another reactor there.

22 All these given the effects that it would
23 have on the Mississippi River and the economy in the
24 Gulf of Mexico really increase the risk of a terrorist
25 attack at this facility because the effects would be

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1 devastating. So I think that all these issues need to
2 be addressed in more depth.

3 The other thing that I feel is a real lack
4 in the former EIS -- and I want to say I appreciate
5 all the work that the NRC Staff put into this. And
6 I've spoken to several EIS Staff members and I know
7 they're very dedicated and believe in what they're
8 doing. But the treatment of alternatives was
9 absolutely inadequate. I think a lot of the
10 information was based on something that Entergy has
11 provided which of course is a real conflict of
12 interest in my opinion.

13 For example, it was talking about Port
14 Gibson as a site for providing solar power. Well, the
15 fact is that one of the benefits of solar power and
16 other alternatives is that they do not have to be
17 site-specific. They can be dispersed. So for
18 example, you don't have to put all your solar panels
19 in Port Gibson.

20 First of all, it should look at the entire
21 service area and what facilities it could provide.
22 You've got wind power. There's just tremendous
23 opportunities in the alternative energy market that
24 really make nuclear power at this time because of so
25 many of the problems associated with it just

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1 unacceptable.

2 I want to read just briefly something from
3 an MIT study entitled The Future of Nuclear Energy.
4 What they conclude is, "The prospects for nuclear
5 energy as an option are limited by many unresolved
6 problems of which high relative costs is only one."

7 And if you get out and read, you'll see
8 the costs for nuclear energy are just ridiculous and
9 they keep escalating. They keep increasing and
10 increasing.

11 Others include environment safety and
12 health issues, nuclear proliferation concerns, and the
13 challenge of long term waste management. Now several
14 of these issues should be addressed in an EIS.
15 They're related to this facility. They're related if
16 you add another facility. And they should be
17 addressed.

18 Well, I think I will leave it at that
19 except for one thing. We're talking about socio-
20 economics. The Mississippi Legislature just passed a
21 bill that would allow Entergy to increase rates to pay
22 for building this facility whether it's ever put into
23 production. They would never have to return the money
24 to rate payers. For people that are economically
25 challenged now, that is going to put an additional

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1 burden on them if their energy rates are increased.
2 So that is something else that needs to be considered
3 in your socio-economic analysis.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

6 We're going to go to Tom Pullen at this
7 point. And then to Phil Segrest.

8 MR. PULLEN: Thank you. I'd like to just
9 say a few additional words about the cost issue. As
10 Ruth pointed out, nuclear energy is not a cost
11 effective way of producing energy. If you look at the
12 situation across the spectrum, costs continue to
13 escalate year by year. Every year it's worse.

14 If you look at the cost for alternative
15 energy sources, such as solar or wind and other, they
16 continue to go down year by year by year. And I think
17 this is an important thing. And I would urge the NRC
18 to look very carefully at that issue in the EIS
19 Supplement that's being prepared.

20 This relates very much, I think, to the
21 issue of emergency preparedness. We've heard a number
22 of people here tonight talk about how unprepared this
23 area is in case of an emergency, and of the need for a
24 great deal of infrastructure improvement, etcetera.
25 If we proceed here and begin building Unit 3 and the

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1 costs continue to escalate as they most certainly
2 will, where is the money going to come from to address
3 these needs?

4 As Ruth also pointed out, some people have
5 tried through the Mississippi Legislature to put this
6 all on the rate payer. Did you think the money was
7 going to come from Entergy? Are they going to help
8 you build a new hospital if the cost for their Unit 3
9 escalates? Are they going to stick it on the rate
10 payer? Are they going to ask for an additional
11 increase in rates?

12 We've got a problem here. We're going
13 down a road that in the long run is not going to help
14 any of us. So your Supplemental EIS in my opinion
15 should direct a great deal of attention to this issue
16 of alternatives to a nuclear power plant. There are a
17 lot of options that should be explored.

18 And to put all your eggs in the basket of
19 an additional unit at Grand Gulf Unit 3 is in my
20 opinion a mistake. And that needs to be very
21 carefully analyzed in the Supplemental EIS. So I
22 would leave with that.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

24 Now we have Phil Segrest.

25 MR. SEGREST: I'm Phil Segrest and I am

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1 resident of Claiborne County, fifth generation in the
2 area here, Claiborne and Jefferson Counties that we
3 all called Pickering at one time.

4 I don't know of anyone in this room that's
5 in Claiborne County -- I'm going to address the
6 Legislature problem -- that doesn't have friends in
7 Jefferson County. I've got a number of friends down
8 there. I've got a piece of property that borders into
9 the two counties.

10 Taxes are a lot higher down there than
11 they are up here. Services are a lot lower.
12 Unemployment is higher down there. Grand Gulf is our
13 difference.

14 Now some people got up and talked about
15 the lack of infrastructure which is due primarily to
16 the tax problem. The tax problem came about -- and
17 there's a gentleman in this room I'm going to call to
18 speak about that some in more depth than I can -- but
19 it came about by the Mississippi Legislature taking
20 the money away, not Grand Gulf, not the Nuclear
21 Regulatory Commission, not the local officials.

22 The State Legislature took that money away
23 from us. And, yes, it hurt. And, yes, they didn't do
24 right. They don't do that to any other big industries
25 in the state. They didn't do it to the Nissan Plant

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1 in Madison County. They don't do it to the gambling
2 facilities that are in the area that citizens from
3 Claiborne County participate in. So that was a
4 definite problem.

5 There are a few other things I'd like to
6 talk about and maybe someone from the Nuclear
7 Regulatory Commission could add something about that.

8 We haven't built a nuclear power plant in this
9 country in quite a number of years. But that doesn't
10 mean that the nuclear industry has stood still. The
11 nuclear industry has been flourishing in other
12 countries. Europe, where the population density is a
13 lot heavier than it is in any part of the United
14 States except some of the large metropolitan areas, is
15 heavily involved in that.

16 And I'd like to know if this new design
17 that's being studied in places by the NRC now is
18 closely kin to any of that ongoing nuclear work that's
19 been going on in the other countries.

20 I got a comment to one thing, and not
21 trying to pick on the individual that said it. But
22 I'd like to know what in this country is designed to
23 take an aircraft impact. I mean 9/11 pretty much
24 showed you that buildings like the Pentagon, building
25 like the Trade Centers that were, I believe, built in

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1 pretty much the same time frame that Grand Gulf was
2 built certainly couldn't take it. There are buildings
3 around here that couldn't take the impact of a
4 gasoline tanker, let alone an aircraft or an aircraft
5 tanker.

6 People have talked about alternate types
7 of energy. Mississippi can't support wind energy. If
8 they could, you would have seen a lot of windmills
9 used on farms to pump water back before they had
10 electricity in the rural areas. There's just not the
11 wind, sustainable winds, here to take care of that,
12 let alone produce power. A lot of places where they
13 can produce it -- I think it was Connecticut or
14 Massachusetts coast -- I read two to three, four weeks
15 back -- don't want the wind turbines in their area.

16 I mean it's always easy to be negative.
17 Negative is probably the easiest thing to be. Let's
18 look at the positive things that Grand Gulf has
19 brought to us. Let's look at the positive things that
20 another unit at Grand Gulf can bring to us, especially
21 if we can get the Legislature to be fair with the
22 county.

23 Dr. Sheppard back here has had a lot more
24 experience with the Legislature than I have and might
25 could speak better to that than I have.

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1 Shake your head, Charles. I don't know
2 what -- you don't want to speak about it or not. But
3 I mean am I wrong?

4 I mean it wasn't the Nuclear Regulatory
5 Commission; it was the Legislature that took those tax
6 dollars and redistributed them.

7 DR. SHEPPARD: Correct.

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Phil, can you just
9 continue on?

10 MR. SEGREST: That's it. That's really
11 all I've got to say.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

13 And when we do close out the formal part
14 of the meeting and if any of the NRC Staff has
15 information on the design relative to what's happening
16 in other countries if you could just talk to Mr.
17 Segrest about that.

18 That's our final speaker that we had
19 signed up for tonight. You've given the NRC a lot to
20 think about with all your comments.

21 And there's someone flashing their hand
22 and it looks like it's Ruth Pullen. Ruth, what --

23 MS. PULLEN: And I don't know maybe this
24 is relative to --

25 MR. CAMERON: Well, I think we need to

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1 stop now at this point because I think we will just
2 get into an endless round on that. But thank you.

3 And, Norris, you want to be the final
4 speaker for us?

5 This is Norris McDonald.

6 MR. MCDONALD: My name is Norris McDonald.

7 I represent the Center for Environment, Commerce, and
8 Energy. We're based in Fort Washington, Maryland,
9 just outside of Washington, D.C.

10 Does NRC consider the jobs that would be
11 created at Unit 3 to be green jobs? And we would like
12 to recommend that NRC consider jobs that would be
13 created at Unit 3 to be green jobs. To consider the
14 possibility of describing those jobs in the EIS as
15 green jobs.

16 Now the Energy Information and Security
17 Act of 2007 that was passed just last year included
18 \$125 million and created 30,000 training positions.
19 So if nuclear is included in the green jobs area --
20 and that's the new sexy area that's coming down now in
21 additional to environmental justice -- then possibly
22 it could help with the economic development items many
23 people have discussed here today.

24 Now we support green jobs. But wind and
25 solar provide less than one percent of the electricity

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1 in the United States, whereas nuclear provides 20
2 percent. So when I'm talking about this to people, I
3 say, well, you should go get the bang for the buck.

4 Now if the Energy Bill that was signed
5 created 30,000 jobs for \$125 million, I believe that
6 this will be revisited. I'd love to see some training
7 jobs in Port Gibson. Maybe legislation could even be
8 considered in that direction. Instead of 30,000
9 positions, maybe just 3,000 training positions here
10 paying them \$30,000 each.

11 The President of Alcorn State mentioned
12 what they would like to try to do. I think it would
13 help their position. And also he mentioned a high
14 temperature reactor. Well, that's some interesting
15 new research. That's a new type of reactor. I
16 happened to have visited that type of reactor outside
17 of Beijing. We talked after he spoke. And that's the
18 sort of thing we can talk about.

19 But considering of Unit 3 jobs as green
20 jobs, then the possibility would be that it could be
21 added to the wind and solar green jobs movement
22 because the Green Jobs Act of 2007 that created what I
23 just described \$125 million for 30,000 jobs -- it was
24 part of that larger Energy Bill, the Energy and
25 Information Security Act. So just consider that.

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1 Thank you very much.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Norris.

3 I'm going to ask our Senior NRC Manager,
4 Richard Raione to close the meeting out for us. And
5 we'll be available to talk after that.

6 MR. RAIONE: Good evening, everybody. You
7 all have been a great audience tonight. And on behalf
8 of the NRC I applaud your interest, your intellect,
9 your communication, and your involvement skills here.

10 We're heard a lot of good comments and discussion
11 here tonight. We have a lot to take back with us in
12 going back to Rockville, Maryland.

13 I'd like to thank our Court Reporter for
14 his fine work and to all of you for coming out and
15 participating in our meeting here tonight. I'd also
16 like to thank the City of Port Gibson and the Mayor
17 for letting us use this wonderful building.

18 There are a few of us that during the
19 break from the earlier meeting got a chance to walk
20 downtown and it's really nice to look at the
21 architecture and soak in the history. Fantastic
22 neighborhood.

23 Rockville, Maryland -- I'm a Geologist by
24 training as you all have heard. I'm still curious why
25 they call it Rockville. There's too many buildings

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1 and pavement there. So maybe at one time there were
2 rocks, but not any more.

3 Remember what I said earlier about who to
4 contact, how to contact us, when to contact us,
5 etcetera. We're easy to find at www.nrc.gov. We look
6 forward to receiving any additional comments. And by
7 all means come on up to Rockville in person this
8 summer or this fall if you can.

9 And while you're there, make sure you
10 check out our capital. Lots of stuff to do there and
11 lots of museums. Definitely recommend it if you can.

12 I'd ask for you to keep our nation's
13 veterans in your thoughts and prayers. Let's don't
14 forget these folks. Just let them know that you
15 appreciate their service when you see them. We see a
16 lot of them on these -- we have to do a lot of
17 traveling on our branch. And they definitely
18 appreciate a pat on the back.

19 Be safe on the way home this evening.

20 I declare this meeting to now be
21 officially over. And good evening.

22 Our staff will be here for a few minutes
23 later tonight to answer additional questions. Thank
24 you.

25 (Whereupon, this meeting was concluded at 9:17 p.m.)

NEAL R. GROSS

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