

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Cooper Nuclear Station License Renewal
Pubic Meeting - Afternoon Session

Docket Number: (n/a)

Location: Brownville, Nebraska

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Work Order No.: NRC-2687

Pages 1-33

ORIGINAL

NEAL R. GROSS AND CO., INC.
Court Reporters and Transcribers
1323 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 234-4433

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

+ + + + +

THE COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING

+ + + + +

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Brownville Concert Hall

126 Atlantic Street

Brownville, Nebraska

+ + + + +

The above-entitled public meeting was
conducted at 1:30 p.m.

MEETING FACILITATOR: David Pelton

PROJECT MANAGERS: Emmanuel Sayoc

Tam Tran

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

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

(1:30 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. PELTON: How's everybody doing this
4 afternoon? By the way, we did order the weather
5 specifically for this meeting. I just wanted you to
6 know that.

7 My name is Dave Pelton. I'm a supervisor
8 with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission representing
9 our Division of License Renewal, and we're here today
10 to talk about our license renewal process as we're
11 going to apply it or are currently applying it at the
12 Cooper Station.

13 Now, before I get going, I just wanted to
14 say a couple of thank yous to Luther and Haney, who
15 both helped us out today with setting up the Concert
16 Hall. We really appreciate their help. And we also
17 appreciate the Brownville -- the town's willingness to
18 help support us with just letting us use the concert
19 hall. It's great. It's a great opportunity to get
20 out and meet folks, and put faces and names to a
21 process. And I'll tell you just personally that, you
22 know, it helps me. It helps me appreciate, you know,
23 what we do to protect people and the environment. It
24 really drives it home. And so I really appreciate all
25 of you coming out today.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealgross.com

1 Today we're going to -- the purpose of
2 this meeting is to really talk about our process, both
3 from a safety perspective and from an environmental
4 perspective. And we're going to do that kind of in
5 three parts. We'll talk specific to just the kind of
6 a safety overview. We'll talk about our environmental
7 process. We'll talk about all the opportunities
8 you'll have for the public to participate in our
9 process, and then we're going to -- We'll open up the
10 floor and allow folks with comments to go ahead and
11 share those comments.

12 We're going to -- you know, today, the
13 Government, we sometimes like to use acronyms and
14 jargon, but we're going to try our darnedest to avoid
15 that. So, when we use terms like "scoping," we'll
16 make sure that we're talking about, you know, hey,
17 these are the things that we choose to review to help
18 us understand Cooper Station both from a safety and an
19 environmental perspective, versus just sticking with
20 scopings and screenings and acronyms.

21 Like I said, there were cards available to
22 you on the way in that you could fill out with your
23 name if you wanted to make a comment today. It helps
24 us to attach a name to a comment. We've got a court
25 reporter here today. She's Wendy, who's helping us

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 out and she's taking, you know, feverishly taking
2 notes, but filling out the cards just helps us attach
3 a name with a comment. What will also be helpful is,
4 you'll see a couple of microphones off on the sides
5 here. Once we get to the section for public -- or the
6 portion for public comment, I'm going to, if you
7 would, as we call your name, please step up to the
8 mike. That also helps ensure that our recorder can
9 hear everything, and that we get your comments
10 recorded appropriately. If you're uncomfortable
11 standing at the mike, they can be detached and we can
12 bring the mike to you, so that's not a problem at all.

13

14 By the way, the bathrooms are downstairs,
15 I believe on the right -- your right-hand side of the
16 building in the back. We also brought some water up
17 with some cups. If you get thirsty during the
18 presentation, please, you know, it's not a problem.
19 Get up, go get yourself a cup of water.

20 Let me just take a quick moment to
21 introduce a few folks from the NRC that we brought
22 with us today to provide this presentation. Tam Tran
23 is the project manager for the -- in charge of putting
24 our safety evaluation together. And Manny Sayoc is
25 our project manager who will be in charge of putting

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 together the environmental impact statement. And
2 these two work together very well, and actually share
3 a lot of duties through this process. So, while one
4 is largely in charge of each part of the process, they
5 are both very knowledgeable and work together really
6 well as a team, so I'm really pleased to have them on
7 board.

8 We also have Victor Dricks with us today.
9 He represents our Region IV office as Public Affairs.
10 And we appreciate Victor coming up. You know, talking
11 with the public and giving the public opportunities to
12 participate in our process is important, as you'll see
13 Manny and Tam talk about. But it's also important to
14 our regional offices, you know, down near Arlington,
15 Texas, Atlanta, Philadelphia, and Chicago. And we've
16 got public affairs folks there, too, whose job is to
17 make sure that the public's voice is heard and that
18 we're responsive to questions and comments.

19 With that, I will turn it over to Manny to
20 continue the presentation.

21 MR. SAYOC: Good afternoon. My
22 name is Emmanuel Sayoc. I am one of the two project
23 managers for the NRC's Division of License Renewal.
24 We are coordinating this meeting associated with the
25 Cooper Nuclear Station's license renewal application.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The other project manager, as you heard before, is Mr.
2 Tam Tran. Thank you for taking the time to come to
3 this meeting.

4 Today we will provide an overview of the
5 license renewal review process, which includes both a
6 safety review and an environmental review. We also
7 describe in more detail the environmental review
8 process associated with license renewal review, but
9 the most important part of today's meeting is to
10 receive any comments you may have on the scope of
11 environmental review. We will also give you some
12 information about how you can submit comments outside
13 of this meeting.

14 At the conclusion of today's presentation,
15 we will be happy to answer any questions that you may
16 have on the license renewal review process. However,
17 I must ask you to limit your participation to
18 questions only and hold your comments until the
19 appropriate time during today's meeting. Once all the
20 questions are answered, we can begin to receive any
21 comments you may have on the scope of our
22 environmental review. I hope the information we
23 provide you will help you to understand the license
24 renewal review process and the role you can play in
25 helping us make sure that our environmental review

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 considers relevant information.

2 Before I get into the discussion of the
3 license renewal review process, I'd like to take a
4 minute to talk about NRC in terms of what we do and
5 what our mission is.

6 The NRC is a federal agency established by
7 the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974. It regulates
8 the civilian use of nuclear material. The Atomic
9 Energy Act of 1954 authorized the NRC to grant a 40-
10 year operating license for nuclear power reactors.
11 This 40-year term was based primarily on economic
12 considerations, not on safety or technical
13 limitations. The Atomic Energy Act also allows for
14 license renewal.

15 The National Environmental Policy Act of
16 1969, or NEPA, established a national policy for
17 considering the impact of federal decision-making on
18 the human environment. As a matter of policy, the
19 Commission determined that the reactor license renewal
20 constitutes a major federal action for which an
21 environmental impact statement is warranted.

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

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 In exercising its regulatory authority, the NRC's
2 mission is threefold: To ensure adequate protection
3 to the public health and safety, to promote common
4 defense and security, and to protect the environment.
5 The NRC accomplishes this mission through a
6 combination of regulatory programs and processes, such
7 as establishing rules and regulations, conducting
8 inspections, issuing enforcement actions, assessing
9 license performance, and evaluating operating
10 experience from nuclear plants across the country and
11 internationally.

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

19 Now, turning to Cooper Nuclear Station.
20 The plant was licensed to operate in 1974. The
21 current operating license expires on January 18, 2014.
22 The Nebraska Public Power District filed an
23 application for license renewal on September 24, 2008.

24
25 A Licensure Renewal Application is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 required to contain certain elements. It contains
2 general information such as the applicant's name,
3 address, business and administrative information. It
4 also contains technical information which pertains to
5 aging management. This information is the focus of
6 the staff safety review. It contains, also, technical
7 specifications which define operating parameters of
8 the plant. The applicant indicates what, if any,
9 changes or additional technical specifications are
10 necessary to manage the effects of aging during the
11 period of extended operation. The application also
12 includes an environmental report, which is the
13 applicant's assessment of the environmental impacts of
14 continued operation. This information served as a
15 starting point for the staff's environmental review.

16
17 License renewal involves two parallel
18 reviews, the safety review and the environmental
19 review. These two reviews evaluate separate aspects
20 of the license renewal application. The safety review
21 focuses on aging effects of passive and long-lived
22 components and structures that NRC deems important to
23 plant safety. The staff's main objective in this
24 review is to determine whether the effects of aging
25 will be adequately managed by the applicant. The

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 review also considers generic and site-specific
2 operating experience related to the effects of aging.
3 The results in the safety review are documented in a
4 Safety Evaluation Report or SER.

5 For the environmental review, the staff
6 considers evaluates and discloses the environmental
7 impacts of continued plant operation for an additional
8 20 years. The staff also evaluates the environmental
9 impacts of alternatives to license renewal. The
10 objective with their review is to determine if the
11 environmental impacts of license renewal are so great
12 that the license renewal would not be a reasonable
13 option, or plainly, is a license renewal acceptable
14 from an environmental standpoint? The staff prepares
15 an environmental impact statement, or EIS, to document
16 its environmental review.

17 I would like to mention a few very
18 important areas of NRC's oversight that routinely come
19 up during our interactions with members of the public.
20 NRC staff addresses these areas of performance every
21 day as part of the ongoing regulatory oversight
22 provided for all currently operating power reactors.
23 They include emergency planning, security, current
24 safety performance, as defined by NRC inspections,
25 findings, violations, and general assessments of plant

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 performance.

2 For specific information on current
3 performance of Cooper Nuclear Station, use the link
4 provided at the bottom of this slide. It is also in
5 your handout. The NRC monitors and provides
6 regulatory oversight of activities in these areas on
7 an ongoing basis under the current operating license.
8 Thus, we do not re-evaluate them in license renewal.
9 That is not to say that they are not important, we
10 just do not duplicate the regulatory process, in these
11 areas of license renewal.

12 This diagram illustrates the safety and
13 environmental review process. It also features two
14 other considerations in the Commission's decision of
15 whether or not to renew an operating license. One of
16 these considerations is the independent review
17 performed by the Advisory Committee of Reactor
18 Safeguards. Statutorily mandated by the Atomic Energy
19 Act of 1954, the ACRS is a group of scientists and
20 nuclear safety experts who serve as a consulting body
21 to the Commission. The ACRS reviews the license
22 renewal application and the NRC staff's safety
23 evaluation. The ACRS reports their findings and
24 recommendations directly to the Commission.

25 Hearings may be conducted. Interested

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 stakeholders may submit concerns or contentions and
2 request a hearing. An adjudicatory panel from the
3 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will be established
4 to review contentions for admissibility. If a hearing
5 is granted, the Commission considers the outcomes of
6 the hearing process in its decision of whether or not
7 to issue a renewed operating license.

8 Now, I'm going to describe the license
9 renewal review process in a little more detail,
10 starting with the safety review. The regulations
11 governing license renewal are based on two guiding
12 principles. To effectively communicate these
13 principles, I need to describe a concept or term of
14 art used by the NRC. That concept is licensing basis.

15
16 Licensing basis consists of a wide range
17 of design and operational requirements and conditions
18 that must be met for the plant to comply with its
19 operating license. It serves as the basis upon which
20 the NRC originally licensed a plant. To continue to
21 operate, the plant must conform with its licensing
22 basis.

23 As I mentioned, the regulations governing
24 license renewal are based on two guiding principles
25 that relate back to licensing basis. The first

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 principle is that the current regulatory process is
2 adequate to ensure that the licensing basis for all
3 operating plants provides and maintains an acceptable
4 level of safety.

5 The second principle is that the current
6 plant-specific licensing basis must be maintained
7 during their renewal term in the same manner and to
8 the same extent as during the original licensing term.
9 In other words, the same rules that apply under the
10 current license will apply in the renewal term. In
11 addition, a renewed license will include conditions
12 that must be met to ensure aging of structures and
13 components important to safety and are adequately
14 managed so that the plant's current licensing basis is
15 maintained during the period of extended operation.

16 The safety review is rigorous. The staff
17 reviews the applicant's license renewal application
18 and supporting documentation. This review includes an
19 evaluation of new and existing programs and
20 surveillance activities to determine with reasonable
21 assurance that the effects of aging on certain plant
22 structures and components will be adequately managed
23 or monitored.

24 The safety review also includes site
25 audits to verify technical bases of the license

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 renewal application and to confirm that the
2 applicant's aging management programs and activities
3 conform with how they're described in the application.
4 The staff documents the basis and considers if its
5 review in a safety evaluation report and make sure
6 that it's public and available. In addition, a team
7 of specialized inspectors travel to their reactor site
8 to verify that aging management programs are being
9 implemented, modified, or planned consistent with the
10 license renewal application.

11 Finally, as I have mentioned, the Advisory
12 Committee of Reactor Safeguards performs an
13 independent review of the license renewal application
14 and the staff safety evaluation report and makes a
15 recommendation of the Commission regarding the
16 proposed action to issue a renewed operating license.

17
18 Now, turning to the environmental review
19 for license renewal. The review is performed in
20 accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act
21 of 1969, or NEPA. NEPA provides a basic architecture
22 for federal environmental review requirements. It
23 requires that all federal agencies follow a systematic
24 approach in evaluating potential impact associated
25 with major federal actions and alternatives to those

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 actions. By law, the NEPA process involves public
2 participation and public disclosure. The National
3 Environmental Policy Act established the U.S. Council
4 on Environmental Quality within the Executive Office
5 of the President. CEQ establishes policy of
6 implementation of NEPA. The NRC's environmental
7 regulations contained in 10 CFR Part 51 are largely
8 based on those that CEQ developed.

9 Our environmental reviews consider the
10 impact of license renewal and mitigation for those
11 impacts we consider to be significant. We also
12 consider the impacts of alternatives for license
13 renewal, including impacts of not issuing the license.
14 The staff documents an environmental review in an
15 environmental impact statement.

16 That concludes my presentation of license
17 renewal process. Next, Mr. Tam Tran will provide more
18 detail on the environmental review and scoping
19 process.

20 Tam?

21 MR. TRAN: Thank you, Manny. My name is
22 Tam Tran. I'm the second project manager for the
23 Cooper Nuclear Station license renewal application
24 review. I will cover the environmental review process
25 next.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 For the license renewal review, the NRC
2 looks at a wide range of environment impacts as a part
3 of preparing the environmental impact statement. In
4 conducting our environmental review, we consult with
5 various federal, state, and local officials, as well
6 as leaders of Native American nations, and gather
7 pertinent information from these sources to ensure
8 they're considered in our analysis.

9 As illustrated on this slide about
10 cooperating agencies, examples include U.S. Fish and
11 Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency,
12 Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, State Bureau
13 of Radiation Protection, Nebraska State Historical
14 Preservation Office, and so on.

15 The environmental review begins with a
16 scoping process. The purpose of the scoping process
17 is to identify significant issues that should be
18 considered in the environmental review. We are now
19 gathering information that we will use to prepare an
20 environmental impact statement for the license renewal
21 of Cooper Nuclear Station. As part of that process,
22 we're here to collect your comments on the scope of
23 the environmental review, that is, environmental
24 impacts that the staff should consider in our
25 analyses. The staff has developed the generic

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 environmental impact statement that addressed a number
2 of issues common to all nuclear power plants. The
3 staff is supplementing that generic environmental
4 impact statement with a site-specific environmental
5 impact statement, in which we will address issues that
6 are specific to the Cooper Nuclear Station.

7 The staff also re-examines the conclusions
8 reached in the generic environmental impact statement
9 to determine if there is any new and significant
10 information that would change those conclusions.

11 The scoping process started on January
12 26th, 2009, when the Notice of Intent to Prepare an
13 Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping was
14 published. The NRC will be accepting comments on the
15 scope of the environmental review until March 27,
16 2009. In general, we are looking for information
17 about environmental impacts from continued operation
18 of Cooper Nuclear Station during the extended
19 operation period. You can assist us in that process
20 by telling us, for example, what aspect of your local
21 community we should focus on, what local
22 environmental, social, and economic issues that the
23 NRC should examine during our environmental review,
24 and what reasonable alternatives are most appropriate
25 for your local regions. These are just some examples

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 of the input we are looking for and they represent the
2 kind of information we are seeking through the scoping
3 process. Your comments today would be helpful in
4 providing insight of this nature for the environmental
5 analysis.

6 This slide illustrates the NRC's various
7 considerations for deciding if a renewal operating
8 license will be issued. It's a rigorous review
9 involving Safety Evaluation Report, regional
10 inspections, and so on. Also, as indicated on this
11 slide, public comments are an important part of the
12 environmental review process. We consider all of the
13 comments that we receive from the public during the
14 scoping process as a part of preparing the
15 supplemental environmental impact statement for Cooper
16 Nuclear Station.

17 In addition to providing comments at
18 today's meeting, there are other ways that you can
19 submit comments for our environmental review. You can
20 provide written comments by mail to NRC Chief of Rules
21 and Directives Branch at the addresses provided on
22 this slide, which are listed on your handout, or you
23 can send your comments electronically to the e-mail
24 address shown on this slide. You can also make
25 comments in person, if you so happen to be in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Rockville, Maryland. If you choose to do so, please
2 contact Manny Sayoc or myself in advance, to make
3 arrangements. Comments should be submitted by March
4 27th, 2009.

5 This slide shows important milestones for
6 the environmental review process. The opportunity to
7 submit contention for hearing closes on March the 2nd,
8 2009, and if you have comments you would like to
9 submit outside today's meetings, you have until March
10 27, 2009, to do so. Please note that we plan to issue
11 a draft supplemental environmental impact statement
12 for public comment on December 15, 2009. While this
13 slide lists the milestones for the environmental
14 review and opportunities for public involvement, the
15 safety review will also be performed in accordance
16 with the schedule listed at the NRC website on the
17 next slide.

18 This slide identifies the primary point of
19 contact within the NRC for license renewal of Cooper
20 Nuclear Station, project managers, Tam Tran, myself,
21 and Emmanuel Sayoc. It also identifies where a
22 document related to our review may be found in the
23 local area. The Auburn Memorial Library has agreed to
24 make the license renewal application available for
25 public review. When it is published for comment, the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

1 draft supplemental environmental impact statement will
2 also be available at this library. In addition, these
3 documents will be on the NRC website at the website
4 address shown on the bottom of this slide.

5 As you came in, you were asked to fill out
6 a registration card at our reception desk. If you
7 have included your address on that card, we will mail
8 a copy of the draft and the final environmental impact
9 statement for your information, to your address for
10 your information.

11 This concludes my presentation. I will
12 turn it over to our meeting facilitator. Thank you.

13 MR. PELTON: Thanks, Mann and Tam. I
14 appreciate that. It's a great presentation.

15 A couple things before we get going in the
16 public comment section. If you would, on each of your
17 chairs, we provided meeting comment forms and we would
18 really like you to, after the meeting, if you took the
19 time to fill that out and let us know what you think.
20 You know, what do you think of our presentation? Be
21 bold, be daring, be critical. You know, the feedback
22 helps us, you know, make a better presentation for
23 you, because that's really why we're here is to inform
24 you what we're doing, why we're doing it, and how
25 we're doing it. So let us know what you think. So,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 please, and if you fill them out today, you can hand
2 them back to myself, Manny, Tam, or any of the NRC
3 folks, or I believe the form has a mailing address on
4 it where they could mail that in.

5 The other thing is, is that I wanted to
6 make sure that if there were any local, public, or
7 state officials who wanted to say hello, or just
8 introduce themselves that I didn't provide that
9 opportunity before up front, if there was anyone who
10 wanted to stand up and say hello, please, by all
11 means.

12 MR. SCHUMAN: I'm Howard Schuman, State of
13 Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services,
14 Division of Public Health.

15 MR. PELTON: Nice to meet you. Thanks for
16 coming today.

17 MR. COLE: I'm Bob Cole. I'm the Nemaha
18 County Emergency Manager.

19 MR. PELTON: Great. Thanks for coming.
20 Thanks for doing your job.

21 MR. COLE: Thanks for allowing me the
22 opportunity to come and say hello.

23 MR. PELTON: Anyone else?

24 (No response.)

25 And, although we are using these cards as

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 a means by which we can just, you know, understand
2 people's names and give you an opportunity to speak,
3 anyone who has a comment, you know, you can, with or
4 without a card, you can feel free to stand up. I
5 prefer you use the microphone, but please, if you have
6 a comment, question, or whatever, just feel free to,
7 in a controlled fashion, as much as possible, go ahead
8 and share that comment. But we will start with the
9 cards. And the first card we have is Martin Hansen.

10
11 **MARTIN HANSEN**

12 My name is Martin Hansen, a member of the
13 Village Board of Brownville. I'm filling in for our
14 chairman, Marty Hayes, today. I would like to
15 welcome the members of the Nuclear Regulatory System
16 to our community for this meeting. Brownville, while
17 being a small community, we see the importance of
18 Cooper Nuclear Station. It is, of course, the largest
19 employer in our community and throughout southeastern
20 Nebraska. But for our community, it is a little more
21 than that. This community was here when the
22 construction on Cooper started nearly 40 years ago.
23 We are here on each day of operation which is around
24 the clock. Cooper continues to operate safely and our
25 community of Brownville appreciates that very much.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Cooper is a partner with the community.
2 It has lent us support. One of the examples is the
3 Village of Brownville Volunteer Fire Department. The
4 management of Cooper has allowed our group of
5 dedicated fire fighters to utilize their training
6 facilities that has enhanced its firefighting
7 capabilities and has cooperated in an effort and has
8 enabled our department to upgrade its equipment and
9 training capabilities over a number of years. I ' m
10 sure that you will hear a lot more from other
11 communities about the economic impact of Cooper on the
12 community and the importance it has on the economy.
13 A 2002 economic study found that there would be
14 detrimental impact to not only Brownville, but to
15 other communities in this area, so Cooper is important
16 to continue operation through the license extension of
17 20 years.

18 Emergency response is an important part of
19 Cooper operation, and any need for that action to take
20 place would be handled in a manner that is both
21 professional and done for the protection of the
22 public. Cooper Emergency Response organization takes
23 it very seriously and each resident in a

24 10-mile zone around Cooper always receives the
25 appropriate information about any possible emergency

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 response activity on the site and would have comfort
2 of knowledge that these plans are in place and tested
3 annually.

4 Earlier this month, the Village Board of
5 Brownville unanimously approved a resolution in
6 support of Nebraska Public Power District at Cooper
7 Nuclear Station license renewal for an additional 20
8 years. I would like to read that resolution into the
9 official record at this time.

10 Resolution No. 2-2-09-1.

11 "WHEREAS, the Nebraska Public Power
12 District Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownville became
13 operational with startup in 1974 and has operated
14 safely and efficiently for more than 30 years and its
15 828 megawatts of electricity generated; and

16 WHEREAS, the Village of Brownville has had
17 a longstanding history with Cooper Nuclear Station
18 since the plant's construction, through refueling
19 outages, and day-to-day operations; and

20 WHEREAS, the Village of Brownville
21 Volunteer Fire Department has been able to utilize
22 training facilities to enhance the firefighting
23 capabilities and this cooperative effort has allowed
24 the department to upgrade equipment in training
25 firefighters over the years;

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 WHEREAS, Nebraska Public Power District
2 has continually reinvested in the Cooper Nuclear
3 Station facility to access continued safety, clean,
4 reasonable, and affordable production of electricity
5 for Nebraskans across the State; and

6 WHEREAS, the Cooper Nuclear Station is a
7 critical asset as part of Nebraska Public Power
8 District generation resources and the state's unique
9 public power system, continues to assist in keeping
10 state electricity rates among the lowest in the
11 country;

12 WHEREAS, more than 700 permanent jobs at
13 Cooper Nuclear Station and extensive use of
14 contractors in ongoing maintenance and refueling
15 outages are organized and important to the economy of
16 the Village of Brownville, Nemaha County, and
17 surrounding communities in southeastern Nebraska; and

18 WHEREAS, a 2002 economic study of the
19 impact of the loss of Cooper Nuclear Station would be
20 detrimental to the Village of Brownville and other
21 communities in southeast Nebraska; and

22 WHEREAS, the United States Nuclear
23 Regulatory Commission is the federal agency charged
24 with oversight of our nation's vital nuclear
25 facilities and encouraged public input and comment on

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 license renewal and process from the neighborhood and
2 communities; and

3 WHEREAS, the Cooper Nuclear Station has
4 continued to be a good neighbor to Brownville for more
5 than three decades;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the
7 Village of Brownville Council supports the renewal of
8 the license for the nuclear generation facility at
9 Cooper Nuclear Station, and to assure their continued
10 operations of safe, affordable, and important
11 component of Nebraska's public power supply system for
12 another 20 years; but

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of
14 Brownville clerk is directed to make available copies
15 of this resolution to the Nuclear Regulatory
16 Commission at its upcoming Environment Scope Public
17 Meeting."

18 Again, I wish to thank the Nuclear
19 Regulatory Commission for hosting this important
20 public meeting, and we'll make ourselves available to
21 you if you have any questions of us, thank you.

22 MR. PELTON: Thank you, Martin.

23 The next speaker we have is Glen Krueger.

24
25

GLEN KRUEGER

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 My name is Glen Krueger and I was the
2 hospital administrator, and I don't think the
3 present one is here at this time. I was the
4 hospital administrator. I came in 1971, so was
5 there when it was started and I retired in 2002.
6 And I would like to say that we have had full and
7 wonderful cooperation with the Nebraska Public Power
8 District for emergency services. We was able to
9 send an employee to -- down to Tennessee to learn
10 more about radiation. Yes, we was learning more
11 when it first started up, but we finally came that
12 we were very comfortable, that we knew how to take
13 care of if an accident did happen over here. We had
14 full cooperation from them and I would totally
15 support this new license.

16 But, also, as a citizen of Auburn, I
17 would like to restate and I would like to have this
18 new permit be renewed, because of the need that we
19 have in the City of Auburn, if the need -- the
20 people that work there. We have a lot of those
21 employees who work in our church and a lot of those
22 employees, in fact, I have three of those employees
23 in my block where I live. Very appreciative of
24 them.

25 MR. PELTON: Thank you very much, Glen.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Becky Cromer.

BECKIE CROMER

I also would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here this afternoon. My name is Beckie Cromer. I'm Executive Director of our Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise. And I'm here this afternoon on behalf of the economic development team from Falls City. We would like to confirm our unwavering support for the 20-year license extension of Cooper Nuclear Station. Falls City EDGE did pass a resolution of support for the 20-year license extension, and we have forwarded that resolution to NPPD officials, although, after reading the materials here today, I think we'll also forward that NRC with the information provided within the packets today. And in addition to that, our mayor will be speaking in support of Nebraska Public Power District this evening, as well.

Cooper Nuclear Station is an economic development gem that injects millions into our local economy by providing almost 800 jobs that pay more than double the Nebraska state average. The decommissioning of Cooper Nuclear Station would result in monumental loss of revenue and jobs for our

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 southeast Nebraska area. Additionally, Cooper Nuclear
2 Station runs a very safe operation. It allows
3 Nebraska to offer a diverse portfolio of power to our
4 citizens.

5 I had the opportunity to tour Cooper
6 Nuclear Station this week with many Falls City
7 community leaders. The facility was top notch. The
8 staff was professional and knowledgeable, and the
9 safety measures in place for workers and the
10 surrounding public exceeds benchmarks set by
11 government agencies.

12 Southeast Nebraska is proud to have Cooper
13 Nuclear Station as a partner in economic development
14 and we ask that you grant the licensing request being
15 made by Cooper Nuclear Station. Thank you.

16 MR. PELTON: Thank you, Beckie.

17 Arnold Ehlers.

18 **ARNOLD EHLERS**

19 Good afternoon. My name is Arnold Ehlers,
20 City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Nebraska City,
21 Nebraska. I am here to present a resolution passed
22 unanimously by the City Council and Mayor of Nebraska
23 City, supporting the license renewal of Cooper Nuclear
24 Station. I would also like to make you aware of the
25 economic impact Cooper Nuclear Station has on

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 southeast Nebraska, as well as southwestern Iowa and
2 northwest Missouri, an economic impact that is over
3 \$500 million a year. But the economic impact is just
4 one part of the contribution made by Nebraska Public
5 Power District and its employees. NPPD employees
6 belong to volunteer fire departments, serve on library
7 boards, school boards, and many other boards and
8 committees too numerous to mention. Their spouses and
9 families are also very important contributors to the
10 communities in which they live.

11 Over the years, Cooper has been a good
12 safe partner and good neighbor to all of us. They
13 have attracted employees from around the world,
14 enhancing the multicultural experiences of the area.
15 We've actually become a global community due to this.
16 It is a privilege to live in a public power state and
17 in a city that owns its own utilities. Nebraska City,
18 in fact all of Nebraska, benefits from the low-cost
19 electricity that Cooper Nuclear plays a significant
20 role in providing.

21 I have a resolution that I would like to
22 have entered into the record. I won't bore you with
23 the reading of it, unless it needs to be read. I
24 thank you for this opportunity.

25 (Exhibit 1 was marked for identification.)

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. PELTON: Thank you, Arnold.

2 Jim Gerwick.

3 **JIM GERWICK**

4 Good afternoon. Many thanks to the
5 Nuclear Regulatory Commission for hosting this
6 public forum. My name is Jim Gerwick, and I'm the
7 Emergency Management Director for Richardson County,
8 Nebraska, the county just south of here.

9 In my position, hardly a month has gone
10 by where some form of interchange has not transpired
11 between Cooper Nuclear Station's Emergency
12 Management Department and other nuclear operations
13 staff and my office in Richardson County. The
14 referenced activities include quarterly emergency
15 communication drills, unannounced communications
16 checks, written correspondence involving
17 improvements in emergency plans and training in many
18 forms, to include FEMA, Federal Emergency Management
19 Agency, evaluated radiological emergency
20 preparedness exercises.

21 Other joint training activities include
22 NPPD staff involvement in annual training of our
23 local radiological emergency response organization,
24 and our joint quarterly off-site training meetings.

25

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Cooper Nuclear Station has fully
2 demonstrated its ability to provide safe, reliable
3 electricity for the citizens of the state of
4 Nebraska. Richardson County has supported Cooper
5 Nuclear Station in its off-site responsibilities to
6 protect the public and property for many years,
7 since the plant started, actually, and is glad to be
8 part of the team that supports nuclear power. The
9 bottom line in our realm of experience, the staff at
10 NPPD and Cooper Nuclear Station is thoroughly
11 professional and meticulous in attention to detail
12 concerning their approach to public safety. In
13 short, they are fully integrated and a key member of
14 our public safety team.

15 And in view of their professional
16 performance and contributions to our community, we
17 support NPPD's application to continue to operate
18 Cooper Nuclear Station for another 20 years.

19 In closing, Richardson County is proud
20 to have Cooper Nuclear Station in the Richardson
21 County area.

22 MR. PELTON: Thanks, Jim. Hey, thanks
23 to everybody for having patience with my
24 pronunciation of some of the last names. So, thanks
25 for that.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 If any of you had a transcript or other
2 document that you wanted submitted, please make sure
3 that Manny, Tam, or Wendy get a copy of that. That
4 would help us out.

5 Is there anyone else who had a comment
6 at this point?

7 (No response.)

8 We are going to be available once we
9 adjourn from the meeting, you know, here, as we kind
10 of buzz about to answer any questions individually
11 you might have or whatever. We've got a lot of
12 documents in the back that talk about our processes
13 and talk about what the NRC does and then things we
14 do to help protect the public and the environment,
15 so you're free to take any of that information with
16 you.

17 And hearing no other comments right now,
18 I want to thank you once again for having us in your
19 community and for spending some time with us today.
20 Have a great day.

21 (Exhibits 2 and 3 were marked for
22 identification.)

23 (Whereupon, at 2:45 p.m., on February
24 25, 2009, the public meeting was concluded.)

25

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS
1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com

RESOLUTION No. 2401-09

Resolution Supporting Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper Nuclear Station License Renewal

WHEREAS, Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper Nuclear Station at Brownville became operational with startup in 1974 and has submitted an application to renew Cooper Nuclear Station's operating license to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission on September 29, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Cooper Nuclear Station is a critical asset as part of Nebraska Public Power District's generation resources and the state's unique public power system, and continues to assist in keeping state electric rates among the lowest in the country; and

WHEREAS, Cooper Nuclear Station has operated safely and efficiently for more than 30 years, its generation of electricity remains vital to Nebraska's economy; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska Public Power District has invested nearly \$400 million in the Cooper Nuclear Station facility to assure continued safe, clean, reliable and affordable production of electricity for Nebraskans across the state; and

WHEREAS, with nearly 100 employees at Cooper Nuclear Station residing in Nebraska City and Otoe County, the facility is recognized as vitally important to the economies of Nebraska City and the surrounding communities of southeastern Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, an independent economic study conducted in 2002 estimated that Cooper Nuclear Station adds an estimated \$548 million into the local economy, including significant ripple impacts in related businesses as dollars are re-spent in the community; and

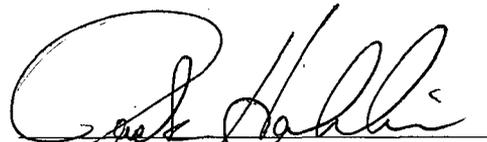
WHEREAS, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission is the federal agency charged with oversight of our nation's vital nuclear facilities and encourages public input and comment on license renewal proceedings from its neighboring communities; and

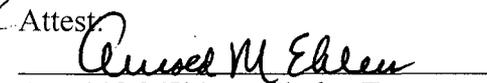
WHEREAS, Cooper Nuclear Station has been a good neighbor to its communities for more than three decades;

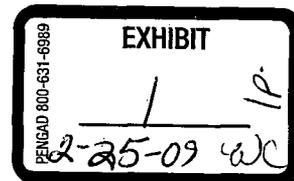
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska City, City Council supports the license renewal for the nuclear generating facilities at Cooper Nuclear Station, to assure their continued operation as an integrally important component of safe and affordable public power for the State of Nebraska for another 20 years.

Dated this 2nd day of February 2009




Jack Hobbie, Mayor

Attest:

Arnold M. Ehlers, Clerk - Treasurer



Martin Hansen

Resolution No. 2-2-09-1

**Resolution Supporting Nebraska Public Power District's
Cooper Nuclear Station License Renewal**

WHEREAS, Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownville became operational with startup in 1974 and has operated safely and efficiently for more than 30 years and its 828 megawatts of electrical generation; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Brownville has had a long standing history with Cooper Nuclear Station since the plant's construction, though refueling outages, and day-to-day operations; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Brownville's volunteer fire department has been able to utilize training facilities to enhance its fire fighting capabilities and this cooperative effort has allowed the department to upgrade its equipment and training of firefighters over the years;

WHEREAS, Nebraska Public Power District has continually reinvested in the Cooper Nuclear Station facility to assure continued safe, clean, reliable and affordable production of electricity for Nebraskans across the state; and

WHEREAS, Cooper Nuclear Station is a critical asset as part of Nebraska Public Power District's generation resources and the state's unique public power system, continues to assist in keeping state electric rates among the lowest in the country; and

WHEREAS, more than 700 permanent jobs at Cooper Nuclear Station and the extensive use of contractors for ongoing maintenance and refueling outages are recognized as vitally important to the economies of the Village of Brownville, Nemaha County, and surrounding communities of southeastern Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, a 2002 economic study of the impact of the loss of Cooper Nuclear Station would be detrimental to the Village of Brownville and other communities in southeast Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission is the federal agency charged with oversight of our nation's vital nuclear facilities and encourages public input and comment on license renewal proceedings from its neighboring communities; and

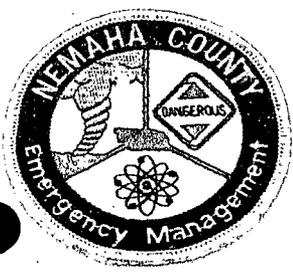
WHEREAS, Cooper Nuclear Station has continued to be a good neighbor to Brownville for more than three decades;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Brownville Council supports the renewal of the license for the nuclear generating facilities at Cooper Nuclear Station, to assure their continued operation of safe, affordable and integrally important component of Nebraska's public power electric power supply system for another 20 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Brownville village clerk is directed to make available a copy of this resolution to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at its upcoming Environmental Scoping Public meeting.

Dated this 2 day of ^{Feb}~~January~~ 2009

PENGAD 800-831-6989
EXHIBIT
2
2-25-09 WC



NEMAHA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Robert Cole, Director
Office: 402-274-2552
Cell: 402-274-7652

601 J Street, Auburn, NE
Fax: 402-274-3530
E-mail: nemahaema@windstream.net

February 24, 2009

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Robert Cole, the Director of the Nemaha County Emergency Management Agency, am writing this letter in support of the renewal of Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) operating permit at Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS).

Our agency is in regular communication with Cooper Nuclear Station in conjunction with monthly communication checks, quarterly emergency exercises, and two major annual exercises. In addition to these training and preparedness drills Cooper Nuclear Station contributes immeasurably to Nemaha County's preparedness for all types of other emergencies; for example, Cooper Nuclear Station is donating replaced sirens to a number of jurisdictions in the region including the Villages of Brock, Johnson, and Julian. It should also be noted that the communities of Brownville, Nemaha, and Peru are receiving siren coverage through the use of the existing Cooper Nuclear emergency warning sirens.

Cooper Nuclear Station has also been an active participant in local emergency responder training for the fire departments and the rescue squads operating in our county. Cooper Fire Brigade training facilities are regularly made available to the local departments.

Cooper Nuclear Station has fully demonstrated its ability to provide safe and reliable electricity for the citizens of the State of Nebraska. Nemaha County has supported Cooper Nuclear Station in its offsite responsibilities to protect the public and property for many years and is glad to be a part of the team that supports nuclear power.

The staff at the Nebraska Public Power District and Cooper Nuclear Station is thoroughly professional and meticulous in attention to detail concerning their approach to public safety. They are fully integrated and a key member of our public safety team and in view of their professional performance and contributions to our community. Nemaha County supports the Nebraska Public Power District's application to continue operating at Cooper Nuclear Station for another 20 years.

In closing, Nemaha County is proud to have Cooper Nuclear Station in the Nemaha County area.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Cole
Nemaha County Emergency Management Director

c/c: Mark Becker, Media Relations Specialist, NPPD

