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From: Paul Kallan
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To: 'JPB4@Exchange.EXPO'; Francis Cameron; Nilesh Chokshi; George Wunder
Subject: STP Transcripts for the afternoon and evening meetings
Attachments: STP Afternoon meeting.doc; STP Evening meeting.DOC

I am sending you the transcripts for the afternoon and evening sessions. Please review each session where you spoke and make sure you were accurately represented.

Your comments will be greatly appreciated.

regards,

Paul

Hearing Identifier: SouthTexas34Public_EX
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Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT UNITS 3 & 4
Public Meeting: Afternoon Session

Docket Number: 52-012 and 52-013

Location: Bay City, Texas

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Work Order No.: NRC-1998

Pages 1-152

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT UNITS 3 & 4
COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

+ + + + +

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

+ + + + +

Auditorium

Bay City Civic Center

201 7th Street

Bay City, Texas

1:30 p.m.

PANEL MEMBERS:

FRANCIS X. "CHIP" CAMERON, Facilitator

JIM BIGGINS, Office of General Counsel

NILESH CHOKSHI, Deputy Director, NRC

GEORGE WUNDER, Sr. Project Manager

PAUL KALLAN, Environmental Project Manager

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AGENDA

	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1		
2		
3	Nilesh Chokshi	9
4	George Wunder	17
5	Paul Kallan	23
6	Steven Campbell	29
7	Kevin Richards	30
8	Eric Stiner	31
9	Greg Herman	32
10	Mark McBurnett	32
11	Cyrus Reed	33
12	Pascal Simon	35
13	Susan Dancer	37
14	Tom Smith	40
15	Karen Hadden	44
16	Mike O'Day	46
17	James Mitchell	49
18	Richard Knapik	51
19	Joe Morton	53
20	Tom Smith	55
21	Karen Hadden	59
22	Mitch Thames	65
23	Cyrus Reed	68
24	Robert Alvarado	75
25	Genaro Rendon	77

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7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

SPEAKER

PAGE

D.C. Dunham	83
Owen Bludau	86
Diana Lopez	92
Geoffrey Castro	94
Lara Cushing	96
Sandra Garcia	102
Susan Dancer	103
Cameron Payne	111
James Hefner	116
Robert Singleton	118
A.C. Conrad	124
Georgia Rice	127
Eleanor Schwank	129
Mark McBurnett	131
Joe Shepherd	136
Stephen Kale	141

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. My name is Chip
3 Cameron. I work for the Nuclear Regulatory
4 Commission, the NRC. And I just wanted to welcome all
5 of you to the meeting today.

6 And the topic of today's meeting is the
7 NRC's environmental review process for evaluating a
8 license application, such as the one that we received
9 from the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company
10 to construct and operate two new reactors at the South
11 Texas site.

12 And it's my pleasure to serve as our
13 facilitator for today's meeting, and in that role I'll
14 try to help all of you have a productive meeting
15 today.

16 Before we get into the substance of
17 today's discussions, I just wanted to say a few words
18 about the meeting process so that you understand
19 what's going to happen here this afternoon. And I'd
20 like to talk about the format for the meeting, some
21 simple ground rules to follow, and the agenda for the
22 meeting.

23 In terms of the format for the meeting,
24 it's basically a two--part format. The first part of
25 it is for the NRC to give you some brief

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1 presentations, some information on what our review
2 process is for this type of license application.

3 And we'll then go on to you. We'll have
4 some time for questions. We have a lot of people
5 signed up to speak, and that's an important part of
6 the meeting, but I think we'll still have time for a
7 few questions after the NRC speakers get done. And I
8 would ask you to hold any questions for them until
9 they go through all of their presentations.

10 Now the second part of the meeting is an
11 opportunity for the NRC staff to listen to your advice
12 and recommendations. And I will ask you during that
13 part of the meeting, those of you who have signed up,
14 to come up to the podium to speak.

15 Now you're going to hear more about this
16 from the NRC staff, but this is called a scoping
17 meeting. And simply put, the NRC is seeking advice
18 today on what the scope of the environmental impact
19 statement should be that they're going to prepare.

20 But we realize that there may be broader
21 concerns than environmental issues, and we always want
22 to listen to those concerns, even though they may not
23 fall within the scope of the environmental review that
24 we're going to be doing.

25 Now during this second part of the

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1 meeting, we're here to listen. We're going to be
2 listening to you. We're not going to be responding,
3 except in those rare instances where there may be some
4 new information that the NRC has on a particular
5 subject that we'll want to let you know about.

6 In terms of ground rules, if you have
7 questions after the NRC presentations, just raise your
8 hand and I'll bring you this cordless mike, and if you
9 could please introduce yourself to us, ask your
10 question, and then we'll go to the NRC staff for
11 answers.

12 And I would just ask you, during the
13 question part of the meeting to focus on questions.
14 Sometimes questions have a tendency to warp into
15 comments. If you have a comment, then give it during
16 the comment period. And if you haven't signed up yet,
17 just let me know and I'll put you on the list.

18 I would ask that only one person speak at
19 a time for two very important reasons. One, so that
20 we can get what I call a clean transcript so that we
21 know who is speaking. We are transcribing the meeting
22 tonight, and we have Leslie Berridge who is our
23 stenographer today. And all of that will be captured,
24 and that transcript will be available to anybody who
25 wants to see it. But more importantly, let's give our

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1 full attention to whoever has the floor at the moment.

2 I would ask you to try to be concise in
3 your questions so that we can give everybody who wants
4 to talk an opportunity to participate today. And
5 during the formal comment period, I'm going to ask you
6 to try to hold your comments to three to five minutes
7 to make sure that we can finish up on time, and we do
8 have another meeting tonight at 7:00.

9 I think that three to five minutes is
10 enough time to summarize what you have to say. It
11 also alerts the NRC staff to issues that we should
12 start working on immediately. And as the NRC staff is
13 going to tell you, there is an opportunity to submit
14 written comments on these issues so that if you have
15 to amplify on what you said today, you can do it in
16 your written comment.

17 Finally, I would just ask you to extend
18 courtesy to all. You may hear opinions today that you
19 don't -- just don't agree with, and so I would just
20 ask you to respect the person who's giving the
21 particular comment. And I hear those cell phone
22 chimes.

23 Let me introduce the NRC speakers. First
24 of all, we're going to go to Niles Chokshi -- and you
25 can correct me on the pronunciation of your name --

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1 but Nilesh is the top NRC manager here today.

2 He's from the Office of New Reactors, and
3 he's Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental
4 Review, I believe. And he's going to tell you about
5 the NRC and our purpose here today in doing scoping.

6 After Nilesh we're going to go to Mr.
7 Paul -- no, we're going to go to Mr. George Wunder,
8 who is the Project Manager for the Review of the
9 safety aspects of the application, and he's going to
10 tell you about what the NRC does in safety review.

11 And finally we're going to go to Mr. Paul
12 Kallan, who is going to address the instant subject of
13 this meeting, which is the environment review and
14 scoping, and Paul is the Project Manager for the
15 review of the environment aspects of the South Texas
16 application for the new plant.

17 And with that, let me just thank you all
18 for being here. And I just want to emphasize one
19 thing, which is continuity. This meeting is just one
20 point on the way of perhaps a long process. I believe
21 the NRC staff is going to give you their contact
22 information. If you have questions or concerns,
23 please call us, get in touch with us so that we can
24 stay in touch over the life of this particular
25 project.

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1 And with that I'm going to ask Nilesch to
2 come up.

3 MR. CHOKSHI: Thank you, Chip.

4 Good afternoon.

5 MALE VOICE: I don't think your microphone
6 is on.

7 MR. CHOKSHI: It's not on?

8 (Pause.)

9 MR. CHOKSHI: All right. Let me start
10 again. Thank you, Chip.

11 Good afternoon. My name is Nilesch
12 Chokshi -- and you pronounced correctly. I'm the
13 Deputy Director in the Division of Site Environmental
14 Review in the NRC's Office of New Reactors.

15 Let me begin by welcoming you and thanking
16 all of you for taking time to really help us fulfill
17 our important responsibilities regarding the
18 environmental reviews under the National Environmental
19 Policy Act. NRC has specific responsibilities under
20 this Act.

21 We realize that you are taking time out of
22 your personal schedule to meet with us and share your
23 views with us about the South Texas Project. I hope
24 that during the open house some of you had a chance to
25 meet with a number of NRC staff members here have a

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1 better understanding of why we are here.

2 But that's what I want to talk about, and
3 then we'll -- the purpose of this meetings. We're
4 going to be presenting information today on the
5 application of two new reactors to be constructed and
6 operated at the South Texas Project site. But we're
7 going to particularly focus on the environmental
8 review aspects of the application.

9 And it is my staff who is responsible for
10 managing the environmental review. And several
11 members of our environmental review team are here, and
12 so I think that it will be very good to get feedback
13 on that to include on that process.

14 We have to conduct an environmental review
15 before we can make any decision -- and issue an
16 environmental impact statement before we can make
17 decision regarding the application.

18 Of course, in the course of our
19 environmental review, we work very closely with our
20 safety counterparts in our Division of New Reactor
21 Licensing, which they manage the overall review, as
22 well as the overall schedule for the NRC. It's quite
23 an interactive process.

24 Now let me know go to the -- let's talk
25 about the purpose and expand on this. I think many of

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1 you are familiar with the proposal, which is the
2 application which is in front of the NRC. I also want
3 to put this meeting in context of the meeting we had
4 last June, our public outreach meeting which took
5 place before the application came to us.

6 In that meeting we wanted to share the
7 steps involved in the licensing process. In that
8 meeting we informed you about the opportunities that
9 you will have to observe and participate in the work
10 of NRC if we were receive an application to construct
11 and operate nuclear reactors.

12 During that meeting we identified several
13 major tracks of review, which include the safety
14 review, inspection activities, formal hearings, as
15 well as the environmental reviews. So there are
16 several major areas of review.

17 In June I think we really also wanted to
18 explain what is the combined construction permit and
19 operating license. So you will hear the words, often
20 COL, combined operating license, and during this
21 discussion people will say COL or COLA, that's all
22 combined operating license application.

23 And at the outreach meeting we also I
24 think stressed, and I think you're going to hear this
25 during the entire -- in all of our NRC presentations,

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1 the importance of your participation in this process,
2 because, you know, ultimately this is your home, your
3 community, and if the proposed project comes to
4 fruition out of all of the applications and number of
5 agencies involved grant approvals, you will be
6 impacted more than anybody else, living close to the
7 plant.

8 And now, I think, as you know, that since
9 that outreach meeting last June, we did receive an
10 application to construct and operate two license --
11 two nuclear plants at South Texas in September 2007.
12 And, after completing our acceptance review process,
13 now that application has been docketed, and now we are
14 in the very initial stages of beginning the review of
15 the application.

16 We are in the very early stages, and much
17 of our focus is now focused on information gathering.

18 We're getting ourselves ready for the review. And
19 that's why this meeting is particularly important.

20 So what you're going -- as you see in this
21 chart, the first three bullets are -- basically we're
22 going to repeat ourselves somewhat and tell you,
23 again, about some of the licensing process, so to put
24 in proper context.

25 But what I want to really stress,

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1 the purpose, and put into context, is the fourth
2 bullet. That's why we are here. And Mr. Cameron
3 mentioned, this is scoping process for the
4 environmental review.

5 What -- so the primary purpose is to give
6 you an opportunity to share with us your thoughts,
7 your comments on what you think we should consider in
8 the environmental review when we develop the NRC's
9 environmental impact statement on the South Texas
10 Project.

11 As I said, this is a scoping meeting.
12 It's a part of the formal scoping process. And the
13 scoping process is to help us understand what matters
14 and what we need to consider. Many of you live close
15 to the proposed plants, and have a useful or better
16 understanding of your local environment. We need to
17 better appreciate those environmental values and
18 insights that you have. And today we really want to
19 hear about those issues.

20 During the presentation you will hear that
21 we have -- already have a very well structured
22 environmental review process, and our review will
23 start with nationally and internationally recognized
24 experts in all of the environmental disciplines.

25 In fact, in the audience there are members

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1 from NRC's experts in environmental, as also from the
2 Pacific Northwest National Lab, and they're all ears.

3 They will -- that's what, you know, they have to do.

4 So I hope that they get to hear some of your
5 concerns.

6 Now I want to make sure that you
7 understand that this is not the last opportunity to
8 interact with us on this matter. There will other
9 opportunities as we conduct our review and as we
10 further progress toward preparing our environmental
11 impact statement, and you will hear about those
12 opportunities in the later part of the presentation.

13 Now, before I hand this over -- meeting to
14 the to the project managers, I think it will be
15 worthwhile to talk about -- a little bit about who we
16 are, what we do, and whom we interact with. I know
17 you -- probably many of you were at the June meeting
18 and you heard, but I think it's very, very important
19 to go over that again.

20 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was
21 created in 1974 to regulate, among other things, the
22 civilian use of nuclear power to ensure the health and
23 safety of the public, to promote the common defense
24 and security, and to protect the environment.

25 I would like to emphasize that we are not

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1 part of the Department of Energy, or any other agency.

2 We are an independent agency, and we are not here to
3 promote nuclear power. We are an independent
4 regulatory agency headed by five commissioners, all
5 appointed by the President and confirmed by the
6 Senate.

7 Unlike cabinet secretaries and other
8 political appointees, the NRC commissioners do not
9 change when a new president is elected. We have a
10 tremendous continuity in that regard.

11 The commissioners serve five year terms,
12 and there is always a mix of both Republicans and
13 Democrats. And then the Commission has -- is
14 supported by a staff of technical and regulatory
15 experts, something in the order of 2- or 3,000.

16 And as a agency -- after becoming a
17 nuclear -- breaking off from the Atomic Energy
18 Commission, we have over 30 years of experience in
19 regulatory and licensing nuclear power plants and
20 other uses of nuclear material.

21 In -- let me -- a few talks on the -- our
22 process of licensing, of the construction and
23 operation of a nuclear power plant. One of the, I
24 think, major emphasis for us is to the -- that the
25 process be open to the public to the greatest extent

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1 possible. I think that's -- and I think this -- from
2 the highest level of the agency, you hear this thing
3 repeatedly.

4 The process is also designed so that the
5 people who have a stake in the proposed action are
6 given a chance to participate and to be heard.

7 On this line, I have listed the parties
8 proposing the licensing process into three categories.

9 I only mentioned the commissioners and the staff, but
10 if you look under the heading of NRC, you will also
11 notice that I also have listed hearing boards and the
12 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. These are,
13 again, the opportunities for participation, as well as
14 independent reviews.

15 Other parties involved in the process is,
16 of course, the company that wants to build the plant.

17 And the final group of participants in the process is
18 that group of people we call stakeholders, which is
19 comprised of people with all different interests, and
20 that includes you, the residents and business
21 operators of the community.

22 Also included under this group are various
23 public interest groups, as well as the state
24 government, local, and your own county and city
25 governments. I think as a later part of the

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1 presentation you will see in the environmental review
2 how many agencies and things we interact with
3 regularly.

4 So I think with this sort of a background,
5 and with my efforts to set the stage for this meeting,
6 I want to thank you again for allowing us to come into
7 your community and for you taking this effort to meet
8 with us and share your views.

9 We have a long way to go before the NRC
10 completes its review of the application, and is ready
11 to make a decision on the proposal. So this will be
12 an ongoing interaction, and I think it will be
13 important that we continue to interact with you.

14 Let me now introduce you to, Mr. George
15 Wunder. He is the NRC Safety Project Manager for the
16 South Texas Project, and he will provide more detail
17 on the application and all aspects of review. And
18 then we'll go to the -- really the heart of the
19 meeting, the environmental review, which will be
20 presented by Mr. Paul Kallan. He's our Environmental
21 Project Review Manager.

22 And then we'll open the floor to you. And
23 I think we are here to listen. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. WUNDER: Thank you, Nilesh.

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1 I'm George Wunder. I'm the -- oh, thank
2 you all for coming -- I'm George Wunder and I am the
3 safety Project Manager for the Office of New Reactors.

4 I've just got a few slides I'd like to go through by
5 way of background. And I promise to be mercifully
6 short.

7 So what is a combined license, and what do
8 they want, why do they want one? Well, a combined
9 license is essentially permission from the NRC to
10 build and operate a reactor plant with a specific
11 design at a specific location, subject to applicable
12 codes and standards. In the case of South Texas, the
13 application is for two General Electric advanced
14 boiling water reactors to be built at their facility
15 in Wadsworth.

16 As far as who can get a combined license,
17 it has to be an entity that is qualified both
18 technically and financially. In this case, South
19 Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company. And as far
20 as when the application came in, at the end of
21 September, and we officially docketed and accepted it
22 at the end of November of last year.

23 NRC has a pretty big job to do when it
24 comes to reviewing a combined license application.
25 Nilesh mentioned earlier that our primary focus is on

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1 safety, and one of the ways that we ensure safety is
2 by making sure that the things that are being -- that
3 everything is being done in accordance with the
4 appropriate laws and regulations.

5 In this case the law is the Atomic Energy
6 Act, and the regulations are those contained in Title
7 X of the Code of Federal Regulations. So these are
8 the standards which we will evaluate the -- by which
9 we will evaluate the application that South Texas has
10 submitted. We're also tasked with performing an
11 environmental review under the National Environmental
12 Policy Act, and Paul Kallan will say more about that
13 in a bit.

14 Throughout our review, our effort is
15 always to make the best and most informed decision as
16 we can at all times, and to document these in as clear
17 and unambiguous way as possible. And this goes toward
18 meeting our goal of ensuring that the entire process
19 is as open as possible, and that anyone, any citizen
20 who is interested can understand not only what
21 decisions we have made, but why we are making them.

22 Okay. Let's talk briefly here about the
23 scope of our review, what are the things that we're
24 going to be looking at. First we're going to look at
25 the design of the plant, and actually a lot of this

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1 work has already been done, it was done 10 years ago.

2 The advanced boiling water reactor is what's called a
3 certified design, and that is our staff has already
4 reviewed it and written a safety evaluation on the
5 basic plant.

6 There's going to be some differences
7 between the design that we certified 10 years ago, and
8 the plant that South Texas is eventually going to
9 build, and these differences can be the result of
10 various things, such as improvements in technology.

11 For example, South Texas may want to use
12 equipment that wasn't available when we did our
13 certification. Or they can be due to certain unique
14 individual needs of South Texas. Any deviations from
15 the certified design will be reviewed and approved by
16 the NRC staff.

17 We're also going to look at the
18 suitability of the site itself. This includes things
19 like determining the suitability of the soil to
20 support the structures that will be built there;
21 taking a look at the seismic history of the area;
22 taking a look at the potentials for things like
23 flooding, or tornados and hurricanes. All of these
24 things are taken into account in our chapter on site
25 characteristics.

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1 We're going to look at the environmental
2 impact of the project, and Paul's going to tell you
3 more about that in a minute. We're going to look at
4 things like the way they want to build the plant, the
5 way they want to put it together, what kind of
6 materials they want to use, and how the components are
7 going to be arranged. We have standards on quality
8 assurance, and we're going to review and inspect to
9 ensure that those are upheld.

10 There's going to be an army of
11 construction workers descending, and so obviously
12 we're going to have to think about things like
13 physical security, both for the new plants and for the
14 plants that are operating already.

15 We're going to look -- in coordination
16 with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, we're
17 going to look at the emergency preparedness plans, and
18 we've got an emergency preparedness expert with us
19 this evening -- or this afternoon, in case you have
20 any questions in that area.

21 And finally, of course, we're going to
22 look at personnel training and make sure that
23 everybody who is doing a job associated with these
24 plants is qualified to do so.

25 We said we wanted you to have a good idea

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1 how you can participate in the review process, and
2 where you can have access to information. Well, one
3 of the -- ah, yes -- okay, sorry -- yes, one of the
4 places that you can find all sorts of information is
5 at our electronic public reading room, public document
6 room.

7 Also, virtually all of the meetings that
8 we're going to be having with South Texas on the
9 subject of this plant are going to be open to
10 public -- to -- open for public -- not participation,
11 excuse me, open for public attendance.

12 We post meeting notices on our website,
13 and we get those posted about 10 days before the
14 meeting.

15 I understand that it's not often convenient for you
16 to come to one of our meetings, so we also publish
17 meeting summaries and post those on the website as
18 well.

19 And then, another opportunity for you to
20 comment is going to come later on in the review
21 process. It's called the meeting of the Advisory
22 Committee on Reactor Safeguards. When we're -- when
23 the staff has got its safety evaluation to a point
24 where it's in pretty good shape, we meet with the
25 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and we

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1 present our findings and our review of the
2 application.

3 The Advisory Committee is an independent
4 body that reports directly to the Commission. We
5 have -- the meeting is open to the public and members
6 of the public can register to talk at that meeting and
7 present any questions or concerns you have directly to
8 the Advisory Committee.

9 And finally, there is the hearing process.

10 On December 27 we published in the *Federal Register* a
11 notice for opportunity for a hearing, which offers an
12 opportunity for the public to participate in the
13 hearing as a party, and this is called intervention.
14 A request -- if you want to intervene, a request has
15 to be filed within 60 days of the original *Federal*
16 *Register* notice. And in this case, that period is
17 going to expire on February 25.

18 I'm not going to go into any more detail
19 about the hearing process. We've got some very fine
20 attorneys here this evening, and when we get to the
21 question and answer period, if you have any questions
22 regarding that, they will be more than happy to field
23 those.

24 Okay. This is just kind of an overall
25 flow chart. It shows where we are. We've received

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1 the application, and as you can see, there are two
2 branches of review that go on in parallel. There's
3 the safety review and the environmental review. And
4 this is the way it's supposed to work, but nothing
5 ever works the way it's supposed to.

6 We received, as I said, the application,
7 and docketed it on November 29, 2007. By a letter
8 dated January 10, 2008, South Texas informed us that
9 they were having some challenges in arranging for some
10 design support that would be necessary to further push
11 this project forward, and they asked us to place some
12 of the safety review on hold, which we did. And we
13 documented that in a letter on January 30, 2008.

14 The environmental review will continue,
15 and with that, I'd like to turn it over to Paul.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. KALLAN: Thank you, George.

18 I thank you for coming out this afternoon
19 to understand our process.

20 My name is Paul Kallan, and I'm with the
21 Office of New Reactors. I'm also the Environmental
22 Project Manager for this project.

23 And you may be wondering why there are two
24 project managers, one is the safety and the other
25 environmental. The answer is simple. It's because

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1 the NRC's mission is to ensure the safety of the
2 facility, as well as to protect the environment.
3 These are equally important tasks. In recognition of
4 that, the NRC has two project managers to oversee the
5 process.

6 So I'm here to talk to you a little bit
7 about the National Environmental Policy Act. The goal
8 of the National Environmental Policy Act is to create
9 conditions under which man and the environment can
10 exist in productive harmony.

11 The National Environmental Policy Act
12 requires the NRC to do an independent evaluation. So
13 we use a systematic approach to doing environmental
14 reviews. An environmental impact statement is
15 required for major federal actions that may
16 significantly affect the quality of the human
17 environment. Issuing a combined license, such as for
18 this project, would be considered a major federal
19 action.

20 This slide illustrates the environmental
21 review process. There are many steps to this process,
22 and there are many ways for the public to participate.

23 We would like the public to participate, and
24 therefore we have the public scoping meeting, such as
25 this afternoon, where we try to give information on

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1 our process, and receive your concerns. There's a
2 large contingency of technical teams from the NRC to
3 cover all these areas.

4 We accepted the application in September
5 2007. Our next step is to do the site audit, which we
6 are conducting this week. We look at the application
7 to see what is in -- what was given to us. We try to
8 do our independent evaluation ourselves, by looking
9 for issues that we try to cover in our reviews.

10 Also, we schedule at this time a public
11 scoping meeting, such as the one this afternoon, so
12 you can give us your comments. Along with the public
13 participation we get comments from the federal, state,
14 tribal and local governments.

15 We take all this information and draft an
16 EIS, an environmental impact statement, that we will
17 issue for comments. After the document is available,
18 we'll make -- we will have another meeting to comment
19 on the document and get your concerns.

20 Finally, we draft -- or we write the final
21 impact statement, which is based on the draft
22 environmental impact statement, and we incorporate the
23 additional comments. The NRC has a public hearing,
24 and after the hearing is completed, the agency makes a
25 decision.

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1 So you may be wondering what is scoping.
2 Scoping is participation of diverse groups. This is
3 necessary for full understanding and consideration of
4 all the potential environmental impacts of a proposed
5 agency action and it's alternatives.

6 But discussing and informing the public of
7 the emerging issues related to the proposed action,
8 agencies may reduce misunderstandings, so is the
9 public as well, build cooperative working
10 relationships, educate the public and the decision
11 makers, and avoid potential conflicts.

12 For example, I just wanted to give you an
13 example with a past scoping meeting we had with VOGTLE
14 where a member of the public had mentioned how the
15 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was managing the flow of
16 the Savannah River. Based on that comment, the NRC
17 held a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers to
18 discuss issues on drought levels in the Savannah
19 River.

20 So the information identified in this
21 scoping process, such as this meeting, is evaluated
22 and considered in our environmental report. The
23 public has the opportunity to make comments until
24 February 18, 2008.

25 So how does the NRC make an independent

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1 evaluation of the environmental impacts? We don't
2 only look at the application that the applicant has
3 given us, we also have our own site audit that we do
4 ourselves.

5 Also, we receive public comments, such as
6 at these meetings. The reason for this is because
7 public comments are important to us because you live
8 here, you know best of what's important, and you can
9 give us good information with regards to the
10 environmental impacts of the project.

11 We talk to social services and other
12 areas, such as socio-economics and environmental
13 justice. We also talk to federal agencies, such as
14 EPA, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, and Fish and
15 Wildlife to name a few. We also have a long list of
16 agencies that we contact to get their expertise. We
17 also look at the state, local, and federal, tribal
18 agencies to get their input on local conditions.

19 On this slide we look at the environmental
20 review areas. I just wanted to give you an example.
21 We have a large team of experts that look in different
22 areas. We look at socio-economics, environmental
23 justice, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, water
24 quality, hydrology, land use, radiation protection,
25 atmospheric science. We also look at transportation

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1 of radioactive material and decommissioning.

2 The staff has begun its environmental
3 review. A schedule helps the staff organize its
4 review and use its resources efficiently. Normally
5 staff would expect to issue a draft environmental
6 impact statement in 18 months. However, as part of
7 this review, the staff has identified additional
8 information necessary to determine a detailed
9 schedule.

10 While the schedule is uncertain, we'll be
11 posting updates on the NRC website.

12 Here are some milestones on the
13 environmental review. Scoping comments will be
14 accepted February 18, 2008. The public can petition
15 to intervene till February 25, 2008. Also, we have
16 still to determine the draft EIS, also the public
17 meeting to the draft environmental impact statement,
18 and the final impact statement.

19 As the review progresses, we'll give you
20 updates on these dates. The review schedule will be
21 available on the NRC website. And the NRC website is
22 listed below on the slide.

23 We encourage public involvement in the
24 review process. It's important in our process. The
25 public can make comments during the comment period for

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1 the scoping meeting, as well as the draft
2 environmental impact comment period.

3 Throughout our environmental process we
4 hold public meetings to give information to the public
5 and to explain our process. The next public meeting
6 will be the draft environmental impact statement
7 meeting. The NRC hearing is another way for the
8 public to participate. The public can file petition
9 to intervene February 25, 2008.

10 I'd like to point out that the Commission
11 recently passed a rule for e-filing which requires a
12 digital certificate. The digital certificate will --
13 usually takes about a day, so interested parties can
14 review the instructions on the notice of hearing on
15 the NRC website. The hearing covers both safety and
16 environmental issues.

17 We welcome your written comments and we do
18 hope you have comments today. Other ways that you can
19 provide comments is by mail at Chief Rules and
20 Directives Branch, Division of Administration
21 Services, Mail Stop T6059, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
22 Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; or by e-mail,
23 stp_col@nrc.gov; or in person at 11545 Rockville Pike,
24 Rockville, Maryland 208532.

25 Here's a list of contacts. Please contact

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1 George Wunder, who's the Safety Project Manager, or my
2 self, for environmental issues. And here's a list of
3 acronyms that we thought would be helpful in your
4 environmental review.

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
6 you, Paul --

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: -- Niles, and George.

9 And by the way, the William Burton who was
10 mentioned on the slides is the William Burton right
11 here, Chief of the Environmental Branch.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: We have a few moments for
14 questions before we get to the speakers. Are there
15 questions about the basic process that the NRC is
16 going to follow? And we'll come back down -- let's go
17 to this gentleman here.

18 Please just introduce yourself to us, sir.

19 MR. CAMPBELL: My name is Steven Campbell.
20 I'm a resident of San Antonio. My question is for
21 Mr. Wunder.

22 In the information that CPS Energy has
23 posted on their websites, it speaks to a Toshiba
24 reactor and infers that perhaps it's going to be
25 manufactured by Toshiba in Japan. You mentioned

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1 General Electric.

2 Could you clarify that for me, and
3 particularly who's going to be the designer of record,
4 and responsible for meeting 10 C.F.R. 21 and 10 C.F.R.
5 1555?

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
7 you, sir.

8 George?

9 MR. WUNDER: Well, the information that we
10 have -- the application that we have is for the
11 General Electric reactor. We do not have anything in-
12 house currently regarding that, and we've got people
13 here from South Texas, and I think it's more
14 appropriate that they address that.

15 MR. CAMERON: And do you want to do it for
16 us?

17 MR. RICHARDS: Yes, currently Toshiba is
18 in the plans to design and build the GE-certified
19 reactor, and Toshiba will be the designer of record
20 for the plant.

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And your name, sir,
22 is?

23 MR. RICHARDS: My name is Kevin Richards.

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And I'm going to ask,
25 when we -- I think that there'll be some other

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1 speakers from South Texas later who may amplify on
2 that for you. Okay. So we'll come back to that one.

3 Sharon?

4 FEMALE VOICE: Hi. There was a reference
5 made to a safety expert who is here, and I'm wondering
6 two things: who that person is, and what agency they
7 represent; and if there's someone here today, since
8 the agencies should be working together, from Homeland
9 Security or from FEMA?

10 MR. CAMERON: When you talk about a safety
11 expert, do you mean an emergency planning expert?

12 FEMALE VOICE: Well, the speakers earlier
13 referenced someone who is here.

14 MR. WUNDER: I think it must have been me.
15 And it must have been -- you're probably referring to
16 me. And, yes, it's one of our own people here. His
17 name is Dan Barrs [phonetic], and he's an expert in
18 emergency preparedness.

19 MR. CAMERON: And Dan is right back here.

20 FEMALE VOICE: And is he NRC?

21 MR. WUNDER: He is NRC, yes.

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Yes, sir?

23 MR. STINER: Eric Stiner of Bay City. How
24 many licenses have you all approved that have been
25 through the full process in America?

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1 MR. CHOKSHI: There are currently 104
2 operating plants, in which are -- but in terms of the
3 new applications, we have in-house several combined
4 operating license and early site permit applications.

5 We granted I believe three or four early site permits
6 already, but we are reviewing the other ones.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Yes, sir?

8 MR. HERMAN: Greg Herman, San Antonio. I
9 also was curious about the operating company. My
10 understanding is that the containment vessels have
11 already been ordered from Japan. Is that the case?

12 MR. CAMERON: Can we just have a quick
13 answer to that? And the company will be here after
14 the meeting for any extended discussion.

15 But, Mark, can you --

16 MR. McBURNETT: Mark McBurnett. I'm Vice
17 President, Oversight and Regulatory Affairs of the
18 South Texas Project.

19 Yes, we have orders in place for the
20 forging slots for the reactor pressure vessels with
21 Japan Steelworks in Japan. They are the only source
22 in the world that has the capability of fabricating
23 these ultra-large forgings, and the demand on that
24 facility is high. In order to get into there, you
25 have to get in early and get your order in, and that's

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1 what we've done. Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mark.

3 Let's go to this gentleman here, and then
4 we'll go back to you, sir.

5 MR. REED: Cyrus Reed, Austin, Texas. I
6 had two quick questions. One, it was mentioned, I
7 believe by the second speaker, about a letter to the
8 company indicating that there wasn't enough
9 information to proceed on some parts of the
10 application.

11 Can you just verify that and respond? In
12 other words, my question is, why has the application
13 been accepted and docketed if there's information out
14 there that has yet to be obtained?

15 MR. WUNDER: No, and thank you very much
16 for asking that question. I should have probably
17 amplified that, and in tonight's presentation I will.

18 The fact that they are not currently ready
19 to support a full NRC review shouldn't -- does not
20 reflect on the adequacy, the completeness, or the
21 acceptability of the application. All it means is
22 that, as we go forward with the review -- we have to
23 ask a lot of technical questions, and it's a very give
24 and take, very active, aggressive process, and they
25 simply aren't ready to support a review in full right

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1 now.

2 MR. REED: And my second question, which
3 is somewhat similar to the last speaker, he mentioned
4 that in terms of the environmental review, they were
5 going to need additional information from the
6 applicant.

7 And, again, my question would be, if the
8 environmental review isn't really ready for us, the
9 public, to provide comments on, then why are we here
10 today, or what sort of additional information are you
11 talking about?

12 MR. KALLAN: Well --

13 MR. CAMERON: And, Paul, you're going to
14 answer that. You may want to talk a little bit also
15 about the process that the NRC typically goes through
16 with an application of this kind too.

17 MR. KALLAN: Well, the idea is that
18 usually we have -- we ask the applicant for additional
19 information, and which is what we're doing right now
20 in the site audit. And with that we'll be better
21 prepared to have a schedule.

22 I mean at this present time we felt that
23 it had sufficient information to docket, and we're
24 continuing with our review. We will -- you know, as
25 to -- for the -- as we continue we will ask for

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1 further information if we need it. But at this
2 present time, you know, that's --

3 MR. CAMERON: And, Paul, are those
4 requests that we make to the applicant and their
5 answers -- they're all part of the public record if
6 the public wants to look at that?

7 MR. KALLAN: Yes.

8 MR. CAMERON: Is that correct?

9 MR. KALLAN: That's correct.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Yes, sir?

11 MR. SIMON: Pascal Simon from Bay City. I
12 just need clarification. You referred to the Advisory
13 Committee on Reactor Safeguards meetings. Where are
14 those meetings, who are those people, will -- you do
15 say the public's invited, but what opportunities will
16 there be for that?

17 And the second question is, on the
18 environmental review schedule slide you referred to
19 the draft EIS-TBD. What is TBD?

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

21 MR. KALLAN: The EIS is the environmental
22 impact statement, and to be determined.

23 MR. CAMERON: TBD is to be determined. We
24 don't know --

25 MR. KALLAN: We don't have --

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1 MR. CAMERON: -- exactly when --

2 MR. KALLAN: -- as of yet we don't have a
3 schedule since we --

4 MALE VOICE: [inaudible]

5 MR. KALLAN: Oh, getting information from
6 the applicant.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. In terms of the
8 Advisory Committee, can you explain who they are, what
9 their function is, where they hold meetings, Nileshe?

10 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes, the Advisory Committee
11 on Reactor Safeguards is, by statute, a committee.
12 The 10 C.F.R. requires that we have this independent
13 advisory board which provides advice to the
14 commissioners.

15 And so it's an -- within the NRC it's an
16 independent group of people. These are technically --
17 nationally known technical experts in different areas
18 of reactor safety science, nuclear engineering.

19 And all of the safety reviews,
20 particularly the major safety reviews, the staff makes
21 its findings, goes and presents it to the ACRS, and
22 ACRS conducts its reviews and then provides
23 independent opinion to the commissioners.

24 And normally it's a couple of rounds of
25 meetings, then a draft safety evaluation report, and

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1 also the final evaluation report. In many important
2 actions, the Advisory Committee will come down to the
3 local community also, particularly when it -- things
4 more like licensing a nuclear facility.

5 Now we haven't done any licensing
6 recently, but my anticipation will be that, if you get
7 to that stage, then you will see ACRS meetings -- at
8 least one of the meetings will be held here, but
9 normally the meetings are held in the first week of
10 the month in Washington at the NRC offices. But their
11 meeting notices are regularly posted on the website,
12 and you can go and look at their schedule.

13 MR. CAMERON: And are those -- those ACRS
14 meetings are transcribed so that people can view --

15 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes.

16 MR. CAMERON: -- the transcript?

17 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes, the transcripts are
18 also available. Good point. Yes.

19 MR. CAMERON: Yes. And we talk about a
20 number of meetings, including ACRS, is it -- can we
21 tell people, if they want to know when we're having
22 meetings with the applicant, the staff, when the ACRS,
23 is there an easy way for them to find out when those
24 meetings are happening?

25 MR. WUNDER: It's on our website.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. So you go to
2 www.nrc.gov, and then you would go to the public
3 meetings --

4 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes.

5 MR. CAMERON: -- click on the public
6 meetings banner and that will tell you all the
7 meetings.

8 Yes?

9 MS. DANCER: My name's Susan Dancer from
10 Blessing, Texas, and my question is -- I have two
11 questions somewhat related. One, if I understand
12 correctly, the EIS, the clock is ticking, so to speak,
13 and the 25th of this month, 20 days from now, is the
14 last chance the public has to file any kind of
15 official contingent. How do you justify that with us
16 having to file contentions against an incomplete EIS?

17 And the second part of that question is,
18 is there -- I hear, you know, much money's been spent
19 already, major equipment is on order for the plant.
20 Is there any chance at all that the application will
21 be denied?

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay. The first part of the
23 question I'm going to -- I think I'm going to ask our
24 representative, Jim Biggins, from the Office of
25 General Counsel to clarify what the different

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1 deadlines are, and answer that question. And then
2 we'll go to Nilesch for the second part.

3 Jim?

4 MR. BIGGINS: Thank you. Jim Biggins with
5 the Office of General Counsel at the NRC.

6 As far as the information in the
7 application, the application was complete in order for
8 us to docket it. And an intervention period from the
9 date of docketing has already begun, and the
10 information is available and has been available in
11 order for those interested to intervene to review the
12 information and determine whether they are going to
13 intervene in the case or not.

14 That is separate from the comment period
15 for the scoping process, which does end on the 15th.
16 However, we do allow comment after the draft EIS is
17 issued.

18 So I want to be sure, does that answer the
19 first part of your question?

20 MR. CAMERON: And let's just make sure
21 that people know the two dates. The date for comments
22 on scoping is February --

23 MR. BIGGINS: Fifteenth.

24 MR. KALLAN: Eighteenth.

25 MR. BIGGINS: Oh, pardon me, 18th.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And the day that
2 intervention petitions have to be filed is February --

3 MR. BIGGINS: Twenty-fifth.

4 MR. CAMERON: -- 25. All right. Now the
5 second part of the question I think is -- are you
6 done -- are you done here? Go ahead.

7 MR. BIGGINS: I'm done. I just want to
8 make sure we remembered that second part. It's if
9 they already ordered components, or started that
10 process, whether the -- there's a possibility that the
11 application could be denied. Is that correct?

12 MR. CAMERON: That sounded like the
13 question.

14 Okay. Nileshe?

15 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes, can we clarify what was
16 the question? What -- is there --

17 MR. CAMERON: I think the question is is
18 that we've heard that the company is obviously
19 investing in time and effort and everything, ordering,
20 or at least getting in line for the reactor vessel.
21 Does that still mean that there is a possibility that
22 the application would be denied?

23 And I think that you know the answer to
24 that one.

25 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes. I mean, we have very

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1 specific requirements and regulations and we have to
2 make sure that the application is in compliance with
3 all of our regulation requirements before we can pass
4 a judgment. But the fact that they have ordered a
5 component doesn't have a bearing on our review at this
6 point.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

8 Let's -- I think we have time for one more
9 question. I think Tom Smith has it, and then we'll go
10 to comment.

11 MR. SMITH: Tom Smith, public citizen.
12 Let me go back and clarify your answer. On the 30th
13 of January you all sent a letter NRG basically saying
14 there were so many deficiencies in their application
15 that you were suspending review of components of that
16 application because there simply wasn't enough
17 information for you all to make an informed judgment
18 about the quality of those particular sections of the
19 application. I'm paraphrasing your language.

20 How can we in the community have a fair
21 and adequate opportunity to review the adequacy of the
22 application, make an informed judgment about whether
23 we might want to intervene, or whether or not there
24 might be contentions that should be raised in those of
25 the application that you have acknowledged to the --

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1 or indicated to the applicant that you don't feel are
2 adequately complete?

3 MR. CAMERON: That's a good question.

4 Jim Biggins again.

5 MR. BIGGINS: Yes, Jim Biggins with NRC.

6 It's not that we believe the application
7 is incomplete. We believe the application is complete
8 and we docketed it as a complete application. Our
9 letter indicates our response to STP in regards to
10 their request that we hold off on the review process
11 on the safety side of the application, on portions of
12 it.

13 And we agreed to hold off on our review
14 process. That is in response to their explanation
15 that they have difficulty currently lining up the
16 support to answer the questions that the staff would
17 raise during our normal review process.

18 During our review process for any COLA
19 application, we are, of course, going to ask
20 questions, ask for additional information. This is
21 part of our normal process. We submit requests for
22 additional information to them, we conduct audit
23 activities. And during this process we get
24 clarification on things that the staff believes need
25 clarification in the application.

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1 Many applications go through a revision
2 process, and the applicants submit revisions to their
3 application with additional information. The initial
4 intervention period is based on docketing of the
5 application, which we believe is complete.

6 When new information does arise, our rules
7 provide a process to ask to intervene in a late file
8 contention. And that process does allow the public to
9 intervene in the case beyond the initial period,
10 according to the requirements in the regulation.

11 MR. CAMERON: So, in other words, you
12 would recommend to someone who was interested in
13 intervening is to take a look at the environmental
14 report and what's in the safety analysis and decide on
15 that whether they wanted to intervene and to form a
16 contention, but if that there's information that has
17 not been detailed yet, that they would have an
18 opportunity to raise a contention later on?

19 MR. BIGGINS: That is correct regarding
20 our process, yes.

21 MR. SMITH: And may I ask for the same
22 courtesy that you're offering the company, because the
23 application, as I understand your regulations, is
24 woven as a whole and needs to be judged as a whole.
25 And I believe your answer is just as incomplete as

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1 their application.

2 And I would like to ask for the same
3 opportunity to say, Geez, we're not ready yet to have
4 all of our contentions and to have the opportunity, as
5 time goes on, for a free pass, just as you've given
6 the company, to modify our contentions.

7 And yet from my understanding of your
8 records, that is not a likely granted favor for
9 contestants, people who would want to, but it seems to
10 be a likely granted favor to the applicant. Will you
11 guarantee us a free pass on any contentions we might
12 want to raise on documents that might later come to
13 your -- across your desk from the company?

14 MR. BIGGINS: We're not in a position to,
15 as you say, grant a precast. We have the open period
16 for contentions currently, and a contention can be
17 filed during this period. And as I said, we have a
18 process to allow contentions to be filed later.

19 MR. CAMERON: And, Tom, and for all of you
20 who have the same concerns, this issue will be taken
21 back to the NRC staff and commissioners, but to leave
22 nothing to chance, if this is a concern, I think we
23 would all recommend that you send a formal letter into
24 the Commission and the licensing board, and state the
25 reason why either it should be postponed in terms of

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1 filing for intervention, or that your request later
2 on, on information that isn't there, should be held to
3 a lesser standard than the late file contention.

4 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes. I think I want to
5 emphasize that we heard the concern, and, you know, we
6 cannot give an answer because this is a very formal
7 process, but I think, as Chip said, noticed and we can
8 do -- you know, inform the right people. So I think
9 follow Mr. Cameron's, I think, suggestion.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. We have one small
11 question.

12 MS. HADDEN: Yes, it promises to be short.
13 In the process of working on COL plant issues, we
14 learned that many of the supplies needed for a large
15 construction project are in short supply, not very
16 available, costs have gone up. In some cases some
17 companies wanted to import steel from abroad that did
18 not meet U.S. standards for tensile strength.

19 What are you doing and what can you
20 guarantee in terms of the metals that are imported?
21 Will they have to meet U.S. standards for all steel
22 used in the reactors and on the site?

23 MR. CAMERON: And this -- you may want to
24 address this when we get to the -- you want to address
25 this when we get to your -- you want to do it? Okay.

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1 MR. McBURNETT: Mark McBurnett from South
2 Texas Project again. Yes, under nuclear plant
3 operation and construction, we operate under a quality
4 assurance program, it's 10 C.F.R. 50, Appendix B.
5 It's a program approved by NRC.

6 Our components are required to meet ASME,
7 American Society of Mechanical Engineers, codes.
8 That's all the metal in the plant and that are in
9 safety related applications. That has extensive
10 testing requirements and verification requirements in
11 all the steps of the process from original work in the
12 foundry all the way through to delivery to the plant,
13 the final verification that the material is what it
14 was sold as.

15 MR. CAMERON: And I would just add also
16 the NRC has requirements that -- in terms of quality
17 assurance and other things, that the equipment that
18 is -- I hate to say important to safety, use that
19 phrase, but has to meet certain standards. And if
20 someone during -- after the meeting can talk to Karen,
21 or online?

22 But, listen, thank you all for those
23 questions. And we're going to go to the part of the
24 meeting where we listen to all of you. And I'm just
25 going to ask you to come up here, and we have

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1 Representative Mike O'Day with us, State
2 Representative, and I'm going to ask him to come up
3 here and address us first.

4 (Applause.)

5 REPRESENTATIVE O'DAY: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman.

7 First I'd like to send a message from
8 Judge McDonald, he's in Washington, D.C. today taking
9 care of issues for the county, and he apologizes for
10 the fact that he wouldn't be here today. And to yours
11 and his demise, I'm going to take his position on
12 this. Okay. But I'm also going to say what I have to
13 say doesn't necessarily -- or is not the words of
14 Judge McDonald.

15 First, I would like to say I'm Mike O'Day.

16 I'm the State Representative from District 29, which
17 has all of Matagorda County and the western portion of
18 Brazoria County. And I am a resident, or I have a
19 home in Matagorda County, which I can see the lights
20 of the nuclear plant from my house.

21 I have never felt in endangered from STP.

22 As a matter of fact, I have a lot of friends that
23 work over there. I have a boat, I fish, I spend a lot
24 of time in the Colorado River, both upstream and
25 downstream from the nuclear plant.

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1 I am a water contractor by career. I
2 spent 35 years in the water industry. I served on the
3 Brazoria County Ground Water Conservation District; I
4 sit on the Natural Resources Committee in the House of
5 Representatives, and I sit on the Culture, Recreation,
6 and Tourism, which also takes care of fish and game,
7 and the parks in the state of Texas.

8 I say that to you because I want you to
9 know, I'm not somebody that just came down here to
10 talk to you because it's something I felt about. I'm
11 a resident of the county -- I say a resident -- I
12 spend a lot of time in the county. My pleasure home
13 is here in the county. And I love Matagorda County.
14 A lot of my work is done here in the county.

15 I support, personally, clean and safe
16 nuclear energy. I've had a lot of chances --
17 fortunate enough I've traveled around the world a lot.

18 There's a lot of nuclear plants around the world. We
19 quit making nuclear plants in the United States for
20 the last 29 years, I believe.

21 I think we're falling behind in the world
22 market. We talk about what the cost of energy is.
23 Nuclear energy is, in my opinion, our best alternative
24 to replace natural gas for making our power needs. I
25 want to say that obviously nuclear energy is low cost

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1 power generation, clean energy, and zero gas
2 emissions. Not anywhere like a coal or a gas power
3 plant.

4 I would like to let you know that the
5 State of House -- the House of Representatives, we had
6 two major issues this year in support of nuclear power
7 in the Texas. One of those passed unanimously, 139 to
8 0, and the other passed 135 to 4.

9 I'd just like -- I say that to let you
10 know that the representatives, the people's
11 representatives in the House of Representatives in the
12 State of Texas obviously feel that nuclear energy is
13 important for the State of Texas.

14 So I am here as an advocate for nuclear
15 energy, and for the South Texas nuclear plant. I
16 believe they've been good stewards of the community, I
17 think they're important, education is important to our
18 community, they've worked hard to influence education
19 and promote education in the community.

20 And I'm available for any questions that
21 anybody would like to give, or ask me at a later time.

22 And thank you for the time to speak.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,
24 Representative O'Day.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MR. CAMERON: We do have a letter from
2 Judge McDonald that we're going to accept as a formal
3 written comment, and attach it to the record.

4 And since I'm on that subject, we also
5 have a statement from Polly Hearn, Kay Lawson, Roberta
6 Ripkey, Debbie Morris, who are residents, and we're
7 also going to put that on the record.

8 We're going to go next to Sheriff James
9 Mitchell.

10 Sheriff Mitchell?

11 (Applause.)

12 SHERIFF MITCHELL: Thank you. Good
13 evening.

14 My name is James Mitchell, and I'm your
15 County Sheriff. I've served in that capacity here for
16 the past 12 years. I'm currently serving my 26th year
17 in law enforcement here in Matagorda County.

18 Again, I tell you these things for
19 important reasons. I've lived my entire life in
20 Matagorda County, most of it in Bay City. There were
21 two generations of Mitchells before me, and there has
22 been two generations of Mitchells since me, being my
23 children and my grandchildren, who I intend to raise
24 here and be happy with.

25 My concern as sheriff in this whole

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1 project is obviously security. The goal of the
2 security program at STP being protecting the health
3 and safety of the public. My response to that is,
4 yes, they can. They've been doing it for over 20
5 years. I work very closely with the officers out at
6 the nuclear plant, my officers actually train with
7 their security officers.

8 I share a SWAT team with the Bay City
9 Police Department, a 15-man SWAT team. Most of those
10 officers on that SWAT team got their basic,
11 intermediate, and advanced SWAT certification at that
12 nuclear plant.

13 My officers on the SWAT team, and even
14 many of them on the street, carry compatible weapons
15 so that in an event we can exchange ammunition clips,
16 magazines, the whole thing. We've always been there
17 to back the plant up in any way that we can, and we
18 will continue to do that.

19 As I said, I have, you know, 26 years in
20 law enforcement, and most of that has been working
21 with the nuclear plant in one capacity or another. At
22 the present time my wife is the senior security
23 coordinator for the nuclear plant. And that's only
24 been going on since last April, so that's to what's
25 motivated me to speak here today.

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1 As -- both as a citizen of Matagorda
2 County, and as your sheriff, I not only welcome the
3 addition of Units 3 and 4, I look forward to it.
4 There's never been an incident, a security based
5 incident at our nuclear plant that has not been
6 handled properly and professionally. And there's no
7 doubt in my mind that that will continue with the
8 additions of these two new plants.

9 So I would encourage this, and I hope the
10 citizens of Matagorda County will also. And as
11 Representative O'Day, I'll leave some cards out on the
12 back table, and if anybody has questions, I'll be glad
13 to take those later. Thank you all.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sheriff.

16 Next we're going to go to Mayor Richard
17 Knapik, Bay City mayor.

18 (Applause.)

19 MAYOR KNAPIK: Thank you, Chip.

20 To the NRC staff, those seated here and
21 those in the audience, all of my fellow citizens, and
22 visitors from far away, I want to say welcome to Bay
23 City.

24 I'm glad you all left the acronym sheet up
25 there. As you're all aware of, there's an acronym

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1 called NIMBY, not in my backyard. Commissioners, I'm
2 here to tell you, I stand for PIMBY, please in my
3 backyard.

4 We are strong supporters of STP. What
5 community would not welcome a \$6.4 billion investment
6 in their community? I mean, this is great. We're
7 talking about 8,000 construction jobs during peak,
8 800 -- I mean 4,000 jobs, 800 permanent jobs.

9 I want to tell you about STP. I want to
10 put a human face on the corporate citizens of STP.
11 Mr. Shepherd and his crew have created a culture of
12 excellence and community involvement. The American
13 Red Cross, they're always there to help them, the
14 American Cancer Society, the Relay for Life. They've
15 grossed over \$100,000 in the past three or four years
16 thanks to the involvement of STP.

17 Their employees care. They serve on our
18 city councils, they serve on our school boards,
19 they're involved in economic development, they're
20 involved in all aspects of our community life. I'm
21 here to say -- I want to say thank you for that
22 involvement.

23 And if we can get 800 more citizens like
24 that, what a great community Bay City and Matagorda
25 County will be. So I urge you --

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1 (Applause.)

2 MAYOR KNAPIK: I urge you to grant the
3 license for 3 and 4. Thank you, and once again, enjoy
4 your stay in Bay City.

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,
6 Mayor.

7 We're going to hear from Mayor Joe Morton
8 of Palacios, Texas.

9 MAYOR MORTON: A little too heavy there.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MAYOR MORTON: Hello. My name is Joe
12 Morton. I am mayor of the City of Palacios. And
13 welcome to our area and our community.

14 But I'm here today as a citizen, a native
15 Texan, born and raised in Marshall, Texas, and I'm
16 here today to talk about why I am for STP as a person,
17 not as an elected official.

18 I feel like that my qualifications to make
19 that statement comes from many years of experience. I
20 came to Houston in 1967, worked in the construction of
21 civil infrastructure for 40 years, the last 19 being
22 executive vice president of a construction company in
23 Rosenberg, Texas.

24 I've installed many miles of pipe, poured
25 many thousand yards of concrete, and also had the

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1 pleasure of working with Mr. O'Day in years past in
2 water projects and building waste water treatment
3 plants.

4 I came to Palacios seven years ago because
5 I wanted to live close to the water. And I have four
6 grandchildren -- three children, four grandchildren.
7 And I've worked the last seven years to get them to
8 live in Palacios. At this time they all do. And if I
9 thought there was any danger whatsoever at that
10 nuclear treatment plant, I would not put my
11 descendants in that danger.

12 It's good for us, it's a good place,
13 they've been great neighbors. There's a lot more
14 opportunity for danger in other types of process
15 plants in our area besides STP, especially when it
16 comes to terrorists.

17 But all of them, including STP, and all
18 the process plants have been great neighbors and
19 partners in our community, especially in the
20 environmental section. So I don't believe there's any
21 reason why that we should go against this type of
22 investment for our community. And I look forward
23 to -- for my descendants to live here.

24 And I want to praise the NRC for their
25 educated people. And, Bob, they've got a fantastic

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1 track record. No other agency in the government has
2 had the challenges that NRC has, other than maybe the
3 Department of Defense, or NASA, in the last 40 years.

4 And the reason being is because of the
5 educated and highly bright people that they have on
6 staff. They have not made a mistake since they've
7 been incepted. Not one. Other agencies have had
8 mistakes. That's because of the people involved and
9 how much they care and can work.

10 So I put my descendants' future in their
11 hands, and I believe they'll do a good job. Thank
12 you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mayor
15 Morton.

16 We're next going to go to Tom Smith, and
17 then Karen Hadden, and then Bobby Head.

18 Tom?

19 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. My name is
20 Tom Smith, and most everybody calls me Smitty. I'm
21 Director of Public Citizen's Texas office.

22 And I would like to thank the NRC for
23 holding this hearing, and the people in particularly,
24 the workers at the plant who have worked to make this
25 plant a safe plant. And we wish you continued success

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1 in this.

2 I'm here today to raise a number of issues
3 that I think are of concern in this scoping hearing,
4 and we have submitted a greater length -- more lengthy
5 documents, and we'll submit more additional comments
6 in writing.

7 But let me highlight a number of them for
8 you quickly, others will speak to you about these in
9 greater depth, and then I'll speak to the issue of the
10 need for the plant in much greater depth in just a
11 second.

12 I think the first question that you all,
13 in this community, may want to ask is, is this going
14 to be a benefit to you, or will your taxes have to go
15 up to pay for the infrastructure to support the growth
16 of the plant, the additional hospitals and security
17 systems, roads, schools and other issues.

18 What will the impact of cancer be on this
19 community? And if you look at data you see that the
20 cancer rates have gone from below average to above
21 average since this plant's been in operation.

22 What about water use? With the droughts
23 we've been having and with the increasing belief that
24 global warming is a significant issue in this part of
25 the country, will there be significant decreases in

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1 the amount of available water, and what will that mean
2 to the operations of this plant?

3 And, will the temperatures of the
4 operating water in the plant get to a level that the
5 plant has to be shut down, like it has been in France,
6 Germany, and some places in the Southeast?

7 What about hurricanes? If sea level rises
8 occur at the rate that are projected by many of the
9 people who are looking at global warming, will this
10 plant be vulnerable to hurricanes? And in this
11 particular community, will you be able to get out in
12 time?

13 And for those of you who were here in Rita
14 and in other hurricanes, you know how clogged the
15 roads became. That was with three days notice. If
16 you had a couple of hours worth of notice, would you
17 be able to evacuate in time? Are the evacuations
18 plans adequate? Do you have adequate notice, and will
19 you be able to evacuate in time?

20 What about endangered species? There are
21 kemp ridley turtles, whooping cranes, and others that
22 are on the threatened and endangered species list in
23 this community. Many of them we are beginning to
24 understand how significant they are since they last
25 time this plant was permitted in this community.

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1 What about wastes? The whole community
2 of -- the whole question about the plant being
3 permitted is dependant upon your ability to dispose of
4 wastes. The high-level radioactive waste site in
5 Yucca Mountain has yet to be completed, and just
6 recently they have announced they are laying off staff
7 because of the impossibility of getting that site
8 permitted and operating.

9 And we do not yet have a licensed and
10 operating low-level radioactive waste disposal site,
11 which means that the disposal, up until we get those
12 things permitted, if we ever do, is here in this
13 community.

14 Subsidence, no. What happens if we over-
15 use the ground water in this community, and will there
16 be a decrease in the level of the plant?
17 Transportation, how will the materials and the waste
18 come in and out of this community? Environmental
19 justice, what will the net impact be on your taxes and
20 the community, the low-income communities of color?

21 And then the source of uranium. We all
22 think that the uranium will probably come from
23 someplace else, and most of it will, but here in Texas
24 we have a number of communities, particularly those
25 around Karnes City and Kingsville where we have

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1 significant impact already to ground water as a result
2 of uranium mining.

3 We're about ready to get into another
4 round of uranium mining in Goliad and Duval Counties.

5 And the impact of the uranium extraction on those
6 communities typically means that ground water is no
7 longer safe.

8 But the fundamental question is, do we
9 need this plant, and will it be completed on time.
10 And this history of this has not been clear. The last
11 time we tried to build a plant in this community, it
12 took eight years longer than necessary.

13 And what we're seeing here in this
14 particular analysis that has been presented to you
15 all, is that the applicant says, We need the plant for
16 base load. And it is impossible to really utilize
17 other resources like energy efficiency and renewable
18 energy as base load.

19 Yet there are three studies not referenced
20 in this most recent submission by NRG to you all that
21 have been done in the last several years. One on San
22 Antonio in particular that said we could save more
23 than 1200 megawatts, far more than CPS's share of this
24 plant, if we did energy efficiency at costs less than
25 building this plant.

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1 Another by Optimal Energy that said that
2 the state could save 80 percent of the energy -- the
3 growth in demand for energy that this plant is
4 designed to meet.

5 And yet another most recently by AC Triple
6 E indicating that we could save between 75 percent of
7 the growth in demand for energy, and 101 percent of
8 the growth in demand for energy in either the Houston
9 or Dallas areas respectively, by using energy
10 efficiency as our first resource, along with other
11 resources like combined heating and power, and
12 renewable energies.

13 None of those data are analyzed
14 appropriately in this document. And those are the
15 bread and butter. If we can do energy efficiency less
16 expensively than building this plant, and put Texans
17 to work as opposed to people in Japan or in Russia or
18 in Africa that will be mining this uranium. Wouldn't
19 it be better to have the jobs and money stay here in
20 the United States?

21 Thank you all very much for you time. And
22 good luck with your review.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
25 Smitty.

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1 And Karen?

2 MS. HADDEN: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Karen Hadden, and I'm the Director of the Sustainable
4 Energy and Economic Development, or SEED Coalition.
5 We work statewide around Texas for clean air and clean
6 energy.

7 We do not believe that nuclear reactors
8 are the right path to take at this point in time. For
9 one reason, they do not solve the global warming
10 problem. That's been discussed a lot of times as a
11 rationale for building nuclear power plants.

12 But instead they would divert huge
13 resources that right now are desperately needed to go
14 into technologies that are safe, clean, that exist
15 today. Wind power on the coast can be developed much
16 further providing jobs. Solar power can be developed
17 on the coast. Texas has an incredible wealth of wind
18 and sun. Those types of technologies are life-giving
19 and sustainable.

20 With a nuclear power plant, the waste
21 issue has not been solved. Yucca Mountain has been
22 cutting back the workers to 15 now. And to bring more
23 of this into the community is putting the community at
24 risk. When you consider that this plant would be --
25 if it goes through -- having construction right next

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1 door to an operating nuclear plant, you're introducing
2 circumstances that haven't been seen before.

3 And, again, workers will probably be
4 coming from around the world. Security is going to be
5 a very serious concern. And I am dismayed to find
6 that there is no one here from the Department of
7 Homeland Security, or from FEMA, because these
8 agencies, after 9/11 have vowed to work closely
9 together to prevent catastrophes.

10 And I think it's a huge lack that they are
11 not here today working with the NRC. I am wondering
12 when you will have a public meeting that does have
13 those representatives present, and asking for you to
14 do that.

15 I would also ask that you hold scoping
16 meetings in Houston, which is down wind, as is
17 Dallas/Ft. Worth, from any potential accident, in
18 Austin and San Antonio, where the cities could
19 potentially be partners, and to let more people speak
20 up and be part of this process.

21 Since 1992 there has been a consistent
22 effort to constrain citizen input, not to expand it.
23 Right now we've seen -- and this is all too familiar
24 in Texas -- what we're seeing is fast tracking of
25 these permits, and it's unacceptable.

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1 We've gone from what should be four and a
2 half years down to three. We've gone from shortened
3 input -- and to be honest, this is -- if this permit
4 moves forward, it is actually illegal. And I'd like
5 to explain why.

6 I'd also like to mention that these
7 reactors have never been built before in the United
8 States. NRG has never built a nuclear reactor. In
9 Japan the reactor history has not been a good one.
10 We've provided a sheet to you about some of the many
11 incidents that have occurred there. Of course, one is
12 hopefully one we won't have here, which included an
13 earthquake, and now they've got stuck control rods
14 they can't get out.

15 In the meantime, they've had to buy spot
16 power on the market for LNG. It's costing them huge
17 amounts of money. For the first time TEPCO in Japan
18 is running at a deficit, and not meeting their global
19 warming commitments.

20 To come back to the reasons why this
21 process should not go forward as it is right now, the
22 draft environmental impact statement will not be
23 ready, the draft, for at least 18 months, according to
24 what we've been told her today. That is supposed to
25 be finished, by law, before a license can move

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1 forward.

2 This is under the National Environmental
3 Policy Act, or NEPA. There's two main components to
4 it. It says that those who propose a project have to
5 take a hard look at environmental impacts, and, part
6 two, that the process is meant to provide meaningful
7 public participation in identifying the potential
8 environmental impacts and responding to the analysis.

9 In the case of a nuclear power plant, the
10 NEPA process is interrelated with the licensing,
11 public participation is through filing petitions to
12 intervene. A key document that could provide
13 information upon which intervenors could build
14 contentions, is the final environmental impact
15 statement.

16 Yet the 60 day clock has started on
17 intervention petitions as soon as the NRC accepted the
18 application for docketing, so we now have a deadline
19 of February 25, with no date even set for a draft
20 environmental impact statement. The EIS will not even
21 begin before the final deadline for intervenors to
22 file.

23 The NEPA law prohibits irreversible or
24 irretrievable commitments of resources prior to the
25 completion of the EIS. That involves the work that

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1 the NRC does on the permit. So basically what's going
2 on is that we have docketing of a license application
3 for two nuclear reactors that is grossly incomplete,
4 forcing potential intervenors to decide on whether to
5 pursue intervention, and to decide on what issue or
6 issues to pursue without a complete application
7 available.

8 We have a licencing process moving forward
9 with an EIS not even begun. These are both violations
10 of the statutes and regulations that apply to this
11 process, and I would urge you to halt all further
12 proceedings on the license application until the
13 environmental impact statement is finalized as is
14 required by federal law. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Karen.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: Usually we don't respond to
18 what we're listening to here, but just to make sure
19 that -- because this is important for all of you --
20 just to make sure that our process is clear, I've
21 asked Jim from our Office of General Counsel to just
22 clarify a little on how the contentions and draft
23 environmental impact statement are treated.

24 Jim?

25 MR. BIGGINS: Thank you, Chip.

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1 The draft environmental impact statement
2 is essentially a complete environmental impact
3 statement. It's called draft because we accept public
4 comments after it comes out. And then the process of
5 our application review continues while we incorporate
6 those comments and the concerns from those comments
7 into the final environmental impact statement.

8 In addition, our rules do allow for
9 intervention after the draft impact statement, or
10 after the final environmental impact statement, as
11 long as those who seek to intervene meet the
12 requirements for late intervention.

13 And I really just wanted to comment on the
14 process, and there we go.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

16 MR. BIGGINS: Thank you, Chip.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Jim.

18 And we're going to go to Bobby. Bobby
19 had -- Bobby, are you here?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. He may be coming
22 tonight. I want to ask Mitch Thames, and then Cyrus
23 Reed, and then Robert Alvarado to come up.

24 Mitch?

25 MR. THAMES: Yes, sir.

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1 MR. CAMERON: And Mitch is the head of the
2 Bay City Chamber of Commerce. Correct?

3 MR. THAMES: Absolutely. We appreciate
4 you all. Thank you so much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. THAMES: My name is Mitch Thames. And
7 I probably have one of the luckiest jobs her in
8 Matagorda County, and that is being a part of the Bay
9 City Chamber of Commerce and agriculture.

10 It's a great honor to have a lot of my
11 neighbors here. I see you. Thank you so much for
12 your attendance. We've got some visitors. Be sure
13 and pick up a visitors guide and make sure you come
14 back to this great county.

15 You know, we talk a little bit about in
16 the environment. Let's talk a little bit about
17 Matagorda County. I'm going to tell you right now,
18 North American Audubon Christmas Bird count winners 10
19 years out of nine [sic], they stole it from us one
20 year, 236 species of birds identified in a 12-hour
21 period right here in Matagorda County in a 15-mile
22 circle. We are the birding capital of the nation, if
23 not the world.

24 But I want to tell you, it means a lot to
25 us. Our environment is everything. We've got a river

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1 flowing down with fresh water, we've got two bays and
2 estuaries, we've got the Gulf of Mexico. What a
3 sensitive environmental location.

4 We have got some of the best fishing in
5 both bays. I'll tell you right now, great, great
6 economic benefit. Deep sea fishing, you know it's
7 tremendous, as well as fishing in the river. Our
8 water fowl hunting is absolutely tremendous. It has
9 been that way for many, many years. I used to say we
10 were the undiscovered Gulf Coast. We were a gem.

11 Well, we've been discovered because a lot
12 of you live here because of that. I know I do. I
13 chose to move to Matagorda County because of its
14 location in Bay City, it's quality of life, the
15 opportunities that we had for you and I to work
16 together to grow this community. And grow it we have.

17 From an economic development standpoint,
18 let us go back, those of us that lived here, and those
19 that are visiting, let me tell you, living here four
20 and five years ago with a 14 to 17 percent
21 unemployment rate was not fun. And our economy flat,
22 if not declining. We, the citizens right here,
23 decided that that was not acceptable, and that we
24 weren't going to live like that. And we went out and
25 aggressively are seeking investment opportunities both

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1 jobs.

2 I'll tell you this, for a young person,
3 looking for a high paying job in Bay City, Texas, in
4 Matagorda County years ago, the prospects were not
5 well. They would go off to -- there was not any
6 higher education. Once they graduated high school, we
7 could probably offer them a service job for under \$10
8 an hour. You can't make a living wage, you can't buy
9 a house, you can't raise a family on that.

10 So the job right now, and the job that I'd
11 signed up for, and the leaders here in this community,
12 is to grow this economy. To get the high paying jobs
13 so we can grow those roof tops so my kids get an
14 opportunity to come here and make a living, and my
15 grandkids get to grow up here. Matagorda County,
16 absolutely something.

17 Let me tell you something about the
18 environment. The nuclear plant has been here through
19 every bit of it. A very sensitive environmental
20 location that exists side by side with STP's 1 and 2,
21 and we certainly hope 3 and 4.

22 I want to extend a very, very warm welcome
23 on behalf of Matagorda County. Thank you so much for
24 your attendance. Thank you for the process. Thank
25 you for leaving your homes and coming down here and

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1 spending some time with us. So we certainly do
2 appreciate you. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: And while Cyrus is coming
5 up, this would be an appropriate time to -- for the
6 NRC to express our appreciation to Bay City and the
7 Chamber of Commerce, and especially to Mitch for the
8 hospitality and the meeting room and all that help.
9 Thank you.

10 And this is Cyrus Reed of the Sierra Club.

11 MR. REED: Hello. Good afternoon. My
12 name is Cyrus Reed. I'm here on behalf of the Sierra
13 Club. I'm not a native Texan. I did come here in
14 about 1990. I'm very proud of Texas, I'm glad that I
15 live here.

16 I don't come here in any way to disparage
17 the hard work that the folks of Matagorda County are
18 doing, or the workers at STP, or those investing. I
19 do come here, however, to raise some concerns about
20 the environmental assessment, the environmental
21 report.

22 And the first concern I would raise is one
23 that's already been mentioned, which is the time
24 factor, that there is a feeling among anyone who
25 analyzes the application and analyzes the

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1 environmental report that 60 days simply is not enough
2 time to have a logical and reasonable assessment,
3 particularly when there's new information coming in.
4 I do take note of the issue you raised earlier, which
5 is one can raise contentions later on if new
6 information comes in.

7 Let me start by talking about demand. And
8 it's something that was mentioned earlier about how we
9 get our power in the future. A number of studies have
10 been suggested -- a number of studies have been
11 mentioned that suggest that Texas could be getting
12 more of our energy from energy efficiency, from
13 renewables, as we have been.

14 And I wanted to make sure that the NRC is
15 aware that legislation was passed last legislative
16 session, and I'm pretty sure Mr. O'Day voted for it,
17 that expands the amount of energy that investor-owned
18 utilities, like NRG, are required to get from energy
19 efficiency programs that all of us, frankly, pay for.

20 And so I wanted to make sure that when you
21 do the analysis of whether this power is needed, that
22 we look at those new requirements on energy
23 efficiency, because I think everyone agrees we can
24 save money for our consumers, and generate more power
25 simply by saving energy.

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1 And I also think that if we're going to
2 really analyze the power demands of -- that may be
3 needed by these new plants, we've also got to look at
4 the cities like San Antonio, like Austin, that may be
5 investing in the plant and see -- look at how they
6 meet their energy demands and whether they could be
7 getting their energy in a cheaper, cleaner and faster
8 manner.

9 And so I would urge you to expand that
10 part of your environmental analysis to look at that.
11 And we will be providing comments.

12 I also wanted to say -- and I hope that I
13 get an opportunity in the near future to visit here
14 the Matagorda Bay and the river. One of the issues
15 that's come up in terms of what scientists are telling
16 us is that climate is changing. Yes, it always has
17 changed, but it's changing more rapidly than in the
18 past.

19 And so, again, I would urge you, in the
20 environmental analysis to look at how climate change
21 might impact river flow, because I know that STP has
22 an existing water right, and it appears on paper that
23 you've got the water to operate your -- you know, the
24 present plants and the plants in the future.

25 But I guess our concern would be, if what

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1 this scientists tell us is correct, and if we're
2 likely to have more droughts, more hurricanes, how is
3 that going to impact the operation of this plant. Is
4 it really a good investment if in 30 years our flows
5 are going to be that much less, will the water really
6 be available and be there? Because if the plant is
7 built and then doesn't operate, it doesn't make
8 economic sense for anybody.

9 So, again, I would urge you to -- and we
10 can provide some information on some of those analyses
11 in Texas for reduced water flows. A similar situation
12 would be the temperature of that water. We've had
13 issues -- and I say we -- I mean the United States has
14 had issues recently on nuclear plant where because the
15 temperatures have gone up, the water temperature has
16 gone up, which has made it difficult for those
17 operators to be able to use the water and then
18 discharge the water back in the rivers. And I'm
19 speaking about some -- a nuclear plant in Tennessee.
20 And some of the nuclear plants in Europe had a similar
21 situation last summer.

22 So, again, we need to be analyzing the
23 water temperature of the river, and I know that in
24 your case it's -- you know, there's a recycling of the
25 water through the cooling reservoir, but at some

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1 point, some of it still goes back into the river. And
2 the question would be -- not correct?

3 MALE VOICE: Not correct.

4 MR. REED: My understanding was when you
5 reach certain amounts of -- when the water quality is
6 of a certain type, in other words, if there's a lot of
7 sediment in the water, you do have to discharge some
8 back into the river.

9 MALE VOICE: That's theoretical. We've
10 never had to do it.

11 MR. REED: Okay. Well, the question would
12 be, do we need to analyze that for the future, if the
13 climate changes. Similarly, hurricanes, if hurricanes
14 are to increase, if the sea is to rise, if there's the
15 potential for storm surges, if there's the potential
16 that more saline water goes further upstream,
17 particularly in low flow conditions.

18 It seems to me an environmental assessment
19 before we grant this license should look at those
20 factors, and I would urge you to do that in writing.

21 A third issue is radioactive waste. It's
22 the big bugaboo in the room, nobody likes to talk
23 about it. But the fact is, you know, for 50 years
24 we've been talking about how we're going to deal with
25 radioactive waste. We still haven't dealt with it.

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1 We still don't have a final repository for radioactive
2 waste.

3 When I read the environmental assessment,
4 which frankly I did rather quickly, I saw some
5 discussion about, you know, the transportation of the
6 spent fuel rods to a final repository, and about the
7 amount of space you would have at STP 3 and 4 to have
8 these spent fuel rods. But I didn't see the
9 contingency.

10 What happens if we never -- you know, what
11 happens if we are never able to locate a place to put
12 all this waste? Does it just sit there forever? Do
13 you have the capacity? Do you have the security in
14 place to make sure that it's never the subject of
15 terrorist sabotage and airplane attack, whatever? I
16 just didn't see that in the environment assessment. I
17 think it should be there, and we'll provide comments.

18 Similarly with low-level rad waste, you
19 know, there are currently only three sites that are
20 taking it, one of the which, Barnwell, has now said
21 they're not going to take it. We haven't yet had the
22 Andrews County site open up. Where is the contingency
23 in here for what to do with that waste?

24 It's mentioned in the application that you
25 currently send it to several locations. It seems like

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1 more detail would be needed so that we, the public,
2 can be sure that this rad waste, both low-level and
3 high waste, is taken care of.

4 I had a question -- this is more of a
5 question, but my understanding is that you folks
6 certified the design for this, and my question is
7 really, have we made sure that this design is capable
8 of withstanding something like a terrorist attack.
9 You know, I hope I would never have to think about
10 this, but I'm originally from New York, and 9/11
11 affected me and the people I grew up with, and so we
12 never thought we'd have these kind of attacks, but now
13 we have to think about those things. So is it being
14 designed to withstand that kind of attack would be the
15 question.

16 And then just in summing up -- and this
17 was already mentioned, but where is that uranium going
18 to come from? We have at the Railroad Commission now
19 19 new exploratory permits for a uranium mine. To
20 make the nuclear power plant you need uranium, uranium
21 mining can have some environmental impacts here in
22 Texas. So how are we going to make that if -- where
23 that uranium's coming from, and what the total fuel
24 cycle impacts are going to be.

25 And then I would just say, sort of in

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1 summing up, really the first point I made, if the
2 choice -- let's make sure we look at all the choices.

3 If the choice is this new nuclear plant, or
4 concentrated solar power and efficiency, which really
5 makes the most sense. And I hope, frankly, that NRG
6 and the other investors are looking at all the options
7 that are out there on the table, some of which I think
8 could be used in Matagorda County.

9 And I'll just sum it up, I'm not here as
10 the enemy, but we do have serious concerns with some
11 of these issues and we'll be raising them through the
12 comment. And we think ultimately that the future is
13 not more nuclear plants, it's concentrated solar
14 plants, efficiency, more wind. And that's the Sierra
15 Club's position. Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Cyrus,
19 for those comments.

20 Robert Alvarado?

21 (Pause.)

22 MR. ALVARADO: Hello. My name is Robert
23 Alvarado. I'm from San Antonio, Texas. I was born
24 and raised in San Antonio, and I'm with the Committee
25 to Bring Environment Justice Action in San Antonio.

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1 And my case that I bring is because of the
2 contamination that we have with our military, there
3 was Kelly Air Force Base that left a few years ago,
4 the year 2001, and left a lot of chemicals, plumes of
5 chemicals under our homes. We have rivers of
6 chemicals that are running under our homes that have
7 affected not only me, but our community, our children.

8 And mostly my family has cancer of the
9 throat, my daughter, my wife, myself. I lost my
10 vision because of radiation, by the Leon Creek. And
11 I -- my kidneys have failed. I'm waiting for a
12 kidney. And not only me, but down the street where I
13 live there's like people just dying, mostly once a
14 month, or whenever they're passing away.

15 And I'm just bringing this for the concern
16 of the citizens of this town, that you might not see
17 it, but the chemicals are there underground. And you
18 see all these vapors come up, and you can't see it,
19 but they're killing you. They're killing you day by
20 day. And it's like you're the living dead. You're
21 just getting sick, which I had no knowledge of cancer.

22 The next one, the next generation is your
23 grandchildren.

24 But there's nothing we can do, because I
25 bought that house in 1970 from the government, and I

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1 can't go nowhere, at my age, because it's too late for
2 me to move out from that area. And it's a triangle,
3 it's east Kelly and main Kelly, and all the chemicals
4 are running like about 25 feet under our homes.

5 And we can't sell our homes because we
6 have contaminated underground, and we can't sell the
7 house. We have to mention to whoever wants to buy our
8 house that we have these chemicals under our home.
9 And we've lost our value of our house.

10 And it's going to happen to you all if you
11 don't stop and think what you're doing at this time.
12 You may just because you have a reactor, sure, but
13 wait 20 years from now and it'll be too late to
14 reverse this life of yours. And this is all I have to
15 say, but look before you sign the dotted line. Thank
16 you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you
19 very much, Mr. Alvarado.

20 And next we're going to go to Genaro
21 Rendon.

22 And thank you, Mr. Alvarado.

23 Then to D.C. Dunham and then to Owen
24 Bludau. And this is Genaro Rendon.

25 MR. RENDON: Hello, everyone. Good

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1 afternoon. My name is Genaro Rendon, and I'm a
2 resident of San Antonio, Texas, and a member of the
3 Southwest Workers Union. We're a 20-year-old
4 organization based in San Antonio focused on fighting
5 for community rights.

6 First, you know, I would like to share the
7 process that we've been through in San Antonio in
8 dealing with this nuclear reactor, or the proposed
9 nuclear reactors that NRG, in conjunction with CPS,
10 City Public Service, who's our energy provider in San
11 Antonio, are investing in.

12 First of all, when they submitted the
13 letter to NRC, the letter of intent to apply for a
14 license, they specifically told NRC to keep it a
15 secret. So it was kept a secret, not only from folks
16 here, but it was kept as a secret from folks in San
17 Antonio; these gentlemen may not even know, but that
18 was the situation that we've been dealing with.

19 Now, in September of last year, in '07,
20 then they officially apply for the licensing of the
21 two new nuclear reactors. In less than a month, City
22 Public Service is making a decision to invest \$206
23 million into this project. With that investment also
24 saying that they need to increase rates for the City
25 of San Antonio rate payers between 5- to \$7 per month.

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1 Now we move into this year where the mayor
2 of San Antonio is saying that he wants to develop an
3 energy sufficiency plan. So if you look at the
4 process on how this has been developing in our city,
5 there hasn't been a space for folks from San Antonio
6 to participate, which is why it was important to be
7 here and share our concerns from the City of San
8 Antonio about what has and has not been happening.

9 So I applaud everybody here for really
10 coming out and participating in this process, for NRC
11 providing a space for folks to participate on this
12 process, for the local paper informing people that
13 this is happening so that they can come and
14 participate, all of which has not happened in San
15 Antonio.

16 City Public Service has had two what they
17 call public open houses in the outskirts of the city
18 with no advertisement, with no mobilizing and trying
19 to get people to those places. And so I'm making that
20 as a point on how we have been left in the dark in
21 this whole process of the development of the nuclear
22 reactors in the City of San Antonio.

23 And when CPS had their board meeting at
24 the end of October, we had to petition the board in
25 order to have citizens go in there and make comment to

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1 CPS and to the Board of Directors around this decision
2 that they were going to make.

3 And once we got there, then we had to --
4 you know, then they locked on the doors on the
5 community folks that were coming in. And they were
6 finally opened so that we could in and make comment.
7 You know, so it hasn't been an easy process, an open
8 process, a process that has been inclusive of the
9 concerns of the residents of San Antonio.

10 And very important when we're looking and
11 talking about the environmental impact statement, is
12 that we also take into effect, into consideration, the
13 cumulative impacts that folks have to deal with when
14 we talk about pollution, when we talk about
15 environmental contamination.

16 Many times, you know, when they're doing
17 the impact statement, they're just specifically
18 looking at the nuclear reactor. But as a community,
19 we have to deal with the multitude of environmental
20 problems and concerns. You know, I just saw a
21 chemical plant driving over towards the STP site, and
22 whatever else exists here.

23 And if you look at the Gulf Coast of
24 Texas, it's littered with chemical plants, it's
25 littered as well with refineries and ports, and huge

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1 inland ports as well that are situated for ships to be
2 able to come in. So if we're looking at ourselves
3 here and in San Antonio, what is the whole of the
4 impact that we've being exposed to?

5 And I think another important stat is that
6 if we look at the State of Texas, we rank number seven
7 amongst countries in pollution. As one state, we're
8 surpassing what countries are producing in pollution.

9 So we have to be looking at reducing that
10 amount of pollution here within the State of Texas,
11 reducing the impacts that communities are feeling by
12 living around these polluting industries.

13 And really if we look at the State of
14 Texas as well and we look at this like the death of
15 nuclear power, then like Smitty was saying, in South
16 Texas there's communities that have already been
17 impacted by uranium mining, where their water supply
18 is not good anymore, where now uranium companies and
19 mining companies are moving back in because of the
20 increase of uranium prices that we've seen over these
21 last couple of years.

22 And, you know, for us in San Antonio, this
23 also raises other dangers. In 2004 we had 21
24 derailments in our city, 21 derailments that killed
25 five people; one of them spilling chlorine gas in the

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1 community killing four people instantly.

2 So how is this being transported? Is it
3 going to be coming through our backyards, of which --
4 you know, we want to make a clear statement that we
5 would not, and do not, want this type of deadly waste
6 passing through people's backyards. And it's
7 literally passing through people's backyards when you
8 look at the train system in the City of San Antonio.

9 And as well, within every step of this
10 process it's producing waste. So when somebody tells
11 you that nuclear power is clean, don't believe them,
12 because if you go ask the people in South Texas that
13 are being mined for uranium, they would definitely
14 tell you that uranium and nuclear power is not clean.

15 If you're looking at the enriching of
16 uranium, you have to do -- and you have to do that at
17 coal burning power plants as well. You know, so, one,
18 maybe when it gets to the nuclear reactor here the
19 pollution is not being produced, but every step of
20 that process there's pollution that's impacting
21 people, and once it arrives here at the South Texas
22 Nuclear Project, then there's a huge question of
23 radioactive waste which we have nowhere to put.

24 So, you know, what is the solutions that
25 we're pushing for, and how should we be investing in

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1 these, you know, I think that, you know, folks have
2 touched on solar power and wind power, and the
3 argument is out there, is always out there that, well,
4 you can't produce enough.

5 Well, you can't produce enough if you're
6 investing \$6 million compared to \$6 billion that are
7 being invested into nuclear power. If we had an
8 investment of \$6 billion to \$10 billion focusing on
9 alternative energies like sun and wind power, then
10 maybe we could advance, you know.

11 So, you know, when the argument is put out
12 there, we also have to look at, you know, why is being
13 put there, and how are they not investing and making
14 these things very real here for us in the State of
15 Texas. And as well for us in San Antonio then, how do
16 we use this alternative energy, this green economy, to
17 build and uplift workers and communities within the
18 City of San Antonio?

19 Mr. Alvarado was talking about his home.
20 In the City of San Antonio homes lose over 30 percent
21 of their energy due to the lack of weatherization, due
22 to the lack of making those homes energy efficient.
23 So if the City of San Antonio focused on providing
24 jobs, green jobs, and producing and fixing homes of
25 the residents in San Antonio, then, you know, we

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1 wouldn't have to invest in this type of nuclear power.

2
3 So, you know, I really thank each and
4 every one of you for being here. And from San
5 Antonio, you know, we really bring these concerns to
6 the community here, and, again, raising them to the
7 Nuclear Commission, as well as City Public Service,
8 which I hope that there's at least one representative
9 here from CPS. Thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: D.C.? How are you doing?

13 MS. DUNHAM: Good afternoon. I'm D.C.
14 Dunham. I'm the Executive Director for Bay City
15 Community Development Corporation. And as an economic
16 developer, many of us only get to experience this kind
17 of expansion once in a life time.

18 So it's real important that we take
19 advantage of the opportunities that have been put in
20 front of us. And just to kind of name a few of the
21 opportunities that we've been working on already,
22 since the first announcement that we were going to do
23 this expansion several years ago, but we've turned an
24 eye sore into a great asset.

25 We've begun developing subdivisions, we've

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1 got new spec houses going, we've recruited retail
2 sales into our community, sales taxes are definitely
3 on the rise. We've developed a new associate degree
4 program. We've formed an alliance with our educators
5 and industry, we've had career fairs and job fairs,
6 we've increased our scholarships and our on-the-job
7 training programs.

8 But let me digress just a moment about
9 that eye sore, my pride and joy, and education, my
10 passion. That eye sore that I'm talking about is the
11 old K-Mart building down on Highway 60. If you're not
12 familiar with it, then you don't live in Matagorda
13 County, I can assure you, because that's been an eye
14 sore in our community, a dilapidated building, for
15 over 15 years.

16 But we took the opportunity with the
17 expansion, and working with the management team of
18 STP, to put the headquarters for Units 3 and 4 in that
19 dilapidated building, and we created the Center for
20 Energy Development.

21 And on the other side we have our training
22 center where we house Wharton County Junior College,
23 and some of our other trainers. We have a park
24 environment in the center that's a 6,000 foot atrium
25 that students can mingle with our industry partners

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1 and share ideas. We presently have 162 students in
2 our Bay City campus that I'm real, real excited about.

3 They're preparing for the jobs that are being created
4 across the hall.

5 This new workforce development is a huge
6 strength for our community, which brings me to my
7 passion, education. With the announcement of
8 expansion to Units 3 and 4, we have the opportunity to
9 bring industry, education, and government together to
10 solve a huge problem, but it was a good problem.

11 It was especially a good problem for a
12 community, as Mitch talked about, that had
13 traditionally had double digit unemployment. The
14 problem was, how are we going to work to create the
15 workforce that's needed by our industry, the huge
16 increase in new jobs that are coming to Matagorda
17 County?

18 We formed this alliance that includes all
19 of our regional industry partners, we included
20 community colleges throughout the region, we had all
21 four of ISDs, we have four ISDs in Matagorda County,
22 we had government from the federal government all the
23 way down to our local officials meet together in one
24 room to discuss these issues and how we were going to
25 solve this problem.

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1 In just a matter of months we came up with
2 a degree program, associate degree program called
3 Power Technology, which we have students enrolled in
4 already today, and the Mid-Coast Education and
5 Industry Alliance still meets quarterly.

6 We are continuing to address the issues to
7 see how we can improve our education systems and make
8 this a great place to raise our young adults and have
9 our young adults come back and raise their families
10 for many, many years to come, creating another huge
11 strength for our community.

12 So please join me in taking advantage of
13 this opportunity that's before us and whatever your
14 interests or your passion might be, I'm sure, between
15 Mitch and I, we have a committee that you can serve
16 on. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

19 And this is Owen Bludau.

20 MR. BLUDAU: Good afternoon. I am Owen
21 Bludau. I'm the Executive Director of the Matagorda
22 County Economic Development Corporation.

23 My corporation is composed of nine
24 organizations, five of which are funding -- public
25 funding entities, including the Matagorda County, the

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1 Navigation District in Palacios, the Port of Bay City
2 Authority, the Bay City Community Development
3 Corporation, and the Palacios -- City of Palacios
4 Economic Development Corporation. In addition, on the
5 board are representatives of the four Chambers of
6 Commerce in our county.

7 My job, and the focus on the Matagorda
8 County EDC is to bring new industry to the county, to
9 increase our job base, and to increase our tax base.
10 And the expansion of 3 and 4 is good economic
11 development.

12 I appreciate the opportunity to be here
13 this afternoon to address you, and I want to speak
14 about a couple of the things that approval of 3 and 4
15 would do to the county, and this is based upon the
16 experiences we've had with Units 1 and 2 being in the
17 county for over 20 years.

18 STP has been an outstanding corporate
19 citizen that has brought amazing economic strength to
20 Matagorda County. It has been a good industrial
21 citizen. It has been so good that we wanted a second
22 one. We aggressively recruited Exelon Nuclear to come
23 to the county because we thought if STP was good, have
24 two would be even better.

25 But we were successful in getting them to

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1 select our county because we were nuclear friendly,
2 and we welcomed them here. Unfortunately, the site
3 conditions were not such that the site was
4 economically feasible for them. They've gone to their
5 second back up site in Victoria County, and we welcome
6 them being there also.

7 The STP 3 and 4 expansion, as has been
8 mentioned earlier, would bring about 800 new jobs to
9 the county. It's been stated that we need jobs, and
10 we do because our high school students need
11 opportunities that are not here now, our college-age
12 students are going away from the county after they
13 graduate because there's nothing here to bring them
14 back, what limited job we have.

15 Also, we have a number of under-skilled,
16 or under-employed people here who are looking for new
17 opportunities to increase the career potential that
18 they have, and that they could stay in the county as
19 well.

20 The percentage of new employees living
21 here is important to us. Right now we have about 60
22 percent of the 1200 employees that STP has living in
23 the county, and we would like to have an equal
24 percentage or higher of the new hires coming with 3
25 and 4 that would be here.

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1 They would be able to purchase homes and
2 cars here, groceries, retail activities, they would
3 use the services of our banks, our medical facilities,
4 insurance, utility service providers. And if we could
5 get 600 of those 800 living here, that would generate
6 another 1,000 secondary support jobs. Those new
7 employees' salaries will circulate in the community
8 and that will expand it economically.

9 It's been mentioned that there's going to
10 be construction workers associated with the new
11 construction project, and that's true. STP is looking
12 at about 5,000 construction -- temporary construction
13 workers here over a six year period. They'll not all
14 be here at one time. They will ramp up over time. At
15 maximum construction period they're looking at about
16 4,000 workers for two years, but then they would ramp
17 down.

18 We would like to have a lot of them live
19 here. We know that not all of them will, and that's
20 fine. A lot of them are going to commute in, a lot of
21 them may be brought in from Houston who have skills
22 that are not available in our community.

23 But those living here are going to spend
24 most of their money here. Those commuting in are
25 going to spend some of their money here buying gas and

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1 refreshments as they go in and out of the county.
2 That's going to create a strong financial benefit to
3 our local businesses and attract some new businesses.

4 As has been mentioned earlier, we're
5 beginning to see the impacts already of the
6 anticipation of Units 3 and 4. We saw new retailers
7 open up in Bay City in 2007. We had new retailers who
8 have purchased properties in Palacios and in Bay City,
9 and there's new construction in Palacios and Bay City
10 in anticipation of this larger customer base that is
11 going to be here. So these businesses are coming, and
12 they're expanding our tax base and our employee base.

13 I would like to say something about STP as
14 a major financial supporter of the community. They
15 have supported many of the community events, our
16 organizations, and our civic activities. Without
17 their support, many of these activities and events
18 would not have happened. A larger and a stronger STP
19 will enable them to continue their support, and
20 hopefully to increase it.

21 But equally, or even more important, is
22 participation of their employees in the community.
23 Individually they provide strong support within our
24 churches, our civic organizations, our youth and
25 environmental activities, school districts, and in our

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1 governmental units.

2 They're our neighbors, they are part of
3 our community. Two of the STP employees serve on my
4 board, but they're not there as STP employees, they're
5 there as elected officials representing other
6 organizations.

7 We expect that the new people coming in
8 that would work at 3 and 4 will also be part of the
9 community, and take part in it. But we welcome them
10 because we need new blood, new ideas, and new
11 activities. We're an aging community and our
12 organizations are suffering for the lack of new blood
13 coming into them. So these provide economic benefits
14 to the community.

15 The Sheriff mentioned a little bit of the
16 emergency management planning benefit. You say, How
17 is that an economic development factor. And it is.
18 I'm talking to a lot of industries and when we tell
19 them about the emergency management services and the
20 coordination between our local industries and the
21 public sector, that is important to them, because they
22 know they're going to have the same types of concerns.

23 STP and the emergency planning of the
24 county has been good for the county. We are well-
25 prepared, well-equipped to respond to nuclear

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1 incidents, but we're equally as well-prepared and
2 well-equipped to respond to hurricanes, tornadoes,
3 floods, and industrial fires.

4 Most of you sitting in this room
5 benefitted from that planning two years ago when Rita
6 was aimed directly at the county and we had mandatory
7 evacuation. It went smoothly, it went quietly
8 compared to what happened in Houston. And this was
9 because we had good evacuation plans and we had good
10 people trained to implement those plans.

11 In summary, I want you to know that
12 Matagorda County is a stronger and a better community
13 because STP is here. We support the additions of
14 Units 3 and 4, they're going to add significantly to
15 the economic vitality and strength of Matagorda
16 County. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much for that
19 information.

20 We're going to go to Jennifer Walker next,
21 and then to Diana Lopez, and then to, I think it's
22 Lara Cushing.

23 Is Jennifer -- Jennifer's not here I
24 guess. Diana, would you like to come up and talk to
25 us? And then we'll go to Lara. And I guess we might

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1 as well to Sandra on -- or, not Sandra-- okay.

2 MS. LOPEZ: Hi. Good afternoon. My name
3 is Diana Lopez. I'm a 19 year old college student in
4 San Antonio, Texas. And we've traveled more than
5 three hours here to Bay City to oppose the nuclear
6 power plants that are proposed.

7 So I'm here to tell about global warming
8 and how it affects it. With the growth of global
9 warming you have to include how will this contribute
10 the nuclear power plants, and how it will affect them.

11 So the plant requires water to cool it down, and it
12 requires cold water. So with global warming, there's
13 going to be less water and it's going to be warmer, so
14 you have to consider what the nuclear reactors will be
15 in situations like that.

16 Also with the sea level rising and the
17 storms in the area, how would that impact the nuclear
18 reactors, and you see what happened with Katrina. And
19 the people who were most affected were the low income
20 people who had no Medicare or nothing, and they lost
21 everything, and they were the ones most affected by
22 this environmental justice.

23 Also -- it is also a myth that nuclear
24 energy will save us from global warming. We hear that
25 a lot and it is not. It is not the truth, it is a

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1 myth. A nuclear power plant also creates global
2 warming.

3 So you have uranium in South Texas, so you
4 need to get it enriched, and there are only two coal
5 power plants that do that, and they're not in Texas.
6 So you have to transport the uranium to these coal
7 power plants and you have to enrich it, and it
8 causes -- it's one of the primary sources of a potent
9 greenhouse gas that causes global warming.

10 So -- and then you have to transport it
11 back to the nuclear reactor, so that causes CO2
12 emissions, so you have all these accumulating effects
13 just for that source of energy.

14 And then also you have -- once you have
15 high-level -- high-grade and low-grade uranium, so
16 once you finish with the high-grade, when you enrich
17 it you have to use energy to do that. So when you use
18 low -- the one -- the low-level one, you have to use
19 more energy just to get it for it could be used at the
20 nuclear reactor plants.

21 So as a younger person -- I'm sure none of
22 you all will see in 20 years, 30, 40 years, you all
23 won't see the impacts of climate change, but I will,
24 and I don't think you all should be the ones deciding
25 on the future of my generation.

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1 You know, as a young person I wonder why
2 we are putting so many money and energy into this when
3 in the last 50 years the nuclear problems have not
4 even been solved. Thank you for listening, and thank
5 you for being here, everybody.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
8 Diana.

9 Our next three speakers, we're going to go
10 to Geoffrey Castro and Lara Cushing, and then Sandra
11 Garcia.

12 MR. CASTRO: Good afternoon, everyone. My
13 name is Geoffrey Castro. I'm the Executive Director
14 for Citizens League for Environmental Action Now.

15 We are greatly concerned about the permits
16 to invest in more nuclear plant in South Texas. While
17 nuclear plant is being touted as a alternative to
18 coal-fired power plants, nuclear power plant continue
19 to have serious problems regarding risk associated
20 with waste and uranium mining.

21 While it's true that nuclear power plants
22 don't emit carbon dioxide, one of the principle
23 ingredients fueling global warming, the mining of
24 uranium to fuel these plants is anything but clean.
25 I'd ask all of you to consider the indirect costs

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1 associated with uranium mining. It's a nasty business
2 that can pollute aquifers, and taint drinking water
3 and irrigation for nearby residents.

4 People living in Goliad County here in
5 Texas notice this first-hand. They also know the lack
6 of protection the government offers to residents when
7 making -- when mining companies decide to mine near
8 their homes. I know all of you have heard a lot about
9 this already today. In addition to that, it offers
10 serious health risks, including cancers associated
11 with the lungs, and bones, and even kidney damage.

12 Now I understand that our energy needs
13 here in Texas are growing. However, there are
14 alternatives to nuclear power here in Texas, which are
15 cleaner, more affordable, and more sustainable ways of
16 powering our needs for the future.

17 Alternatives include energy efficiency,
18 solar power, wind, combined heat and power, and more.

19 In addition, just not too long ago Optimal Energy
20 discovered that 80 percent of our energy needs could
21 be met by these technologies.

22 The concerns over the safety of nuclear
23 waste that were realized with Chernobyl and Three Mile
24 Island are still reasons for caution today.
25 Ultimately, the resources and ingenuity we have today

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1 lead us to believe that nuclear power is not the
2 energy solution as it fails to meet a sustainable
3 future to meet our energy needs and the growth of our
4 energy demand. Thank you very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
7 you, Geoffrey.

8 And we have Lara Cushing.

9 MS. CUSHING: Good afternoon, everyone.
10 My name is Lara Cushing. I came here from San
11 Antonio. I'm a rate payer of CPS Energy. I'm also an
12 organizer with the Southwest Workers Union.

13 In trying to look through the thousands of
14 pages of this permit application, I realize that the
15 entire scope of the environmental review was based on,
16 and this is a quote, "that the purpose of the project
17 is to sell base-load power on the wholesale market."

18 And the only alternatives to this project
19 that were looked at were alternatives for meeting that
20 mission. But the fact is that that is not CPS
21 Energy's mission. CPS Energy's mission, as a public
22 utility, is to provide for the energy needs of San
23 Antonio, and the other small areas that it covers and
24 serves.

25 CPS has classified, and I'll reiterate

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1 we're -- at this point we're the 50 percent investor
2 in the South Texas Project, so we have as big of a
3 stake as NRG Energy. And CPS has classified
4 efficiency and conservation measures as a source of
5 generating power. And since it's done that, those
6 need to be given over best analysis in the
7 environmental report.

8 A CPS commissioned study, this was
9 mentioned before, the CIMA report, concluded that 1200
10 megawatts of energy could be saved through stronger
11 building codes and retrofitting programs. That's 80
12 percent of the half of STP reactors 3 and 4 energy
13 that we are going to be supposedly getting.

14 And that report is nowhere mentioned in
15 this environmental report. So this STP application
16 needs to include a real analysis of alternatives, and
17 all the alternatives for meeting San Antonio's energy
18 needs.

19 It also needs to incorporate the true
20 costs of nuclear power. And if it did, there's no way
21 that nuclear power would come out on top. There's
22 reasons why no nuclear reactors -- the construction of
23 nuclear reactors has not been permitted in 29 years,
24 despite that fact that it's the most government
25 subsidized energy source of all.

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1 And one of the reasons why the true costs
2 of nuclear are never evaluated is because NRC only
3 looks at a small piece. The fact is that the
4 construction of new generators is -- and the
5 speculation about the construction of new generators,
6 is already driving up the price of uranium, which
7 means communities are fighting tooth and nail right
8 now to prevent new uranium mining permits from being
9 issued in South Texas. That is an environmental
10 impact of the South Texas Project.

11 The enrichment takes place at coal-fired
12 facilities that pollute the air and contribute to
13 global warming. This is an environmental impact of
14 the South Texas Project.

15 The transportation of fuel, how is the
16 fuel going to be transported into this community? How
17 is waste -- if they ever find a place to put the
18 waste, how is going to be transported out of this
19 community?

20 What we found out in San Antonio after 21
21 derailments, major derailments, occurred in 2004 is
22 that you can't get any of that information. You can't
23 find out the routes that they're taking. They won't
24 tell you what's on those trains, and there's no way to
25 know that. So how can we possibly evaluation the risk

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1 to our communities when we don't even know where this
2 stuff is going to be transported through, and how to
3 protect it?

4 Finally, in the 50 years of the nuclear
5 industry we have yet to identify a safe way to dispose
6 of the waste. And that is an environmental impact of
7 the South Texas Project. High-level radioactive waste
8 stays deadly for tens of thousands of years.

9 And it's a real engineering challenge to
10 think of how to contain such a thing on such a
11 geological time scale. So I think that the NRC needs
12 to consider all of those impacts in the environmental
13 scope of their review.

14 And I respect the desire for jobs here
15 locally. I do respect that. As an organization that
16 organizes and represents low-income families and low-
17 income workers in San Antonio, we want the same thing
18 for our community. That's why we're pushing for
19 energy conservation programs, weatherization programs
20 that will provide local jobs in our community.

21 And I do think that Bay City is being
22 presented with a false choice, either two new nuclear
23 reactors, or you're not going to have any jobs, when,
24 in fact, there are alternatives to that, to those two
25 options.

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1 In the same way, San Antonio is being
2 presented with a false choice. New nuclear reactors,
3 or all your lights are going to be shut off, when we
4 know that there are alternatives to that.

5 So while I'm not going to presume to tell
6 you what's best for your community, I am going to talk
7 in solidarity with the communities that are facing the
8 impacts of uranium mining. Eighty percent comes from
9 overseas. Most of those places don't even have
10 environmental or worker protections.

11 I am going to talk in solidarity with the
12 communities where it's transported through, and I am
13 going to talk thinking of the hundreds of generations
14 that are going to come after me that are going to be
15 struggling with trying to contain the deadly
16 radioactive waste that will be coming out of these
17 plants, and struggling with trying to understand why
18 we chose this path when other paths were available to
19 us.

20 So we all know that the South Texas
21 Project would not move forward without the captive
22 rate pairs of San Antonio to serve as the financial
23 risk insurance. The board of CPS has voted that they
24 can pass on all unforeseen costs of the projects to us
25 in the form of rate increases.

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1 And I and my organization, the Southwest
2 Workers Union, we came here to tell you that we don't
3 want our rates to go towards nuclear energy here, or
4 in any other community. So we deserve a full
5 environmental impact statement that gives efficiency,
6 combined heat and power, renewable energy sources like
7 solar, wind, geothermal, just as much investment in
8 terms of money, in terms of time, in terms of
9 expertise that this nuclear proposal has gotten.

10 And though it was a little bit lost on me
11 when I was looking through the materials presented
12 by -- or offered up there by the Nuclear Regulatory
13 Commission, your mission is not to actual champion the
14 nuclear industry, and I'm glad that you put up on the
15 slide that your mission is to champion public health,
16 safety, and the environment.

17 And I think it's irresponsible to be
18 considering permitting new reactors when we have yet
19 to permit or identify a viable site to dispose of the
20 waste. I think that's an irresponsible thing to do.

21 And I think that in your role as a
22 champion of public health and the environment, we do
23 deserve an environmental review that really looks at
24 all the alternative options. Thank you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Lara.

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1 Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. CAMERON: And this is Sandra Garcia.
4 And next we're going to go to Susan Dancer, Cameron
5 Payne, Charles Stillman and Venice Scheurich. I'm
6 sure I didn't pronounce that correctly.

7 But, Sandra?

8 MS. GARCIA: Hi. My name is Sandra
9 Garcia. I'm from San Antonio, Texas, and I'm a youth
10 organizer at Southwest Workers Union. When the youth
11 found out -- the youth that I work with are from
12 middle school and high school age, when I told them
13 about CPS and the nuclear power plants, and the
14 decision making they've been from the start, they
15 disagree with the nuclear power plants. They -- let's
16 see -- they wanted -- they've gone to the open houses
17 that CPS has provided. We went there, they wanted to
18 get their input, and yet CPS didn't let us. The youth
19 are concerned on how CPS is making their decisions.
20 They believe that not -- they're thinking about their
21 future, even though they won't be here in the future.

22 They would like to see CPS educating the
23 communities on how to save energy, educating the
24 communities with which light bulbs will save energy,
25 to unplugging the cords of your house and other energy

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1 saving measures. CPS should invest their money in
2 lower income families' homes which are probably the
3 highest energy wasters because they're like not energy
4 efficient.

5 I believe CPS should be smarter than
6 nuclear power plants, and they believe that we should
7 be the green generation that think about the future
8 and our health, but also the future generations to
9 come. That is why CPS should invest in solar and wind
10 energy.

11 And so these alternatives should be
12 like -- should be fully evaluated for the future of
13 San Antonio and other communities.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
15 you, Sandra.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: Is Susan -- Susan Dancer
18 here? And then, Cameron, we'll go to you. And then
19 Charles Stillman, if Charles is still here.

20 And this is Susan Dancer.

21 MS. DANCER: I'm Susan Dancer. I'm a life
22 long resident of Matagorda County, a founding
23 chairperson for the Matagorda County Coalition for
24 Nuclear Industry Accountability. It's kind of a
25 mouthful, MCCNIA we're known as.

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1 And if you all will bear with me stumbling
2 so much in my presentation, I will try to not bore you
3 like watching drying paint with -- and by belittling
4 and berating points that have already been made.

5 The MCCNIA is a grassroots organizations
6 that formed in 2005 in an attempt to give voice to
7 issues created by STP that had negative implications
8 to our community, and to support the STP employee base
9 as they struggle with an uncertain future and
10 financial and emotional consequences of destruction of
11 the career paths.

12 As I said earlier, I don't want to go into
13 great detail about issues that have been raised over
14 and over again. I know you all have heard enough of
15 it, but I do want to go on record and say that I am
16 concerned about increased cancer rates, and I am
17 concerned about the waste issues, and I am concerned
18 about Matagorda County being essentially set up as a
19 permanent radioactive waste site because there doesn't
20 seem to be a solution for that one. That's been, you
21 know, a big problem I guess all along.

22 And I am concerned about the design of the
23 new units, but there are certainly people here who can
24 speak in much -- with much more intelligence and
25 greater detail about those issues, so I'll just leave

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1 it said that I'm concerned.

2 The issues that I want to address in a
3 little detail are those relating to the security of
4 the workforce and the implication to local business
5 and economy in general. And let me preface the points
6 that I have to make today with the assumption that the
7 best way to judge what future behavior might be is to
8 base it on what past behavior has been.

9 When I was high school -- I'll give my age
10 away, but I can't claim 29 forever, I guess -- Units 1
11 and 2 were under construction. And on a fairly
12 regular basis, STP sent representatives into our
13 classrooms with promises of jobs, good jobs, and jobs
14 that if we would go into particular supportive fields
15 for the industry, we would be assured that we could
16 work and live and retire right here in our home
17 community.

18 And as Owen and D.C. referred to earlier,
19 that hadn't been an option for my generation. We
20 didn't have really good jobs here. You were pretty
21 much a farmer, or you left and went to school and
22 didn't come back.

23 So we were encouraged by that. And many
24 of my friends and classmates and family members did go
25 into those paths, and many of them did find careers

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1 with STP, just as STP is recruiting in the high school
2 classrooms today and promising jobs to my kids and
3 their generation. The same thing, history is
4 repeating itself very much.

5 Other than extreme reductions in work --
6 reductions in force and some difficult work loads,
7 tough jobs, and dedicated hard-working employees, many
8 of our classmates, as I said, did find a career there.

9 But things have changed since 1978, 1980, 1982 in
10 that the economy has become much, much more
11 globalized.

12 So where initially you had a workforce
13 that by default had to be based in the local economy,
14 that paradigm has changed. So as the economy became
15 more global, in part due to advances in the internet
16 and electronics communication age, STP began to court
17 workforces elsewhere, workforces without roots in
18 Matagorda County. And suddenly, all of those jobs,
19 all of those careers that we had been promised, and
20 that had largely come to fruition, suddenly lost their
21 stability.

22 If there is any doubt that STP's ownership
23 didn't have loyalty to their workforce, or their
24 location, pre-announcements of Units 3 and 4, Frank
25 Mallen ended that with a comment spoken to a group --

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1 a senior manager, with a comment spoken to a group of
2 recently outsourced employees when he said, It's all
3 about the money. That's the most poignant and honest
4 thing that STP management has presented to this
5 community so far.

6 STP management talks a lot about safety.
7 They regularly run credit checks on employees to be
8 sure they're financially stable, I guess to lessen the
9 risk of a pay-off type situation should a terrorist
10 try to contact an employee to gain access to the
11 plant, secure parts of the plant.

12 But when an employee has to worry not
13 about just their financial -- their credit, and, you
14 know, their finances up to that point, when their
15 entire career is constantly hanging in the balance,
16 when they're constantly having to train companies that
17 might come in an outsource their jobs, or alliances
18 that might combine their job with others, how secure
19 can that workforce be?

20 I think it's ludicrous to expect a little
21 community like ours with, I think, a \$3.3 billion tax
22 base is equipped to deal with a multibillion dollar
23 industry to protect itself from being totally hapless,
24 and our destruction as new units are built and
25 operated here.

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1 It's ridiculous to think that we have the
2 infrastructure to support such temporary growth. In
3 2005, when I was much more versed in what the
4 management team of STP was made up, who made it up and
5 so forth, five of the six senior managers of STP, the
6 top six guys out there, who had decades invested in
7 their career working near Wadsworth, were still
8 driving 90-plus miles round trip from Lake Jackson.
9 They weren't living in Matagorda County, they weren't
10 promoting jobs in Matagorda County on that level.

11 When they started bringing executives in
12 to prepare for 3 and 4, guess where they relocated
13 those executives to? Lake Jackson. All the -- and
14 these are the same people who tell you they have great
15 love and loyalty for Matagorda County and that we have
16 the infrastructure to support the plant growth and to
17 support all the new employees here.

18 None of us can know what changes the
19 worldwide economy will hold in the next 50 years or
20 so. No one building Units 1 and 2 30 years ago could
21 have predicted things like deregulation and the birth
22 of the information age, and the worldwide economy that
23 followed. And more certainly, no one, not me, and
24 not any of you, know what changes we're headed for as
25 a county, as a country, or worldwide during the time

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1 frame we're discussing for construction and operation.

2 No one knows the future. If we did, those
3 who sat without protection at Compania Hill and
4 watched behind sun glasses while atomic bombs were
5 exploded wouldn't have done so. They would have known
6 it was unsafe. But unfortunately hindsight is the
7 only thing that's 20/20.

8 Fortunately for us, we have hindsight and
9 we can see what building two new nuclear reactors
10 could bring us. We can see now because we're 30 years
11 later from the same thing happening before. Our
12 unemployment rate is still well above the state
13 average, our school districts are still extremely
14 poor, and the owners and operators of the plants still
15 don't live here or show loyalty to our community.

16 An NRG representative told me in 2005 that
17 his -- their loyalty is to their shareholders, which
18 is business. But basically if Matagorda County's
19 demise makes their stocks more valuable, so be it.

20 I don't claim to have all the answers, and
21 I don't know how much of the workforce should be
22 required to live locally, or what tax abatement should
23 or shouldn't be given, or what financial benefit we
24 should offer NRG and STP as they seek to expand here.

25 But I do believe, if we all sit down at

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1 the same table, and if all sides to the issue are
2 allowed equal time to air their concerns, that we will
3 find that we have much more common ground than we have
4 things that we disagree on. We can argue many of the
5 aspects of pro- or anti-nuclear until we're all blue
6 in the face and not have answers.

7 What we can do as a community is sit down
8 at the table with the builders, and ensure that there
9 is some kind of an agreement in writing, set in stone,
10 guaranteeing this community will develop. Just
11 because you're handed a glossy magazine saying, This
12 is going to be wonderful, jobs are going to be here,
13 blah, blah, blah, whatever, if you don't have a
14 legally binding written agreement that will transfer
15 ownership when and if NRG sells their portion of the
16 plant out to another investment company, there's no
17 guarantee that any of the jobs will be here. We hope
18 they will, we think they will, but what's set in stone
19 for this community?

20 So in closing, I'd like to say to my
21 elected officials, I'm greatly concerned by your
22 apparent willingness to turn a blind eye to all sides
23 of this issue, except those sides that are spun by
24 STP's massive public relations machine. Before you
25 grant tax abatements and surrender the key to the

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1 city, remember back to what kind of neighbor they were
2 immediately before these expansion plans came about.
3 Remember how far they were willing to stray from the
4 original promises made when Units 1 and 2 were built,
5 when it benefitted their bottom line.

6 Too much is at stake here to refuse to
7 look beyond the rhetoric. Way too much. Have an open
8 mind, educate yourself, use your conscience to make
9 decisions that are well-thought out and that benefit
10 your constituents.

11 To STP owners and managers I'd like to
12 say, no matter what kind of retain -- attract and
13 retain policy you adopt, nothing quite says, Job well
14 done, and creates a loyal, safe, dedicated workforce
15 like job stability, which none of your employees
16 currently have, with the possible exception of your
17 upper management.

18 And to the NRC I'd like to say, I don't
19 believe our time spent here today is a whole lot more
20 than free therapy. Your public has lost faith in your
21 ability and desire to control the nuclear industry and
22 the safety and sanctity for our community.

23 And so with the information presented to
24 you here today, you can accomplish two things. You
25 can not only provide a vent for the community to feel

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1 as if they've had some say about their community and
2 environment before they're steam rolled over by big
3 business, you can show the citizenry that you are an
4 agency with integrity and the desire and ability to do
5 what's right by thoroughly and fairly considering all
6 the information presented to you. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. CAMERON: Cameron? Cameron Payne, and
10 then Charles Stillman.

11 Cameron Payne.

12 MR. PAYNE: Thank you.

13 Can you hear me in the back, back there
14 all right?

15 MALE VOICE: Get closer.

16 MR. PAYNE: Raise your hand if you can
17 hear me.

18 MALE VOICE: Get closer to the --

19 MR. PAYNE: Okay.

20 MALE VOICE: -- mike.

21 MR. PAYNE: Thank you. I beg your pardon?

22 MALE VOICE: Get closer to the mike.

23 MR. PAYNE: Okay. My name is Cameron
24 Payne, and I don't belong to any organization. I'm
25 just a private citizen. I live 65 miles from here.

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1 I've been here in Texas for 35 years, and I -- my
2 first job when I got out of college was working as a
3 designer for nuclear fallout shelters, calculating the
4 contaminated plains.

5 I did that for six months full-time, and
6 then later in my career, when I was working for Gulf
7 Oil, I worked for a small group that monitored our
8 subsidiary, General Atomics, which designed and
9 manufactured about -- more than 50 nuclear reactors.
10 These were research reactors, not power reactors.

11 I just wanted to let you know I had a
12 little experience in this, but not anything aside from
13 that and my personal interest in this field. I'm not
14 an expert in nuclear power.

15 But there's several things that concern
16 me. One, I read a story on the front page of the *New*
17 *York Times* two days ago, and it was about a man in
18 Illinois, and he discovered, I'm not quite sure how,
19 that when he went to his drinking water well, he
20 discovered that his drinking water was contaminated
21 with radioactive tritium. That's ionizing radiation,
22 not the kind of radiation you get from the sun.

23 And he was naturally upset about that, and
24 went to Exelon, the largest nuclear reactor
25 manufacturer in the country, and he asked them about

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1 it, and to make a long story short, they confessed
2 that they knew about this.

3 In fact, just to make sure there was no
4 misunderstanding, I'm going to read you just the one
5 sentence in the paper two days ago. Exelon believed
6 that the tritium found in the drinking water well near
7 the plant in Braidwood, Illinois came from millions of
8 gallons of water that had leaked from the plant years
9 earlier, but went unreported at the time.

10 That could be happening right here. That
11 concerns me. That bothers me.

12 Now talking about another issue is the
13 fact that NRC has approved over 100 nuclear reactors
14 in this country that are now operating, but we don't
15 have any so-called advanced boiling water reactors,
16 ABWR, which are proposed. These are, you might say,
17 since we don't have any, that they're somewhat
18 experimental, they're coming in -- that's the possible
19 reactors 3 and 4.

20 And the ones that had been built were
21 designed by Hitachi and General Electric, and they're
22 mostly in other countries, they're mostly in Japan.
23 And there are two -- two of the biggest nuclear
24 reactors in Japan are these ABWR reactors. And
25 they've had to have been operating for a number of

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1 years now, and they've had to be shut down several
2 times for safety problems, and started back up again.

3 And when they did the environmental impact
4 statement over there, they said that there's no -- you
5 know, there are lots of earthquakes in Japan, but they
6 picked an area that they said is pretty earthquake-
7 proof. I'd say this area is probably pretty
8 earthquake-proof.

9 Well, they were wrong. An earthquake, a
10 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit last year. All of the
11 reactors at that location are shut down. Both of the
12 ABWR reactors were damaged, two of them, I think, and
13 I'm getting this from -- the operator is Tokyo Power,
14 and you can go to their website, and they specify what
15 the problems are.

16 The control rods that -- the primary
17 safety feature in a reactor is the control rods that
18 moderate the reaction, lifting them up and out, in
19 both of these ABWR reactors there were control rods
20 that were stuck. If I'm wrong about that, I'd like
21 somebody here to correct me.

22 There were at least two rods that were
23 stuck, and maybe many more. The liner, the metal
24 liner was damaged and leaked radioactive water into
25 the -- leaked it out of the core. I'm not quite sure

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1 where it went. That concerns me.

2 Another thing that concerns me is that
3 this so-called GE design was -- that was certified by
4 the NRC 10 years ago, and that's the one that they're
5 using now. And yet South Texas nuclear operating has
6 recently filed with the NRC more than 100 pages of
7 detailed changes that they're making, exclusions,
8 exemptions, modifications.

9 I'm not sure that we're talking about a design now,
10 that they're planning on building now that was really
11 actually approved 10 years ago. This bothers me.

12 And then I learned to day that this -- you
13 know, I'm just going to say that Hitachi and General
14 Electric have decided to form a strategic alliance.
15 They announced this and joined together in building
16 nuclear power plants around the world.

17 It's 80 percent in Japan, it's 80 percent
18 owned by Hitachi, 20 percent by General Electric, and
19 it's the reverse here in the United States. So how
20 come we learned today that the design of record is by
21 Toshiba? I think there's a big mess going on here
22 that we don't know about.

23 And then I read in the *Houston Chronicle*
24 this morning that five days ago the regulators said
25 that they have suspended the review of parts of the

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1 application, the final safety analysis report and the
2 security plan, until the plant management resolves
3 "vendor support issues".

4 I suspect that there are a lot of these
5 executives sitting right here that are being left in
6 the dark as to what's going on at the higher levels.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
9 Cameron.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: Is Charles Stillman here? I
12 just want to say that we do -- I'm going to enter
13 another statement in the record from Venice Scheurich.

14 And I don't know if Venice is still here
15 to address us, but this is going into the record, her
16 statement. And I also have another statement from the
17 Sierra Club Coastal Bend group signed by Mina Williams
18 that I'm also going to enter into the record. And
19 these will also be considered as formal written
20 comments by the NRC.

21 Dr. Hefner? This is Dr. James Hefner
22 who's going to speak to us. And then we're going to
23 go to Robert Singleton, I guess it's Pat Suger, I'm
24 not sure I have that correct. But this is Dr. Hefner.

25 DR. HEFNER: Thank you. I'm the site

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1 doctor out at STP. I've been coming out here for 16
2 years. It's been a great experience, and I've enjoyed
3 working with the folks out there. Their safety and
4 welfare, of course, is my focus.

5 There was a comment earlier regarding
6 cancer and radiation in the populations living near
7 nuclear facilities. It's interesting because that
8 question's been around a long time. In the 16 years
9 I've been at STP, the evolution of the answer has been
10 ongoing. And I think it's time, finally, to put that
11 question to bed, because it's been studied massively,
12 and internationally.

13 Ed has put together this handout that I
14 wish you'd grab on the way out. It's a fact sheet by
15 the NEI, and these are multiple studies, many studies.

16 National Academy of Sciences, National Cancer
17 Institute, long-term big-time studies, quality
18 research that have concluded, unequivocally, that
19 living in the shadow of a nuclear plant will not give
20 you cancer.

21 So we need to put this to bed. These are
22 American studies, British studies, Canadian studies,
23 and, again, it's good reading. So take it home.
24 There's some real issues to deal with here. This is a
25 non-issue. It's been studied exhaustively. I'm

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1 convinced in my heart and soul that we can relax on
2 this point.

3 As far as locally, less than a year ago,
4 right here in Matagorda County, two Rice professors
5 wanted to address his particular question, germane
6 specifically to the county. Can the folks here in
7 Matagorda County -- is there more cancer death rate
8 right here than other counties in Texas?

9 The answer is no. Two Rice professors,
10 eminently qualified, studied this question and
11 concluded that out of 230 counties studied, Matagorda
12 County ranked 108 out of 230 counties as far as cancer
13 death rates. And for sure 206 of those counties don't
14 have a nuclear facility. So we can't connect the dots
15 on this. I just hope I contributed to finally putting
16 this to bed.

17 You can ask me questions later if you
18 wish. Thank you. These two handouts are available to
19 you on the way out. Thanks.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Dr.
22 Hefner.

23 And this is Mr. Singleton?

24 MR. SINGLETON: Yes, sir.

25 Hello. My name is Robert Singleton. And

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1 I just want to give you a website to start out with,
2 to counter what the doctor just said. If you go to
3 www.radiation.org, that's the website of the radiation
4 and public health project, you'll find some statistics
5 that are directly, directly in conflict with what he
6 told you.

7 I live in Austin now, but I'm not
8 unfamiliar with this part of Texas. My mother's
9 family is all from Edna, and I spent many summers and
10 Christmas vacations in Southeast Texas, and spent a
11 lot of time fishing. So I know how to bait a hook,
12 and more important, I know why to bait the -- why you
13 bait a hook.

14 And I just imagine somewhere under the sea
15 right now there's a meeting going on discussing a new
16 fishing project where little fish in three-piece suits
17 are flapping their fins and say, We'll bring hundreds
18 of new worms to the area. It's the same above as
19 below I guess.

20 There's a reason why there haven't been
21 any new nuclear licenses approved for 29 years. What
22 changed is not the nuclear plants, not their
23 reliability, not their safety record. What's changed,
24 this is 2005 Energy Policy Act, threw a whole boat
25 load of money buying the nukes.

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1 So we're seeing applications that didn't
2 happen, and there is all of a sudden a spate of them.

3 So we're in a unique spot here. If we can stop this
4 first one, maybe we can keep other people from jumping
5 onboard the boat and putting in new applications.

6 I just want to introduce myself so the NRC
7 people -- I'm the guy who visits your event report
8 site every day. That's me.

9 I heard a comment from behind me when we
10 first came in saying, These protesters against nukes,
11 they're never in favor of anything. What are they in
12 favor of? Well, let me just say it once again, so
13 it's absolutely clear what we're in favor of.
14 Conservation, renewables and energy efficiency. Let
15 me say it again, conservation, renewables and energy
16 efficiency.

17 You can argue about whether or not these
18 work, but you can't say that the anti-nuke people
19 don't have answers. This is our answer. We're not
20 just saying, No nukes. We're saying, Conservation,
21 renewables and efficiency.

22 We feel there are cleaner, safer and
23 quicker ways of achieving global warming goals. For
24 example, nuclear power plants take a long time to
25 build, and they're not going to really do anything in

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1 terms of the carbon footprint. When you look at the
2 carbon footprint for a nuclear power plant, you also
3 have to consider the fact that mining and
4 manufacturing -- mining of uranium and enrichment of
5 uranium add carbon to the air, and the lower grade
6 that uranium is, the harder it is to mine, the further
7 you have to go to get it, all of those things add to
8 the footprint.

9 Also, transportation and storing of
10 nuclear waste have to be added to that. This is not a
11 zero carbon footprint industry. It's only a zero
12 carbon footprint industry if you look just at plant
13 operation. And I'm not even sure that's true. But if
14 you look beyond plant operation to how they get the
15 uranium, and what they do with the waste, it's to a
16 zero carbon footprint industry.

17 The main focus of this is supposed to be
18 the environmental report, the environmental review.
19 And what I noticed in looking at it, in my first
20 cursory pass through it, is it's dealing with the
21 nuclear industry at its best, which is not surprising
22 since this section is probably the result of work by
23 the STNP.

24 Incidentally, I insist on calling it the
25 STNP instead of the STP. It was originally the STNP,

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1 and then they took the N out of the name to make it
2 sound a little more benign. I insist on putting it
3 back in and calling it the South Texas Nuclear Project
4 so no one confuses it with, for example, the Allan
5 Parsons Project. It's the South Texas Nuclear
6 Project. This is a nuclear plant and taking the word
7 nuclear out of the title doesn't change that.

8 The things I want to see more concern with
9 in the environmental review, in the -- and since this
10 is a scoping hearing, let me say this, you have to
11 consider the worst case scenario. What if something
12 like Three Mile Island happens? What will the effects
13 on this area of Texas be?

14 And that's not even the worst accident
15 that's been known to happen. What if something like
16 Chernobyl happens? I want to see the environmental
17 review include the worst case scenario, the absolute
18 worst that could happen. You'll not find one word
19 about that in the current environmental report.

20 There is something that is -- I think it's
21 in direct contradiction with what the plant physician
22 said -- the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is required
23 by an act of Congress, the public law 107.188, the
24 Public Health Security in Bioterrorism Preparedness
25 and Response Act of 2002, to stockpile and provide

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1 potassium iodide to keep you from getting thyroid
2 cancer in the event of a nuclear leak.

3 It's there, the government acknowledges
4 it. They don't want you to think about this. Has
5 anybody been offered potassium iodide? It's supposed
6 to be available in a 10 or 20 mile radius around the
7 plant. Anybody had anybody from the government come
8 up to them and say, Here's your potassium iodide?
9 It's required by law, the law is there because the
10 plants are dangerous.

11 And I insist on seeing in the
12 environmental review the worst case, because this also
13 has to include terrorism. There is a very real chance
14 that one nut with a rocket launcher could change the
15 fate of Texas, could change this area for thousands of
16 years to come.

17 Even assuming that that worst case doesn't
18 happen, you still have one non -- one problem that
19 there is no good solution for. And that is what
20 you're going to do with nuclear waste. I don't
21 believe the time frame. I think it should be longer.

22 But the federal government says we're going to have
23 to store high-level waste for 10,000 years, that we're
24 going to have to protect for 10,000 years.

25 Think about what happens in 10,000 years.

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1 There's no government, no culture, no language
2 currently spoken on earth that's lasted 10,000 years.

3 And yet we're supposed to believe that the Department
4 of Energy is going to last that long, that they're
5 going to be able to take the nuclear waste that we've
6 already produced and keep it safe for 10,000 years.

7 Agriculture and the domestication of
8 livestock hasn't been around for 10,000 years. And
9 yet the government has the hubris to say, We can keep
10 you and your grandchildren and your great-
11 grandchildren safe for the next 10,000 years from the
12 waste that we produce, in what is, after all, only a
13 stop gap measure.

14 The most radical nuclear people will admit
15 that something is going to come along that's going to
16 be cleaner and safer and better, and that
17 eventually -- well, we're still going to be storing
18 the waste from this 50 years or 100 years of nuclear
19 power and have to safeguard it.

20 What language are we going to put on the
21 warnings to people from the nuclear waste and have any
22 guarantee that it's going to be spoken 10,000 years
23 from now?

24 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Singleton, can I ask you
25 to --

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1 MR. SINGLETON: All right.

2 MR. CAMERON: -- wrap up?

3 MR. SINGLETON: I'll wrap up here then.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much for
5 those comments.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Sooger?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. CAMERON: Mina Williams?

10 (No response.)

11 MR. CAMERON: A.C. Conrad? Mr. Conrad.

12 MR. CONRAD: All right. Today my bona
13 fides are I was born in Uvalde, I grew up in San
14 Antonio, I live in Houston, I have a place in Marfa,
15 my wife has a place in Egypt, Texas, and that's
16 probably why I'm here today. She couldn't come today.
17 I'll talk a little bit on her behalf.

18 She's a direct competitor for the water
19 that's already allocated to the make up water I guess
20 for that cooling lake. And so she's concerned on a --
21 just a on a practical matter. She's a rice farmer,
22 cattle rancher and a low crop farmer in Egypt, Texas.

23 If you look at this map, it's an
24 interesting map. I've been through a lot of maps in
25 the last few days. This is Matagorda County here,

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1 there's the Colorado, and she's right up here
2 someplace. So we're upstream of the water -- of your
3 water, and we're downwind of any kind of problems.

4 And Wharton County does have a lot of
5 cancer. Now is it because of you all? Probably not.

6 But it has a lot of cancer. People from M.D.
7 Anderson say, You got cancer. I'm from Wharton. Oh,
8 you know, okay, we know why, yes, all right. But they
9 don't say why, but they just say that.

10 So I think it's a bad idea. We're talking
11 about the design of this plant going back maybe to
12 '85, '98, somewhere in there, and the plants that in
13 Japan maybe the only examples of these operating.

14 If you're against this -- I think it's
15 idea, so if you're against it and think about it, you
16 can win, because 10 years ago, in Sierra Blanca,
17 Texas, there was a fight that culminated in some state
18 administrative law hearings where people worked for
19 probably 10 or 15 years to not have a nuclear low-
20 level radiation waste depository in Sierra Blanca,
21 Texas.

22 So you can win if you think it's a bad
23 idea. That was a bad idea, so it was pretty easy to
24 beat it. All -- it took them 15 years, took them half
25 a million dollars, the state spent \$5 million, they

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1 won. So if you think this is a bad idea, don't be
2 shy, don't be embarrassed. I mean, if it's a bad
3 idea, it's a bad idea. Just go after it. I guess
4 don't give up.

5 And also, I heard earlier today all this
6 enthusiasm for the STPS -- STNP -- when I was in
7 Houston growing up in graduate school 20 years ago, it
8 was STNP then. If you look at maps, very few maps
9 actually have the cooling lake on it. You should ask
10 that -- it's a little hard to find the cooling lake.

11 I mean everybody knows where it is, you
12 can look on Google, so ask why all the maps that you
13 buy, except for really expensive, fancy maps, don't
14 have your pride and joy on it? Because it ought to be
15 there because it's a big deal. So thanks.

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

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. CAMERON: Is Zu Duc here?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. CAMERON: How about Georgia Rice-
22 Harris? Georgia? And then we're going to go to Ron
23 Paris, Eleanor Schwank, and Maria Hamilton. And this
24 is Georgia Rice-Harris coming up to join us.

25 You okay?

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1 MS. RICE-HARRIS: Got it.

2 MR. CAMERON: All right.

3 MS. RICE-HARRIS: Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: There you are. Let's just
5 make sure people can hear you.

6 MS. RICE-HARRIS: Okay. Can you hear me?
7 Okay.

8 I want to thank all of you that came here
9 today to help inform us. I'll try to be real brief,
10 but I think that Matagorda County and Bay City are so
11 much better prepared for two more units than we were
12 for the first two units.

13 I happen to have been on the city council
14 at that time, and let me tell you, I believe at that
15 time there were 13,000-plus construction workers here,
16 which at that time it was the largest construction
17 project in the United States at that time, or up to
18 that time, or going on then.

19 And we came through it, there was lots of
20 controversy then, as there is now. And I think that's
21 good because it does bring out things that may not
22 have been addressed at that time.

23 In the *Tribune* December 30, last month,
24 there was -- they have a little history thing in the
25 Sunday paper, and it showed a picture of the Colorado

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1 River and some people -- some peers had been washed
2 out.

3 And what happened was in March of '54 -- I
4 have it my purse but I think that's right -- there was
5 an earthquake, and eight point something, in Alaska,
6 and it came all the way down to Matagorda. And this
7 was brought to the attention of the NRC at that time
8 before that project we have now was built, and that
9 there is a fault line that goes all the way through
10 Matagorda.

11 And one of you a while ago, I don't
12 remember which one, mentioned seismic impact. And
13 from what we were told, that there were extra
14 reinforcements, the gentleman a while ago that was
15 talking about the rods coming up and down, that there
16 was extra attention given to the plant we have now
17 because of that instability.

18 We're also -- like I said, Matagorda
19 County and Bay City are much better prepared and I
20 think we can handle it. I have confidence that
21 they're going to do the best job. I don't know any
22 industry that is absolutely safe. How many people
23 have been killed in refineries blowing up? I mean,
24 something happens somewhere all the time. Thank you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Georgia.

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1 Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. CAMERON: Is Ron Paris here?

4 MALE VOICE: No.

5 FEMALE VOICE: He left.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. How about Eleanor --
7 Eleanor Schwank? Oh, great. Hi, Eleanor. And then
8 we have Maria Hamilton.

9 MS. SCHWANK: Good afternoon. My name is
10 Eleanor Schwank, and I am a private citizen. I am a
11 registered nurse with a baccalaureate degree. I
12 graduated in 1978, and I've been practicing emergency
13 medicine ever since.

14 I moved to Matagorda County in 1997 and I
15 have lived very peacefully with STP down the road, and
16 I have felt very safe. But my problem is, is that I
17 do have a concern about building more nuclear power
18 plants, as opposed to looking for alternative choices,
19 other green choices. Of course, we have this huge
20 yellow ball in the sky that burns us to death every
21 summer, actually from March until like November, which
22 is an endless source of power.

23 I have a concern that our monies are being
24 directed into something that is seducing our
25 citizenry. I don't know if any of you know anything

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1 about Maslow's hierarchy of needs, but for humans to
2 survive, Maslow developed a hierarchy of needs, which
3 is a pyramid.

4 The base of the pyramid is our most basic
5 need, and that is water, air, warmth, and sex. Sex is
6 one of our most basic needs. If we can't breathe,
7 obviously we're not going to live. If we can't
8 maintain our body temperature we'll die. If we don't
9 have water we're not going to live. And sex because
10 it ensures the propagation of the species.

11 My issue here today is water. If we're
12 going to be taking water from the Colorado River, and
13 giving 3,935 gallons per minute to cool a new nuclear
14 reactor, we're also going to be compromising our need
15 for water to San Antonio where humans need water to
16 drink, because San Antonio, with the SAWS project,
17 which is San Antonio Water System, the LCRA is going
18 to be draining water off the Colorado River to provide
19 for San Antonio.

20 We have our rice farmers who absolutely
21 need our water. We have our cattlemen who absolutely
22 need our water. And let's not forget our aquaculture,
23 or bays and our estuaries. Everybody's coming to
24 Matagorda because they all love our fishing, but we're
25 not going to have fish, we're not going to have

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1 oysters, we're not going to have shrimp, we're not
2 going to have anything if we're not protecting our
3 water.

4 So I think that it's important for all of
5 us to consider the environmental impact of building
6 and constructing new nuclear power plants. As I said,
7 I live very peacefully with our existing -- my
8 existing neighbor. I think it's time for our
9 direction to change, and to make kind of like a 180
10 because we have to develop alternative sources of
11 energy. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Eleanor.

14 We have Maria Hamilton and Mark McBurnett,
15 and Joe Shepherd as our last speakers. Is --

16 Thank you very much, Eleanor.

17 MS. SCHWANK: You're welcome.

18 MR. CAMERON: Maria?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Let's go to Mark, Mark
21 McBurnett and then to Joe Shepherd.

22 MR. McBurnett: All right. Thank you.
23 It's a pleasure to be here this afternoon and have a
24 chance to talk about the new units at the South Texas
25 Project.

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1 I'm Mark McBurnett. I'm Vice President of
2 Oversight and Regulatory Affairs at the South Texas
3 Project. And I'm directly responsible for submittal
4 of the application to the NRC, as well as oversight of
5 the project, ensuring that things are done absolutely
6 correctly.

7 There's a couple of things I'd like to
8 talk about this afternoon. There were many, many
9 topics brought up, more than what we have time here to
10 go through the rest of the afternoon. I'd like to go
11 through every one of them point by point extensively,
12 however, in the interest of where we're at in time,
13 I'll stop with that.

14 I do want to tell the ABWR story. There's
15 been a lot of questions about the
16 Toshiba/GE/Hitachi/Japanese. The advance boiling
17 water reactor in Japan, there's four of them in
18 operation in Japan, was developed as a joint venture
19 between General Electric, Hitachi and Toshiba. They
20 all jointly own that design in Japan.

21 GE took that design and got it certified
22 in the United States. Where did that design come
23 from, you asked about the safety, what is this, what
24 is the safety record. We've been operating boiling
25 water reactors in the United States since 1960. The

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1 boil water reactors, through each generation, have
2 evolved into -- further and further involved into a
3 more advanced design.

4 When GE and Hitachi and Toshiba went to
5 develop the advanced boiling water reactors, they
6 started with the BWR-6, the latest design that's
7 currently in operation in the United States.

8 They took that design and they looked at
9 the rules under Part 52, what they needed to address,
10 and they looked at the things that were bothering them
11 about the BWR-6 that didn't work as well as they
12 wanted it to, things they could make it safer, things
13 that make it more reliable, they addressed those
14 issues and developed the advanced boiling water
15 reactor.

16 It's very similar in operation and design
17 to the BWR-6. We have many, many, many years of
18 experience operating those plants.

19 The plants in Japan -- now there were two
20 of those units, advanced boiling water reactor units
21 that are currently shut down because of the earthquake
22 that was mentioned earlier. The plants are certified,
23 it's actually to a .3 RG earthquake. That's a
24 significant earthquake and basically it's very far
25 beyond what's going to be -- or could ever be

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1 experienced at South Texas.

2 But the really important thing about the
3 Japanese experience that it told us, is those plants
4 felt that earthquake, felt an earthquake actually
5 bigger than that, no safety issues. Yes, they've got
6 some stuck control rods -- by the way, they're stuck
7 in, which is where they're supposed to be, they went
8 in and then stuck as it should.

9 They had some sloshing of water out of the
10 spent fuel pool that got off into the sea and very,
11 very small quantities of radioactive material got
12 loose, well, within their regulatory limits. Safety-
13 wise there was no issue from those plants. They
14 survived it.

15 Now, yes, Japan is in the process and
16 Tokyo Electric Power is in the process of addressing
17 those units in great detail to make sure they're safe
18 to put back in operation. That's a whole another
19 story. But the point of the matter is, those plants
20 safely responded to the earthquake as designed.

21 I do want to talk a little about need to
22 power. We've had a lot of discussion on need for
23 power. And by the way, I'm an engineer, my training
24 is engineering, I'm a professional engineer, I've been
25 in the electric power business for 30-plus years now.

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1 Our assessment, and along with the Energy
2 Reliability Council of Texas basically says we need
3 power, we need generation, we need new generation on
4 line and we need to retire old units that are in
5 operation, we need new power generation in Texas, we
6 need new base load generation in Texas.

7 As a matter of fact, yes, we need solar,
8 we need wind, we need conservation, we need nuclear,
9 and we need clean coal. We need all of those to meet
10 our energy demands. Energy is what drives the economy
11 of Texas, it's what drives the economy of the world.
12 It's important, we need to plan for that energy. If
13 we don't, we'll go, as an economy, down the hill.

14 There is -- let's see, just a couple of
15 things -- waste, nuclear waste, I assure you we have
16 the capability at South Texas to store nuclear waste.

17 We have the capability to store all the waste, the
18 high-level waste out of Units 1 and 2 through 2028.

19 We have the capability for 10 years of
20 storage in the new advanced boiling water reactor
21 design, and there are technologies to allow us to
22 develop storage that goes much beyond that, and
23 basically we can store it as long as we need to, until
24 the federal government fulfills their contract and
25 takes possession of that spent fuel and ultimately

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1 disposes of it.

2 Ten thousand years? Not 10,000 years.
3 That fuel becomes less radioactive than what we dug
4 out of the ground originally in a few hundred years.
5 But, yes.

6 And I think -- oh, yes, water, I want to
7 talk about water real quick. And this is just to
8 explain cooling reservoirs. Our cooling reservoir's a
9 closed cycle system. We do take make-up water out of
10 the river to keep that reservoir filled. We take
11 make-up water out of the river most of the times
12 during high-flow conditions when it's, you know, a lot
13 of water flowing through it, to keep it filled.

14 The water actually cools in the reservoir,
15 it goes around its little loop and cools to the air,
16 it doesn't -- the hot water does not go back to the
17 river. So it's closed cycle. We use it for make-up,
18 and just to clarify the operating points, because I
19 think that was confused earlier.

20 That's all the statements I have. I
21 wanted to introduce Mr. Shepherd.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. SHEPHERD: I want to thank those of
24 you who've made it to this point. I appreciate you
25 being here.

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1 I'm Joe Shepherd. I'm the President and
2 Chief Executive Officer of STP, Nuclear Operating
3 Company. I'm not afraid to say that word. That's the
4 name of our company.

5 I would like first thank the NRC for
6 conducting this meeting. I'd like to also thank all
7 the other speakers, our neighbors, or local officials,
8 and our visitors for their comments. We welcome the
9 dialogue. We think that that's important in this
10 whole process.

11 We really are not looking for secrets.
12 Our letter of intent in June was published on the NRC
13 website, was available in the public document room.
14 There were no secrets about our announcement of the
15 new units.

16 I am a native Texan. I grew up within
17 spitting distance of the chemical plants in Texas
18 City, Texas. I think that has given me a unique
19 perspective on the environment, and what I feel is
20 important in protecting the environment.

21 You know, we're granted a license to
22 operate the two units that we have in operation now by
23 the laws that are passed by Congress, and the licenses
24 that are granted by the NRC. But we understand that
25 the granting of those licenses brings a special trust,

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1 and that we're responsible to the citizens of Texas
2 and of Matagorda County.

3 And our first responsibility is the safe
4 operation of those units. I think our record
5 demonstrates that our commitment is to safety. And
6 when I say our, I mean the management and the
7 employees of South Texas Project, who also are your
8 friends and neighbors who live in this community.

9 Units 1 and 2 provide safe, reliable power
10 to millions of Texans. As Mark said, that drives that
11 economy of Texas. And it brings millions of dollars
12 of benefits to Matagorda County and the surrounding
13 area. And we understand implicitly that safe,
14 reliable operation of Units 1 and 2 are the enablers
15 for any new plant construction. And that redoubles
16 our focus on safety.

17 I'd just like to amplify one thing that Mark
18 said. We are not against renewables, solar, wind,
19 conservation, efficiency. We teach our people to look
20 carefully at decisions, and to make a decision that is
21 either this or that is often what we call a sucker's
22 choice.

23 I think that the studies that you look at
24 on global warming, on greenhouse gases all tell you
25 that you need all of that, including nuclear power, to

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1 be able to make any kind impact on reducing the
2 emission of greenhouse gases and reversing the trends
3 that we see in our global climate.

4 There's been a lot of talk about
5 efficiency. We believe in efficiency as well. In
6 19 -- well, in 2006 and -7, we replaced our low
7 pressure turbines in Units 1 and 2. Without changing
8 the reactor power, we added 140 megawatts onto the
9 grid. That's the equivalent of a combined cycle
10 plant. So we believe in all this. We think that it's
11 all necessary to be able to have an impact going
12 forward.

13 Mark talked about the ABWRs. Their
14 lineage is over 60 years of operation in the United
15 States and around the world. And the plans that we're
16 looking at are an evolutionary design that's based
17 upon the best that was in the United States. The
18 design's certified by the NRC, and meets all U.S.
19 standards.

20 There were some concerns about the seismic
21 event that occurred in Japan. I have personally
22 toured those plants after the earthquake. I've
23 crawled under the reactor vessel, I've been through
24 the spent fuel pool, et cetera. I'll be glad to talk
25 to anybody about how those plants did in the seismic

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1 events that occurred in Japan.

2 Besides the good operating record that we
3 saw with the advanced boiling water reactors in Japan,
4 we choose them also because of their record associated
5 with on-time construction, on-budget cost, and on
6 schedule. And that performance, we believe we can
7 replicate in the United States.

8 There were a lot of discussions previously
9 about STP and the community. We strive to be a good
10 corporate citizen in Matagorda County, and we're
11 pleased with the support and the partnership that we
12 have with the county and the surrounding areas. We
13 believe that the benefits to Matagorda County will be
14 significant, not only just the jobs that will be
15 created, we've talked about the 800 permanent jobs,
16 the 4,000 construction jobs, but we believe it'll have
17 a significant positive affect on the quality of life
18 in Matagorda County.

19 Already, as D.C. Dunham talked about,
20 advanced education has come to the city due to our
21 partnership with the local community colleges and with
22 Texas A&M. There's now a satellite campus at Wharton
23 Junior College in Bay City, we're teaching courses and
24 there are students there today, and that did not exist
25 a year ago. And that's all because of Units 3 and 4.

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1 Ms. Dancer talked about the security of
2 the workforce. I'm sorry if, as we went through our
3 deliberations on how we should best manager our costs,
4 that that caused anxiety within any of employees. But
5 the truth is, we outsourced not one job. Not one.
6 And we have changed our outlook. We've gone from an
7 outlook of constriction to one of expansion, and
8 that's the bright future for STP Nuclear Operating
9 Company, and that's the bright future for Matagorda
10 County.

11 We prefer local talent, and the onsite
12 campus in Bay City is part of our commitment to try
13 and attract and retain that local talent. And we have
14 many other activities that'll go forth in the future
15 to bring that workforce to Matagorda County.

16 Kind of in summary, our vision at South
17 Texas is that we improve lives through excellence and
18 energy generation. We feel that we improve the lives
19 of Texans by providing safe, reliable, efficient
20 electricity to power the Texas economy.

21 We believe we improve the lives of the
22 local community through our involvement with the
23 community, through the tax base we provide, through
24 the investment we provide in the community. And we
25 feel that we improve the lives of our employees by

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1 providing an outstanding place to work with good wages
2 and good benefits.

3 We intend to be here for the next 60
4 years, and we look forward to the construction of
5 Units 3 and 4. Thank your for this opportunity.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much.

8 Someone gave us a card late to speak,
9 Stephen Kale, or Kall? I can give you a couple of
10 minutes, Stephen.

11 MR. KALE: I can wait till tonight if you
12 prefer.

13 MR. CAMERON: Oh, you're coming tonight?

14 MR. KALE: Yes.

15 MR. CAMERON: Oh, good. Well, then let's
16 hear you tonight. We heard -- you had a great
17 question earlier today. So we'll hear you tonight.
18 Thank you, Stephen.

19 I just would like to thank you for many
20 great comments, for following the ground rules. And
21 I'm going to turn it over to Nilesh to just close the
22 meeting out for us.

23 MR. CHOKSHI: Well, I think we started
24 this meeting in asking for you input, and I'd really
25 like to say that we heard a number of topics on those

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1 issues, and we have written comments as well as your
2 verbal comments, and we will do our best to consider
3 all of these comments. And thanks once again. And I
4 anticipate that the evening we'll have similar
5 participation. Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, at 4:51 p.m., the meeting was
7 concluded.)
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT UNITS 3 & 4

COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

+ + + + +

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

+ + + + +

Auditorium

Bay City Civic Center

201 7th Street

Bay City, Texas

7:00 p.m.

PANEL MEMBERS:

- FRANCIS X. "CHIP" CAMERON, Facilitator
- JIM BIGGINS, Office of General Counsel
- NILESH CHOKSHI, Deputy Director, NRC
- GEORGE WUNDER, Sr. Project Manager
- PAUL KALLAN, Environmental Project Manager

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AGENDA

	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1		
2		
3	Nilesh Chokshi	9
4	George Wunder	16
5	Paul Kallan	24
6	Paul Gunter	29
7	Jim Biggins	30
8	Mike O'Day	33
9	James Mitchell	37
10	Richard Kenapik	41
11	Joe Morton	43
12	Brent Marceaux	46
13	Stephen Kale	47
14	Bobby Head	52
15	John Corder	56
16	Bruce Martin	57
17	Paul Gunter	58
18	D.C. Dunham	62
19	Mitch Thames	65
20	Karen Hadden	68
21	William Wagner	75
22	Jimmy McCauley	83
23	Ernest Opella	84
24	James Hefner	85

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		3	
1	Owen Bludau	87	
2	Ed Dykes	92	
3	Robert Singleton	97	
4	Mr. McCormick	101	
5	Mark McBurnett	103	
6	Joe Sheppard		108
7	Nilesh Chokshi		114
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. CAMERON: Good evening everyone. My
3 name is Chip Cameron, and just like to welcome you to
4 the public meeting tonight. I work for the Nuclear
5 Regulatory Commission, the NRC.

6 Our topic tonight is the NRC's
7 environmental review process for evaluating the
8 license application that we received from the South
9 Texas Nuclear Operating Company to build and operate
10 two new nuclear reactors at the South Texas site.

11 And it's my pleasure to serve as your
12 facilitator tonight, and in that role I'll try to
13 help all of you to have a productive meeting.

14 And I just want to go over a couple of
15 things about meeting process before we get to the
16 substance of our discussions. I want to tell you
17 about the format of the meeting and tell you a little
18 bit about the ground rules -- simple ground rules so
19 that we can have a good meeting tonight and just
20 introduce the NRC speakers who are going to talk to
21 you briefly.

22 You know, I think I'm going to have to
23 take this --

24 MALE VOICE: You think it's that?

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1 MR. CAMERON: Yes, because it wasn't
2 doing it this afternoon, so -- I'm sorry about that.

3

4 (Taking off lapel microphone.)

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And -- all right.
6 In terms of the format for tonight's meeting, we're
7 going to start on giving you a little bit of
8 information about the NRC's evaluation process --
9 what we look at when we have one of these license
10 applications to evaluate.

11 And we're going to have some brief NRC
12 presentations on that for you, and then we'll go on
13 to you for some questions about the process to make
14 sure that it's clear for you.

15 And then we're going to get into the
16 second part of the meeting, which is for us to listen
17 to all of you -- your advice and recommendations on
18 our process. And we'll ask you to come up here --
19 those of you who have signed up to speak -- and to
20 tell us what your views are.

21 And just as the NRC staff is going to
22 tell you in more detail this is called a scoping
23 meeting. And that's a term that's used with
24 preparation of an environmental statement. And, very

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1 simply put, it's for the NRC to hear from people on
2 what the scope of the environmental impact statement
3 should -- what issues should the NRC look at in
4 preparing that environmental impact statement.

5 So the focus is on comments related to
6 scoping, but we realize that there are a broader set
7 of concerns with anything like this than
8 environmental. And we always want to listen to
9 public concerns, so we're going to be glad to hear
10 what your concerns -- your issues are, even though
11 they ultimately might not fall within the scope of
12 the environmental review.

13 Now, during this second part of the
14 meeting where we're listening to you we're there to
15 listen. We're not there to respond or rebut what you
16 say in any way unless there may be some instances
17 where there's been some new information in terms of
18 what the NRC has done on a particular issue that I'll
19 ask the staff to bring to your attention if we get to
20 something like that.

21 In terms of the ground rules, when we get
22 to the question period I would ask that you just hold
23 your questions until all of the NRC speakers have
24 done with their presentation. Then we'll go on to --

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1 for questions. If you have a question just signal me
2 and I'll bring you this cordless microphone.
3 Introduce yourself and keep it to a question instead
4 of making a comment at that time. If you want to
5 comment come up during the second part of the meeting
6 to make a comment.

7 I would that only one person speak at a
8 time so that we can give our full attention to
9 whomever has the microphone. And it will also allow
10 our stenographer over here to get a clean transcript.

11 And this is Leslie Berridge who is doing our
12 transcribing tonight. That transcript for this
13 meeting will be available to the public to anyone who
14 wants to get a copy of that.

15 We're also taking written comments. The
16 NRC staff will be telling you about that. But I want
17 to emphasize any comments that you give tonight --
18 they're on the record. They'll count. They'll have
19 as much weight as a written comment.

20 I'd ask you to try to be concise. I
21 think we have a number of people who want to talk
22 tonight, so I want to make sure that they all get a
23 chance to do so. So when we get to the second part
24 of the meeting where we're listening to you, if you

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1 could just try to follow a three- to five-minute
2 guideline on your remarks -- I don't if that's too --
3 to get through the evening. And usually three to
4 five minutes is enough time to summarize what you
5 have to say. And if you want to amplify you can do
6 that through written comments.

7 And, finally, although one of the
8 hallmarks and pleasures of working in Texas has been
9 the fact that everybody, no matter what their
10 viewpoints are, is always very, very courteous.
11 There's a good streak in courtesy really and I know
12 that I appreciate it. And it's really productive. I
13 usually say, you know, let's be courteous tonight
14 because you're going to hear remarks -- views that
15 you don't agree with, and just let's respect the
16 person.

17 In terms of the NRC speakers, we have
18 Nilesh Chokshi, who is right here. Nilesh is our
19 deputy division director of the -- is it Division of
20 Environmental Review?

21 MR. CHOKSHI: Site and Environment.

22 MR. CAMERON: Pardon me?

23 MR. CHOKSHI: Site and Environment.

24 MR. CAMERON: Site and Environment.

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1 Nilesh is our top manager here tonight, and he's
2 going to lead off and tell you a little bit about the
3 NRC and what we're trying to accomplish tonight.

4 Then we're going to go to George Wunder,
5 who's the project manager for the review of the
6 safety aspects of the license application that we've
7 received from South Texas. And he's also in our
8 office of new reactors, which is where Nilesh is.

9 Our third speaker is going to get to the
10 heart of the matter, the environmental review. This
11 is Paul Kallan right here, who is the project manager
12 to the environmental review. And he's also in the
13 office of new reactors. In fact, you are in Nilesh's
14 division, which Burton right here -- William Burton
15 is the branch chief of that environmental branch.

16 And I would just thank you all for being
17 here. And let's have a good meeting. And, Nilesh?

18 MR. CHOKSHI: Thank you, Chip. Good
19 evening. Can you hear me in the back of the room?
20 No?

21 (Pause.)

22 MR. CHOKSHI: Good evening. Is it
23 better? Okay.

24 Now, my name is Nilesh Chokshi. I'm

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1 deputy director in the Division of Site and
2 Environmental Reviews in the national Office of New
3 Reactors.

4 First, let me begin by welcoming you and
5 thanking you all for taking time to really fulfill
6 one of our major responsibilities related to the
7 environmental review under the National Environmental
8 Policy Act.

9 I also see that -- thank you -- some of
10 you are staying for the second session. And probably
11 my remarks are a repetition, but, but I thank you for
12 staying and participating in this important
13 gathering. I know that you are taking time out of
14 your personal schedule to meet with us and share your
15 insights and views about the South Texas Project.

16 Hopefully during the open house you had a
17 chance to discuss with many of the NRC staff members
18 and get some better understanding over why we are
19 here today and what we are trying to accomplish.
20 But, anyway, this is the session where we're going to
21 expand and what we are here for, and we look forward
22 to your participation.

23 What we are going to do is present some
24 information on the application for the two new power

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1 reactors to be constructed and operated at the South
2 Texas Project site. And we're going to -- our
3 purpose is going to be on the environmental review
4 aspects of the application.

5 It is in my division, and my staff is
6 responsible for managing the environmental review and
7 that we have to conduct before we can make a decision
8 about the application.

9 During the course of review, we interact
10 quite a bit with our safety counterparts, and safety
11 and environmental reviews go hand in hand. And Mr.
12 George Wunder, who is the project manager for
13 safety -- he will also give a prospective on the oral
14 review process.

15 So I think, as Mr. Cameron already
16 mentioned about that meeting, our purpose is to
17 basically get input on our environmental review
18 process. But what I want to do is take a few minutes
19 and put this meeting in the context of the earlier
20 meeting -- public outreach meeting which was held in
21 June, and that was before the applications were filed
22 with the NRC.

23 And in that meeting in June -- some of
24 you may have participated in the meeting -- we shared

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1 information on the various steps in the licensing
2 process -- the purpose was to explain the licensing
3 process. We also informed you about the
4 opportunities that you would have to observe or
5 participate in the work of the NRC if we were to
6 receive an application to construct and operate new
7 reactors.

8 During that meeting we also identified
9 several major tracks of review, which include safety
10 review, inspection activities, formal hearings, as
11 well as the environmental review.

12 In June we also wanted to share with you
13 information about what combined construction permit
14 and operating licenses COL, shortly, and you will
15 hear me and other NRC people talk about COL or COLA,
16 which is the Combined Operating License Application.

17 And in that meeting and in this meeting
18 you will hear again and again that how much your
19 participation is important in these proceedings. You
20 know, the fact is that this is your home, this is
21 your community, and the proposed project, if NRC and
22 all of the other permitting agencies approve, will
23 have more of an impact on you, people who are in the
24 close vicinity of the plant, than anybody else.

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1 Now, I think since that meeting --
2 outreach meeting in June, as you know, the NRC did
3 receive an application for a combined construction
4 permit and operating license for the South Texas
5 Project in September 2007.

6 And after we determined that the
7 application was acceptable, we now are initiating the
8 review of the application. I want to make sure,
9 because I think after the first session apparently
10 probably there was some misunderstanding. We are
11 accepting the application for review. That is not
12 same as granting a combined operating license. This
13 is just the beginning of the process.

14 So we have now initiated our review of
15 the application. And we are at very early stages.
16 And much of our focus -- and you will hear in more
17 detail about our review process, but our focus right
18 now is on gathering information.

19 And as shown in these first three bullets
20 on this chart, one of the purposes of this two-day
21 meeting is go over that earlier information we
22 presented in June just to review the overall context
23 of the review.

24 But the primary purpose of two-days

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1 meeting is to give you opportunity to share with us
2 your comments and thoughts on what we should consider
3 in the environmental review when we develop the NRC's
4 environmental impact statement on the South Texas
5 combined operating license application.

6 This is a scoping meeting, and it's a
7 part of a formal scoping process where we decide what
8 measures need to be addressed and that what -- and
9 that we should consider when we undertake the review.

10 So I think this is very vital that those of you who
11 live close to the proposed plant and have a better
12 understanding of your local environment will give
13 your insights.

14 We need to better appreciate those
15 environmental values and insights you have, and we
16 really want to hear about the issues you think
17 important to you. So we are going to be, as Mr.
18 Cameron mentioned, primarily in the listening mode in
19 the later part of the process.

20 Now, you are also going to hear from --
21 that we already have a well-topped review process --
22 and you will hear detail about this. And our review
23 team is topped with nationally and internationally
24 recognized experts in all of the environmental

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1 disciplines.

2 In fact, many of NRC environmental staff,
3 and our principal contractor, Pacific Northwest
4 National Lab, staff is here, and they're also going
5 to listen to your concerns and views.

6 Now, I want to make sure that you
7 understand that this is not the last opportunity for
8 you to interact on environmental issues. There will
9 be other opportunities as we conduct review and
10 develop environmental impact statement. And I think
11 later Mr. Kallan will go over some of the more
12 details on that aspect.

13 Now, before I hand the mike over to the
14 project managers to give more detailed information, I
15 wanted to go over who we are, what we do, and who we
16 interact with. I know that this was probably covered
17 in detail in the June meeting, but I think it's worth
18 going over so you understand our role.

19 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was
20 created in 1974 to regulate, among other things, the
21 civilian use of nuclear power, to ensure the health
22 and safety of public, to promote the common defense
23 and security, and to protect the environment.

24 I want to -- I would like to emphasize

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1 that we are not part of the Department of Energy or
2 any other agencies that promote the use of nuclear
3 power. We are here to regulate and grant license.

4 We are an independent regulatory agency
5 headed by five commissioners, all appointed by the
6 President and confirmed by the Senate. And unlike
7 cabinet secretaries and other political appointees,
8 the NRC commissioners do not change when a new
9 president is elected. They each serve five terms,
10 and there's always a mix of both Republicans and
11 Democrats.

12 The Commission is supported by a staff of
13 technical and regulatory experts, roughly around
14 3,000 people. And as an agency, since we came into
15 existence over 30 years year, we have experience in
16 licensing and regulating nuclear power plants and
17 other uses of nuclear materials. There are currently
18 104 operating reactors in the country.

19 Now, a couple of points about our
20 licensing process, and what I want to emphasize is
21 the aspect that this is a very open public process to
22 the greatest extent possible. The process is also
23 designed so that people who have a stake in the
24 proposed action are given a chance to participate and

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1 to be heard.

2 On this line I have listed the
3 participants in the licensing process in three
4 categories. I already mentioned the Commissioners
5 and the staff, but under the heading of NRC you will
6 also see two other bodies listed, hearing boards and
7 the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. I
8 think in a few minutes you will hear a little bit
9 more about both the hearing process and the Advisory
10 Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

11 Another participant in the process is
12 obviously the applicant and the company that wants to
13 build the plant and operate the plant. And the final
14 group of participants in this process is the group of
15 people we call stakeholders. And that is you, the
16 residents and business operators of the community.

17 And also included in this hearing are
18 various public groups -- public interest groups, as
19 well as the government of the State of Texas and your
20 own county and city governments. I think when you
21 hear about the environmental review you see that a
22 number of variety of different agencies and that --
23 are involved in the reviews.

24 So this is a little background. And to

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1 try to set the stage for this meeting let me I guess
2 thank you again for allowing us to come to you, come
3 into your community, and for you taking this effort
4 to meet with us and share your views on the potential
5 environmental issues associated with this project.

6 Now, we have a long way to go before the
7 NRC completes its review of the application -- is
8 ready to make a decision on the proposal. We're
9 talking about one aspect of the review today.

10 With this, what I want to do -- I want to
11 turn it over to Mr. George Wunder, our safety project
12 manager for the South Texas, and he will give you
13 more details on the application and the overall
14 aspects of the review. George?

15 MR. WUNDER: Thank you, Nilesh. It's
16 been a long couple of days, so I hope you'll all bear
17 with me as I make my way through these slides. I've
18 only got a few slides that I want to go over with you
19 tonight trying to give you a little bit of a
20 background on what the COLA is.

21 As Nilesh said, I'm George Wunder, and
22 I'm the safety project manager with the Office of New
23 Reactors.

24 So what is a combined license? Well, a

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1 combined license -- I'm not doing too well with this,
2 am I? A combined license is permission from the
3 Nuclear Regulatory Commission to build and operate a
4 reactor of a specific design in a specific location
5 subject to specific rules and regulations. In this
6 case South Texas is applying to build two general
7 electric advanced oil and water reactors at their
8 site in Wadsworth.

9 As far as who get an -- or who can be
10 issued a combined license, it has to be an entity
11 that is qualified both financially and technically --
12 in this case, South Texas Project Nuclear Operating
13 Company.

14 And as far as when -- the application was
15 received in September of last year. And we did a
16 two-month review and at the end of November of 2007
17 we officially accepted the application.

18 Now, the NRC has a pretty big job to do
19 when it comes to reviewing a combined license
20 application. As Nilesh indicated, our primary focus
21 as an agency is on safety. And one of the ways in
22 which we ensure safety is by making sure that
23 everything is done in accordance with the appropriate
24 laws and regulations.

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1 In this case, the law of concern is the
2 Atomic Energy Act, and the regulations are those
3 contained in Title 10 of the Code of Federal
4 Regulations. So these are the standards by which we
5 are going to be evaluating the application that South
6 Texas submitted.

7 We're also tasked with performing an
8 environmental review under the National Environmental
9 Act. And Paul Kallan, the environmental P.M., will
10 talk more about that in just a bit.

11 One of our goals is throughout the review
12 to make the best possible decisions with the best
13 information at every moment and to document these
14 decisions in a clear and unambiguous way. And this
15 is going toward our goal of trying to make sure that
16 the entire process is as open as possible and that
17 anyone who is interested can understand not only what
18 decisions we are making but why we are making those
19 decisions.

20 Okay. Now, let's take a little look at
21 the scope of the review -- what is it that we're
22 actually going to be looking at. Well, first of all,
23 we're going to look at the design of the plant. In
24 this case, much of that work was already done about

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1 ten years ago. The ABWR is what we call a certified
2 design. And what that means is that we've already
3 reviewed and approved the basic design of the plant.

4 Now, there are going to be some
5 differences between the plant as built at South Texas
6 and the design that we certified ten years. And this
7 can be for a variety of reasons. It can be the
8 applicant wants to use a new technology -- something
9 that wasn't in existence when we did our
10 certification. Or it can be because of specific
11 site -- site specific needs. Any deviation from the
12 approved design is reviewed and approved by our
13 staff.

14 One of the other things we're going to
15 look at is we're going to look at the suitability of
16 the site itself. And this will include things like
17 looking at the suitability of the soil to support the
18 structures that are going to be built. We're going
19 to look at the seismic history of the area. We're
20 going to look at the potential for all sorts of
21 natural problems, like flooding or tornadoes and
22 hurricanes. All of this -- all of these things are
23 going to be taken into account on our safety
24 evaluation chapter on site characteristics.

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1 We're going to look at the environmental
2 impact of the project. Paul's going to tell you more
3 about that in a minute.

4 We're going to look at the way they want
5 to put the plant together -- look at the materials
6 they want to use and the way they're going to arrange
7 the components. We have standards on quality
8 assurance, and we're going to have inspections going
9 on to make sure that these standards are upheld.

10 There's going to be an army of
11 construction workers and heavy equipment coming down
12 to the site. So, obviously, security is going to be
13 a concern -- and we're going to look at security
14 considerations, both for the new plants under
15 construction and for the operating units.

16 We're going to look at emergency
17 preparedness. And in consultation with the Federal
18 Emergency Management Agency we're going to evaluate
19 the South Texas Emergency Preparedness Plan --
20 Matagorda County Emergency Preparedness Plan. And
21 we've got the emergency preparedness expert with us
22 this evening to handle any questions that you might
23 have in that area.

24 Finally, we're going to look at personnel

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1 training so that we can make sure that anyone who is
2 working on something dealing with the South Texas
3 Reactor Project has been trained and qualified to do
4 that job.

5 Now, Nilesh indicated that we very much
6 value your participation and we want you to have all
7 the information that you want to have. And a good
8 place to get that is in our electronic public reading
9 room. You'll find most documents pertinent to the
10 application there.

11 You'll also find meeting notices. Now,
12 most of the meetings that we're going to be having
13 with South Texas are public meetings. They're open
14 for you to attend and to observe. We understand
15 that coming to our meetings might not be a priority
16 or might not be a practicality for you, so also
17 posted on the website we will -- we'll have meeting
18 summaries where we provide a brief synopsis of what
19 transpired in the meetings and provide any handouts
20 or material that was distributed.

21 Another way that you can participate --
22 and this comes a little bit later on in the review --
23 is when the application is presented -- or, rather,
24 when the staff safety evaluation is presented to the

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1 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

2 Now, the Advisory Committee on Reactor
3 Safeguards is an independent statutory body. It
4 reports directly to the Commission. And what we do
5 as a staff, as it evaluates the application, prepares
6 what's called a safety evaluation report.

7 And when we have this safety evaluation
8 report prepared to a large degree we present it to
9 the advisory committee and we receive their comments
10 on it. They comment on it. We take their feedback,
11 and their feedback is also provided to the
12 Commission.

13 Now, the presentation in the meeting with
14 the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards is a
15 public forum, and members of the public can apply to
16 speak at this meeting and present any comments or
17 concerns that they have directly to the advisory
18 committee. Okay?

19 And, finally, what I want to talk about
20 is the hearing process. After docketing the
21 application the staff on December 27, 2007, issued a
22 notice in the Federal Register which offered an
23 opportunity for the public to participate in the
24 hearing as a party. And this is a process called

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1 intervention.

2 In order to intervene a petitioner needs
3 to file a petition within 60 days of the Federal
4 Register notice. That period is going to expire on
5 February 25, 2008.

6 Okay. This is a slide that just kind of
7 shows a flowchart of the overall process that we're
8 describing here briefly tonight. We received the
9 application back in June. We had a pre-application
10 meeting down here. We've now received the
11 application. And, as you can see, the review process
12 splits, and we've got the environmental review, which
13 Paul will discuss, and then we've got the safety
14 review. And then these things all come together
15 neatly at the end and result in a -- the Commission
16 rendering a licensing decision on the project.

17 But nothing really comes together all
18 that neatly in the real world. As I noted, we
19 accepted the application for docketing on November
20 29, 2007. In a letter dated January 10, 2008, South
21 Texas Project informed us they were having challenges
22 in arranging for some of the design support that they
23 will need for furthering the project. And as a
24 result of that they asked that we put parts of the

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1 application -- a review of parts of the safety part
2 of the application on hold.

3 In a letter dated January 30, 2008, we
4 informed South Texas that we were going to put the
5 majority of the safety review on hold. This is not
6 the entire safety review. We're continuing with
7 parts of the safety review dealing with site
8 characteristics. And this cannot be mistaken for a
9 lack of acceptance of the application. I want to be
10 very clear about that.

11 We reviewed the application -- we
12 accepted it for docketing. All this means is that --
13 as we go forward in our review we will find
14 necessity -- have lots of interaction with the
15 applicant -- a lot of question and answer going on.
16 And they were not ready at this point to support our
17 full evaluation. So based on our own workloads and
18 other considerations we decided to put a majority of
19 the safety evaluation on hold temporarily.

20 The environmental review will continue.
21 And, with that, I'd like to introduce the
22 environmental P.M. Paul, come on up.

23 MR. KALLAN: Thank you, George. Thank
24 you for coming out tonight to understand our process.

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1 My name is Paul Kallan, and I'm with the Office of
2 New Reactors. I'm also the environmental project
3 manager.

4 You may be wondering why there's two
5 project managers. One is a safety project manager
6 and other environmental. The answer is that the
7 NRC's mission is to ensure the safety of the
8 facility, and at the same time to protect the
9 environment.

10 So I'm here today to talk to you a little
11 bit about the National Environmental Policy Act. The
12 goal of the National Environmental Policy Act is to
13 create an environment where man and the environment
14 can live in productive harmony.

15 The National Environmental Policy Act
16 also requires the NRC to do an independent study --
17 or an independent evaluation. We use a systematic
18 approach to our environmental reviews.

19 The environmental impact statement is
20 required for major federal actions that may
21 significantly affect the quality of the human
22 environment. Issuing a combined license such as the
23 one at this project would be a federal -- a major
24 federal action.

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1 This slide illustrates the environmental
2 review process. There are many steps to this
3 process, and we would like the public to participate
4 in this process. For that, we have the public
5 scoping meeting where we try to explain our process,
6 and at the same time get your comments.

7 We have a large team of technical
8 reviewers for the project. We accepted the
9 application in September 2007. Our next step is to
10 do a site audit, which we are conducting actually
11 this week. We check to see what was described in the
12 application, as well as we try to identify issues
13 that are not in the application. This is our own
14 independent evaluation.

15 Also, we schedule a public scoping
16 meeting, such as the one tonight, during the week of
17 the site audit. Along with the public participation
18 we also get comments from federal, state, tribal, and
19 local agencies.

20 We take all this information, analyze it,
21 and draft the environmental impact statement. Once
22 we have that we issue it and ask for public comments.

23
24 Next we have -- we write the final impact

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1 statement based on the fact that we look at the
2 drafted environmental impact statement and
3 incorporate additional concerns. The NRC has a
4 hearing, and after the hearing is completed the
5 agency makes a decision.

6 So you may be wondering what is scoping.

7 Scoping is participation of diverse groups. This is
8 necessary for full consideration of the potential
9 environmental impacts of a proposed action and its
10 alternatives.

11 By discussing and informing you, the
12 public, we are able to reduce misunderstandings,
13 build relationships, educate the public, decision
14 makers, and avoid potential conflicts.

15 For example, in an earlier scoping
16 meeting at Votgle -- Plant Votgle -- a member of the
17 public asked what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
18 was doing to manage the flow of the Savannah River.
19 Based on this comment we made a meeting with the Army
20 Corps of Engineers to discuss issues such as drought
21 levels in the Savannah River.

22 So information identified in the scoping
23 process will be evaluated and considered in
24 environmental review. The public can give comments

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1 until February 18, 2008.

2 So what is -- basically how does the NRC
3 do an independent evaluation? We don't only look at
4 the application. We have our own observation which
5 we do by going to the site and conducting a site
6 audit. We get public comments, such as at this
7 meeting. And the reason we want public comments is
8 because you live here and you know best of what the
9 environmental impacts may be with regards to this
10 project. We talk to social services and also we
11 talk -- we try to incorporate social economics and
12 environmental justice.

13 We also talk to federal agencies such as
14 EPA, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and
15 Wildlife, to name a few. We have a long list of
16 other agencies that we contact to get their input.
17 We also talk to state, local, tribal agencies to get
18 their knowledge on the local conditions.

19 This slide basically shows a range of
20 environmental review that we do. We have a large
21 team of experts in the various fields, such as socio-
22 economics, environmental justice, aquatic and
23 terrestrial ecology, water quality, hydrology, land
24 use, radiation, atmospheric science. We also look at

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1 transportation of radioactive material and
2 decommissioning.

3 The staff has begun its review of the
4 environmental report. A schedule helps the staff
5 organize its review and use its resources
6 effectively. Normally staff would issue a draft
7 environmental impact statement in 18 months.
8 However, as part of this review the staff has
9 identified additional information necessary to
10 determine a detailed schedule. While the schedule
11 is uncertain we will be giving you updates, and these
12 can be -- you can get them on the NRC website.

13 Here are some milestones of the
14 environmental review. Scoping comments can be
15 received until February 18, 2008. The public can
16 petition to intervene through February 25, 2008.

17 We will still need to determine the draft
18 environmental impact statement public meeting, draft
19 environmental impact statement the final impact
20 statement -- the dates on those. As we progress
21 we'll give you the dates. The review schedule will
22 be also available on the NRC website, and we've
23 provided the website on the bottom of the slide.

24 We encourage public participation during

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1 the environmental review. It's important as part of
2 our process. The public can make comments during the
3 public scoping meeting, such as the one tonight, and
4 the draft environmental impact comment period.

5 Throughout our environmental process we
6 hold public meetings to inform the public of our
7 process. The next public meeting will be the draft
8 environmental impact statement meeting. The NRC
9 meeting is another way for the public to participate.

10 The public can file petitions to intervene until
11 February 25, 2008.

12 I would like to point out that the
13 Commission recently passed a rule for e-filing which
14 requires a digital certificate. The digital
15 certificate takes about a day, so if interested
16 parties will want to review the instructions it's on
17 the NRC website and on the Notice of Intent. The
18 hearing covers both the safety and environmental
19 issues.

20 We welcome your comments tonight. You
21 can provide them in writing, as well as you can
22 provide them by mail to Chief Rules and Directives
23 Branch, Division of Administration Services, Mail
24 Stop TSD59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

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1 Washington, DC, 20555. Or you can e-mail us at
2 STP_COL@NRC.gov. Of if you'd like you can provide
3 those comments in person at 11545 Rockville Pike,
4 Rockville, Maryland, 20852.

5 Here's a list of NRC contacts. Kindly
6 contact George Wunder for any safety issues that you
7 might have. For environmental issues please contact
8 me. And, finally, a list of acronyms that may help
9 you with reviewing the environmental report. I'll
10 turn it over to Chip.

11 MR. CAMERON: Great. Thank you very
12 much. We have time for questions about the process
13 before we go on. Come up and please introduce
14 yourself.

15 MR. GUNTER: My name is Paul Gunter. I'm
16 with Beyond Nuclear, and we're out of Takoma Park,
17 Maryland. And we've been watching the NRC oversight
18 process and the licensing process. And I have a
19 particular question with regard to the digital
20 certification process. Could you elaborate a little
21 bit more on that for us?

22 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Paul. Do you
23 under -- do we understand what the digital -- is this
24 the e-filing?

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1 MR. GUNTER: Yes.

2 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Good.

3 MR. BIGGINS: Thank you, Chip.

4 MR. CAMERON: Introduce yourself.

5 MR. BIGGINS: Right. My name is Jim
6 Biggins. I'm with the Office of General Counsel at
7 the NRC. And the Commission recently passed a rule
8 requiring e-filing. You can apply for an exception,
9 but if you intend to e-file, it requires a digital
10 certificate in order to sign documents digitally
11 before you file them with the NRC.

12 And that process to obtain the digital
13 certificate typically requires contacting the NRC.
14 The instructions are on the website regarding how to
15 do that and how to obtain the digital certificate.
16 And those instructions -- would probably be best to
17 review those on the website or in the Notice of
18 Intent that was filed with the Federal Register for
19 this application.

20 MR. GUNTER: Could I ask a follow up real
21 quick? I guess just to cut to the chase, does this
22 require additional software on the part of the
23 intervener?

24 MR. BIGGINS: I believe there is a plug-

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1 in for your web browser that's necessary, which is
2 available on the website that contains the
3 instructions for how to install it and that sort of
4 thing, yes.

5 MR. CAMERON: And if someone is going to
6 intervene, is there a certain time limit that they
7 have to pay attention to to notify the Secretary of
8 the Commission that they are going to do e-filing
9 that's over and above the time period for filing that
10 intervention?

11 MR. BIGGINS: Well, the time period can
12 be sensitive in regards to you have to have the
13 certificate before you can e-file. And in order to
14 get the certificate, like I said, you have to contact
15 the NRC. So, you know, when it comes down to the
16 deadline to file your intervention you can't wait
17 until the day that you intend to file to get the
18 certificate. That was out point for pointing it out
19 in the slides.

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thanks, Jim. Yes?

21 MALE VOICE: Is the e-certificate tied to
22 the computer or to the browser? In other words, if
23 you get the certificate and you're not at home can
24 you -- is it tied to your browser on your computer --

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1 the cookie?

2 MR. BIGGINS: It's not a cookie, sir.
3 But I believe it is tied to your computer, but may be
4 imported to other computers. It is your certificate
5 and identifies you as the author of the document.

6 MALE VOICE: So you have to carry that
7 certificate. If you get caught someplace else with
8 another computer, you have to bring that certificate
9 with that. That's the final one that you're going to
10 use to --

11 MR. BIGGINS: I'm not a computer expert,
12 but I believe that's correct.

13 MALE VOICE: So that issue's on the
14 website explained.

15 MR. BIGGINS: It is explained on the
16 website, yes.

17 MR. CAMERON: And I think that's an
18 important point for everybody. These types of
19 questions should be clearly answered on the website,
20 so if you go to the NRC website, there is a link to
21 the e-filing rule and how you do that.

22 MR. BIGGINS: That's right. And we've
23 set up computers in the back room that should still
24 be available after the meeting if you want to take a

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1 look at that webpage.

2 MR. CAMERON: That's a good idea.
3 That's -- thank you. Thank you very much, Jim.

4 Other questions on this entire process from anybody?

5 And we do have time to take your questions, so don't
6 be bashful about it if there's anything you want to
7 know.

8 (Pause.)

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Great. And we'll
10 all be here after the meeting too if you want to talk
11 further about any of this.

12 But we're going to go to the comment part
13 of the meeting. And I'm going to first go to the
14 elected officials in the community so that you can
15 hear what their views are. And we have
16 Representative O'Day -- state representative -- who's
17 going to talk to us. And is it 29th?

18 REPRESENTATIVE DAY: Yes, sir.

19 MR. CAMERON: 29th District.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DAY: Good evening,
21 everyone. And thank you for being here. First I'd
22 like to let you know that Judge McDonald is not here
23 tonight because he's in Washington doing business for
24 us. And so, therefore, I get the opportunity to

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1 speak to you, and obviously probably not as
2 eloquently as the Judge could. But he did want me to
3 let you know that he wishes he could be here but he
4 can't be because he's helping us in Washington.

5 First thing, my name is Mike O'Day. I'm
6 the state representative for District 29, which
7 covers all of Matagorda County and the western
8 portion of Brazoria County. I just want to let you
9 know that I live -- or I have my recreational home
10 here in Matagorda County in view of the nuclear
11 plant. I've had this property for about the last ten
12 years.

13 The reason I tell you this is that I want
14 you to know that I have no concerns directly with
15 STP. My qualifications are I'm a water well
16 contractor by living. I make my living being a water
17 well contractor, so therefore I drill a lot of water
18 wells and analyze water wells around the county.

19 I was on the Brazoria County Water
20 Conservation District, so I'm aware of the water
21 outtake that could be possible from the nuclear
22 plant. I'm on the Natural Resources Committee in the
23 House of Representatives, of which we deal with the
24 surface water in the State of Texas, and the

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1 Recreation and Tourism Committee, which is over Texas
2 Parks and Wildlife and Fish and Game.

3 I tell you this not for any other reason
4 than to let you know that I believe I'm pretty well
5 informed to be able to stand up here and say that I
6 believe in safe, clean nuclear energy. I don't know
7 that I could say that anywhere in the United States,
8 but having been working in Matagorda County for the
9 last 30 years, along with -- you know, around the
10 nuclear plant, I believe that it's a safe environment
11 for us to be able to live.

12 If I didn't think so I wouldn't be -- my
13 recreational time is spent in the Colorado River and
14 in the Matagorda bays. My children and my
15 grandchildren all love to fish and enjoy the
16 environment around the bays.

17 The outfall from the nuclear plant
18 obviously is beneficial to the river. And the lake
19 that we have -- the 7,000 acre -- also creates some
20 of the best bird habitats in the state of Texas.

21 MR. CAMERON: Representative, could
22 you -- I guess people are having trouble hearing you
23 in the back of the room. So if you could --

24 REPRESENTATIVE O'DAY: Okay. Is that

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1 better?

2 MR. CAMERON: You can take that -- you
3 can hold that too if you want.

4 REPRESENTATIVE O'DAY: Okay. As your
5 representative in the State Legislature I was asked
6 to help pass 2.2 bills in the House of
7 Representatives that had to do with nuclear energy.
8 Both of those bills passed and the House of
9 Representatives by the people's representatives. One
10 of them was 186 to zero -- I'm sorry -- 138 to zero
11 and the other was 137 to 4.

12 I say this because it lets you know that
13 the House of Representatives, who is elected by the
14 people of the state of Texas, basically unanimously
15 support nuclear energy in the state of Texas until we
16 find a source that is better.

17 The economic impact on the state of Texas
18 will create -- or one nuclear plant would create \$9.2
19 billion statewide from one reactor and 5,564 jobs.
20 Nuclear provides reliable, low cost power in great
21 quantities, clean energy with zero gas emissions --
22 greenhouse emissions.

23 And it offsets the use of natural gas in
24 the state of Texas. This nuclear plant would offset

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1 the same as it would take to -- for -- pardon me.
2 Let me start with a different sentence. The two
3 nuclear plants that are being proposed here would
4 offset 15.8 million tons of carbon dioxide, 38.8
5 thousand tons of sulfur dioxide, and 10.7 thousand
6 tons of nitrogen oxide.

7 And I guess what we're saying is is that
8 the nuclear is the best power that we have currently.

9 The water that's being released from the plant has
10 been cooled before it has been released, so there's
11 little impact on the environment -- that the nuclear
12 plant sites create the natural preserves as I was
13 talking about.

14 I would like to tell you that I'm proud
15 to be the representative for Matagorda County. I'm
16 proud of the NRG and STP and the -- their track
17 record because that's -- their track record has
18 been -- they gave us the ability to pass the laws
19 that we need in the state of Texas to help you have
20 good clean power from nuclear energy. Thank you very
21 much.

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,
23 Representative O'Day. And we're going to go to
24 Sheriff James Mitchell at this point. Sheriff?

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1 SHERIFF MITCHELL: Good evening again.
2 My name is James Mitchell, and I am the county
3 sheriff here. I've been the sheriff here for the
4 past 12 years. I'm now in my 26th year in law
5 enforcement. All of that time has been here in
6 Matagorda County.

7 I've lived my whole life here in
8 Matagorda County -- graduated from this -- not from
9 that high school across the street but when it was a
10 little further across town.

11 There were two generations in my family
12 before me to live here in this county, and there's
13 been two generations since then, being my children
14 and my grandchildren. And I hope to have more
15 grandchildren raised in this county. I'm accompanied
16 tonight by my wife Paula sitting over there.

17 As sheriff of Matagorda County one of my
18 greatest concerns when it comes to the nuclear plant
19 is security. And the key issue is can this security
20 force protect the health and safety and the public.
21 My stance on that is, yes, it can because it's been
22 doing it for the past 20 years.

23 My entire career in law enforcement has
24 been involved with this nuclear plant -- has been

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1 involved with the security at this plant. One of the
2 things I always think of when someone asks me about
3 the security is a comment that an FBI agent made when
4 I was accompanying this group on a tour at the
5 nuclear plant. And that agent said something to the
6 effect of, An adversary that would be a real threat
7 to this facility would realize they could cause a
8 greater effect at another critical infrastructure
9 with less effort.

10 The FBI on that tour was so impressed
11 with everything that they saw. I only wish that you
12 the public could see everything there is to see
13 there. As they say at the plant a lot of that is
14 safeguards information.

15 Our nuclear plant I believe, for a
16 variety of reasons, is very unique to those of other
17 nuclear plants around the country. And I want to
18 give you a couple of those reasons as well.

19 For instance, I keep a deputy sheriff at
20 the nuclear plant performing on a controlled area
21 patrol 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a
22 year. Depending on what the threat level in the
23 nation is sometimes that might be as many as four
24 deputies. But that's done continuously.

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1 Our SWAT team -- we have a 15-man SWAT
2 team at the sheriff's office combined with the Bay
3 City Police Department. Many of the officers on that
4 SWAT team received their basic, their immediate, and
5 their advanced training at the nuclear plant training
6 with those security officers out there at that plant.

7 My employees -- my deputies participate
8 in force-on-force exercise, both inside and outside
9 the protected area, because many of my employees have
10 been red badged. They're cleared to go into the
11 protected area unescorted.

12 We participate regularly in on- and
13 offsite drills on tabletop exercises. I spoke with
14 the SWAT team. The ammunition that my team carries
15 and many of my employees on the street carry is the
16 same ammunition that the security officers carry --
17 the same weapons that they carry. So if we ever do
18 have to respond to an event to back up the nuclear
19 plant -- to back up the security officers we're able
20 to do that more easily.

21 Another very unique thing about our plant
22 and the unique thing about the state of Texas, the
23 state of Texas was so -- lost my word -- they were so
24 I guess impressed -- or so confident -- confident is

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1 the word I'm looking for -- in the training that the
2 Nuclear Regulatory Commission requires of an officer
3 at a nuclear facility that the state of Texas with
4 Senate Bill 1517 exempted them from falling under the
5 Private Security Act. And instead of that they
6 increased their authority giving them law enforcement
7 authority in the areas of arrest, search, and seizure
8 and the use of deadly force to protect that plant.
9 That's how far the state stands behind security -- of
10 nuclear security officers.

11 The emergency training that we received
12 to be able to support STP we use in every type of
13 disaster that comes through this county. I'll give
14 you a quick for instance. We had a grain truck
15 driving through our county that was hauling 65
16 illegal aliens in the back of it. That truck went
17 into an S curve, rolled over, and you can imagine
18 what happened. Due to the training that
19 received in association with STP we were able to
20 handle that. We immediately got all the ambulance
21 personnel we needed. We called on school busses to
22 handle the walking wounded. We knew where to call on
23 every resource that we needed to handle that
24 catastrophe, and I contribute that to the training

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1 that we do with STP.

2 Another project that we're doing is an
3 inter-operable radio communication system. At the
4 sheriff's office with cooperation with the police
5 department -- something that we're doing together --
6 we started an inter-operable radio communication that
7 will link us with 13 counties around the
8 Houston/Galveston area. When we get that system up
9 and running we're going to bring STP under that radio
10 program so that when my officers are there there's
11 constant communication at all times, inside and
12 outside and the power blocks.

13 Sorry I had to keep putting these on, but
14 I wouldn't be able to say anything without them.
15 Last, but not least -- I introduced my wife earlier,
16 and I'll tell you another reason why I have a lot of
17 confidence in the nuclear plant security program --
18 because my wife is the senior security coordinator
19 out there for that.

20 Now, I told you that I've been 26 years
21 in law enforcement. She's only been out there since
22 last April. So that confidence started long before
23 we went to work there, but it did give me the
24 confidence that I didn't have a problem with my wife

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1 working out there. And I don't have a problem
2 raising my children here.

3 And I'm excited about the possibilities
4 of Unit 3 and 4 coming on line. It will be a good
5 thing for Matagorda County and the people who live
6 here. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,
8 Sheriff. Next we're going to go to the mayor of Bay
9 City. And this is Mayor Richard Kenapik.

10 MAYOR KENAPIK: Good evening everyone,
11 NRC staff seated here, and those in the audience. My
12 name is Richard Kenapik. I am the mayor of the city
13 of Bay City. My fellow citizens, friends, and
14 visitors who are gathered tonight, I want to say good
15 evening and welcome once again.

16 I'm sure glad the NRC left up the list of
17 acronyms on the boards. For those of you who are
18 familiar with acronyms -- and STP loves acronyms --
19 you're all familiar with the term NIMBY. For those
20 of you who are not it's Not In My Backyard.

21 Well, I'm here to tell the NRC and all of
22 you assembled that I am a PIMBY. And you may ask
23 what is a PIMBY. That means Please In My Backyard.

24 The city of Bay City is ready to meet the

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1 challenges of the growth and expansion of Units 3 and
2 4. The city three years ago passed a \$6 million bond
3 issue to repave all the streets in the city of Bay
4 City. We're also actively engaged right now in
5 creating a diversion road around our community to
6 help alleviate traffic that we anticipate coming.

7 We also are a surplant, which was built
8 in the late nineties. It's only operating at 50
9 percent capacity because we built it so well we can
10 take a lot more homes, lot more residence in our
11 community.

12 So we look forward to the challenges that
13 Units 3 and 4 are going to present to us. But we
14 look forward to our partnership working with STP.
15 Because I'm here to tell you I'm going to paint a
16 human picture of STP and all the wonderful employees
17 who are seated in the room.

18 The culture that has been created by Joe
19 Shepherd and his team is a culture of excellence in
20 community involvement. There are a lot of things in
21 this community that would not happen without their
22 direct involvement. One is the American Red Cross.
23 The American Cancer Society Relay for Life where they
24 have raised over \$100,000 the past several years

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1 because of the involvement of STP. The March of
2 Dimes.

3 The employees of STP sit on our city
4 councils, our school boards, our economic development
5 boards. They are committed. They are involved. If
6 800 quality citizens like that are going to be coming
7 with Units 3 and 4 Bay City and Matagorda County are
8 the beneficiaries. Thank you for allowing me to make
9 these comments.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mayor.
11 We're going to go to Mayor Joe Morton. And Mr.
12 Morton is the mayor of Palacios.

13 MAYOR MORTON: Thank you, Chip. Welcome
14 to our part of the country in Matagorda County. Good
15 evening. My name is Joe Morton. I am the mayor of
16 the city of Palacios. I thank you for the
17 opportunity to come and speak before you this evening
18 as a representative of Palacios citizens. This
19 afternoon I spoke as a citizen of Palacios. Tonight
20 is the mayor.

21 Today is a great day for our city. I
22 think that if the forefathers of our country was in
23 the back of this room tonight they would be proud of
24 the process that we had all day today at these

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1 meetings. This is what democracy is all about.
2 People can come up and give their concerns and their
3 opinions and be appreciated for it.

4 I've served the citizens of Palacios as
5 mayor for the past 20 months. I was a city
6 councilman for 48 months prior to that. In the last
7 68 months I have asked many, many citizens their
8 opinion about STP. A great majority of them was
9 totally supportive of it -- thought it was great for
10 the community.

11 A few of them had some concerns, and very
12 few of them had any really opposition to it. Mainly
13 they were opposed to nuclear power period.

14 Palacios is going through an economic
15 change. The shrimping industry is on the way down
16 and it will never return. The Harris and Galveston
17 County Council of Governments, which is 13 counties,
18 including Matagorda County, recently started last
19 year making plans for an additional 2.5 million
20 people coming to our area by year 2015. That's a
21 footprint of Los Angeles, California, coming on a 13-
22 county area. Matagorda County is going to get its
23 share of those people. We're having to plan for it
24 now. But the main thing is the power that's needed

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1 for our state in this area is something we've got to
2 work on.

3 The economic future of our area is very
4 bright. And the South Texas plant is leading the way
5 as a community partner in an environmentally friendly
6 economic development.

7 The NRC also plays an important part in
8 this development. Under your guidance and direction
9 the last 25 years of safe operation is supported by
10 some of the highest scores in graded efficiency and
11 exercises by your agency.

12 As an elected official involved with the
13 Matagorda County Enforcement Emergency Operations
14 Center these very intensive drills has proven to me
15 and you the excellent preparedness of the people
16 involved in operating the plan under any adverse
17 conditions. This training is also important in
18 preparing ourselves for any type of disaster in our
19 county. Matagorda County's EOC is second to none, I
20 believe, of any emergency operating center.

21 The NRC has proven records since
22 conception. People come and go, but the documented
23 evidence and experience of your agency is invaluable.

24 The future will be more demanding, and you will

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1 avail. With guidance and direction of the country
2 will meet the future of our energy needs. I believe
3 you will weigh this all fairly and make the right
4 decisions. God bless our country.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mayor
6 Morton. We'll go to Bruce Marceaux. Is Bruce here?

7 MR. MARCEAUX: Brent.

8 MR. CAMERON: Brent. You say your
9 brother didn't come tonight.

10 MR. MARCEAUX: I've been called worse.

11 MR. CAMERON: Okay. This is Brent
12 Marceaux.

13 MR. MARCEAUX: I'm not bringing any
14 paperwork to read of. I just want to speak about
15 something that I think is important from both sides,
16 predominantly what's right, good, fair. As an
17 elected official it's my duty to look out for the
18 safety, health, well-being, economically of the
19 citizens I serve.

20 And recently I had the opportunity to go
21 and sit on a pier and watch my brother fish and a
22 friend of his. And this is an extremely sensitive
23 issue. And they caught a few fish, but they really
24 weren't having a slam night.

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1 So we sat for a time. And as we did, as
2 the conversation waned, I heard something. And the
3 longer you listened, the louder it got. And that
4 that I was hearing were frogs: frogs that were
5 speaking loudly. And if you know anything about
6 frogs, they're the most -- or one of the most
7 sensitive animals in our environment. And they were
8 not only loud, but they were interactive.

9 And I came to understand that as
10 sensitive an issue as this is the creatures of the
11 world tell us a lot. And for them to be out in such
12 a large and strong body to be heard at night, and
13 them being such a sensitive creature that they
14 through their skins osmose anything the environment
15 deals to them, their presence made me understand that
16 we have a very environmentally safe -- not just our
17 nuclear facility, but numerous facilities that
18 operate along our river -- something I'm very proud
19 of in our county -- something they should be proud
20 of, and I think everyone should be well aware of.

21 If those the most sensitive that our
22 nature provides can survive and grow and be so
23 prolific as to be heard on an evening's night then I
24 welcome and hope that they are successful in their

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1 bid to build Units 3 and 4.

2 Economically it would benefit our
3 community, county, and surrounding counties. In the
4 long range our children would benefit dramatically.
5 And so I wholeheartedly support it and thank you all
6 for the opportunity to speak.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Brent
8 is on the city council.

9 We're going to go next to Stephen Kale,
10 and then we're going to hear from Bobby Head and then
11 John Corder. Stephen?

12 MR. KALE: Good evening. My name is
13 Stephen Kale. I am a resident of the city of San
14 Antonio. And probably, as you can detect, I'm not a
15 native of Texas. My wife and I arrived here about
16 five years ago by way of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,
17 and Washington, D.C. It was a journey that required
18 35 years, but we finally got to Texas.

19 We love San Antonio. We find the people
20 are warm-hearted and nice people to be with -- nice
21 friends. And we love the San Antonio Spurs. In
22 fact, my wife is probably at home watching the Spurs
23 play the Pacers even as I speak up here.

24 I appreciate the opportunity to present

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1 these comments -- scoping comments to the NRC. But,
2 first, I want to congratulate CPS Energy for their
3 forward-looking windtricity and conservation
4 programs. We've heard this afternoon people talk
5 that we need a mix of conservation, energy saving,
6 renewal resources, and CPS Energy is providing that
7 to us in the San Antonio area.

8 I've installed in my own home one of
9 CPS's programmable thermostats. It's the kind that
10 CPS can switch off my air conditioning the late
11 summer afternoons, and we all know what those are
12 like in July and August. It's been about three years
13 ago, and I don't really know if it's working or not.

14 It's supposed to turn off for no more than ten
15 minutes, and if it's doing that I've certainly
16 noticed no discomfort in my home.

17 Perhaps they could switch it off even
18 longer if that would help them with their load factor
19 in the afternoon. I'm not sure my dogs would like
20 that, because except for when we go bird hunting in
21 the fall, when they're home they like their creature
22 comforts.

23 I've also purchased a solar-powered attic
24 ventilator that I ran across several months ago.

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1 Hopefully -- I've not had it during the summer, but
2 hopefully it will help keep the attic cooler, reduce
3 my air conditioning load, reduce CPS's load, and save
4 me some money. It was not cheap even with the CPS
5 rebate, which was fairly generous.

6 In addition to that, I purchased from CPS
7 a kilowatt of their wind-sourced electricity. And,
8 again, I hope that's doing my part for the
9 environment. My home is fairly modern. It has
10 modern insulation, low emissivity windows. I feel as
11 a resident that I've done all that I can.

12 But even with this, even with the rest of
13 the citizens doing this in San Antonio, I don't think
14 this is surely enough to meet the future needs of
15 electricity in San Antonio and south Texas.

16 Paragraphs 51.71 and 51.75 of 10 CFR 51
17 state that the contents of the draft environmental
18 impact statement, EIS, will include, among other
19 things, consideration of the economic, technical, and
20 other benefits and costs of the proposed action and
21 alternatives and indicate what other interests and
22 consideration of federal policy, including factors
23 not related to environmental quality.

24 So based on these requirements I've

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1 prepared a list of just four criteria what I believe
2 the EIS -- the draft EIS should evaluate on an
3 equivalent basis, both for the proposed action, the
4 no-action case, and the alternatives that the NRC
5 determines need to be studied.

6 The first of these involved energy
7 security. The President and the Congress have
8 determined that national energy security is a
9 critical federal policy. I believe the proposed
10 action and its alternatives should implement this
11 federal policy in the timeliest manner.

12 Secondly, the governments of San Antonio
13 and Bexar County are on record that they desire --
14 strongly desire continued economic growth in the
15 city -- in Bexar County and in the city. CPS Energy
16 has determined that timely additional electrical
17 generation capacity is required for this growth in
18 south Texas. So I submit that the proposed action
19 and alternatives must be able to meet these
20 requirements.

21 Third, another reason that I like San
22 Antonio is that CPS provides my residential
23 electricity at a cost much lower than the national
24 average. My suspicion is that that's due in a large

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1 part to the operation of the nuclear plants. My own
2 residence bill is about \$35 a month lower than this
3 national average. 35 bucks a month doesn't sound
4 like much, but over the course of a year I think
5 that's a pretty good piece of change.

6 So I think that the proposed action and
7 the alternatives need to consider this and be able to
8 meet this type of a requirement. If they can't then
9 the EIS should go into the impacts -- the negative
10 impacts -- social economic impacts on the residents
11 and the businesses in San Antonio.

12 And, finally, lastly, the land for these
13 reactors exists. Installation of the equivalent
14 capacity -- and, again, I think when these
15 alternatives and proposed actions are evaluated
16 they've got to be done on an equivalent basis. So I
17 think that installation of alternatives has got to be
18 the equivocal capacity to what the proposed action
19 for the nuclear plants will be.

20 And I'm thinking primarily of wind and
21 solar, which would I think require large areas of
22 land -- primarily the agrarian areas -- out in west
23 Texas. I think the EIS needs to determine whether
24 installation of these alternatives -- and I'm

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1 thinking about Fort Stockton -- the wind farms out
2 there -- of Big Spring just off of I-20, and if you
3 go up to Sweetwater and over across I-20 to Spider
4 there are hundreds of windmills up there.

5 So the EIS I think needs to evaluate
6 installation of either wind, solar, whatever, and
7 determine if there are any impacts -- primarily
8 impacts on land usage, ecology, wildlife, other
9 natural resources.

10 I appreciate this opportunity, and I
11 thank you for listening.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,
13 Stephen. Very helpful. Thank you. Is Bobby Head --
14 Bobby? Oh, there he is. This is Bobby Head.
15 (Pause.) And we're going to put these comments of
16 Stephen's as another exhibit for the record.

17 MR. HEAD: Hello. How are you all? My
18 name is Bobby Head. For those of you that know me
19 know that I'm a great talker, but I'm not much of a
20 speaker. I had to bring my notes too and my glasses.

21 A little bit about myself. I was talking
22 to a gentleman earlier about the weather, and I told
23 him I was never going to get used to the weather down
24 here. And he said, You're not from here? I said,

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1 No, I was born up north. And he said, Up north? I
2 said, Yes, the hospital on the north side of town
3 over here -- Matagorda General.

4 And as a third generation Matagorda
5 County resident I understand the concerns and -- that
6 we have about nuclear power. But I also understand
7 the huge drawbacks that we're having today with our
8 continued overuse of fossil energy. We as a county,
9 of course, a state and nation need to look at solar,
10 wind, bio, and, of course, nuclear energy for our
11 future.

12 All of them have drawbacks. All of them
13 have unique benefits. But about our environment
14 here, it's really strange that what Brent Marceaux
15 was saying earlier about the frogs, I've had an
16 opportunity to work at the power plant on a couple of
17 outages as an outside contractor.

18 And I had an opportunity one night
19 working nights to go out and work where the pumps are
20 out on the reservoir. And I walked out and I looked
21 down and I said, Geez, as a fisherman here are these
22 huge catfish and these huge red fish swimming
23 together down there. Now, at -- the environment --
24 if they're doing something about the environment

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1 they're making the fish grow big. I can tell you
2 that.

3 Also the alligators -- the nuclear power
4 plant is -- the whole grounds -- in a protected
5 wildlife zone. They've not only done that, they've
6 gone in and put in a -- what's called a wetlands --
7 their own private wetlands so, you know, to help
8 that.

9 In the last 20 years that the nuclear
10 power plant has been here the National Audubon
11 Society, year in and year out -- I don't know if you
12 all know this but Matagorda County is the number one
13 birding center in the nation -- more birds -- more
14 species of birds every year. They just did the
15 Christmas bird count -- number one in the nation
16 again this year -- more species of birds in Matagorda
17 County.

18 So as far as the environmental impact is
19 concerned it's negligible what we've had so far and I
20 can't help but think that Units 3 and 4 would also be
21 the same way.

22 As far as our nuclear plant is concerned,
23 as a Matagorda County resident, I almost have nothing
24 bad to say -- almost. I'll come back to that in a

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1 minute. Having worked a couple of outages at the
2 plant I have to tell you it is the most secure
3 facility I have ever been in in my life. It is
4 unbelievable what you have to do just to get inside.

5 It is -- it takes days. You don't go out there and
6 walk in.

7 A Westinghouse gentleman was working the
8 last outage, and he had finished his job and he left,
9 and he went -- he was staying at the hotel next door
10 over here. And he'd gone into the -- he had given up
11 his badge and he had gone in. 30 minutes later they
12 needed him back. Too bad. Too bad. He couldn't go
13 back. He had to go the next day, go through the
14 whole scenario of getting everything tested so he
15 could get back in.

16 Those people out there are the most
17 secure people. And the STP employees are the most
18 concerned and professional people that I've ever had
19 the privilege of working with. They're great people.
20 They do a great job.

21 As far as the economic impact to
22 Matagorda County, doggone, we've got businesses here
23 that have been here -- we've got Taylor Brothers
24 Funeral Home that I think is the oldest Chamber

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1 member -- been here since the early 1900s. Ted's
2 Jewelry Store has been here since the 1900s. I think
3 they're the second oldest Chamber member.

4 Yes, we have new industry coming in. We
5 have your Wal-marts and we have your Chili's and
6 these new guys coming in -- the new Walgreens -- I
7 think CVS is planning on building a new drug store
8 here.

9 But we have these old businesses too.
10 And they need -- we've got people like Wild Bill's
11 and Green Brothers and Sissy's One-Stop. And down in
12 Palacios you've got the Ace Hardware and you've got
13 the PMR, which is Palacios Mexican Restaurant --
14 people like that. Also Blessing and Matagorda and
15 Clemville and Bowling and -- Bowling's not in
16 Matagorda County, but these -- all these communities
17 around close that are going to have impact by Units 3
18 and 4. Also, it's going to secure future for our
19 children and our children's children.

20 Now, as far as the one concern I had --
21 and it's kind of more of a economic thing. As far as
22 the concerns I have is the number of STP employees
23 who choose to live outside of Matagorda County. I
24 understand. They've got beautiful country clubs and

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1 stuff like that every place else. But I would like
2 to work with both STP, our local officials, and
3 Matagorda County to make Matagorda County the
4 preferred residence of not only the construction
5 families it will bring, but also the management and
6 employees of STP.

7 Once again, thanks for this opportunity.

8 If anybody has any questions for me I'm here to
9 answer. Thank you very much.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Bobby.
11 And John? John Corder.

12 MR. CORDER: I'd like to express my
13 appreciation for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
14 for coming here tonight and being so gracious to host
15 this any questions we may have.

16 I'm from Brazoria County -- a citizen.
17 My interest is to monitor the engineering and the
18 construction of the plant, and I hope I will be
19 afforded that opportunity. And I think that we
20 should all be interested in the performance of the
21 new plants as they come into fruition. Thank you
22 very much.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, John, for being
24 here tonight. We're next going to go to Bruce

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1 Martin, then Paul Gunter, then D.C. Dunham. And
2 Bruce?

3 MR. MARTIN: Well, with all these
4 excellent speakers I kind of feel like the guy that
5 has to follow Bob Hope when he's telling jokes.

6 I don't have much to say except that I'm
7 100 percent for the building of this two reactors for
8 Matagorda County. Economically we need it. And the
9 safety is -- and the environmental impact are
10 excellent. We've had 20-some-odd years with no
11 accidents.

12 And as the man has said about the frogs
13 and the crocodiles or alligators what is the
14 environmental impact? This is a closed section out
15 there where everything that goes on is controlled by
16 STP, and they keep it friendly to the environment.

17 And as for the people that are against
18 it, most of them have a personal axe to grind. If
19 you worked there 20 years and drew the high salaries
20 it was fine. But now that they're not working there
21 it's not any good. And I thank you for your time.

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Bruce.
23 And now we have Paul Gunter that's going to talk to
24 us.

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1 MR. GUNTER: Thank you. My name is Paul
2 Gunter. I'm with Beyond Nuclear out of Takoma Park,
3 Maryland. And I step up here on this stage -- and,
4 really, it's about all I need is to have another foot
5 path here.

6 But, you know, my daddy was from Canton,
7 Texas, and his nickname was Treetop, because he was
8 six-foot-ten. But, you know, I like to think that
9 we're all here not just whether we're for or against
10 nuclear power.

11 We have some common interests. And what
12 I'm here to talk to you tonight about is the common
13 interests that we have in that we all should be
14 concerned about a thorough, open, and a process with
15 integrity.

16 And I think that right now from our
17 perspective, as we look at what you all are going to
18 go through and what is happening around the country,
19 is that there is a crisis in public confidence. And
20 it's a crisis that comes from this process. And what
21 I'd like to speak to tonight in particular is a
22 crisis around the National Environmental Policy Act
23 that we're her to talk about tonight.

24 I think that it's important for us to

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1 realize that it's not just about building this plant,
2 but it's about how we're going to approach this issue
3 and a number of environmental concerns that it
4 raises, not just for you, but for generations to
5 come. And not just for the generations that will
6 inherit -- that get the watt of electricity, but for
7 the countless generations that will inherit all of
8 the nuclear waste without one watt of electricity
9 from the process from -- from this oversight process
10 and from the construction and from the operation
11 should it happen.

12 And right now we've got a crisis because
13 the scientific process that we're looking to manage
14 the nuclear waste South Texas 1 and 2, 3 and 4, the
15 104 operating reactors around the country -- right
16 now there's only one site that's being looked at.
17 And that's in Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

18 And the issue is is that if this were a
19 scientific process you would be looking at least
20 three sites. And you would be looking -- likely you
21 would be looking at Deaf Smith County, Texas, as one
22 of those other sites. And it wasn't until 1987 that
23 Deaf Smith County, Texas, was taken off of the list
24 and Yucca Mountain, Nevada, was the only one that was

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1 left.

2 And let me just tell you that Yucca
3 Mountain is crisscrossed with earthquake faults.
4 It's surrounded by volcanic -- you know, by
5 volcanoes -- some of the youngest in the country --
6 the Lathrop Wells cinder cones. And this is where
7 we're doing all of our research and all of our
8 focus -- you know, what we're going to do with this
9 nuclear waste.

10 Now, the issue is is that we believe
11 and -- that you should be able to raise this issue of
12 nuclear waste within the context of building more
13 reactors. But currently -- the current NRC process
14 says that we are not allowed to raise that because of
15 what they call the nuclear waste confidence decision.

16 And that decision was made by rule-making
17 with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that said
18 someday somewhere somebody somehow is going to figure
19 out what to do with, you know, right now 55,000
20 metric tons. You add more reactors -- it's going to
21 be up to 100,000 metric tons, 120,000 metric tons.
22 And right now the only place we're looking at is to
23 send it off to a seismologically and volcanically
24 active area. And it's not for sure that it's going

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1 to happen. Right now the Yucca Mountain process is
2 falling apart. And, in fact, there is no confidence.

3 So the environmental scoping process that
4 we're talking about here -- if this is an open
5 process, if it is a democratic process, if it is a
6 process with integrity we believe it should allow us
7 contingency to raise the issue of how your reactor,
8 if you choose to call it your reactor, will impact
9 future generations and places that are having their
10 whole process -- it looks more like a political
11 mugging than it is an environmental impact statement.

12 Now, I want to close with just one other
13 point because it affects the national security of our
14 country, which is something that we all should be
15 concerned about, whether we are for or whether we are
16 against nuclear power.

17 This current process should afford us an
18 ability to access South Texas 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 for
19 aircraft impact hazards analysis. Right now the U.S.
20 Nuclear Regulatory Commission is saying that an
21 aircraft -- and it doesn't have to be a commercial
22 aircraft, friends. It can be a twin-engine Cessna
23 loaded with C-4 and shaped charge.

24 We want that analysis to be done for

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1 South Texas 1 and 2, 3 and 4, and every other reactor
2 in this country. We believe that our -- we're owed
3 it because national security in a post-9/11 world is
4 a paramount subject.

5 And we should take off the blinders and
6 realize that it is part of the democratic process to
7 allow us to say -- you know, to present evidence --
8 to present documents. And I'll tell you, the
9 documents are there. NRC has the documents -- the
10 documents that say that South Texas 1 and 2 were not
11 constructed nor designed nor evaluated for aircraft
12 hazard. That just came back into the public document
13 room as a result of the NRC's own rule making.

14 And another document -- that -- by the
15 way, that document was done by Aragon National Lab.
16 And another document that just came into the public
17 document room that was -- you know, relates to the
18 NRC's own analysis of what should be going into
19 making Units 3 and 4 more terrorist resistant -- that
20 document has just come back into the U.S. public
21 document room.

22 And we should be afforded an
23 opportunity -- you should be afforded an opportunity
24 to look at it in the context of licensing more

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1 reactors in this country. Thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Paul.
3 D.C. Dunham.

4 MS. DUNHAM: Good morning. I'm D.C.
5 Dunham, and I'm the executive director for Bay City
6 Community Development Corporation. And as an
7 economic developer many of us only get an opportunity
8 like this kind of expansion once in a lifetime. So
9 it's really important that we take advantage of this
10 opportunity. And many of us have already
11 started doing that. We've turned a eyesore into a
12 great asset. We've begun developing subdivisions.
13 We have new spec houses going up. Matter of fact,
14 building permits are up 250 percent since the
15 announcement.

16 We've started recruiting retail stores,
17 and sales tax is up over 30 percent. We've developed
18 a new associates degree program. We've formed an
19 alliance with educators and industries. We've had
20 career fairs and job fairs. We've increased
21 scholarships and on-the-job training programs.

22 But let me digress a moment and talk
23 about that eyesore, which is my pride and joy, and
24 education, which is my passion. That eyesore that

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1 I'm talking about is the old K-Mart building -- not
2 the old, old K-Mart building, but the old K-Mart
3 building on 60 South. And if you're not familiar
4 with what I'm talking about you obviously don't live
5 in Matagorda County because it's been an eyesore to
6 this community for over 15 years.

7 But we took a derelict big box and turned
8 it in to a great asset in this community. We've got
9 the unit 3 and 4 headquarters on one side of the
10 building. And on the other side we've got a training
11 facility that houses Wharton County Junior College.
12 And in the middle is a great park environment -- an
13 atrium that allows our business partners and our
14 students to mingle and share ideas.

15 And we presently have 162 students, which
16 is three times the amount of students we had a year
17 ago in that facility. And they're preparing for the
18 new jobs that are being created just across the hall.

19 That new workforce development initiative
20 is a huge strength for our community. Which brings
21 me to my passion -- education. With this
22 announcement we had the opportunity to bring together
23 industry and educators and solve a really huge
24 problem. But it was a good problem, especially for

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1 this community that has had traditionally double-
2 digit unemployment. Our problem wasn't how are we
3 going to meet the demands of our local industries'
4 needs for all of the jobs that are going to be
5 created.

6 So we formed an alliance with all of the
7 large industries -- not just STP -- but all of our
8 large industries in Matagorda County. We brought in
9 all four of our I.S.D.s -- we have four high schools
10 in Matagorda County -- and the community colleges
11 throughout the region, as well as the four-year
12 colleges. And we brought in our government folks --
13 our government partners -- from the federal
14 government all the way down to our local officials.
15 And we began working on this issue.

16 Within just a matter of months we
17 developed the idea of coming up with power
18 technology, which is an associate degree program
19 that's being taught to our students today.

20 The Mid Coast Industry Education Alliance
21 is still meeting today -- we meet quarterly. And we
22 continue to talk about ways that we can make
23 Matagorda County a great place for our young adults
24 to live and raise their families and to have good

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1 paying jobs in Matagorda County, again, creating a
2 great strength for our community.

3 So I'd like to challenge you to join me
4 in embracing this opportunity. And I'll mention
5 Mitch Thames -- he hasn't spoke tonight -- I don't
6 know if he will. But between he and I, no matter
7 what your passion or your interest is, I'm sure we
8 have a committee that I'd welcome you to serve on.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, D.C.
11 Mitch, did you want to talk again tonight? Okay.
12 Come on up.

13 MR. THAMES: I am the Bay City Chamber of
14 Commerce president. Are you kidding? Do I want to
15 talk again? I am almost as bad as a politician -- no
16 offense to the politicians still left in the room.
17 Sorry, Sheriff. I apologize.

18 My name is Mitch Thames. I am the
19 president of the Bay City Chamber of Commerce and
20 Agriculture, and I'm telling you I've got one of the
21 best jobs in this county because I get to sell this
22 county.

23 We talked a lot about the environment
24 today. Well, let me tell you a little bit. We've

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1 got a river that flows fresh water. We've got two
2 bays and estuaries in the Gulf of Mexico that's
3 saltwater.

4 The sensitivity of our environment is
5 massive. We did -- we have one -- Mr. Head's
6 right -- we have one. The North American Audubon
7 Christmas bird count -- many, many, many years --
8 this year -- 236 species of birds in a 15-hour
9 period -- excuse me -- in a 12-hour period in a 15-
10 mile circle. We have -- we are the birding capital
11 of North America. I'm trying to get that word out,
12 so help me.

13 But I look across the room and I see an
14 awful lot of friends and family, and I appreciate you
15 all coming out. I moved here to Bay City with my
16 wife -- and I'm going to get points because I'm going
17 to introduce her. Carolyn, thank you for coming and
18 supporting me, ma'am.

19 But I'll tell you, we came to Bay City --
20 we chose to come to this community. We chose to move
21 our family here. We chose it because of the
22 opportunities available for us. We have world-class
23 fishing -- deep-sea fishing, freshwater fishing, also
24 fishing out of the bay. We have some of the best

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1 water fowl hunting known to man -- unbelievable. We
2 have folks coming in from all over Maryland and all
3 over coming to hunt right here in Matagorda County.

4 But I'll tell you this, it's not always
5 been so pretty. Common ground is a good thing, but
6 I'll tell you this. Common ground with double-digit
7 unemployment -- 14 to 17 percent unemployment and an
8 economy flat, if not declining, is not right.

9 And we for years asked, When is somebody
10 going to come and help us. Well, they didn't come.
11 And all of these suggestions from all over the place
12 that we've heard today didn't come until we rolled
13 our shirt sleeves up and went to work building this
14 community. We've now got a single-digit unemployment
15 rate here.

16 We do have a college that our kids are
17 being able to attend. Our kids do not have to go out
18 of town for a high-paying job, and that's our goal.
19 We can educate them here and we can employ them here.

20 Because I'm selfish I want my grandchildren around
21 here.

22 And so as we talk about common ground I
23 do appreciate it. And I've loved listening to a lot
24 of the -- a lot of what's been brought up here today.

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1 But I'm telling you, common ground means we are
2 going to have to take care of ourselves, and we are
3 going to have to attract the industry. And Units 3
4 and 4 give us the opportunity for our kids to work
5 for more than \$6.00 an hour and try to raise a family
6 and try to buy a house.

7 You can't do it, folks. We have got to
8 have high-paying jobs -- not just 3 and 4 -- that's
9 just the beginning -- that was Christmas. We have
10 got to build this community an industry at a time.
11 And that's what you're here to hear.

12 And I certainly thank you so much for
13 your attendance and this process. And thank you so
14 much for visiting Matagorda County. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mitch. We'll go
16 to Karen Hadden and -- at this point. And then
17 William Warner and Jimmy McCauley. This is Karen
18 Hadden.

19 MS. HADDEN: Good evening. I'm Karen
20 Hadden. I'm the director of the SEED Coalition.
21 We're working for clean air and clean energy
22 throughout the state of Texas.

23 I'd like to respond to a couple of
24 comment and raise a few issues. One is that economic

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1 development is, of course, great. Who could argue
2 that? But I want to point out that it can come in
3 many ways -- that a community can seek it out.

4 This area has offshore wind, and there is
5 a small town mayor in west Texas named Sherry
6 Phillips. I heard her say the same things -- that
7 when wind energy came to their community for the
8 first time their kids could come home. They could
9 live and work in the community. They could run
10 cattle underneath the wind turbines. That's a
11 possibility for this community as well. And I urge
12 NRG [sic] to seriously consider that path.

13 I spoke earlier -- well, first of all,
14 I'd like to mention that officially I would like to
15 request a public meeting regarding the safety review
16 because that is not happening at present, and the
17 safety review is not finalized.

18 I'd also like to request additional
19 scoping meetings regarding the environmental report.

20 There are many people I know of in Austin who could
21 not make this trip who would like to comment in
22 person. There are people in San Antonio and Houston
23 as well. I would urge you to set up scoping meetings
24 in those communities for this environmental report.

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1 I spoke to Mr. Barrs earlier and, again,
2 was informed that the safety review is not complete.

3 And even so we as citizens are being asked to have
4 contentions ready in just 20 days. Something tells
5 me that that safety review will not be done during
6 that time. How can we read it, analyze it, get
7 experts, and prepare a case?

8 That is not right. It is not valid.
9 This -- and other reports -- the safety review and
10 the final environmental impact statement should be
11 finished before the licensee procedure goes forward
12 and before citizens have to raise their contentions.

13 I think that FEMA should be present for a
14 safety hearing and the Department of Homeland
15 Security. And I would like to hear how all of those
16 agencies are, in fact, working together to assure
17 safety. This is no small thing to have a
18 construction site next to an operating nuclear plant.

19 It deserves close scrutiny.

20 One reason -- a really important issue.
21 There's something called the Design Criteria
22 Document, and that's called the DCD. I started
23 looking at this license application online and I
24 found a whole section that said incorporated by

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1 reference in the DCD. It took a long time to find
2 out what was a DCD. And then when I tried to call
3 and get answers I couldn't get them.

4 Tonight I was informed by Mr. Kallan that
5 that document is available. Unfortunately it is
6 available only in Washington, D.C. in the reading
7 room of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That is a
8 document that we need. That is the design criteria
9 for the two advanced boiling water reactors that NRG
10 [sic] wants to build here. That is a document that
11 we need in our hands to effectively be able to write
12 contentions to submit them in a timely manner.

13 Why does this matter? By the way,
14 they've had this design for ten years. And it seems
15 that by now it could have been put into electronic
16 version and be up on the Adam system. It's way late.
17 Right now we have to talk to the public document
18 office and see what they can do. We may have to pay
19 thousands of dollars to even get a copy.

20 Today is February 5. Our contentions
21 have to be submitted in 20 days. I would like to
22 officially ask when will the DCD be available. The
23 licensing procedure should be halted immediately
24 until that is available.

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1 In section 5.4.1 of the environmental
2 report there is a section of radiological impact and
3 exposure pathways. Here is says -- and I will
4 quote -- Radioactive liquids and gasses would be
5 discharged to the environment during normal operation
6 of STP 3 and 4. The released quantities have been
7 estimated in Tables 12.2-20 for the gasses and Table
8 12.2-22 for liquids of the AVWR DCD.

9 So the documents containing the
10 quantities of radioactive material that would be
11 released during normal operations are not yet
12 available to the public. They would require a trip
13 to Washington, D.C., a hefty budget, a whole lot of
14 copying. If somebody can please give me a copy of
15 the DCD I would take it. But that information is not
16 currently available to the public other than in
17 Washington, D.C.

18 They discussed the maximally exposed
19 individual. Please, if you would, expand this
20 section to include impact on all age groups. It
21 should be women and children, young children,
22 pregnant women, not just adult males. In some
23 sections there was analysis of children, and that's
24 good. But the impact should be done for all

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1 categories for all types of impacts.

2 There was data that said water downstream
3 is not used for drinking water or irrigation. Please
4 analyze the impacts, however, because there is
5 wildlife in the area and breeding grounds in the
6 wetlands. We need to have added explanations of what
7 the data means. There is some data provided in here,
8 but no context given to what it means.

9 Gaseous pathways are analyzed in terms of
10 50 miles, in terms of exposure to ground and air, and
11 inhalation. Then there's a reference to radiation
12 shielding, but no explanation. I would like the
13 document to include exactly what is meant by
14 radiation shielding -- how does it work, why does it
15 work, what does it mean.

16 There's a conservation estimate of 2.5
17 milligrams per year at the site boundary. They come
18 up with a total body exposure to the maximally
19 exposed individual per year of .35 milligrams per
20 unit. So if you double that you're talking about .70
21 milligrams per year. But we need to bear in mind
22 this would now be four units and cumulative impacts
23 need to be addressed throughout.

24 Several times the study just simply

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1 concludes that these exposure limits would be
2 small -- in capital letters small. Please give us
3 some context. What is the criteria for small? What
4 do you mean? And why are they small?

5 It refers to the fact that gamma and beta
6 emitters are typically part of the normally released
7 radionuclides of power plants. Again, the impacts to
8 biota are considered small. Please explain.

9 The occupational radiation doses are
10 listed as 197.8 person-rem for the two units per
11 year. This is over 200 times, by my calculations, of
12 what the average exposure would be. And if you
13 double that, workers at the plant may be getting very
14 high levels of radiation. Cumulative impacts must be
15 analyzed.

16 Later there is a comment that 1.9 fatal
17 cancers would occur from the annual fuel cycle.
18 Please add information about the day-to-day
19 operations as well.

20 And thank you for your time. And I'm
21 sorry about my voice. Thank you.

22 MR. CAMERON: I just want to emphasize
23 for the record that there were three requests made
24 that are within the province of the staff -- the

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1 public meeting on safety side issues, scoping
2 meetings in San Antonio and Austin, and the
3 availability of the DCD document.

4 And I would just like to remind all those
5 folks who are thinking of intervention here is that
6 it would be best not only to make that request here,
7 but to send a letter to the Commission with your
8 reasons for that since they're the only ones that can
9 make that decision. Did you want to add something,
10 Paul?

11 MR. KALLAN: Yes. In terms of public
12 scoping meetings, they're usually volunteer meetings.

13 They're not -- I mean, the NRC goes out of its way
14 to have these public meetings to educate the public
15 in the local area.

16 So we try to have -- I mean, it's
17 resource intensive, and that's the reason why we have
18 it close to the proposed site. So that's one of the
19 reasons we don't have them in San Antonio; we're
20 having them close to this area.

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Paul, for
22 providing that rationale for why we have it here.
23 And that may be -- it's going to be confined here.
24 But I think that there is a request that you're going

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1 to have to take home and evaluate before you decide.

2 Go ahead. Is it Mr. Warner? William Warner?

3 MR. WAGNER: Wagner.

4 MR. CAMERON: Okay. How about Jimmy
5 McCauley? Jimmy, that's you coming up. No?

6 MR. WAGNER: Wagner.

7 MR. CAMERON: Oh, okay. Sorry.

8 (Pause.)

9 MR. CAMERON: In fact, do you want to
10 just use this?

11 MR. WAGNER: Yes, that's fine.

12 MR. CAMERON: All right.

13 MR. WAGNER: Thank you. In keeping with
14 what this thing is supposed to be about -- scoping
15 the environmental report -- I am addressing you. I
16 am not addressing the public at large. I represent
17 no one but myself.

18 The things that I am concerned about are
19 the true environment surrounding the plant. What I
20 saw when I read the existing environmental report is
21 something that looks 30 years old. That is not
22 today's environment.

23 One thing that jumped off the page at me
24 was the emphasis on Matagorda County and anything to

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1 the north and east. That is not where things are
2 happening. They are happening to the south and to
3 the west. And I'll get into that in a minute.

4 I think we have some very definite
5 problems with the seismic analysis. We are having
6 adjacent gas storage -- both natural gas and
7 liquified natural gas -- just over the county line to
8 the west that is being built. Both of these things
9 provide external hazards to the site and should be
10 evaluated for both their direct and their seismic
11 implications.

12 We did not see anything that had to do
13 with coincidental unit problems. If we have a
14 problem on Unit 1 and 2 during construction on 3 and
15 4 what's going to happen about that? If we have a
16 problem on 3 and 4 during the operation of Unit 1 and
17 2 and it affects Unit 1 and 2, what will happen with
18 that?

19 This works very strongly in things like
20 low- pressure turbines coming apart. They just
21 rebuilt the low-pressure turbines. Why? They
22 obviously weren't really happy with its performance
23 at that point, and that was done as a preventive
24 measure.

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1 On a boiling water reactor there is
2 always a chance of a gas explosion. The
3 disassociation of water and hydrogen appearing in the
4 air ejectors on the turbine gives you the ability to
5 have a pretty sophisticated explosion on the gas
6 unit.

7 We may have a problem with soil
8 subsidence. Not too far away from the existing site,
9 on the other side of Highway 60, there is an old
10 Texas Gulf sulphur site at Gulf. Sulphur was mined
11 out of there for many, many years. The site was
12 finally abandoned. The company moved north out of
13 the county in the area between Highway 60 and
14 Bowling.

15 About five years after I moved down here
16 in 1983, that highway fell down into the ground -- a
17 sinkhole. That was caused by that sulphur mining
18 that was going on at a place called Newgulf. Is this
19 a possibility for the old Gulf site? Would this
20 offer some compromise to the ultimate heat sink or
21 cooling pond?

22 We also have a problem with injection
23 wells. I live on the south end of town. Less than
24 six blocks from my house is a very high level waste

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1 injection well. Now, we all know about 1987 or '88
2 the Perry plant in Ohio suffered a seismic event from
3 an injection well that was approximately 30 miles to
4 the southeast. We need to analyze for that.

5 In the wonderful world of knowledge that
6 we now have after the movie called Charlie Wilson's
7 War, where he was furnishing weaponry to the
8 mujahadin to remove the Russians from the north end
9 of Afghanistan, the one that got all the interest was
10 the missile -- the hand-launched missile from the
11 ground. The one that didn't get as much notoriety
12 was the introduction of geosatellite targeting for an
13 ordinary mortar.

14 What this brings up is a security
15 problem. The security problem is acute in that
16 having Deputy Dawg and Barney Fife out there looking
17 to suppress some sort of armed force is old hat.
18 This is the 21st century. We don't even have to get
19 close. We know that. We know that all too well.
20 With a simple mortar and GPS targeting, they were
21 able to hit first time every time.

22 Now, what's the target? The target is
23 very simple: 20 years' worth of spent fuel. That's
24 not in a hard building; that's in a tin building. It

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1 doesn't make any difference whether you get it really
2 complete; all you have to do is hit it once and
3 you've got a mess. And the mess will be enough to
4 take care of the site for quite a while.

5 Same topic: security. Design basis
6 accident, loss of offsite power. If you look where
7 the power lines run, they run parallel to Buckeye
8 Road up some eight miles to State Highway 35 from the
9 site. According to the COLA, they plan on
10 duplicating some of those lines.

11 In 1968 in Baraboo, Wisconsin, two
12 dissident students from the University of Wisconsin
13 took out a substation. It took them about five years
14 to figure out even who did it, but it was done very
15 easily. They did it with a wrench. They went out
16 and took the tower apart and let the wind take the
17 rest of it.

18 This was nowhere near the 500 KV that's
19 on that line leading out of that plant. If you want
20 to cut a big extension cord, it don't take a world of
21 hurt to do it. That needs to be analyzed.

22 They have a giant cooling pond out there.
23 Depending on which part of that COLA you read,
24 they're either going to use cooling towers -- four-

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1 strap cooling towers on Units 3 and 4 or they're
2 going to use the cooling pond itself. I'm not sure
3 which one it is.

4 But in either case one of the ways to
5 defeat that plant is to make the cooling pond go
6 away. The same things that I talked about with spent
7 fuel pools and mortars.

8 And this lady that was just on before me
9 talked about airplanes, and so did the gentleman. If
10 you take that wall down, it's all over. You know
11 that, I know that, we need to analyze for that.

12 Speaking about the cooling link, what
13 part of makeup requirements are going to be for both
14 instances or decide which one you're going to use and
15 tell us that one.

16 Are there going to be temperature limits?
17 We're living in a world where climatological change
18 is causing warming -- global warming. We know the
19 sea level is rising. It's already bothering the
20 Chinese. It's not bothering us yet, but it will.

21 Now, what's causing it isn't a concern
22 here. The mere fact that it's happening -- and it
23 needs to be analyzed. We're talking about a grand
24 total of about 60 years. We need to look at that.

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1 We need to figure out whether we're going
2 to preserve that estuary or whether we're going to
3 let it go to hell. Right now I understand that at
4 the intake for the cooling plate we're getting
5 brackish water. The original design was that they
6 were not to remove enough water such that there was
7 back-flow to cause saltwater in at the inlet station.

8
9 It appears it's happening regardless of
10 whether they pump or don't pump. This says there's
11 been a change in the basic environmental impact
12 statement. That needs to be analyzed for.

13 There are a number of river studies going
14 on right now, not the least of which by the Lower
15 Colorado River Authority, who is in charge of this
16 particular chunk of water.

17 Also going on is what's known as LCRA-
18 SAWS, or the San Antonio Water System. Now, that's
19 not close. It's up near Interstate -- or U.S.
20 Highway 59 between Wharton and El Campo. But they're
21 going to build a large reservoir that's going to feed
22 the city of San Antonio from the Colorado River.
23 This is a large open body of potable water that is in
24 a possible patch for any radioactive release from the

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1 site. It needs to be analyzed as part of the
2 environmental report.

3 In the old days we used to have a PSAR, a
4 preliminary safety analysis report. Now we don't
5 have that. Now we have an FSAR. How on earth can
6 anybody call that thing final. It's totally
7 incomplete at this time. We don't have to fib to
8 each other. It's not done. It's not even close.
9 Okay. We need to extend the comment period because
10 the information is not there.

11 The other part of this that's a real hard
12 spot with me because I am an old reactor operator is
13 it is totally inappropriate to license operation on a
14 woefully incomplete safety analysis report. I don't
15 know how the devil you guys ever came to that
16 conclusion, but that needs to be looked at seriously.

17 Get real on security. This is the 21st
18 century. This is not World War II; we're not doing
19 M-5. We're not doing, you know, storm the Bastille.
20 We now know -- and September 11 brought it home very
21 strong and very positively -- nobody has to confront
22 anybody.

23 I tried to make these points earlier.
24 I'm hoping I'm making it now. Physical confrontation

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1 at the site is neither required nor desirable to
2 achieve the objections of terror; you don't have to
3 do it.

4 MR. CAMERON: This is all very valuable
5 information for us to hear, Mr. Wagner, and I know
6 that you're probably not going to send in written
7 comments. We want to hear it. I just ask you to try
8 to, you know --

9 MR. WAGNER: I'm almost done.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. WAGNER: I take lousy notes. Where
12 will the terrorist materials come from to perform
13 these things? They're already here. Where's the
14 delivery method? It's already here. We know that.
15 We know that all too well. We know it doesn't take
16 much.

17 And when we had four of these guys in a
18 row sitting up in the middle of the coastal plain
19 within takeoff full-fuel distance of Houston, San
20 Antonio, Corpus Christi, Austin, it doesn't take much
21 more than a village idiot to figure out that this is
22 an easy mark -- a real easy mark. Is that's not part
23 of the environmental impact, it sure the devil ought
24 to be.

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1 In the end this is all about money:
2 who's got it, who doesn't have it. Part of the
3 problem is we know who's got it, and it ain't us.
4 It's big oil; it's big oil suppliers; it's our big
5 buddy trading partner to the very far west.

6 And yet we have this thing that says we
7 won't have foreign ownership. Well, I'd like to know
8 how you're going to do it without it. And I'd like
9 to see the justification for that in the
10 environmental impact statement.

11 Is a blind eye being turned in deference
12 to some political agenda and in violation of the
13 Atomic Energy Act? Or do we just hope it goes away?

14 We get no cost figures out of that
15 COLA -- none. Everything is proprietary. That's
16 nonsense. I can get cost figures on ones that they
17 haven't even put applications in on. And in some
18 cases they've already decided it costs too much. The
19 one thing that would kill this -- and it won't be
20 guys like me -- is money. And if we don't know
21 what's going on we'll never know, will we? Thank
22 you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr.
24 Wagner. We have a few speakers -- Jimmy McCauley,

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1 Ernest Opella. We still need to hear from Dr. Hefner
2 and from Owen Bludau. And this is Jimmy McCauley.

3 MR. McCAULEY: Hello. I'm a fisherman, a
4 father. I'm also an INC technician out there at STP.

5 I've been and out of that plant since 2003. I've
6 worked in the industry of electrical electronics --
7 chemical offshore for four years and served a little
8 time in the Navy.

9 That is the safest facility I've ever
10 been in my life. I've been around the world three
11 times. I've seen a lot of different things in
12 different places. It works. They have contingency
13 plans for most of it. The rest of it you all can
14 figure out. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very
16 much. And this is Ernest Opella.

17 MR. OPELLA: For some of you who know me,
18 I'm not going to speak longer than Mr. Wagner. My
19 name is Ernest Opella. I chose Bay City as my home
20 47 years ago. I have a vested interest invested in
21 Matagorda County. I raised a family here -- four
22 children. One of my daughters is here -- living
23 here. I have my business here. I have my home in
24 Bay City. All my financial resources are tied up in

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1 Bay City.

2 I have many friends in Bay City,
3 throughout the county. I'm concerned about them and
4 their well-being. I feel that the Bay City plant has
5 been operated safely, and I support the addition of
6 Units 3 and 4.

7 But I would like to go back on something
8 that the mayor said. As I look around the room here,
9 I don't see too many people that was in Bay City 28
10 years ago when the National Regulatory Agency met at
11 the old service center.

12 But I was there. I was there
13 representing the people of Bay City. I was
14 representing the city council. I was the mayor of
15 Bay City then. The city council passed a resolution
16 supporting the plant: its construction, its
17 operation.

18 We had full faith in the integrity of the
19 plant, the people that were going to run it, and the
20 owners of the plant. Well, that hasn't changed any.

21 The mayor of Bay City told you a few
22 minutes ago he's ready in our backyard. We said that
23 28 years ago and we're repeating that again today.
24 So I urge the NRC to speedy licensing and approve

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1 this plant. And thank you.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Opella. Dr.
3 Hefner. And then we'll go to Mr. Bludau and then to
4 Mark McVernon and Joe Sheppard.

5 DR. HEFNER: Thank you, sir. My name is
6 Jim Hefner. I'm the site doctor out at STP. I've
7 been coming down here for 16 years now, gotten to
8 know most of the folks out there; feel like I'm part
9 of the family.

10 One statement that was made earlier
11 referenced exposure to cancer. It's an old subject.
12 We've all heard it many times. And I want to do
13 what I can now to put it to rest.

14 Sixteen years ago when I joined the staff
15 out at STP, I had similar concerns and did some
16 research and then relaxed, because I realized it was
17 a very small possibility. But in the last 16 years
18 multiple studies have come to fruition, and I think
19 it's etched in stone now. I think we can put this to
20 rest. Let me quit quivering here; I'm not a good
21 speaker. But I do want to share this. It's
22 important for you to know.

23 The National Academy of Sciences,
24 National Cancer Institute put together multiple

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1 studies. The NEI has put this fact sheet together --
2 and there's a copy of this on the way out. Please
3 help yourself. A whole bunch of long-term studies
4 that have concluded unequivocally now that living
5 near a nuclear facility will not increase your
6 incidence for cancer. It just won't happen.

7 Anecdotally we've got a whole community
8 here that will tell you that they're not worried
9 about it and it hasn't happened. Now, this is
10 national stuff; this is international stuff. And
11 it's good science; it's solid. You can find a lot of
12 flaky stuff on the internet. This is gold standard
13 research, and it's real, so relax.

14 Let's look at little closely -- or more
15 closely at the local impact. This is a study that's
16 also available in the back when you leave. Please
17 help yourself. Two Rice professors were asked to
18 analyze the cancer death rate in Matagorda County.
19 Statisticians, Ph.D., full professors -- one of them
20 an adjunct professor at M.D. Anderson Hospital --
21 these folks know numbers, they know cancer -- one a
22 Ph.D. environmental engineer.

23 They concluded the same as the national and
24 international studies. Living in the shadow of a

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1 nuclear facility will not increase the cancer death
2 rate.

3 So I hope we can finally put this to
4 rest. There's enough to talk about here, and this
5 subject just keeps coming up. And maybe it will
6 finally go away. So I'll be available afterwards if
7 you want to ask me any questions. Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dr. Hefner. And
9 Owen is coming up.

10 MR. BLUDAU: Good evening. Thank you
11 very much. My name is Owen Bludau. I'm executive
12 director of the Matagorda County Economic Development
13 Corporation. The Corporation is composed of nine
14 agencies -- five are public funding agencies -- the
15 county, the navigation district in Palacios, Port of
16 Bay City authority, the Bay City Community
17 Development Corporation, and the City of Palacios
18 Economic Development Corporation. In addition, there
19 are representatives of the four area Chambers of
20 Commerce on our board.

21 The focus of the Matagorda County EDC and
22 my job is to bring new economic development to
23 Matagorda County. And this, as D.C. Dunham said, is
24 a chance of a lifetime that most economic developers

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1 would dream of. The value of that STP is talking
2 about investing equals the combined -- it exceeds the
3 combined value of the eight largest industrial
4 projects in Texas in the last four years. It exceeds
5 those. So that is big. That is economic development
6 writ big.

7 We welcome 3 and 4. They're good for the
8 county. STP has made Matagorda County a much strong
9 economic entity by its presence. It is our largest
10 private sector employer. Units 3 and 4 would add
11 another 800 jobs. And those jobs, as has been
12 mentioned before, are going to be opportunities for
13 our high school graduates, our graduates at colleges
14 to come back to school -- come back from school and
15 work here and for people who are underemployed to
16 improve their education and have better career
17 opportunities.

18 As I mentioned earlier this afternoon STP
19 has been such a good neighbor that we went after
20 another nuclear power plant, because if one is good,
21 then two can be better. And we were successful in
22 recruiting Exelon to Matagorda County initially.
23 Unfortunately the site did not prove suitable to
24 their needs and they have gone elsewhere. But that

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1 showed that we are a welcoming and nuclear supporting
2 community.

3 We're after STP 3 and 4 for a number of
4 reasons -- the same thing we were after Exelon for.
5 We want to attract their employees to live here. If
6 you can get 3 and 4 -- a major percentage of the
7 employees of 3 and 4 to live here they're going to
8 buy homes and cars. They're going to buy their
9 groceries, their retail products. They're going to
10 use the services of our banks, our medical
11 facilities, their insurers, utility companies, and
12 our various service providers.

13 That's going to help all the existing
14 businesses in the community. It's going to attract
15 more businesses to the community. If we could get
16 600 of 800 to live here that would generate an
17 additional 1,000 service sector jobs. And that is
18 good economic development.

19 The temporary construction workers that
20 are going to be here will be over a six-year period.

21 And they will ramp up, they'll have about two years
22 of 4,000 people, then they'll ramp down.

23 They're not all going to live here.
24 They're not all going to be here at the same time.

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1 But a lot of them are going to live here -- a lot of
2 them are going to commute in and out. And while
3 they're living here they're going to be spending
4 their money here. While they are commuting in and
5 out they're going to be buying gasoline and
6 refreshments and spending some of their money here.
7 So that's going to create additional strong business
8 for our local employers, our local businesses, and
9 it's going to add and attract other businesses.

10 We saw some of this retail happening
11 already, as was mentioned earlier. We had new
12 retailers coming in in 2007. We had more of them
13 buy -- more retailers buy property in Palacios and
14 Bay City for new facilities. There are new retail
15 facilities under construction because they are
16 anticipating an increased customer base. So this is
17 adding to our employment opportunities and it's
18 adding to the existing tax base, which we all need.

19 Major -- STP is a major financial
20 supporter to a lot of the activities in the community
21 as has been mentioned -- the community events, the
22 organization of the civic activities. Many of these
23 events, activities, and so forth could not exist
24 without the financial support of STP.

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1 We welcome here because the increased --
2 addition of 3 and 4 will make them stronger and
3 hopefully increase their contributions and their
4 involvement in the community. But, more importantly,
5 their employees are part of the community. They're
6 our neighbors; they're our citizens. Individually
7 they provide strong support to our churches, our
8 civic groups to our youth and environmental
9 activities, school districts, educational
10 opportunities, and to the governmental units here.

11 We are strengthened by the presence of
12 these employers among us. Two of the STP employees
13 serve on my board. They do not serve as members of
14 STP, but as elected members of other organizations
15 that are represented on the board.

16 We want to see the new employees from 3
17 and 4 also follow in this same footpath of being
18 involved in the community. We need the new blood,
19 the new ideas, and the new vitality that they can
20 bring. We're an aging community and our
21 organizations are aging. They need new blood and new
22 membership. So they will provide economic benefits
23 to all of us in the county.

24 As the sheriff mentioned about emergency

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1 planning -- and Mayor Morton also mentioned it -- it
2 has an aspect to economic development that often is
3 not perceived. A lot of the business that I'm
4 talking to -- the industries -- have a concern about
5 the Texan fire services -- emergency services. And
6 when we mention the types of planning that are
7 undertaken in Matagorda County because of the
8 presence of STP that gives them a good comfort level
9 that their needs will be met also and they can
10 participate as a member in this emergency planning
11 and response within the county.

12 We're well prepared, we're well equipped
13 for nuclear incidents, and we are also just as well
14 prepared and well equipped to respond to hurricanes,
15 tornadoes, floods, and industrial fires.

16 And we experience the benefits of that
17 two years ago when we had to evacuate for Hurricane
18 Rita. We went through that smoothly and without
19 disruption as compared to what happened out of the
20 Houston area when they were tied up for almost 24
21 hours or more on the highways getting out. So we
22 have good evacuation plans. We have people well
23 trained to implement those plans.

24 In summary, I want you to know that

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1 Matagorda County is stronger and better community
2 because STP is here. We support the addition of
3 Units 3 and 4. They will add significantly to the
4 economic vitality and the strength of Matagorda
5 County. Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Owen.

7 We do have one -- we have three speakers left. We
8 have Ed Dykes. Ed is -- are you here? Here is he.
9 And then we're going to go to Mark McVernon and then
10 to Joe Sheppard.

11 MR. DYKES: I would like to talk to you a
12 bit about nuclear power, nuclear energy, and the
13 environment. I've had the privilege of working with
14 some people who were at the dawn of the nuclear
15 age -- people who were involved in the Manhattan
16 Project and then in the commercial business.

17 One of the tones of the meeting seems to
18 be that somehow this is dancing with the devil; that
19 we're going to get all this economic progress, that
20 somehow or another we're taking a huge risk in doing
21 this. And we've heard a lot of people come up and
22 say, Well, I like nuclear energy because of the money
23 it's going to bring in here. And I think some of the
24 other people caught on to that. Well, you guys are

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1 just willing to sell your souls.

2 Well, let's look at what the objective
3 is. We want to be able to pay our electric bills and
4 send our children to college at the same time.
5 That's the end goal. And while we're at it, we want
6 to continue to fish in the Colorado River and now in
7 the Gulf of Mexico.

8 Now, how many people have ever come face
9 to face with nuclear medicine and have had a slurry
10 pumped into your system and then had doctors image
11 you? How many people? Raise your hands. Okay.

12 Now, there's a little interesting fact I
13 want you to consider. The number of curies that were
14 pumped into our body equals the total number of
15 curies that STP 1 and 2 emit to the environment every
16 year. Okay? Does that put things a little bit in
17 perspective?

18 Does anybody know how much uranium there
19 is in the oceans of the world? Anybody? There's
20 four-and-a-half billion tons of uranium in the oceans
21 of the world. Now, that four-and-a-half billion tons
22 of uranium came from the maybe five hundred billion
23 tons of uranium that's in the mantle of the earth.

24 Now, who here thinks that man's activity

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1 is capable of making any more than an insignificant
2 increase in this environmental load? She does.
3 Okay. We have one person who believes that.

4 Now -- and that's -- oh, two. Okay.
5 Now, once again, we get into the old thing of risk
6 perception concerning the environment and human
7 activity. The average environmental radiative load
8 in the United States of America -- the background
9 radiation level is approximately 100 millirem, and
10 the average American gets about 10 millirem of
11 exposure through medical things a year. That's 110
12 millirem.

13 Now, worldwide -- I'm going to say some
14 stuff that's really going to scare you. And you
15 people who are afraid of radiation, you better plug
16 your ears right now. And I suggest the young lady at
17 the front of the room here leave, because this is
18 going to scare the pants off of you.

19 Just in India -- there's a vast province
20 in India -- in western India where the average
21 background radiation is approximately 1,400 millirem
22 a year, which is 14 times what the background
23 radiation level is here. Some of the regions have
24 7,000 millirem, and human beings have lived there for

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1 over 100,000 years. and none of them have three eyes.

2 Now, how can this be? They are living in
3 a nuclear disaster area -- in an area with radiation
4 levels equivalent to a vast nuclear disaster over a
5 gigantic region far in excess of Chernobyl. I
6 shouldn't be saying Chernobyl, because these STP guys
7 are probably tightening up right here talking about
8 that particular little topic.

9 But there's another interesting little
10 fact about that. Let's just look at the disaster
11 there from a plant that was no design, that has no
12 containment associated with it, a fully trained
13 operational staff, most of whom had just come over
14 from coal fire plants -- they had no particular
15 nuclear training.

16 Who knows how many people have died today
17 from Chernobyl? How many? Who knows that number?
18 Take a guess. Somebody tell me. How many have died?

19 MALE VOICE: If you want to go to the
20 Ukranian Health Ministry, it's about 36,000.

21 MR. DYKES: The Ukranian Health Ministry,
22 which you can look up on the web, says 56.

23 MR. CAMERON: Ed, this is like having the
24 Ed Dykes show here.

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1 MR. DYKES: Okay.

2 MR. CAMERON: You know.

3 MR. DYKES: I apologize. Okay. I'll
4 finish up here. Okay. Interestingly enough, nuclear
5 reactors remove radiation from the environment. This
6 is probably going to come as a startling little fact
7 for you, but think about this. The isotopes that you
8 put in the reactor are long-lived isotopes --
9 radioactive isotopes. Reactors convert them to
10 short-lived radioactive isotopes that die off much
11 more quickly. When you're through at the end of the
12 day, there is a lower radiation load on the
13 environment because of the presence of nuclear
14 reactors.

15 A coal fire power plant spits out more
16 than four times as much radiation as the average
17 nuclear plant does because of contaminants in the
18 coal. In fact, you could generate more power from
19 coal by removing uranium from it and thorium and
20 burning it in nuclear power plants. There's less
21 environmental damage. The EPA estimates that 30,000
22 Americans die prematurely every year from the
23 effluent from coal-fired power plants.

24 We can also talk about alternative power

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1 and how there's no disposal plant for solar
2 collectors. It might surprise a lot of you to
3 understand that the incredible chemical mix that's in
4 solar panels, including arsenic. The burden on the
5 environment with arsenic, which, by the way, has an
6 infinite half-time -- not a 100,000 years, but
7 infinite.

8 Well, anyway, we can go on for -- anybody
9 wants to talk about that some more, particularly
10 those -- the opposing side and the young lady in the
11 front, may talk to me at length. I will stay until
12 5:00 a.m. in the morning if necessary. Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. I
14 missed Mr. Singleton, who's going to talk, and I
15 promised Mr. McCormick that he could have --

16 MS. SINGLETON: You can't give me the
17 last word.

18 MR. CAMERON: And then we're going to go
19 to Mr. McBurnett and Joe Sheppard. Mr. Singleton?

20 MR. SINGLETON: I just wanted to share a
21 short news release with you I just tore off the wire.

22 A series of catastrophic errors compounded by
23 instrument malfunctions resulted in the deaths of
24 absolutely no one at the West Texas wind farm

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1 Thursday. Three sheep were mildly inconvenienced.

2 I'd like to talk about acronyms for a
3 minute because, as opposed to a NIMBY or PIMBY, I'm
4 an NIMEG. I don't -- I want Not In My Electricity
5 Grid. As a partial owner of the plant -- as a 16
6 percent owner as part of my being a citizen of
7 Austin, I still resent the fact that as recently as a
8 couple of years ago that 16 percent share was 62
9 percent of my electricity bill. 62 cents of every
10 dollar I paid for electricity was going to retire the
11 debt service for this plant.

12 One way you can tell this is an informal
13 public hearing and not a legal process, had this been
14 a legal process a lawyer would have jumped up
15 somewhere and said objection. What does all this
16 economic data have to do with the scope of the
17 environmental review, which is what this hearing is
18 all about. Nothing that's been said about the
19 benefits of this plant for Matagorda County or anyone
20 else has anything to do with the purpose of this
21 hearing, which is to talk about the scoping of the
22 environmental review.

23 The last speaker talked about human
24 impact, and I was reminded -- I've heard Rush

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1 Limbaugh on more than one occasion say human beings
2 do not have the power to change the environment. And
3 then he'll turn right around and blame global warming
4 on cows farting. I never understood that, and I
5 never understood the idea that radiation is good for
6 you.

7 When we were talking several years about
8 nuclear waste dumping in West Texas there were
9 actually some people that came to the meetings that
10 has spurious statistics to suggest that a little bit
11 of radiation was good for you. They called it
12 Vitamin R. It's ridiculous then; it's ridiculous
13 now.

14 I just want to make one final point, and
15 that is if you really -- I'm really worried about the
16 large amount of money involved in the push for more
17 nuclear power plants. And I'm afraid that there's a
18 tremendous financial incentive to underreport
19 accidents. And I don't use the NRC's term, which is
20 incidents.

21 I monitor the event reports on the NRC,
22 and I think this is already happening. There's been
23 a number of things in the last few weeks -- in the
24 last few months that have been underreported, and I

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1 suspect it's because of the money involved if people
2 knew how bad the situation was at the nation's
3 nuclear power plants.

4 For example, how many of you know that
5 the Vermont Yankee plant suffered a catastrophic
6 failure of one of its cooling towers not long ago and
7 thousands of gallons of water came rushing out? The
8 NRC justified it by saying, Well, it wasn't really
9 safety related. But you can see the pictures on the
10 web. You can see a picture of that on the
11 nukefreeTexas.org website.

12 The Harris Plant had a train wreck
13 involving nuclear waste. Fortunately it happened on
14 plant grounds. The train hopped the tracks after
15 only a few feet.

16 But two that are security related from
17 the last six months were the incursion at the Oak
18 Ridge facility, which is not a nuclear power plant
19 but a protected facility in Tennessee. Someone tried
20 to run the gate at three in the morning. They were
21 stopped by security guards, but the guy floored his
22 car and got past the security guards and crashed into
23 a barrier several hundred feet inside the plant.

24 The crack security team couldn't catch

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1 him. He escaped the facility and wandered around
2 downtown Oak Ridge for a while until he was reported
3 to the Oak Ridge police. They couldn't catch him
4 either. This to me sounded like somebody testing
5 security measures.

6 There was an even worse one at the Palo
7 Verde plant a couple of months ago. A plant worker
8 was stopped at the gates of the plant because the
9 security guards noticed there was a pipe bomb in the
10 back of his pickup truck. He was questioned by the
11 FBI for several days, finally released, and
12 eventually the event was withdrawn from the NRC event
13 report site because they determined, Well, he didn't
14 really mean to blow up the plant. Someone put a pipe
15 bomb in the bed of his truck. He almost got inside
16 the nuclear power plant. And eventually the event
17 report was withdrawn.

18 If you think nuclear power plant is safe,
19 I want to challenge you to go daily to www.NRC.gov
20 and read what's happening at the nation's power
21 plants. It will frighten the pants off of you.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Mr. Singleton
24 is right. All of that information is available to

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1 the public on the NRC website.

2 Mr. McCormick? And then Mr. McBurnett.

3 MR. McCORMICK: Good evening. I'll make
4 this short, as I had a few comments. The more I hear
5 the more comments I have and actually I'm sure
6 everyone does.

7 But one of the things that strikes me and
8 surely is frightening if you want to talk about
9 frightening things is, you know, this country has
10 numerous facilities that are targets -- priority
11 targets. I venture to say a nuclear plant is not
12 high on that list.

13 We have the ports -- the Port of
14 Houston -- we have various refineries, chemical
15 plants -- all kinds of facilities that have much more
16 hazardous waste, if you will, and dangers that are
17 certainly not nearly well guarded as a nuclear power
18 facility.

19 And that is to me much more of a threat
20 than a pipe bomb getting stopped at the gate of a
21 nuclear power plant with primarily and secondary
22 shields that are three feet thick.

23 I worked at the nuclear power plant for
24 over six years. I was the last three years the lead

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1 nuclear engineer for Bechtel Corporation, and I spent
2 25 years with that corporation, many of which were
3 spent on various nuclear plants in and around this
4 country and overseas. I venture to say that ST plant
5 is probably, in my estimation, the best that I ever
6 worked on and contributed to.

7 I'm very proud of that plant, and the
8 engineers and the technicians and the craftsmen that
9 worked on that plant are a testament to the safety
10 record and its recent world records that this plant
11 has set. I don't think anyone can argue with that in
12 terms of its safety record. It speaks for itself.

13 In terms of going forward in the years to
14 come, obviously we have much to do in the area of
15 disposing of the high level nuclear waste. But I
16 challenge each and every one of us to think about
17 this in relative terms.

18 The gentleman that just previously talked
19 about the Manhattan Project -- those that are old
20 enough to remember it or certainly have read about
21 it -- that was probably one of the most successful
22 endeavors this country every undertook. It developed
23 the atom bomb, and it prevented probably World War II
24 from two to three more years of fighting.

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1 And that particular project went forward
2 with many, many of the technologies weren't even
3 invented when it got started. That was not a reason
4 for them to not go forward, just because some
5 technology wasn't available at the time. They had
6 enough confidence that they felt that we would muster
7 the energy to develop what was necessary to meet the
8 goal.

9 I feel the same way about nuclear waste.
10 That certainly is a major concern, but it's not
11 something we should delay going forward with new
12 construction and wait 20 or 25 years till the
13 technology is developed. We should do it in
14 parallel.

15 The rest of the world is leaving us
16 behind in this technology. We used to be the leader.
17 We used to train the entire world in nuclear energy,
18 in the development of these plants, training their
19 people. And now where are we? We haven't done
20 anything in over two decades. We're way, way behind.

21 We need this technology returned to this
22 country. We need our engineers and our scientists to
23 be trained. And this is a good start right here. I
24 thank you.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr.
2 McCormick.

3 Mark McBurnett, vice president of
4 regulatory affairs, Texas Nuclear Operating Company.

5 MR. MCBURNETT: Thank you. I'm Mark
6 McBurnett, vice president of oversight and regulatory
7 affairs with the South Texas Project Nuclear
8 Operating Company.

9 I'm indeed pleased to be here tonight and
10 have a chance to talk about bringing new reactors to
11 the South Texas Project site and increasing the
12 capacity of the South Texas Project.

13 It's clearly a strong boost for Matagorda
14 County. It's important for Texans and Texas, for
15 energy independence, and having adequate supplies of
16 electricity, which drives our overall economic engine
17 that keeps our society going.

18 I have a number of things, and I took a
19 long list as I went through all the different details
20 of each of the talks, and would really love to be
21 able to stand up here and talk another 30 minutes and
22 go through and counterpoint on each one of those, but
23 that's not appropriate for this particular session
24 tonight. But there are a few things I'd like to hit

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1 just to make sure they're clear.

2 First, nuclear waste? Yes, we generate
3 high level nuclear waste. We know how to store it.
4 We store it safely. We have the capability to store
5 it safely for as long as we need to store it.
6 Ultimately the federal -- we have a contract with the
7 federal government to take possession of that
8 material and dispose of it. Until they do so, we'll
9 store it and continue to do so in a safe manner. I
10 want point out our waste is not in a tin building; it
11 is a concrete building. The wall is about two feet
12 thick.

13 Aircraft impact analysis -- concerns
14 about aircraft impact has not been analyzed. Yes,
15 aircraft impact has been analyzed. The nuclear
16 industry performed analysis of aircraft impact in the
17 time shortly after 9/11 -- performed it for all the
18 different designs of containment buildings in the
19 nuclear plants in the United States, of which South
20 Texas is one.

21 Nuclear Regulatory Commission has also
22 done similar analysis. Details of those analyses
23 are, of course, safeguards information and can't be
24 discussed in an open forum like this. We'll tell you

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1 that the results -- the South Texas containments --
2 the containment buildings in this country are very
3 robust structures and advocate the ability of
4 withstanding aircraft impacts.

5 The advanced boiling water design has
6 also been analyzed for aircraft impact. That's been
7 done and will be looked at again as part of the new
8 rule makings on aircraft impact. We are -- ensure
9 that it has the appropriate -- again, it has a very
10 strong containment. And it's -- spent fuel is also
11 stored inside a building which has concrete walls.

12 Units 3 and 4 security review -- yes,
13 there will be a comprehensive review of Unit 3 and 4
14 security as part of the design and licensing process
15 to ensure that those measures that are appropriate
16 from the -- that have been implemented in the plants
17 are implemented also on 3 and 4 and takes advantage
18 of the stage of design that we can go back and do
19 things a little bit better than we've done in the
20 operating units just because we have a clean sheet of
21 paper, so to speak.

22 Worker exposure came up earlier.
23 Advanced boiling water reactors in Japan have an
24 impressive record on low radiation worker exposures.

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1 It's lower than what we typically see in this
2 country in any of our plants. They have an
3 impressive record, and we look forward to being able
4 to do this. There's design features in those plants
5 that enable that to happen.

6 Seismicity -- actually the Texas Gulf
7 Coast -- lowest seismic regions on the earth. We
8 look at what the numbers are. We do a comprehensive
9 analysis that's done to determine what's the
10 potential for a seismic event in this area. And it's
11 extremely low.

12 However, the advanced boiling water
13 reactor is a certified design. It's a certified
14 design that's meant to be able to basically be put
15 down anywhere in the country. So it's actual seismic
16 design of the advanced boiling water reactors is many
17 times more than will ever ben required in South
18 Texas. And it will be built according to the
19 certified designs, so it will meet those higher
20 standards well beyond what we would required if it
21 was just specifically licensed at South Texas.

22 Low pressure turbine replacement -- I'm
23 not sure how I get to that as a negative issue. You
24 know, we work hard to identify things in the plant

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1 that need to be replaced. We proactively replace
2 them to ensure that those plants run reliably and
3 safely for the long term. We're in it for the long
4 term. We focus a lot of attention on equipment and
5 equipment liability. This is one significant example
6 that demonstrates our willingness to spend a
7 significant amount of money to ensure South Texas
8 runs reliably.

9 Power lines: Actually South Texas has
10 three different power line corridors leaving the
11 site. The advanced boiling water reactors will also
12 have cross-ties into the Unit 1 and 2 switch yard.

13 Ponds versus towers: Just to explain,
14 the large cooling pond you see at South Texas, that
15 7,000-acre reservoir, is used for cooling the main
16 turbine. It's the main heat sink for the plant as
17 the plant is in operation. Provided in Unit 1 and 2
18 is a pond for providing for emergency cooling should
19 that be required. Unit 3 and 4 will actually have a
20 cooling tower for emergency cooling for what we call
21 the ultimate heat sink.

22 Don't think of it -- it's not one of
23 these monster hyperbolic towers like you see in all
24 the pictures that one associates with a nuclear

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1 plant. These are small towers, more akin to what you
2 see out behind a large commercial building that
3 provides for air conditioning. I would point out in
4 a boiling water -- a boiling water reactor is a very
5 robust design. Loss of that piece of equipment does
6 not result in a catastrophic event for a boiling
7 water reactor.

8 You know, we take our job and our role at
9 South Texas very seriously. I am the individual
10 who's responsible for submittal of the application to
11 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We take it very
12 serious to ensure that application met all the
13 requirements that NRC established in the submittal.
14 The fact that it was docketed demonstrates that we
15 met that objective.

16 I'm also the man in charge of oversight
17 and the quality programs ensuring that the plants are
18 built in accordance with the requirements. I take
19 those roles very seriously. My commitment to the
20 citizens of Matagorda County, my friends and
21 neighbors, as these plants will be built, built
22 right, and operated well.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Next is Joe
24 Sheppard, who's the chief nuclear officer for the

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1 South Texas Nuclear Operating Company.

2 MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you. And thank you
3 for making it with us this long. I appreciate it.

4 I want to thank the NRC staff for
5 conducting these meetings and these reviews. I want
6 to thank all our neighbors for coming out tonight and
7 spending this time with us. And I want to welcome
8 our visitors. It's important to us that we have this
9 dialogue. I know it's important to the NRC process,
10 but it's also important to us.

11 I'm a native Texan. I grew up in the
12 shadows of the petrochemical plants in Texas City,
13 Texas. I have a vested interest in the environment.

14 We are allowed to operate in Matagorda County by
15 virtue of the laws that Congress has passed and the
16 license that has been granted to us by the Nuclear
17 Regulatory Commission. We also know that with that
18 license comes a special trust and that we are
19 responsible to the citizens of Texas and to the
20 citizens of Matagorda County.

21 And the first responsibility is for safe
22 operations. I think that our record demonstrates our
23 commitment to both safety and the environment. And
24 when I say our commitment I'm talking about the

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1 management employees of South Texas Project. But
2 they're also your neighbors, your friends, the people
3 that you deal with day in and day out.

4 Units 1 and 2 provide clean, reliable
5 power to millions of Texans. Mark talked about the
6 economic engine that we need in Texas. Electricity
7 is the foundation for that economic engine, and we're
8 proud to be part of providing parts of that engine.
9 We also provide millions of dollars of benefits to
10 Matagorda County.

11 With respect to 3 and 4 we know that
12 Units 1 and 2 and their safe, reliable operation are
13 the enablers to be able to have the possibility of
14 having 3 and 4. And so that redoubles our focus on
15 safe, reliable operations.

16 Let me speak a minute about greenhouse
17 gasses. Whether you believe that greenhouse gasses
18 are contributing to the climate change or not, I
19 think that it is just common sense that we don't need
20 to have millions and millions of tons of carbon
21 dioxide dumped into the environment.

22 We seem to be given what we at the plant
23 call a sucker's choice. Either you have renewables
24 and efficiency or you have nuclear power. The

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1 studies that I have read that are done by eminent
2 researchers say that in order to make any kind of
3 significant contribution to the reduction of
4 greenhouse gasses being released into the
5 environment, you need it all. You need efficiency;
6 you need renewables; and you need nuclear power if
7 you want to make any kind of a significant
8 contribution to reducing greenhouse gasses being
9 released into the environment.

10 We're in favor of efficiency also. Mark
11 talked about replacement of our low pressure turbine
12 rotaries. Replacement of the low pressure turbine
13 rotaries added 140 megawatts onto the grid without
14 any change in our reactor power. That's why we
15 changed out those rotaries, for the efficiency.

16 So we don't want to make a sucker's
17 choice. If you look at the carbon footprint of the
18 life cycle of the nuclear power's life cycle from the
19 mining of the uranium all the way through the
20 disposal of the waste that carbon footprint is the
21 equivalent and the same footprint for solar and for
22 wind and for hydro.

23 Now, that study was done by the Germans,
24 not necessarily known for being friendly to nuclear

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1 power. But that was their conclusion: same
2 footprint.

3 Mark talked a little bit about the
4 advanced boiling water reactor, which is what the
5 proposed technology is for Units 3 and 4. This
6 technology has a long lineage in the United States.
7 The design that has been built in Japan was
8 predicated by 60 years of operations of boiling water
9 reactors in the United States as a evolutionary
10 design from our very best in the United States, the
11 BWR6. And it's better. It's a G.E. design. It's
12 been certified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

13 And it meets all U.S. standards.

14 We choose the ABWR because of the
15 operating record that it has, but we also chose it
16 because of the record that it has for being
17 constructed on time and on budget.

18 I had the opportunity to tour two of the
19 advanced boiling water reactors in Japan after the
20 seismic event that occurred there in July. There was
21 some concern about radiation doses, and Mark talked
22 about the very low doses that are available in those
23 facilities.

24 I climbed all over that plant. I went

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1 under the reactor vessel, normally one of the most
2 dose-intensive parts of any nuclear power plant. At
3 the conclusion of the tour I had received zero
4 millirem. These are very, very well designed and well
5 constructed plants.

6 At South Texas we strive to be a good
7 corporate citizen. And we're very pleased with the
8 support and the partnership that we have with the
9 local community. And I think you've seen some of the
10 eminence of that tonight. And I appreciate that.

11 We think that the benefits associated
12 with Units 3 and 4 will be significant for Matagorda
13 County and the surrounding communities. It's not
14 only the jobs -- the 800 permanent jobs and 4,000
15 construction jobs -- but the quality of life that we
16 believe the economic impact of Units 3 and 4 will
17 bring to this area.

18 Already, as D.C. Dunham talked about, is
19 advanced education that's come to Bay City. And
20 that's due to a partnership between industry, the
21 local community colleges, the local community, and
22 Texas A&M. We have a satellite campus of Wharton
23 Junior College in Bay City. We're teaching courses
24 today that are going to produce associate's degrees,

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1 and that is something that didn't exist one year ago.

2 We prefer to have local talent as part of
3 our workforce, and this is one of the many activities
4 that we have on going on to produce that talent and
5 to have that pipeline into our facility.

6 At South Texas Project our vision is to
7 improve lives through excellence in energy
8 generation. We believe that we improve the lives of
9 Texans by providing safe, clean, reliable, efficient
10 electrical power to power that economic engine that's
11 so vital to the Texas economy.

12 We believe we improve the lives of the
13 community by the involvement of our citizens -- of
14 our employees as citizens in the community, by being
15 on the school boards, by being on the city councils,
16 by heading up the charities, by making the
17 investments in the community. And we believe we
18 improve the lives of our employees by providing good
19 careers, high wages, good benefits, and a very good
20 work environment.

21 We're pleased to see you all here
22 tonight. We look forward to the eventual licensing
23 and construction of Units 3 and 4. Thank you very
24 much.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. That's the last
2 speaker at the NRC meeting. Can I just thank you
3 from a facilitator's point of view. That was one of
4 the more interesting comment sessions that I have
5 been to. And I'm going to ask Nilesh, our senior NRC
6 manager, to close the meeting for us.

7 Nilesh?

8 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes. I want to thank you
9 again for allowing us to come to your community. And
10 you are really helping us in fulfilling our
11 responsibilities under the NEPA Act.

12 Not only you came here, but very active
13 participation. We got comments from the diverse
14 perspective and on the diverse range. We got
15 comments on the broad policy issues, programmatic and
16 process aspects, and some very specific to our
17 environmental and safety review.

18 And as I said in the beginning, we are
19 here to listen. You know, it was not our intent to
20 try to instantly react to any of this. We
21 systemically are going to consider all of the
22 comments received, both written, and then we are
23 taking transcript, so we very carefully will evaluate
24 all the different aspects and then consider them in

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1 our review.

2 So thank you for your participating and
3 giving these comments. Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, at 10:09 p.m., the public
5 hearing was concluded.)

6

7

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