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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR
GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 3
COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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AFTERNOON SESSION

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2008

1:00 PM

City of Port Gibson City Hall
1005 College Street
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

FACILITATOR: CHIP CAMERON

SPEAKERS: RICHARD RAIONE

TAMSEN DOZIER

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

(1:00 p.m.)

MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon, everyone.

My name is Chip Cameron. I work for Executive Director for Operations at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. And we're going to try not to use acronyms today, or at least we'll explain what they are. But we will be using NRC for Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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

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

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1 you today.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 MR. CAMERON: All right, well, let me just
11 talk a little bit about ground rules for the meeting.
12 We do have the NRC presentations. And if you could
13 just hold your questions until after the speakers are
14 done, then we'll go on to you for questions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 And did I miss anybody?

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

22 Anybody else that I missed?

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

25 And again thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 We do these public meetings periodically.

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

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

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

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

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1 approved by Congress.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Also within the next five months or so, we

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 fire in our country.

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

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

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

25 Another example could be a good friend of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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1 and regulations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 document is known as tiering.

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

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

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

25 Now we'll talk about the detailed steps we

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 and do a certificate.

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

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

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

13 Anybody?

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

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

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

25 And if you could -- you think you could

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

3 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 Thank you, thank you very much.

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

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

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

15 MR. HORHN: Thank you very much.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

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

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

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

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

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1 now and later on tonight.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 because of a short of funds.

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

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

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

23 Thank you very much.

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

25 Does anybody else want to speak at this

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1 afternoon's meeting? Anybody else have a question?

2 We do have time for questions.

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

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

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

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

22 Is there more to your question, sir?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 MR. CAMERON: Thanks for that, Eric.

19 Yes, ma'am.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 pumps and valves and things like that.

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

4 MS. SQUARE: Where else?

5 MR. CAMERON: Where else are they located?

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

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

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

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1 MR. OESTERLE: Sure.

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

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

15 MR. CAMERON: And, Brenda?

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

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

25 Don't hold me to that though because they

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 Other questions at this point?

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

25 MR. MCDONALD: Hi. My name is Norris

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 The things about these plants whether they
22 cost a billion dollars or five or six million dollars,
23 you're talking about a lot of steel, a lot of
24 concrete, a lot of other supplemental sources of jobs.

25 So that helps my concern within the context of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 Thank you.

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

16 Anybody else that we can hear from today?

17 Oh, yes, sir. Please introduce yourself.

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

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

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1 that?

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

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

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

19 MR. INMAN: And also maybe heavy metals.

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

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1 word negligible.

2 Now you were talking about into the river.

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

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

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

25 MR. CAMERON: So that comes from the

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 Does that answer everything for you, sir?

20 MR. INMAN: Yes.

21 MR. CAMERON: Anybody else?

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

24 We are going to be here again tonight.

25 And we're here after this meeting.

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1 So it's Richard Raione.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1 Written Comments Submitted During Afternoon Session of
2 June 19 Grand Gulf Scoping Meeting
3

4 1) Letters dated June 19 to Richard Raione and Tamsen
5 Dozier from Congressman Bennie Thompson with
6 attachment of Dec 3, 2007 letter from Mr. Thompson to
7 Wayne Leonard of Entergy - submitted by Charlie Horhn
8

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2402

June 19, 2008

Tamsen S. Dozier, Project Manager
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Dear Ms. Dozier:

I am enclosing a copy of the December 3, 2007, to J. Wayne Leonard, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Entergy Corporation.

The facts in this letter remain unchanged. While the community has been supportive and receptive of Entergy Corporation, regrettably, Entergy has not actively engaged the local communities and region in and around the Grand Gulf Nuclear facility in a mutually satisfactory manner.

Though Entergy has been located in the district for several years, the economically- distressed communities have not seen the tangible benefits of having a successful multimillion dollar facility. Unfortunately, the surrounding communities have not been afforded the opportunity and/or assistance from Entergy to build upon its waning local infrastructure and fledging economy. Entergy has failed to take full advantage of the academic community and has "missed the mark" in supporting local businesses and community projects.

The Entergy Corporation and the Grand Gulf community have mutual needs. A second reactor places further burden on a community whose existing local infrastructure would not have the capacity to take on a significant healthcare or security crisis. Therefore an investment in infrastructure and resources is critical. My concern has always been to ensure the safety of residents and guarantee environmental quality. Additionally, my priority is to help create prosperity for the regional communities, businesses, and resident workforce.

As the Member of Congress that represents this area, I am supportive of the expansion opportunity, however, it is my responsibility to make sure that all stakeholders surrounding and involved in this proposed site be full and inclusive participants in this process.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2402

June 19, 2008

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Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

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Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2402

December 3, 2007

J. Wayne Leonard
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Entergy Corporation
639 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70113

Dear Mr. Leonard:

It was a pleasure talking to you regarding the decision by NuStart Energy to select the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station located in Port Gibson, Mississippi, as the site for a new reactor.

As I expressed to you in our most recent conversation, this community is an economically-distressed area. For that reason, it would be in the best interest of Nustart Energy to ensure that this new opportunity is of mutual benefit to Entergy Corporation and Claiborne County. I would like to know what efforts are being made to include the local community, its residents and the academic communities in this endeavor as you move forward with the simplified boiling water reactor project.

It is my understanding that federal and local government are heavily vested in the success of the new reactor; however, it would seem more prudent that NuStart be committed to local community developments that may involve the use of local infrastructure such as schools, community and healthcare facilities, and local organizations. For example, an investment in training and equipment, and improvement of facilities for first responders and local hospitals would be essential in providing medical care in the event of a disaster as a result of the new reactor. This type of investment would prove invaluable to your business and the safety of the community.

As a multimillion dollar business component, NuStart has a unique opportunity to have an enormous impact on economic growth throughout the region. I am convinced that there is no better way to stimulate meaningful corporate partnerships in the community than by engaging local educational institutions. Because I recognize that your company seeks to employ the finest employees and is interested in using only first-rate research, I implore you to draw on local universities such as Alcorn State University and community colleges located within the region which have the capacity to perform top-notch research and produce graduates who are well-equipped with the knowledge and tools to work effectively to help facilitate this project from its inception and beyond.

<input type="checkbox"/> 107 WEST MADISON STREET P.O. Box 610 BOLTON, MS 39041 (601) 866-9003 (601) 866-9036: FAX (800) 355-9003: IN ST.	<input type="checkbox"/> 509 HIGHWAY 82 WEST GREENWOOD, MS 38930 (662) 455-9003 (662) 453-0118: FAX	<input type="checkbox"/> 910 COURTHOUSE LANE GREENVILLE, MS 38701 (662) 335-9003 (662) 334-1304: FAX	<input type="checkbox"/> 3607 MEDGAR EVERS BOULEVARD JACKSON, MS 39213 (601) 946-9003 (601) 982-5337: FAX	<input type="checkbox"/> 263 EAST MAIN STREET P.O. Box 356 MARKS, MS 38646 (662) 326-9003 (662) 326-9003: FAX	<input type="checkbox"/> MOUND BAYOU CITY HALL P.O. Box 679 106 GREEN AVENUE, SUITE 106 MOUND BAYOU, MS 38762 (662) 741-9003 (662) 741-9002: FAX
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My support for this project is and has been contingent upon the support of the local community. It is my contention that NuEnergy will work within the community to use all available resources, including human capital and nearby universities, to help build a stronger, better Claiborne County.

On another note, I am also concerned about the lack of diversity in Entergy's Washington, D.C., government affairs office. As you are well aware, Entergy's service area is quite diverse. In Mississippi, for example, nearly 40% of the workforce is African-American. It is my hope that the company will take seriously its commitment to diversifying that office.

As this is a matter of the utmost importance, please provide me with a response by December 17th. I look forward to your prompt reply. If you have any questions, please contact me or my Chief of Staff, I. Lanier Avant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress