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Title: Environmental Scoping Opportunity for
Public Comments: RE Watts Bar Unit 2
Evening Session

Docket Number: 50-391

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS Docket No. 50-391
WATTS BAR NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 2

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Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Andrew Johnson Room
Magnuson Hotel
1421 Murrays Chapel Road
Sweetwater, Tennessee

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

PANEL MEMBERS:

FRANCIS X. "CHIP" CAMERON, Facilitator
PATRICK MILANO, Sr. Project Manager
DENNIS BEISSEL, Environmental Project Manager

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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 I work for the Executive
4 Director for Operations at the Nuclear Regulatory
5 Commission, the NRC. And it's a real pleasure to be
6 with you here tonight and to serve as the facilitator
7 for the meeting tonight.

8 And our topic is the going to be the
9 environmental review process that the NRC conducts
10 with it receives an application to construct and
11 operate a new nuclear power plant.

12 The NRC has received an application from
13 Tennessee Valley Authority, TVA, to complete
14 construction and to operate a second unit at Watts Bar
15 2. So tonight we're going to be talking about what
16 the NRC evaluates when it looks at environmental
17 impacts as one part of its decision on whether to
18 grant the license for the new plant.

19 And I just briefly wanted to run through
20 some meeting process issues for you before we got to
21 the substance of tonight's discussion, and first of
22 all the format for the meeting, a two-part meeting.
23 The first part, NRC is going to give you some
24 information on the NRC evaluation process so that
25 you'll know what the context is here.

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1 Then we're going to go to the second part
2 of the meeting, which is an opportunity for the NRC
3 staff to listen to your advice, your comments,
4 recommendations on what the NRC should look at when it
5 does its environmental review, what types of issues,
6 what types of potential impacts.

7 And the NRC staff will be telling you how
8 you can submit written comments on these issues and
9 the due date for those written comments, but we wanted
10 to be here with you personally tonight to talk with
11 you about this subject.

12 We are going to have some time for a few
13 questions after the NRC presentations and before we go
14 to public comment, and I would just ask you to just
15 hold your questions until you hear both of the NRC
16 presentations.

17 And if we don't have time to cover all the
18 questions, the NRC staff will be here after the
19 meeting to talk with you about those questions.

20 And by the way, besides the two speakers
21 that we have from the NRC, we also brought
22 representatives from our Office of General Counsel and
23 our Office of Public Affairs -- Region 2 Public
24 Affairs, a resident inspector, and various members of
25 the technical staff so that we could make sure that we

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1 could talk to you about whatever might be on your
2 mind.

3 In terms of ground rules, very simple and
4 just aimed at helping us all to have a productive
5 meeting tonight. When we get to the question part, if
6 you have a question, just signal me, and I'll bring
7 you this cordless mike, and just please introduce
8 yourself to us.

9 Second ground rule is only one person at a
10 time speaking, and that's so we can give our full
11 attention to whomever has the floor at the moment, and
12 so that Brenda Thompson is our stenographer court
13 reporter can get a clean transcript, so that she knows
14 who's talking. The transcript is our record and your
15 record of the meeting tonight.

16 And I would just ask you to try to be
17 brief in your comments. Sometimes we have so many
18 people who want to speak that we need to pretty
19 strictly enforce a three- to five-minute time limit.
20 We have about six or seven people who want to speak
21 tonight, so we should have plenty of time, but I would
22 still ask you to watch your time and eventually a
23 gigantic buzzer will go off. I'm kidding on that one.
24 But just watch your time.

25 Final ground rule is to just extend

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1 courtesy to all who are hear tonight. You may hear
2 opinions that are different from your own, and just
3 please respect the person who's doing that, and
4 there's always signs along the road about Drive
5 gently, and maybe just Speak gently tonight would be
6 good.

7 And with that, let me introduce our two
8 speakers. Patrick Milano, and Patrick is the senior
9 project manager at the NRC, and he is in charge of the
10 safety review on the license application for the Watts
11 Bar Unit 2 plant, and he's just going to give you a
12 brief history and an overview of the process.

13 And then we're going go to Dennis Beissel,
14 and Dennis is the environmental project manager for
15 this license application, and he's going to go into a
16 little more in depth on what's involved in the
17 environmental review.

18 And I just thank all of you for being here
19 tonight and helping us with this decision, and I'm
20 going to turn it over to Patrick.

21 MR. MILANO: Thank you.

22 I'm not here to really provide you with an
23 in-depth discussion of what the NRC does in terms of
24 review of an operating license application; however,
25 I'm going to try to give you some high-level

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1 discussion on what are the major functions and parts
2 of this.

3 The Atomic Energy Act and the Energy
4 Recovery Act provide the basic framework of the
5 regulations for licensing of any new reactor. In this
6 regard the NRC does its reviews and is governed by the
7 requirements in Title 10 of the Code of Federal
8 Regulations; in particular it's Part 50.

9 Unlike the new reactors that you've
10 probably been hearing about, those are done under a
11 new part of the regulations, Part 52. However, Watts
12 Bar Unit 2's application came in in the '70s and will
13 still be governed by the regulations in Part 50 rather
14 than in Part 52.

15 Any applicant for either a construction
16 permit or an operating license needs to submit
17 information which sufficiently describes the design of
18 the facility, presents its design basis and its limits
19 on operation and also describes the systems,
20 structures, and components that are going to go into
21 the plant, as well as the plant as a whole.

22 In addition to that portion, which is is
23 commonly referred to as the safety portion of the
24 review, an licensee or an applicant for a facility is
25 required to submit other information such as the

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1 environmental report. And in this regard, for Watts
2 Bar, there was an environmental report, which is
3 currently under review and we'll be discussing in
4 further detail tonight.

5 Before I get started with a description of
6 what has transpired, I'd like to emphasize that the
7 NRC recognizes a continuing obligation to conduct its
8 licensing and regulatory functions in a manner which
9 is both receptive to environmental concerns and also
10 consistent with its responsibility as an independent
11 regulatory agency in its functions to protect the
12 health and safety of the public.

13 The National Environmental Policy Act of
14 1969, commonly referred to as NEPA, directs that all
15 agencies of federal government to comply with NEPA
16 procedures.

17 And under NRC's regulations, an applicant
18 requesting either a construction permit or and
19 operating license must submit an environmental report.

20 Now, TVA, also as a federal agency is also required
21 to submit environmental information its application.

22 And in this regard you'll see up here that
23 in late 1972, TVA submitted an Environmental Impact
24 Statement to cover the construction of Watts Bar Units
25 1 and 2. And that Environmental Impact Statement was

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1 reviewed by the NRC, along with other information,
2 which led to the NRC's findings and authorization of
3 construction permits in January 1973 for both Watts
4 Bar units.

5 In mid-1976 TVA requested an operating
6 license for both Watts Bar 1 and 2. And as part of
7 the information that was required to be submitted,
8 they also provided an Environmental Impact Statement
9 covering the operation of the facility.

10 And what it is does is it supplements the
11 Environmental Impact Statement that was provided for
12 construction, and it focuses more specifically on the
13 operation of the facility. The NRC reviewed that
14 series of documentation, and in 1978 the NRC issued
15 its own environmental statement.

16 However, in the mid-1980s TVA halted -- or
17 ceased construction of both Watts Bar units and a
18 number of its other facilities because of problems
19 with construction deficiencies and other TVA
20 management concerns.

21 And in the early 1990s, when TVA restarted
22 construction, because of the period of time that had
23 transpired between the operating license application
24 and now, being the mid-1990s, TVA supplemented its
25 Environmental Impact Statement, and the NRC also

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1 issued a supplement to its environmental statement,
2 which handled the -- or which supported the operation
3 of Watts Bar Unit 1 only, and in late 1995 the NRC
4 also authorized the operating license for Unit 1.

5 In August of 2007, TVA notified the NRC
6 that it desired to reactivate construction of Watts
7 Bar Unit 2, and in support of that, in July of 2008,
8 TVA supplemented its Environmental Impact Statement
9 for the operation of Unit 2. And in March of this
10 year, TVA updated its overall application for an
11 operating license for Unit 2.

12 The NRC has held several meetings with the
13 public that describe the overall process that it's
14 going to use to review the Watts Bar 2.

15 In this regard, as I'd indicated, the
16 review is not just a single review; it's a number of
17 reviews. As we've indicated here, there's a safety
18 review of the design and operation of the facility.
19 There's the environmental review that's going on, and
20 also there's reviews of other areas, such as security
21 and emergency preparedness, and a couple other
22 ancillary-type functions.

23 The NRC, on the safety side, will prepare
24 a report that's called the safety evaluation report.
25 This report was initially issued by the NRC for Units

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1 1 and 2 and has been supplemented over the years.

2 At the time that Unit 1 was licensed in
3 1995, there were 20 supplements to the original safety
4 evaluation report, and that process will continue to
5 be utilized for Watts Bar Unit 2. Also, as you're
6 going to hear shortly, there will be the environmental
7 review that will be separately documented.

8 When both the environmental review and the
9 safety reviews are completed, the NRC staff will
10 present its findings to an independent advisory
11 committee to the commissioners, and that committee, as
12 noted up on the slide, is the Advisory Committee on
13 Reactor Safety, commonly referred to as the ACRS.

14 If the ACRS makes a determination that
15 they agree that the operating license should be issued
16 for the facility, they make their recommendation
17 directly to the Commission, since it is a Commission
18 support staff.

19 Along with that, the construction of the
20 facility continues to be inspected by the Region 2
21 staff, by the inspectors and others, and finally the
22 Commission -- there's a presentation made to the
23 Commission, and if the Commission should, after
24 hearing all the information from these -- in these
25 various reviews and from their advisory committee,

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1 makes a determination that an operating license should
2 be issued to -- for the operation of Watts Bar, it
3 will authorize the director of the Office of Nuclear
4 Reactor Regulation to issue the operating license.

5 With that brief summary of what takes
6 place overall, I'd like to now to turn it over to
7 Dennis Beissel, who will go into the environmental
8 review, which is the true function of today's meeting.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. BEISSEL: Thank you.

11 My name is Dennis Beissel; I'm a
12 hydrologist and project manager with NRC, the
13 environmental branch at headquarters.

14 The evaluation that we do for the
15 operating license application is governed by NEPA, and
16 NEPA requires that all federal agencies follow a
17 systematic approach in evaluating potential
18 environmental impacts associated with certain actions.

19 We at the NRC consider the environmental impacts of
20 the proposed action, which in this case is issuing or
21 not issuing an operating license.

22 The process is specifically structured to
23 involve public participation and obtain public
24 comment, and this meeting is part of that public
25 participation activity.

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1 We're going to prepare an Environmental
2 Impact Statement which will actually be a supplement
3 to the existing ones. During this review we will look
4 for and evaluate any new and significant information
5 that might call into question the conclusions that
6 were previously reached, and we will search for new
7 issues not necessarily addressed in the original FES
8 from 20 years ago. We'll consider, analyze, and
9 evaluate all the environmental impacts of issuing the
10 operating license.

11 The purpose of the EIS -- as you can see
12 in these bullets, the primary thing here I want to
13 emphasize is that we provide full and fair discussion
14 and disclosure of the impacts and environmental
15 matters, and we'll focus on significant issues and
16 alternatives.

17 During our evaluation the staff will
18 evaluate the impact to resources such as aquatic and
19 terrestrial ecology, which is fish and wildlife;
20 groundwater and surface water hydrology, which will be
21 water resources; cultural resources, human health and
22 land use.

23 As far as information gathering, we will
24 use information that was in the environmental report
25 that was submitted by TVA as part of their license

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1 application. This week we're conducting an onsite
2 environmental audit, where we tour the facility; we
3 observe plant systems and evaluate the interaction of
4 plant operations with the environment.

5 We talk to plant personnel and review
6 specific documentation of plant operations. We will
7 speak to -- and have done so -- and consult with
8 federal, state, and local officials, permitting
9 authorities, and social services. We also, obviously,
10 will consider the comments received during the public
11 scoping period from these meetings and from now until
12 October 30, as you'll see later, in writing.

13 And all of this information together will
14 form the basis of our conclusions that will be
15 presented in a Draft Supplemental EIS.

16 Just a little bit of summary of the
17 background: The original Final Environmental Statement
18 that NRC produced was in 1978, and the current review
19 will be an update to that. There have been I think
20 one or two other updates in the interim for different
21 activities, but this one's for the operating license.

22 The regulatory requirements are found in
23 10 CFR Part 51. And the guidance we use for our staff
24 and contractors to conduct our review is in the
25 environmental standard review plan, which is NUREG-

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1 1555. It describes in pretty detailed guidance what
2 we are supposed to look at, but it's nonprescriptive;
3 it is just a guidance document, but a very important
4 one.

5 The environmental review process -- the
6 first two bullets show that we're in the scoping
7 process with the public meeting and our own scoping
8 activities. We'll perform a review and evaluation of
9 the information we gather. From that we'll produce a
10 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and then we'll
11 have another series of public meetings, two of them,
12 probably, where we will seek comments on the Draft
13 Environmental Impact Statement.

14 Then we'll go through the same
15 consultation procedures, and then when all is said and
16 done and all the comments and everything has been
17 taken care of, we'll publish the Final Environmental
18 Statement.

19 As far as the comments that are due in
20 this case for scoping, we need to have them by October
21 30, and that's by mail. Of course, the email you can
22 see here, and I think there are copies in the back, so
23 I won't try to read this off. Also I think you can
24 comment by telephone, too, if you call any of us at
25 our office, and then obviously today you can give

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1 written comments or speak and we'll transcribe them.

2 And that's the general summary of what we
3 intend to do. So I'll turn it back to Chip.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Dennis.

5 Thank you, Patrick.

6 And we always say that if you don't want
7 to mail your comments in or submit them by email, that
8 you can actually physically come to the NRC building,
9 but the important thing is they have to be on the
10 record; that's why we're taking a transcript.

11 So if you call in -- and Dennis and
12 Patrick will always be glad to talk to you, or respond
13 to emails, but if you call in, it probably be won't be
14 on the record, so we couldn't make an official
15 comment, but feel free to visit.

16 Okay. Thanks, Dennis.

17 Are there questions about the process at
18 this point?

19 Yes, Ann. And could you just introduce
20 yourself to us, please.

21 MS. HARRIS: Yes. My name's Ann Harris,
22 and I want to know at what point will the ACRS visit
23 here at the site and hold a local public meeting?

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's -- Patrick?

25 MR. MILANO: Well, the ACRS, as part of

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1 its normal yearly functions, visited Watts Bar Unit 2
2 this past July, and that was noticed in the Federal
3 Register by the ACRS itself, and there was a public
4 meeting that took place coincident with their visit.

5 In part I think -- not to put words in
6 your mouth, but there is a -- there will be a major
7 meeting that's held -- if the staff should find, from
8 its safety and environmental and other reviews, that
9 the plant -- that they recommend that the plant should
10 be given an operating license, near the time that that
11 would take place, there will be a major meeting that
12 occurs in the vicinity that will be led by the
13 director of the Office Nuclear Reactor Regulation and
14 the regional administrator from Region 2, along with
15 other senior members of their staffs.

16 And that meeting will take place near the
17 station; you know, I can't say exactly, you know,
18 when; probably within a couple months of the -- of a
19 recommendation going to the Commission. It's a final
20 step in trying to determine if everything has been
21 accomplished that needs to be accomplished in the
22 review.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Patrick.

24 Does that -- does the NRC or the ACRS ever
25 hold a public meeting discussion on the SER in the

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1 vicinity of the site, or is that usually in Rockville?

2 MR. MILANO: In Rockville.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. So it's usually
4 there.

5 MS. HARRIS: They don't want anybody
6 there. I mean, this is quite obvious that the
7 public -- this is another way to shut out the public,
8 and it's a constant thing that we have going here. I
9 mean, you're talking about computer usage. Does
10 anybody see any big overwhelming public libraries over
11 there in Spring City that people can go and pull up
12 on -- the Federal Register? I mean, I get notices
13 because I have hounded you people for years to stay on
14 the mailing list, but not everybody knows to do that,
15 or people suddenly find out things, and things --

16 And this visit by the ACRS in the Federal
17 Register -- do you all not all work together? Is this
18 another group of people that's got their own little
19 fiefdoms hanging around through the agency?

20 MR. CAMERON: Ann, we'll consider that as
21 a comment on the process in terms of availability of
22 documents, something for the staff to consider in
23 terms of people who registered for this meeting,
24 whether there's a way to notify them of any future
25 meetings that are going on, because as Ann points out,

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1 not everybody's going to read the Federal Register
2 notice.

3 Any other questions before we go to
4 comment?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's start with some
7 people that we didn't hear from this afternoon, and
8 we're going to go to Stewart Smith and then Sandy
9 Kurtz, and then we'll go to Mayor Jones.

10 Stewart, can you come up -- if you could
11 come up to the podium and address us, that would be
12 great.

13 MR. SMITH: Thank you for this opportunity
14 to address this important issue for our community.
15 First of all, let me say that I'm a resident of McMinn
16 County, and a property owner and part-time resident of
17 Meigs County. My property is within five miles of the
18 plant in Meigs County.

19 As a member of this community or a member
20 of the community that this plant serves, I would just
21 like to speak out favorably for licensing of this
22 plant. Our community is suffering economically, and
23 it's important for future economic development and the
24 future health of our community that we have
25 reliable -- cheap, reliable power so that we can

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1 continue to bring industry in to this community.
2 That's one point.

3 The second point is I think that
4 internationally scientists have, for my mind, proven
5 that carbon emissions do have an effect on the
6 environment, and I think that nuclear energy should
7 play an important role in providing the energy that
8 this country and this world needs, particularly this
9 country: clean energy that does not contribute to
10 global warming.

11 And third I'd just like to say that the
12 history of the Tennessee Valley Authority in operating
13 nuclear plants has been very successful. I know that
14 we have in this country had an incident that was
15 certainly a serious incident.

16 I'm getting on up there, a middle-age guy,
17 and I can barely remember when that happened, and with
18 the technology and as far as technology has come, I
19 feel like this -- that we need to follow up with
20 nuclear energy.

21 And I would also like to add that I would
22 like to see more development in recycling of our
23 nuclear waste so that we can use that to the best of
24 its ability. And with that, I will thank you for this
25 opportunity to speak.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much,
2 Stewart.

3 This is Sandy Kurtz.

4 MS. KURTZ: Hi, everyone. Thank you for
5 this opportunity; I'm glad to be here to talk about
6 the environmental issues in the scoping process.

7 I live in Chattanooga; I'm within the 50-
8 mile radius of Watts Bar 2 -- 1 and 2, as well as
9 Sequoyah and Bellefonte. I am a member of the Blue
10 Ridge Environmental Defense League. Our table over
11 here, the Bellefonte Efficiency and Sustainability
12 Team, has -- is now expanded to address the Watts Bar
13 issues as well.

14 And I am an environmental education
15 consultant, and I was here earlier today, and I have
16 been listening and doing some background work before I
17 came here, reading up, and so I have compiled a list
18 of reasons, that I have just put together, as to why
19 there should not be a second Watts Bar reactor.

20 Here's my list: There are safe and
21 renewable alternatives to nuclear power and
22 opportunities for green jobs for this community that
23 are suitable for this new century.

24 Money being spent for nuclear power could
25 be diverted to providing energy through efficiency,

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1 conservation, and alternative energies. There are
2 jobs in all of those places. This would be more
3 economically beneficial in a shorter amount of time,
4 long before a nuclear plant becomes operational.

5 Second, demand for electricity is down.
6 Third, this reactor plan relies on an outdated ice-
7 condenser plan that brings with it far more risk than
8 is necessary. Four -- and these are the more --
9 especially the environmental pieces around water: The
10 Tennessee River is stressed already -- the quality of
11 the river. It has fish that are not safe to eat.
12 There is the impact of the Kingston toxic fly ash
13 spill which must be taken into consideration when
14 assessing water quality, because we all live
15 downstream.

16 There is also -- there is radiation
17 already in the river sediment, and another nuclear
18 reactor will only add more. Nuclear plants put
19 radionuclides in the water that no one tests for.

20 Operating Watts Bar 1 nuclear plant
21 requires 188.2 million gallons per day of water drawn
22 from the river. Each day, of that amount, 14.3
23 million gallons is evaporated into the air, not
24 returned to the river.

25 Yet another reactor, a second reactor

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1 here, drawing out so much water causes me to ask how
2 much can we draw out of the river on any given day in
3 the same reservoir.

4 The temperature of the water returned is
5 hotter, not good for aquatic life, and in droughts it
6 can't be cooled enough and so has to be shut down,
7 just as has happened summer before last, I think it
8 was. That's not reliable power if you have to shut
9 down the nuclear plants because of droughts and hot
10 weather, an issue associated perhaps with climate
11 change.

12 Nuclear plants do have radioactive leaks
13 into the water, which they say is insignificant, but
14 since radiation is cumulative, how much is too much
15 for humans and other life to absorb without health
16 impacts?

17 Fifth, there is the storage of radioactive
18 waste and the legacy it leaves for the future; there
19 is no solution now, and we hear people say, We're
20 going to figure it out. They've been working on it
21 for a long time, and so far we actually seem to be
22 going backwards.

23 Yucca Mountain is closed and, in fact, if
24 it were open, it would be immediately filled up, as I
25 have heard, because we've already stored enough to

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1 fill it up. Where does our radioactive waste go?

2 This is a legacy for the future that I am
3 sure my grandchildren and their children are not
4 interested in having. Of course, we all care about
5 our health, that of our children, and the future
6 generations.

7 I read of a study completed in Germany.
8 Since 1991 in fact they have done several studies in
9 Europe regarding the health of children who live
10 within ten miles of nuclear facilities, primarily in
11 England and Wales.

12 And what they found out was that there was
13 a statistically significant increased incident rate --
14 I want to say that right, because these are studies --
15 significant increased incident rate for leukemias
16 among children within the five-kilometer zones around
17 the sites. That is, the closer -- and it seemed that
18 the closer you got to the plant, the more -- the
19 higher the incidence.

20 This is of great concern and I think should be looked
21 into before we add another reactor.

22 Most nuclear accidents happen due to human
23 error. In the light of the Kingston fly ash spill, do
24 you believe that TVA can avoid human error? And do
25 you believe that TVA is choosing to use this old

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1 nuclear reactor design because it's the best
2 technology available or because it's cheaper?

3 Given all those concerns and the fact that
4 things have certainly changed since 1978, when the
5 first Environmental Impact Statement was done and
6 those supplements in 1995, I think NRC should
7 recommend to TVA that they start all over with a new,
8 from ground zero, Environmental Impact Statement.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Sandy.

11 We're going to go to Mayor Ken Jones of
12 Meigs County at this point.

13 Mayor.

14 MR. JONES: First let me say that I thank
15 you. All of the NRC people that are here, we thank
16 you; we appreciate the opportunity that you give us to
17 come here and make statements about actions that we
18 expect you to take in the future.

19 Let me give you just a very brief
20 background. First, I am the county mayor of Meigs
21 County, which is a 100-percent impacted county for
22 Watts Bar Nuclear Facility. I personally live within
23 the ten-mile radius of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. No
24 one has ever told me, up to this point, that I glow in
25 the dark.

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1 I know that the lady before me made
2 mention of a high incidence of leukemia within a close
3 proximity of the plant. I'm somehow unaware of that.

4 We have children in Meigs County -- I have a son that
5 grew up in Meigs County, went to high school in Meigs
6 County, and I've never heard of a high incidence of
7 leukemia; that's -- but I will investigate that to see
8 if there are.

9 And certainly I'm sure that you people
10 from NRC have been bombarded with environmental
11 issues. I'm here to speak to you about some issues
12 that I deal with every day.

13 Those are the fact that southeast
14 Tennessee probably is one of the fastest growing areas
15 from a standpoint of population in this state. In the
16 last five or six years, we have seen a tremendous
17 spurt of growth. And certainly when we experience
18 those things, then we're going to see a higher demand
19 for energy.

20 I don't believe that we can rely on the
21 coal-fired steam plants of yesterday. We have seen,
22 and it has been spoken about here, the fly ash spill
23 in Kingston, which has absolutely nothing to do with
24 nuclear energy.

25 But I can say this: that I have lived

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1 with it for 35 years. I believe that TVA has proven
2 to us that they can operate a nuclear plant in a safe,
3 environmentally friendly manner.

4 And my recommendation to you folks from
5 NRC is that you give serious consideration to issuing
6 license for Watts Bar Unit 2.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mayor.

9 And just to alleviate any immediate
10 concern, I think the previous speaker was talking
11 about higher leukemia rates in a German study, around
12 German power plants.

13 MS. KURTZ: England and Wales.

14 MR. CAMERON: England, Wales, and Germany,
15 but not here around the TVA plant.

16 Let's go to Lou Zeller, Ann Harris, and
17 Bill Reynolds and --

18 Did he have to go? Okay. Well, then
19 let's go to Ann, and then we'll go to Bill Reynolds.
20 This is Ann Harris.

21 MS. HARRIS: My name is Ann Harris, and
22 I'm a former employee of TVA and its nuclear
23 construction program.

24 I'm not going to call out names, personal
25 names, because that makes some people really nervous,

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1 and I'm going to submit this seven-page letter which
2 was sent to the Commission last week; specifically
3 it's dated on September 21.

4 And in this letter it talks about this
5 woman who worked at corporate security for TVA. She
6 was drummed out because she asked too many questions,
7 and she wanted to go by the rules.

8 And the bottom line is that after a two-
9 year period, the young lady and TVA came to a mutually
10 agreeable settlement, and then the NRC's Region 2 -- I
11 don't know who they are; we keep getting all these
12 different names of who they are, what they represent
13 and what their agenda is.

14 The bottom line is the NRC is going after
15 this woman because they said that she was unauthorized
16 to use documents when she was protesting her
17 termination as retaliation against the issues that she
18 had raised.

19 TVA agreed, and they redacted the
20 documents. Nobody was identified outside; no
21 documents were taken off the jobsite. The bottom line
22 is that the NRC's Office of Investigation, they're
23 still pursuing this woman for criminal charges under
24 federal -- they say federal laws; they can't tell us
25 what they're looking for.

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1 I suspect that it's more of a fishing
2 expedition than it is anything because somebody needs
3 to keep a job, or they're doing something that they
4 don't know what they're doing, or they're just totally
5 incompetent and needed someplace to hide themselves.

6 We went to the NRC's Office of Inspector
7 General to try to stop it, and they told us that as
8 long as there was an allegation against this woman by
9 somebody at TVA, that they would pursue the issue, and
10 they would not do any kind of investigation.

11 Then, whenever we questioned that, TVA's
12 Inspector General, they just didn't do anything. Of
13 course, that's not unusual; that's their record of
14 decision-making. And now we've been forced to file
15 legal documents with the Commission over this issue.

16 There's other security guards at TVA that
17 none of them knew anything about each other until they
18 came to me; one from Browns Ferry, two from Sequoyah,
19 one from Watts Bar, and then this woman out of
20 corporate.

21 This is the beginning of the same pattern
22 that TVA went through back in the late '80s and the
23 '90s, and I don't see why that we have to go over that
24 same road and travel that same absolute harassing,
25 demeaning, humiliating practice again, because the

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1 only people that come out on top of this is the media,
2 and the only way that we can get anything done is
3 through the media.

4 NRC doesn't want to listen; TVA won't
5 listen; the Inspector General won't listen, and the
6 only people that we've got to go to is to the media
7 and the Congress, and we're there.

8 We're not going to back down off of this,
9 because the persecution of this -- she's a little, ol'
10 grandmother; she's a clerk. She had a 18-year career
11 in personnel, and nobody ever -- she never made a
12 mistake. She had wonderful -- but the bottom line is
13 that there's two women involved that come through the
14 revolving door from the NRC, and they both lost their
15 jobs and were removed from TVA, but then they went
16 back to work for the NRC in in-house security.

17 Now, what does that say about you, NRC? I
18 can't trust you to do what you need to do, because
19 you've still got the mentality that the workers don't
20 know what we're doing, because management is always
21 right.

22 And what you found out after -- what was
23 it? -- from 1984 to 1996 -- how many years is that? --
24 12 years? You couldn't get it right, and TVA couldn't
25 get it right, because everybody was talking about

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1 somebody; they wasn't talking to anybody, and
2 nobody -- neither one of you were listening, and then
3 the NRC -- I don't know what it's going to take.

4 This gentleman back here from Meigs
5 County, I was born and raised in Meigs County, but I
6 won't live there anymore. There's more to radiation
7 exposure than cancer, and there's a lot of it.

8 We've paid billions of dollars out through
9 DOE at these nuclear facilities to people that are
10 really dying. We have two in our family that's
11 already died from cancer that worked in Oak Ridge.
12 One of them did not die from -- a third one did not
13 die from cancer; he died from Parkinson's disease, and
14 that was a miserable time to watch.

15 But the other thing is if I can't trust
16 you to keep the security at these nuclear facilities
17 and it's not even up and running, why should I trust
18 you to do right whenever it's up and running? I don't
19 know what you call that.

20 You can't call it bad management, because
21 you've had too many opportunities. The NRC -- when
22 you go to the website, look up the word "tritium," and
23 you go down through there, and you go and see what all
24 the things are.

25 There's a statement there -- it's very

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1 short; I think it's got -- I'll count them in a
2 minute -- like a dozen words in the statement. The
3 NRC does not believe that there's any safe level of
4 exposure to radiation. That's not my words; that's
5 yours.

6 And you're not talking about -- you're
7 talking about continued and elevated exposure, not
8 only to the workers, which they're expendable; we all
9 know that, but you're talking about communities that
10 have no self-protection.

11 Talking about a community, I don't see you
12 taking this up to Farragut and putting the nuclear
13 plant in the middle of Farragut, where the houses all
14 cost like \$750,000 or 2 or 3 million.

15 Somehow somebody's got to start stopping
16 and looking, because you haven't dealt with the waste.

17 You haven't dealt with the radiation exposure, and
18 you certainly have not dealt with the mismanagement.

19 And you're not going by your own rules;
20 TVA's not going by the rules, and everybody's got
21 their own story to tell, but none of them matching up.

22 Sometime or other everybody needs to sit down in a
23 room and look around and mark up what you're doing.

24 I appreciate your time.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And I just want to

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1 make it clear to everybody that that letter that was
2 mentioned is a letter that is in the public domain.

3 Bill Reynolds.

4 MR. REYNOLDS: Bill Reynolds, also known
5 as William Reynolds; Chattanooga resident, downriver
6 from here.

7 I've heard a lot of talk by people who
8 have dedicated their lives to involvement -- I'm not
9 talking about just today. For years I've heard a lot
10 of talk by people who have dedicated their lives to
11 involvement in the nuclear power industry who say,
12 flat out, renewable energy sources around the
13 Tennessee River Valley cannot possibly meet the future
14 energy needs of the valley. Heard it over and over
15 and over again.

16 It's easy to say, but there are quite a
17 few highly qualified experts who started from a
18 neutral and objective point of view about nuclear
19 energy and went through to the completion of entirely
20 comprehensive studies and assessments and found the
21 opposite to that claim to be true.

22 The folks who have done these studies are
23 high experts in the fields of energy production
24 technologies and the economics of operating these
25 technologies. They know what they're talking about,

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1 and their studies have been thorough.

2 The Institute of Energy and Environmental
3 Research is a primary and star example, and this book
4 that they've produced contains excellent documentation
5 of the massive data and analysis that supports the
6 view that alternative sources to both coal-burning and
7 nuclear power can meet out future energy needs.

8 The scope of NRC's Environmental Impact
9 Statement for Watts Bar 2 should therefore include
10 full attention to and genuine consideration of what's
11 in this report, and don't expect it to be an easy
12 read; it's highly technical and deep; but also in
13 addition to this report, the other comprehensive
14 studies that have been done.

15 In particular, in looking at these other
16 studies that started out objective and neutral about
17 nuclear energy, they should look at -- in the EIS
18 process, they ought to look first at the real-world
19 potential for renewals and implementation of more
20 efficient end-use energy practices and conservation to
21 displace the need for a Watts Bar 2. That would be
22 component of a responsible and honest Environmental
23 Impact Statement about the proposed licensing Watts
24 Bar 2.

25 Secondly, in particular this EIS should

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1 fully assess the comparative financial cost of Watts
2 Bar 2 -- capital cost and operating cost over the life
3 of the plant -- in contract to those same costs from
4 meeting future energy needs while protecting
5 environmental health and climate stability through
6 applications of renewable resources and proved
7 efficiencies in end-use energy use and conservation.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, William.

10 That's our last speaker for this evening,
11 unless anybody else wants to make a comment who hasn't
12 signed up.

13 (No response.)

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. With that I would
15 thank you all, and the NRC will be here after the
16 meeting to talk with you, and we're adjourned.

17 (Whereupon, at 7:25 p.m., the public
18 hearing was concluded.)

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