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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING

+ + + + +

1:30 P.M. SESSION

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010

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NRC PERSONNEL:

LANCE J. RAKOVAN, Presiding

RONALD B. COHEN

PAULA E. COOPER

DANIEL I. DOYLE

EVELYN H. GETTYS

A. LOUISE LUND

JEFFREY J. RIKHOFF

PRESENT FOR WASHINGTON STATE REPRESENTATIVE DOC

HASTINGS:

BARB LISK, District Director

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

1:30 p.m.

1
2
3
4 MR. RAKOVAN: Good afternoon everyone. My
5 name is Lance Rakovan. I am a communications
6 specialist at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7 or NRC as you'll hear it referred to quite a bit this
8 afternoon. Today I'm here to help facilitate the
9 meeting and just make sure things go smoothly.

10 The purpose of our meeting today is to
11 discuss the license renewal and environmental scoping
12 process for review of the license renewal application
13 for renewal of the operating license for the Columbia
14 Generating Station. And of course to provide members
15 of the public an opportunity to provide comments
16 regarding the environmental scoping issues that should
17 be taken into account.

18 The term you'll probably hear a lot today,
19 "scoping," it simply means determining, in this case,
20 what we should take into the scope of the
21 environmental review for relicensing of Columbia
22 Station. And of course we'll be talking about that a
23 lot more once we move into the presentations we have
24 today.

25 Just to give you an idea of what to expect

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1 today, we're going to start out with some short
2 opening presentations by a couple NRC staff,
3 information that we think is important for you to have
4 a general understanding of. Then we're going to allow
5 some clarifying questions on the presentations. And
6 then effectively opening the meeting up to you so you
7 can give us your environmental scoping comments.

8 Now we asked if you knew that you wanted
9 to speak, to fill out one of these yellow cards when
10 you came in. Obviously if you did not fill out a
11 card, that's fine. You certainly will have more than
12 enough opportunities to either come up and have a turn
13 at the microphone to give a comment or to ask a
14 question. The reason that we wanted you to fill out
15 the yellow card is: (1) That gives us an idea of how
16 many people we know are going to want to make a
17 statement. But also it makes sure that we have your
18 name correctly spelled in terms of our transcript
19 today.

20 And we are transcribing today's meeting.
21 That's one of the reasons that I'm standing here using
22 a microphone even though I'm certainly loud enough
23 that you could all hear me in such a small room. So
24 we want to make sure that if you do make a comment or
25 ask a question, we have your name properly documented

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1 on a transcript.

2 We also want to make sure that if you are
3 going to say something, that you are using a
4 microphone to make sure that we can pick you up. This
5 also helps make sure that we keep one main
6 conversation focused and going at the same time.

7 So a couple things you can do to help us
8 make sure that we get a clean transcript.

9 (1) Is to make sure that we don't have a
10 lot of side conversations;

11 The other is that if you have any
12 electronic devices with you, that you put those on
13 vibrate, turn them off, or whatever you need to do at
14 this point so that they don't go off during the
15 meeting and kind of disrupt things.

16 I just wanted to make sure that we are
17 clear that this is an NRC public meeting and that the
18 NRC is not part of the Department of Energy or DOE.

19 The mission of the NRC is to regulate the
20 nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and
21 special nuclear materials to ensure adequate
22 protection of public health and safety, to promote the
23 common defense and security and to protect the
24 environment.

25 The Department of Energy's overarching

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1 mission is to advance the national economic and energy
2 security of the United States, to promote scientific
3 and technological innovation in support of that
4 mission and to ensure the environmental cleanup of the
5 National Nuclear Weapons Complex.

6 Similar missions in some ways, very
7 different in others. But just wanted to make sure
8 that you're all clear, the NRC is not part of the
9 Department of Energy.

10 We did have a number of materials on the
11 table outside. Copies of the presentation, if you
12 didn't get a copy just raise your hand once I'm done
13 with my opening comments and I'll be glad to go grab
14 one for you.

15 We also had the agenda for today and a
16 public meeting feedback form. If you could take a
17 moment to fill that out and either leave it here today
18 or drop it in the mail, postage is free. It's a way
19 that you can let us know how you thought the meeting
20 went today. If you thought something went
21 particularly well, if there's some suggestions you
22 have on how we could do these better in the future.
23 And this really does give us a chance to get an
24 understanding of how things went today and improve
25 upon our future meetings. So we'd really appreciate

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1 it if you could take a moment to fill that out.

2 In terms of any questions you might have
3 today, we will do our best to answer those questions
4 especially if they're about the license renewal or
5 environmental scoping process. If you ask questions
6 outside of that, we may try to take a shot at giving
7 you a good answer for that but we do have a limited
8 number of NRC staff here. So if we don't have the
9 right person to address your question, we'll get your
10 information and try to get you the information soon.
11 So I just wanted to let you know about that.

12 If you didn't know that the restrooms are
13 out, take a right as if you're entering the library
14 and then they'll be on your right, just in case you
15 need those.

16 And personally I think it's pretty cool
17 that we're having our meeting right down from a
18 library that has a little coffee stand there. So
19 obviously if you need some refreshment, that's very
20 convenient there.

21 I wanted to take a moment to introduce
22 just a few of the NRC staff that are here in
23 attendance today.

24 Evelyn Gettys is the Safety Project
25 Manager for this review and she'll be speaking in a

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1 moment.

2 As well, Dan Doyle who is the
3 Environmental Project Manager.

4 Definitely wanted to point out Ron Cohen,
5 who is our Senior Resident Inspector at the Columbia
6 Plant. He is one of two NRC staff that are local,
7 live in the area, and report to the plant everyday to
8 keep an eye on things. So very important when it
9 comes to Columbia.

10 With that, I think I will hand things over
11 to Evelyn. If you could please hold your questions
12 until both Dan and Evelyn have had a chance to speak.

13 And then again we'll open it up for questions once
14 we're done.

15 Louise, do you want to approach?

16 Okay. If you could introduce yourself
17 first?

18 MS. LUND: I'm Louise Lund. I'm the
19 Deputy Division Director for the Division of License
20 Renewal at Headquarters. And I want to add my welcome
21 to the group here today and thank you for coming out.

22 And it's great to be back in the Northwest. I
23 actually used to live in Richland.

24 So in addition to this, I've been asked
25 also -- we have a representative, Barb Lisk, from Doc

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1 Hastings Office, member of Congress, they're in the
2 back as well. So I wanted to mention that as well so.

3 And also I also wanted to mention some of
4 the other staff that we have, Paula Cooper, here who's
5 going to be running the equipment.

6 And also you may have met Jeff coming in.

7 Do you want to wave Jeff?

8 Okay. Who is one our senior environmental
9 staff so if you have any environmental questions, he's
10 the right person to talk to as well.

11 So, thank you.

12 MS. GETTYS: Good afternoon. My name is
13 Evelyn Gettys. I am the Safety Project Manager for
14 the Division of License Renewal. And I'm coordinating
15 the safety review with the Columbia Generating
16 Station.

17 PARTICIPANT: Can't hear you.

18 MS. GETTYS: Okay. I was wondering.

19 Is this better?

20 Okay.

21 Thank you all for taking the time to come
22 out today. We want to provide an overview of the
23 license renewal process which includes a safety review
24 and environmental review that we will discuss with you
25 the numerous ways and opportunities the public can

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1 participate in the Columbia license renewal process
2 through either the safety or environmental component,
3 or both.

4 We also will describe in more detail the
5 environmental review process associated with license
6 renewal. But the most important part of today's
7 meeting is to receive any comments that you might have
8 on the scoping environmental review.

9 I hope that the information we will
10 provide will help you understand the license renewal
11 process and the roles that you can play within helping
12 us to ensure that our environmental review concerns
13 relevant information.

14 Next please.

15 Before I get into the discussion of the
16 license renewal process, I'd like to take a minute to
17 talk about the NRC in terms of what we do and what our
18 mission is. The NRC is a federal agency And was
19 established under the Energy Reorganization Act of
20 1974, that regulates the civilian use of nuclear
21 material.

22 The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, authorized
23 the NRC to grant 40 years operating for nuclear power
24 reactors. This 40 year term was based primarily on
25 economic considerations and antitrust factors and not

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1 on safety or technical information.

2 The NRC regulates, governs nuclear safety,
3 security and environmental protection and are
4 contained in Title 10 of the Code of Federal
5 Regulation, which is commonly referred to as 10 CFR.

6 In exercising the regulatory authority,
7 the NRC's mission is three-fold: To ensure adequate
8 protection of public health and safety; to promote
9 common defense of security, and; to protect the
10 environment.

11 NRC accomplishes its mission through a
12 combination of the regulatory programs and processes
13 and has established rules and regulations: Conducting
14 inspections; issuing enforcement action; assessing
15 license performances, and; evaluating operating
16 experience from nuclear plants across the country and
17 internationally.

18 The NRC has resident inspectors at all
19 nuclear power plants. Those inspectors are considered
20 the eyes and ears of the NRC. They carry out our
21 safety mission on a daily basis and are on the front
22 lines of ensuring acceptable safety performances in
23 compliance with regulatory requirements.

24 Next.

25 I would like to mention a few very

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1 important areas in the NRC oversight that routinely
2 come up during the interactions with members of the
3 public. The NRC staff addresses these areas of
4 components everyday as part of the ongoing regulatory
5 oversight provided for all current operating power
6 reactors. They include current safety performances,
7 emergency planning and security. For information on
8 the current performance of Columbia, use the link
9 provided on the slide, this is also in your handout.

10 The NRC monitors and provides regulatory
11 oversight of activities in these areas on an ongoing
12 basis under the current operating license. That's not
13 to say that they are not important, we just don't
14 duplicate the regulatory process in the areas of
15 license renewal.

16 Next.

17 NRC received an application for Columbia
18 on January the 20th, 2010. The current operating
19 license of Columbia expires in 2023. A licensee can
20 submit an application for license renewal after 20
21 years of operation. The length of a license cannot
22 exceed 40 years.

23 The first step of the license renewal
24 process is our performance of acceptance in
25 sufficiency on the application. When the NRC receives

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1 a license renewal application, the NRC staff examines
2 it to determine whether the applicant contained
3 sufficient information to justify the staff's review.

4 The staff looks to see whether the application has
5 provided enough information in terms of technical
6 information, technical specifications and the
7 environmental report.

8 If the application has enough in it to
9 warrant the staff's review, then the application is
10 considered acceptable and sufficient and is put on the
11 NRC's formal docket. The Columbia application was
12 found to be acceptable and placed on the docket on May
13 11th of this year.

14 Next.

15 This is a simplified diagram of the
16 license review process. The license review involves
17 two parallel reviews: The safety review and the
18 environmental review. These two reviews evaluate
19 separate aspects of the license renewal application.
20 There are other considerations in the Commission's
21 decision of whether or not to renew a operating
22 license. One of these considerations is an
23 independent review performed by the Advisory Committee
24 on Safety Reactor Safeguards.

25 Statutorily mandated dated by the Atomic

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1 Energy Act of 1954, the ACRS is a group of scientists
2 and nuclear safety experts who serve as a consulting
3 body to the Commission. The ACRS reviews the license
4 renewal application, the NRC staff safety evaluation
5 and inspection report. The ACRS reports their
6 findings and recommendations directly to the
7 Commission.

8 Hearings may also be conducted if
9 interested stakeholders submit concerns or contentions
10 and their request for a hearing is granted. The
11 Atomic Safety and License Board, which is an
12 adjudicative panel, will conduct the hearing. The
13 Commission considers the outcome of the hearing
14 process and its decision of whether or not to issue a
15 renewed operating license.

16 As part of the environmental review the
17 staff consults with the local, state, federal, and
18 other officials. The staff holds public meetings to
19 receive comments on the draft Environmental Impact
20 Statement.

21 Next.

22 The license renewal process is designed to
23 take 22 months and that leaves 30 if there's a
24 hearing. Next.

25 To better understand a license renewal

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1 process it is good to know the safety principles that
2 guide license renewal.

3 The first principle is the current
4 regulatory process is adequate to ensure that the
5 license basis of all operating plants provide and
6 maintain an acceptable level of safety.

7 The second principle is that the current
8 plant licensing basis must be maintained during the
9 renewal term in the same manner and to the same extent
10 as during the original license. In other words the
11 same rules that apply under the current license will
12 apply in the new term.

13 Next.

14 The safety review focus on the aging of
15 passive and long lived structures and components in
16 the system that NRC deems important to safety. They
17 are:

18 Safety-related system structures and
19 components;

20 The nonsafety-related systems structures
21 and components that would effect safety;

22 System structures and components relied on
23 safety analysis to perform a function that
24 demonstrates compliance with the regulation, so fire
25 protection and environmental quality, pressurized

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1 thermal shock, anticipated transit without scrams and
2 station blackout.

3 The staff's main objective in this review
4 is to determine if in fact the aging will be
5 adequately managed by the applicant.

6 Next.

7 The safety review comprises numerous
8 vigorous aspects. The technical staff reviews the
9 applicant's license renewal application and supporting
10 documents. The staff uses the spike audit to verify
11 the technical basis of the license renewal application
12 and to confirm that the applicant's aging management
13 programs and actives conform with how they are
14 described in the application. The staff documents the
15 basis and conclusions of the review in a safety
16 evaluation, or an SER.

17 In addition to the team of specialized
18 inspectors traveling to the reactor site to verify
19 that the aging management programs are being
20 implemented, modified or planned consistent with the
21 license renewal application.

22 Next.

23 The public will have several opportunities
24 to participate and be heard during the license renewal
25 process. This slide lists the three opportunities for

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1 involvement through the safety track and the process,
2 and the fourth is this meeting today.

3 I would like to introduce Dan Doyle, the
4 Environmental PM.

5 MR. DOYLE: Thanks Evelyn.

6 My name is Dan Doyle. I'm the
7 Environmental Project Manager for the review of this
8 project. I'm going to take a few minutes to describe
9 the environmental review process and how the scoping
10 meeting today fits into the review.

11 The review is performed in accordance with
12 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1959 or NEPA.

13 NEPA established basic national environmental
14 policies for the United States that require that
15 federal agencies prepare an Environmental Impact
16 Statement or EIS, to assess both the impact and
17 reasonable alternatives to any major federal action
18 that may significantly effect the quality of the human
19 environment. NEPA requires that all federal agencies
20 file an objective interdisciplinary and systematic
21 approach in preparing an EIS.

22 The Columbia EIS will contain strong
23 disclosure provisions which informs decision makers
24 and the public of the impact and the reasonable
25 alternatives to the proposal. This EIS will assess

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1 the impact of both license renewal and reasonable
2 alternatives to license renewal including the
3 alternative of taking no action which in this case
4 would be to deny license renewal.

5 The NRC has issued it's own agency
6 specific regulations for implementing NEPA, which are
7 contained in 10 CFR Part 51.

8 This slide shows the major milestones in
9 the environmental review process. The yellow boxes
10 represent opportunities for public participation.

11 The NRC issued a Public Notice of Intent
12 to prepare an EIS on March 11, 2010. This meeting
13 today is the second milestone, the public scoping
14 meeting to solicit comment.

15 Next the NRC staff will prepare a draft
16 Environmental Impact Statement, which will then be
17 issued for public comment including a meeting similar
18 to today's. We're expecting that to be issued in
19 December of this year and the public meeting would be
20 in January of next year. All comments received will
21 be consider in the preparation of a final document,
22 which will then be issued for public review. This
23 final document will be an important part of the
24 decision making process to whether or not to renew the
25 operating license for Columbia Generating Station.

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1 You all can play an important role in helping us to
2 ensure that the final environmental impact statement
3 is accurate and complete.

4 The purpose of today's meeting is to
5 solicit your input and comments regarding the scope of
6 impact alternatives and issues that the environmental
7 impact statement should evaluate. We are not here to
8 make a decision regarding Columbia's license renewal
9 application. The scoping process is specifically
10 intended to solicit comments regarding the scope of
11 the action, the impact, and the alternatives.

12 For a license renewal review, the NRC
13 environmental staff looks at a wide range of impacts.

14 Additionally, we consult with various federal, state,
15 and local officials as well as leaders Indian Nations.

16 We gather pertinent information from these sources
17 and ensure it's considered in our analysis.

18 For example, we consult with the U.S. Fish
19 and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection
20 Agency, and the State Historic Preservation Office,
21 among others.

22 This slide illustrates the NRC's various
23 considerations for deciding if a renewed operating
24 license will be issued. It is a rigorous review
25 involving a safety evaluation report that Evelyn

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1 discussed, regional inspections, and so on.

2 Also, as indicated on the slide, public
3 comments are an important part of the environmental
4 review process. We consider all of the comments that
5 we receive during the scoping process as part of
6 preparing the Environmental impact Statement. So that
7 is how today's meeting fits into the process.

8 In general we are looking for information
9 about the environmental impact from the continued
10 operation of Columbia. You can assist us in that
11 process by telling us for example:

12 What aspects of your local community we
13 should focus on;

14 What local environmental, social and
15 economic issues the NRC should examine during our
16 environmental review, and;

17 What reasonable alternatives are most
18 appropriate for this region.

19 These are just some examples of the input
20 we're looking for and they represent the kinds of
21 information we seek through the environmental scoping
22 process. We don't know your community like you do, so
23 your comments today provide insight and ensure a
24 thorough review.

25 So how do you submit comments? In

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1 addition to the opportunity to provide verbal and
2 written comments at the meeting today, there are
3 several other ways that you can submit comments for
4 our environmental review process.

5 You can provide written comments by mail
6 to the Chief of our Rulemaking and Directive Branch at
7 the address provided on the slide, which is also in
8 your handout.

9 You may also submit comments via the
10 federal rulemaking website, regulations.gov. And to
11 find the appropriate page you would go to that website
12 and search for the docket ID shown here or you could
13 also type in Columbia Generating Station and it would
14 be on the left.

15 You can also send comments to me directly
16 using my work email provided at the end of this
17 presentation. But the preferred method is via mail
18 for regulations.gov.

19 As I mentioned the deadline for comments
20 is May 14, 2010.

21 This slide shows an important milestone,
22 it's for the environmental review process. These are
23 the primary opportunities for you, the public, to
24 participate in the Columbia license renewal review.
25 The opportunity to submit comments for our hearing

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1 closes on May 14, 2010. For environmental scoping
2 comments, as I said, you have until May 14th, if you
3 chose not to comment today.

4 Please note that a draft Environmental
5 Impact Statement is scheduled to be issued for public
6 comment in December of 2010 with an associated public
7 meeting to receive your comments on this preliminary
8 document in January of 2011.

9 This here are the primary points of
10 contact with the NRC, Evelyn who just spoke and
11 myself, our phone numbers and email addresses.

12 The Richland Public Library where we are
13 today and the Kennewick branch of the Mid-Columbia
14 library have both agreed to make many license renewal
15 documents available for public review. The draft
16 Environmental Impact Statement, when it is published
17 for comment, will also be available at both of these
18 libraries.

19 These documents will also be available on
20 the NRC's public website at the address shown on the
21 bottom of the page and in your handout.

22 As you came in you were asked to fill out
23 a registration card at our reception table. If you
24 included your email address on that card, we will send
25 you an electronic copy of the draft and final EIS when

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1 they're issued.

2 This concludes my prepared remarks and I
3 will now turn the meeting back over to Lance Rakovan.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. What we'd like to do
6 now is go ahead and open it up to see if we have any
7 clarifying questions specifically on the material that
8 Dan and Evelyn covered before we go ahead and open
9 things up for the commenting part of the meeting.

10 So just quick, if you've got a question
11 just raise your hand and you can either come up to the
12 microphone here or I have a handheld that I can bring
13 you.

14 Any clarifying questions on the license
15 renewal or environmental scoping processes?

16 Okay. Seeing no hands and of course if
17 you have any questions after the meeting, we do have a
18 number of NRC staff that are going to be kind of
19 milling around. If you would prefer to have a one-on-
20 one conversation or if you have a conversation that's
21 kind of a little bit outside of the scope of what
22 we're talking about here, but still pertains to the
23 Columbia Station, we'd be more than happy to converse
24 about those topics after the meeting.

25 Yes. I've got a hand so if you'll hold on

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1 a second.

2 Okay. If you could introduce yourself
3 first?

4 MR. REVELL: I'm Ed Revell. Mayor Pro Tem
5 for the City of Richland.

6 And these are just more curiosity
7 questions. What was the design life of the Columbia
8 Generating Station and will you all be doing any
9 special materials testing so you can evaluate certain
10 kinds of equipment before you decide to go forward?

11 MR. RAKOVAN: Who wants to take care of
12 this, Louise?

13 MS. LUND: I can do that.

14 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay.

15 MS. LUND: As far as the 40 years, and we
16 get asked this a lot, that really was established
17 because of antitrust regulations. So it's not a
18 design life specific to 40 years. And there's
19 analyses that are done for the equipment. Okay. And
20 some of them are the analyses that were done for 40
21 years and have to be extended past the 40 year time
22 frame, they're called time limited aging analyses. So
23 that's what part of the work that we do is looking at
24 the analyses and the reviews that have been done.

25 In essence, on the safety side it's about

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1 making sure aging management programs that we feel are
2 sufficiently robust are put into place.

3 Do we have the GALL document back there,
4 does anybody know? Okay.

5 We have what we call a lessons learned
6 document through many years of looking at license
7 renewal applications and also doing a lot of research
8 and looking at a lot of the information that's
9 available about the performance of the components that
10 are in the plant. We have put together a document
11 that says for certain components and certain
12 environments we feel that these are good aging
13 management programs. If the plant chooses not to use
14 those programs, they have to show that the program
15 that they're going to put into place is comparable.
16 That's a lot of what we evaluate in the safety review.

17 Now the programs have components like how
18 often they have to inspect, what the acceptance
19 criteria is, you know, and a lot these programs are in
20 place even before the period of extended operation.
21 But as the plant gets older, as you can imagine, you
22 would want to inspect more. You know, there's a lot
23 of things that you put into place, much like you would
24 with your car as far as the aging management you would
25 do for your vehicle or for your house or for anything

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1 else. You now, the older it gets the more often you
2 look.

3 Now when a plant is planning to go into
4 license renewal a lot of times they replace a lot of
5 the components in the plant and there's certain ones
6 that get replaced on a regular basis anyway. So
7 anyway this is all the things that they take into
8 account when they're putting together their
9 application.

10 I hope that answers your question. And
11 did I get the second one, I couldn't remember what the
12 second one was?

13 MR. REVELL: Materials testing?

14 MS. LUND: Right.

15 MR. REVELL: But I think you kind of
16 covered it.

17 MS. LUND: Right. Right. It's basically
18 through the inspection and also we have a lot of
19 information that we do. We do confirmatory work
20 through our Office of Research too, and the sorts of
21 materials and environments that have all played into
22 the guidance documents that we have produced. This is
23 one of the areas where we have a lot of guidance out
24 there to the plants in what we consider acceptable.

25 MR. REVELL: Thank You.

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1 MR. RAKOVAN: Thanks Louise.

2 Any other questions on the environmental
3 scoping process or the license renewal process at this
4 time?

5 Okay. We've got a hand in the back.

6 If you could introduce yourself please?

7 MR. PECK: Brad Peck, Franklin County
8 Commissioner.

9 Will the EIS process take into
10 consideration the negative consequences for the
11 region's power supply if the plant is not relicensed?

12 MR. RAKOVAN: Jeff, can you take the front
13 mic if you would?

14 MR. RIKHOFF: My name is Jeff Rikhoff.

15 The need for power is not addressed in
16 license renewal. Our regulations prevent us from
17 addressing those issues. Primarily because these
18 decisions are made by state and local agencies as well
19 as the applicant licensee as to whether they want to
20 operate or not. Whether it's economically feasible to
21 operate or not.

22 I don't know if that answers your
23 question.

24 MR. PECK: I think it answers the question
25 that the basis of it was that the EIS process is to

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1 consider the environmental impacts on humans of the
2 proposed action. And I'm surprised to hear that the
3 no action alternative, which is required under NEPA,
4 would have a negative consequence for the region but
5 that wouldn't be considered. But you have answered
6 the question. Thank you.

7 MR. RIKHOFF: Well in alternative centered
8 no action we address not licensing or not extending
9 the license to the plant, but the issue of the impact
10 on the power base we don't address directly.

11 MR. DRICK: I think you're asking does the
12 EIS --

13 MR. RAKOVAN: Could you introduce
14 yourself, Victor?

15 MR. DRICK: I'm the Public Affairs Officer
16 for the NRC in Region IV.

17 I think you're asking does the EIS address
18 the economic impact to the area if the license is not
19 extended? Was that what your question was, what the
20 economic impact on the area would be?

21 MR. PECK: That would be one slice of the
22 broader question.

23 MR. DRICK: They do look at that.

24 MR. PECK: Okay. So again, that's just
25 one slice. There are other various negative, I

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1 believe, impacts on local communities --

2 MR. DRICK: That's looked at.

3 MR. PECK: -- if it's not relicensed.

4 MR. DRICK: Yes. Those things are looked
5 at as part of the review.

6 MR. PECK: Okay. So that I would have
7 expected. That would be included in the EIS?

8 MR. DRICK. Yes. What he was saying was
9 we don't look at what the community would do to
10 replace the power if the plant is not relicensed. But
11 we look at the issues that you're concerned about,
12 certainly.

13 MR. PECK: Okay. Thanks.

14 MR. RAKOVAN: Thanks Victor. That's
15 Victor Drick from our Region IV Office near Dallas.

16 Any other questions at this time?

17 Okay. What I'm going to do then is to go
18 ahead and go with the yellow cards that I have of
19 people who have signed up to speak. I'm going to go
20 ahead and just let you know the order, I've only got
21 four cards at this point. So once I call you up, if
22 you could come up, I will basically hand the floor
23 over to you. Again, if you could introduce yourself
24 just to make sure we have the right person.

25 I'm going to start with Ed Revell from the

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1 city of Richland. Then I'm going to go to Steve Lee.

2 And third to Robert Link.

3 MR. REVELL: I'm Ed Revell from the city
4 of Richland. I'm Mayor Pro Tem on the City Council.

5 I have just a couple of comments, it won't
6 take much more than a minute or two.

7 During the initial start up period in the
8 mid to late 1980s there was a few community concerns
9 regarding the long term viability of the Columbia
10 Generating Station. They had mostly to do with
11 reliability, I don't think there was every really a
12 safety concern. But within a few years of those
13 issues, those issues were resolved and the Columbia
14 Generating Station has demonstrated for the past 15 or
15 so years, maybe 18 I'm not sure what the timeline is,
16 but I know for quite a while now they've had a very
17 good performance rating. And have been very reliable
18 as well.

19 There's every reason for us to believe
20 that with the extended life of the Columbia Generating
21 Station that it will continue to be a safe and
22 reliable base load resource for the Pacific Northwest.

23 We have an excellent community for Energy Northwest
24 and a nuclear power presence. This is a pronuclear
25 community because most of our people are scientific

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1 people. A lot of research is done here and a lot of
2 people understand the risks involved and the
3 technology involved in and are actually very
4 comfortable with it.

5 And just recently, and this is kind of
6 encouraging, just recently our Governor has made
7 public statements in favor of looking at the nuclear
8 option here for the state. So I would say the state
9 is opening up a little and will be a little more
10 receptive as we look into the future.

11 I think Energy Northwest and Columbia
12 Generating Station has been a good corporate citizen
13 in our community and is a very welcomed neighbor.

14 The only concern that I have that's worth
15 mentioning is where it involves the ultimate disposal
16 of spent nuclear fuel. The community has got concerns
17 on how long storage of spent nuclear fuel will be
18 handled by the Department of Energy. I know that's
19 outside the control of NRC and Columbia Generating
20 Station or Energy Northwest. But it is an issue that
21 needs to be addressed because, you know, the
22 administration's trying to shutdown Yucca Mountain.
23 However, this community is very used to working with
24 nuclear materials. I know the storage containers that
25 the fuel is in really would allow that fuel to be

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1 stored for a long time on-site but that's not really
2 the contract so to speak, that the utilities had with
3 the Federal Government. And I don't know if you'll be
4 addressing that or not in your review. And I don't
5 see it as a show stopper for us here because we are,
6 as I said, a nuclear community. And we have the
7 capability to do long term storage here but it's not
8 something we're really looking forward to.

9 And so in summary I'll say the City of
10 Richland does support this relicensing effort to
11 extend the operating life of the Columbia Generating
12 Station by 20 years.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you, sir.

15 Let's go ahead and go to Steve Lee
16 followed by Bob Link and then Lori Sanders.

17 MR. LEE: Good afternoon. I'm Steve Lee
18 and I'm with the Pasco Chamber of Commerce. The Pasco
19 Chamber represents some 400 local businesses in our
20 area. And I know we joined the other chambers and
21 collective business in the Tri-City's area in saying
22 it's absolutely essential that Columbia Generating
23 Station continue providing safe, clean and low cost
24 power for our community and our surrounding area which
25 drives the strong economy.

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1 I'm with that on behalf of Pasco
2 businesses that Columbia Generating Station has given
3 our community much more than just electricity.
4 Columbia offers full time employment for many of our
5 residents, not to mention significant tax revenues to
6 local and state governments. Relicensing this plant
7 will also capture extended benefits in terms of a
8 regional invest, which we measure in both direct and
9 indirect economic impact which extends well beyond the
10 Pasco city limits.

11 We also live in an environmentally
12 conscious time and Columbia Generating Station's
13 benign impact on the environment through safe and
14 clean carbon-free power generation speaks to the
15 plants leading role as a steward of our natural
16 resources.

17 The Pasco Chamber of Congress is confident
18 that the Columbia Generating Station with the Nuclear
19 Regulatory Commission's approval will continue to be a
20 safe and reliable source of economic strength for our
21 community for many years to come.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. Let's go to Bob Link
24 and then Lori Sanders.

25 MR. LINK: Good afternoon and thank you

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1 for the opportunity. I'm Bob Link. I'm manager of
2 Environmental Health Safety and Licensing for Areva, a
3 nuclear fuel fabrication facility located on the north
4 side of Richland, Washington. I'm also a member of
5 the Board of Directors for the Tri-City Development
6 Council, called TRIDEC, the regional economic
7 development of our organization. And I also am a
8 resident of Franklin County and I reside literally on
9 the river just south of the plant about 12 miles. So
10 I have a variety of different perspectives to look at
11 this action by the NRC.

12 The Columbia Generating Station represents
13 an important environmental asset to the Northwest
14 region of the United States as it generates critical
15 electrical energy for our economy without any CO₂
16 emissions. If the license is not renewed, I can
17 guarantee you the replacement source, even if it is
18 not CO₂ emitting, would consume precious resources in
19 its construction and add to the global environmental
20 footprint. These impacts on the environment will be
21 deferred by allowing this well operated offset to
22 continue to serve the community well into the future.

23 Having just completed a renewal of the
24 AREVA's NRC license to operate, I'm familiar with the
25 dedication and scrutiny that the NRC and other

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1 stakeholders perform in such a process. I'm confident
2 that your findings will conclude that from an
3 environmental perspective, Energy Northwest
4 application in balance is a responsible means to
5 economically continue to serve the Northwest region
6 while having minimal impact on the environment.

7 In fact, it's renewal and continued use of
8 critical installed infrastructures such as
9 transmission lines and minimal water use consumption
10 for its benefit represents an environmental asset to
11 the region.

12 Energy Northwest has demonstrated
13 themselves to be good stewards of their mission and
14 assets with the sensitivity to the environment as a
15 high level of performance. They have continued to
16 seek input from a wide variety of interested parties
17 and are dedicated to sustainable development in their
18 operations. Their continued safety record and
19 operation of the Columbia Generating Station speaks to
20 their commitment to assure the workers, public, and
21 environment will not be harmed by the renewal of this
22 license.

23 I strongly urge the renewal of the
24 operating license by the NRC as in the best overall
25 interest of the environment and the economy of the

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1 region.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. The last card that I
4 have is Lori Sanders.

5 MS. SANDERS: I'm Lori Sanders. I'm a
6 Commissioner for Benton PUD and also on the Board of
7 Directors for Energy Northwest.

8 And I would just like to note, I
9 understand Mr. Peck's comment on environmental issues
10 not being concerned and I really think what he's
11 trying to capture is just to point out that we are a
12 unique community. We're probably the envy of most
13 communities across the United States because we
14 already have 97 percent of our power is carbon-free.
15 And the majority of that is coming from Bonneville
16 Power System and Columbia Generating Station is 10
17 percent of that system. So it's really an important
18 part of keeping our resources, not necessarily
19 renewable maybe, but as carbon-free as possible.

20 And we're all going to see a lot of
21 additional wind power being put up and already it just
22 amazes me how much we have and it's becoming more and
23 more difficult to balance that. It's unreliable, you
24 can't make the wind blow, and we use our hydro system
25 to balance it. And although the nuclear plant doesn't

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1 balance the wind in itself, it allows more flexibility
2 of the hydro system to do so. And those items ought
3 to be considered when you're looking at the
4 environmental impact of this plant. It isn't just the
5 long term storage. It isn't just the construction of
6 a plant.

7 It's what do you do if you don't have it?

8 And I think that's really what Mr. Peck was trying to
9 say and I really think it ought to be considered.

10 But Columbia Generating Station has been a
11 good neighbor. I believe Mr. Revell also stated it
12 very well, "We are friendly to the plant as far as the
13 community is concerned, supportive of the plant." And
14 really we'd like to see it continue on for another
15 additional 20 years or even 40.

16 Thank you very much.

17 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. That's the end of the
18 cards that I had of people who signed up before the
19 meeting to speak. I wanted to just see before we go
20 ahead and close to see if there's anyone who wishes to
21 have a chance at the microphone to provide us with
22 some environmental scoping comments?

23 Now again, don't forget you'll have time
24 after today's meeting. Of course you can come back
25 for tonight's meeting or you can send in your

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1 environmental scoping comments the ways that Dan
2 detailed during his presentation and which are in the
3 presentation that you should have a copy of. Again,
4 if not, you can grab one on your way out, they're on
5 the table.

6 I'm going to go ahead and turn things over
7 to Louise Lund, who's going to close this afternoon's
8 meeting for us. Louise?

9 MS. LUND: I'd just like to thank
10 everybody once again for coming out. And you know
11 this is the beginning of a fairly long process for us
12 because if a hearing is not requested, it's at least
13 22 months and then with a hearing it's 30 months.
14 It's a very intensive time for us as far as having
15 folks on-site. We have audit teams that come out, we
16 have inspection teams that come out. You know, we do
17 a lot of technical review there at headquarters as
18 well. So either you'll see a lot activity and all
19 that information will be publicly available on our
20 website. So if you would like to understand how to
21 access that information both Evelyn and Dan are
22 excellent resources to get that information.

23 Any questions that we ask about the
24 information they provided will also will be put out
25 formally and their responses will be sent in formally

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1 to us as well. So you get a chance to see throughout
2 the process what's being asked and what's being looked
3 at. And then we put out the documents, we've a
4 safety evaluation from another plant and also an
5 environmental impact statement from another plant so
6 you can see what they look like when they come out and
7 these will be generated for this application as well.

8 So that you all understand the work that we did and
9 the conclusions that we came to.

10 So having said that, I invite you to
11 contact both Evelyn and Dan if you have any questions
12 and we'll be out here doing a lot of work in the near
13 term. And this is just the beginning of the process
14 for us.

15 And so if you have any questions and you
16 want to talk to somebody after this meeting, if you
17 want to talk again about any plant issues, ongoing
18 plant issues, we've got Ron here. And also about the
19 environmental process, certainly we have Jeff Rikhoff
20 and we also have Dan and any of the safety review,
21 Evelyn or myself. So thank you for coming.

22 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at
23 2:15 p.m.)
24

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