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Pages 1-109

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING

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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE SOUTH

TEXAS PROJECT UNITS 3 AND 4 COMBINED LICENSE

APPLICATION

AFTERNOON SESSION

+ + + + +

THURSDAY

MAY 6, 2010

+ + + + +

The meeting convened at the Bay City Civic Center, 201 7th Street, Bay City, Texas, at 1:30 p.m., Francis Cameron, presiding.

PRESENT:

FRANCIS CAMERON, Facilitator

RYAN WHITED, NRC, Presenter

JESSIE MUIR, NRC, Presenter

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A-G-E-N-D-A

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

1:32 p.m.

1
2
3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good afternoon,
4 everyone. Welcome to today's meeting. My name is
5 Chip Cameron, and it's a pleasure to serve as your
6 facilitator today. I'm going to be assisted by Mr.
7 Gene Carpenter, who is part of NRC as Facilitator-in-
8 Training Program. And, as your facilitators, Gene and
9 I are going to try to help you have a productive
10 meeting today.

11 And our topic for today is the Nuclear
12 Regulatory Commission, and we're going to be using the
13 acronym NRC. We won't be using a lot of acronyms, but
14 we will be using that one. But it's the NRC's, and
15 also the Army Corps of Engineer's environmental review
16 of an application that we received from the South
17 Texas Nuclear Operating Company to build and operate
18 two nuclear reactors at the South Texas site. And the
19 environmental review that the NRC and the Corps of
20 Engineers have done is documented in a Draft
21 Environmental Impact Statement. And that's going to
22 be described to you today.

23 I wanted to spend a few minutes on meeting
24 format issue before we get started, so that you'll
25 know what to expect today. And I want to tell you

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1 about the format, tell you about some ground rules for
2 the meeting, and also introduce the NRC Staff, who are
3 going to be talking to you today.

4 In terms of the format for the meeting,
5 it's really a two-part meeting. The first part of the
6 meeting is to give you information about the NRC and
7 the Corps of Engineers' evaluation process, and what's
8 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in terms
9 of potential impacts, and alternatives. And after
10 that, those NRC presentations that gives you that
11 background, we'll have a few minutes to go out to you
12 for questions about the process that the NRC uses to
13 make sure that all of that is clear to you.

14 Then we're going to go into the second
15 part of the meeting, and that's to listen to your
16 advice, your recommendations, your comments on the
17 environmental review. And the NRC Staff is going to
18 tell you that they're taking written comments, also,
19 on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement, but we
20 wanted to be with you here personally today to talk to
21 you about it. And I just want to assure you that
22 anything that you say today, any comments that you
23 give us today, they'll have the same weight as written
24 comments that are submitted. And, of course, you're
25 free to supplement what you say today with written

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1 comments.

2 And if you do want to speak during the
3 comment portion of the meeting, if you could just
4 please fill out one of the yellow cards that are at
5 the desk, and that's to give us an idea of how many
6 people want to speak, so that we can properly budget
7 our time today. And many of you have already signed
8 up to speak.

9 In terms of ground rules, and these are
10 just very simple, and they're all aimed at trying to
11 help us all to have a productive meeting today, the
12 first ground rule is, I would just ask you to hold any
13 questions until we're done with all of the NRC
14 presentations today, and that way we can give you a
15 comprehensive overview before we go to questions. If
16 you do have a question, signal me and I'll bring you
17 this cordless microphone, and please introduce
18 yourself to us. And I would ask you to just keep it
19 to a question. A lot of times questions turn into
20 comments, and if you could just save that for the
21 second part of the meeting, we would appreciate that.

22 If we can't get to all of the questions
23 before we have to move to the public comment part of
24 the meeting, the NRC Staff will be here, the Corps of
25 Engineers' Staff will be here after the meeting to

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1 talk to you about any questions you have, any concerns
2 that you have.

3 A second ground rule is that I would ask
4 that only one person speak at a time. The most
5 important reason for that ground rule is so that we
6 can give our full attention to whomever has the floor
7 at the moment. But the second reason is, is so that
8 we could get a clean, what I call a clean transcript.

9 We have Jim Cordes over here, who's our court
10 reporter today, and he's going to be recording
11 everything that's said at the meeting, and that's
12 going to be your record of the meeting. It's publicly
13 available, and it's also the NRC's record of the
14 meeting. So, one person at a time. Jim will be sure
15 who it is who's speaking at the moment.

16 Third ground rule, I would just ask you to
17 be brief in what you have to say this afternoon, and
18 that's to insure that we can get to everybody who
19 wants to speak today. And I'm going to ask you to
20 follow a three to five-minute guideline on your
21 comments. And I'll give you a gentle reminder of when
22 you're getting close to the edge, so to speak, but I
23 also want to apologize in advance to all of you who I
24 may ask to finish before you're ready to finish. I
25 know that you spent a lot of time preparing your

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1 comments, and we really appreciate that. If you
2 haven't finished your comments, you can submit a
3 written comment to us to amplify on your comments.

4 Now, the NRC staff is here to listen to
5 what you have to say today. They're not going to be
6 responding to the comments that you're giving. They
7 are going to -- we will have a record of the comments,
8 and the staff will go back and carefully consider, and
9 evaluate the comments, and they'll document the
10 responses to those comments for you in a Final
11 Environmental Impact Statement.

12 And, final ground rule, and really when
13 I'm in Texas, it's not really necessary to say this,
14 but I say it all the time, anyway, which is to extend
15 courtesy to everybody. You're going to hear opinions
16 this afternoon that may differ from your own, and I
17 would just ask you to please respect the person who is
18 giving that particular opinion. And I would just
19 thank you all for being here.

20 Let me introduce the NRC staff, who are
21 going to be speaking to you today, and give you a
22 little idea about what their background and expertise
23 is. We're going to go first to Ryan Whited. And Ryan
24 is the Chief of the Environmental Projects Branch in
25 the Office of New Reactors at NRC, the branch that's

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1 responsible for the review of this license application
2 for South Texas.

3 Ryan has a Master's in Environmental
4 Systems Engineering from Clemson University. He also
5 has an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania. He's
6 been with the NRC for seven years, and before he
7 assumed his present management position there, he was
8 a manager in other activities at the NRC, Low-Level
9 Waste and budgetary activities. And before he came to
10 the NRC, he worked for Dames & Moore as a consultant.

11 Next, we're going to go to the Project
12 Manager for the environmental review for this license
13 application, and that's Jessie Muir, who's right here.

14 Now, Jessie also has a Master's in Environmental
15 Systems Engineering from Clemson University. She has
16 a Bachelor's Degree also from Clemson in Agricultural
17 Engineering. She's been with the NRC for four years,
18 and has served as the project manager for the
19 environmental reviews on nuclear reactor license
20 renewal projects.

21 And let me introduce Jayson Hudson.
22 Jayson is the Corps of Engineers' contact, and Project
23 Manager from the Corps of Engineers' perspective on
24 this. Jayson isn't going to be making a presentation,
25 but I want to introduce you to some of the other key

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1 people here before we go on. We do have one of our
2 Resident Inspectors here, that's John Dixon. John is
3 in the back. Our Resident Inspectors are -- they live
4 in the community, they're at the plant to ensure that
5 NRC regulations are followed. And if you have
6 questions about the operating reactors, we're going to
7 make sure that John's contact information is there.
8 He's not going to be with us at the end of the
9 meeting, but feel free to call him, or email him about
10 any concerns you have about the operating reactors.

11 And our Senior NRC Manager is Tony Hsia.
12 Tony is right here, and he's the Deputy Director of
13 the Site and Environmental Review Division. And just
14 to give you an idea about the organizational
15 structure, Ryan's branch, Jessie is in that branch,
16 they're in Mike's [sic] division.

17 And, finally, we have Mark Tonacci. Mark
18 is here. He's the Branch Chief for the NRC Staff that
19 does the safety review on this license application.
20 That's going to be explained to you, what the NRC's
21 review process is. But we're going to be focusing on
22 environmental today. And with that, let me turn it
23 over to Ryan. Why don't you use this one, and you can
24 put in that.

25 MR. WHITED: Good afternoon. I'm Ryan

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1 Whited. As Chip said, I'm the Branch Chief for the
2 South Texas Environmental Review. First, I'd like to
3 thank you all very much for coming this afternoon. We
4 look forward to hearing your comments on our
5 environmental review, and we hope we can provide some
6 information that you find useful about our review
7 process, and our preliminary findings.

8 I wanted to just take a minute to
9 introduce you to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
10 As you can see, our mission is to protect public
11 health and safety, to promote common defense and
12 security, and to protect the environment. And this
13 afternoon, we're going to be focusing on that third
14 aspect of our mission. The NRC is an independent
15 regulatory agency. We license and inspect civilian
16 uses of nuclear materials at facilities, such as
17 nuclear power facilities, hospitals, universities,
18 other industrial uses.

19 As Chip mentioned, we're here tonight
20 because South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company
21 has applied for a Combined License, or a COL, to
22 construct and operate two new nuclear units at the
23 existing South Texas Project site. As part of our
24 license application review, we're required to conduct
25 an environmental review under the National

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1 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. And the primary
2 product from that review is the Environmental Impact
3 Statement that we're going to discuss with you this
4 afternoon.

5 The EIS that we're going to talk about
6 represents over two years of work from a team of about
7 40 scientists, and engineers, and a variety of
8 disciplines. Many of the folks who did the technical
9 review are here this afternoon. And if you didn't
10 have an opportunity to talk to them before the
11 meeting, hopefully, you'll have time to stick around
12 and do so afterwards. We've got folks here in
13 specializations, such as Hydrology, Aquatic Ecology,
14 Socioeconomics, Alternate Sites, and we're really here
15 for you, to answer your questions, and to provide any
16 information that will help you review this
17 Environmental Impact Statement, and provide us with
18 feedback on it.

19 Actually, that's my slide.

20 So, as Chip mentioned, it's really a two-
21 part meeting. Jessie Muir, the environmental project
22 manager, is going to provide a brief overview of our
23 review process, and our preliminary findings in the
24 DEIS, Draft Environmental Impact Statement. At the
25 end of Jessie's presentation, she'll talk about the

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1 various means by which you can provide comments on our
2 review. And then we'll really turn the meeting over
3 to you, and listen to any feedback you'd like to
4 provide. So, with that, I'll turn it over to Jessie
5 Muir, who's going to go through our process, and our
6 preliminary findings. Thanks again for coming this
7 afternoon.

8 MS. MUIR: Good afternoon, everybody.
9 Again, my name is Jessie Muir. I'm the project
10 manager for the STP Units 3 and 4 environmental
11 review. And before I get started, I just wanted to
12 say thank you very much to the Bay City Civic Center,
13 especially Laura and Susan, who's probably running
14 around here somewhere. You guys have done a great job
15 setting up for the meeting tonight. This is a great
16 facility, especially with the wi-fi, so I'm glad that
17 we were able to come back tonight and have our
18 meetings here at the Civic Center, so thank you.

19 Since it has been a little over two years
20 since we were last here for scoping meetings, I want
21 to take a few moments to explain why we do an
22 environmental review. In September of 2007, like Ryan
23 said, STP came in with an application for Combined
24 Licenses. Those Combined Licenses, if granted, would
25 be authorization to construct and operate two new

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1 nuclear units on their existing STP site. And for the
2 Combined License application, the NRC is doing two
3 separate reviews at the same time, a safety review,
4 and an environmental review. And tonight we'll be
5 focusing on that environmental review.

6 The final product from our environmental
7 review is an Environmental Impact Statement. So, once
8 we received and accepted the application in 2007, we
9 began reviewing the application, which included an
10 environmental report. We conducted site audits, we
11 visited alternative sites, we met with local
12 officials, we met with other state, and local, and
13 federal agencies. We met with you in 2008 for
14 scoping. We also requested additional information
15 from STP. And we used all of this information to do
16 our review, and document it in the EIS.

17 We are very pleased to have the U.S. Army
18 Corps of Engineers as a cooperating agency. And, as a
19 member of our team, Mr. Jayson Hudson went with us on
20 site visits, interacted with us with other agencies,
21 and actively participated in our technical review.

22 This slide is a high-level overview of our
23 environmental review process. This stepwise approach
24 is how we fulfill our obligations under the National
25 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. So, before each

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1 milestone, we'll publish a notice in the Federal
2 Register. That's our way of letting you know what
3 we're going to be doing.

4 We started back in 2007 with a Notice of
5 Intent to conduct scoping and prepare an EIS. And
6 that started a 60-day comment period from December
7 2007 to February of 2008. That scoping period was for
8 you to submit your comments on what issues we should
9 be reviewing in our environmental review. Our scoping
10 activities included that public meeting back here in
11 February of 2008, and all of those comments and NRC's
12 responses can be found in the Scoping Summary Report,
13 or, in part, in Appendix D of the Draft EIS.

14 The next step in our process was to
15 publish a notice of availability of the Draft EIS,
16 which was published on March 26th. That started the
17 75-day comment period, which will remain open through
18 June 9th. So, once the comment period is over, we'll
19 start processing all the comments we received,
20 including those we get here tonight. The comments and
21 responses on the Draft EIS will be included in
22 Appendix E of the Final EIS. So, based on the
23 comments we receive tonight, we'll go back, and we'll
24 revise, and update, and adjust our analysis, as
25 needed, and finalize the EIS, which we expect to

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1 publish next March, March of 2011.

2 This is just a first level Table of
3 Contents of the Environmental Impact Statement. We
4 start off by describing the environmental setting, and
5 the proposed action. Then we get into our analysis of
6 the impacts from the various phases of the project.
7 We discuss the benefits assessment, which includes a
8 need for power, as well as alternatives to the
9 project. We conclude the EIS with our preliminary
10 recommendation to the Commission.

11 This slide just shows some of the resource
12 areas that we considered in our review, also included
13 are postulated accidents and transportation of fuel
14 and waste.

15 Now, the NRC has established three levels
16 of significance of impacts, small, moderate, and large
17 to help explain the impacts of the project in common
18 terms on all of the resources. So without reading
19 them to you, simply, they are, is the effect minor?
20 Does the effect noticeably alter the resource, or does
21 the effect destabilize the resource? So throughout
22 our EIS for each of the technical areas, like the ones
23 we saw on the previous slide, air quality, cultural
24 resources, the staff would do their analysis, and then
25 assign a level of significance of small, moderate, or

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1 large.

2 So, now we'll get into some of the fun
3 stuff, a little bit more detail about some of the
4 technical areas. First, we'll start with water. Our
5 evaluation considered ground water and surface water,
6 both the use and quality of those two resources. No
7 surface water, so that's no Colorado River, Little
8 Robbins Slough, or other water bodies would be used
9 during construction of Units 3 and 4. The use of
10 ground water for construction and operation would be
11 within the existing permitted limits.

12 In addition, STP would have to continue to
13 comply with all their state and federal permits, such
14 as their permit for discharge into the Colorado River
15 from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

16 Therefore, the team determined that the
17 impacts of construction and operation of Units 3 and 4
18 on ground water and surface water, both the use and
19 quality, would be small. The photograph is the main
20 cooling reservoir, which is located on the STP site.

21 Next, ecological impacts. Our team
22 evaluated the impacts of local wildlife that either
23 live on the STP site, in the surrounding area, or
24 nearby water bodies. Some of those include the
25 Loggerhead Turtle, the Aplomado Falcon, and the

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1 American Alligator.

2 Our staff, along with the Corps, consulted
3 with other agencies, such as the Texas Parks and
4 Wildlife Division, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
5 and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The team
6 concluded that the impacts from construction and
7 operation would not be detectible, or not noticeably
8 alter the resource. Thus, a small impact.

9 As part of the staff's analysis, we
10 evaluated the doses received by construction workers
11 during construction efforts, doses to members of the
12 public and plant workers during operation, and doses
13 received by wildlife. Radiation exposure is a very
14 well studied health risk, and to put that radiation
15 exposure into perspective, the average dose to an
16 individual in the United States from background
17 radiation -- that's cosmic radiation, or naturally
18 occurring radionuclides -- is around 300 millirem per
19 year; whereas, the NRC's regulations limit the whole
20 body dose to a member of the public from a nuclear
21 power plant to just 5 to 10 millirem per year. The
22 EPA's regulation is 25 millirem per year. So, the
23 impacts on all these groups would be small, since STP
24 must continue to comply with stringent NRC and EPA
25 regulatory limits on human exposure.

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1 This slide discusses two very important
2 aspects of our review, socioeconomics and
3 environmental justice. The environment justice review
4 focuses on low-income and minority populations to
5 understand if they would be unevenly affected by the
6 proposed project. During our review, we did identify
7 several minority and low-income census blocks, but
8 determined that there would be no uneven adverse
9 impacts on those groups.

10 The socioeconomic review encompasses many
11 different things, from taxes, and jobs, to housing,
12 education, infrastructure, and community service. The
13 adverse socioeconomic impacts determined by our team
14 would range from small to moderate; whereas, the
15 beneficial impact on taxes would range from small to
16 large.

17 Of the four-county region evaluated, the
18 impacts would typically be greater for the Matagorda
19 County, that's both adverse and beneficial impacts,
20 which makes sense, since STP Unit 3 and 4, if built,
21 would be here in Matagorda County.

22 In Chapter 6 of the EIS, our staff
23 evaluates the environmental impacts of the uranium
24 fuel cycle, transportation of fuel and waste, and
25 decommissioning of the plant. The impacts from the

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1 uranium fuel cycle have previously been evaluated and
2 documented by the NRC. The staff used that analysis,
3 and scaled it for the two new proposed reactors at
4 STP.

5 The same for decommissioning, the
6 environmental impacts have already been documented by
7 the NRC in another review, and, as such, was
8 referenced in this EIS.

9 For transportation, a full and detailed
10 analysis of transportation impacts was conducted. So,
11 for all three issues, uranium fuel cycle,
12 transportation, and decommissioning, the environmental
13 impacts would be small.

14 An important part of the environmental
15 review under the National Environmental Policy Act, or
16 NEPA, is the evaluation of cumulative impacts. In
17 Chapter 7, the team evaluated the impacts of Units 3
18 and 4, in addition to past, present, and reasonably
19 foreseeable projects, such as the White Stallion
20 Energy Center, or the future Lower Colorado River
21 Authority - San Antonio Water System Project.

22 So, we'll use an example of fish and
23 wildlife. Like I said on a previous slide, in
24 Chapters 4 and 5, the team determined that the impacts
25 from construction and operation on Units 3 and 4 would

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1 be small. However, in Chapter 7, when the
2 construction and operation impacts are added to the
3 impacts from other facilities, and future development,
4 the impact on fish and wildlife would be moderate.

5 So, overall, the cumulative adverse
6 impacts would range from small to moderate, and
7 beneficial impacts would range from small to large.

8 As part of our review, the team needs to
9 make a determination of whether or not there's a need
10 for additional power in the area of the plant. For
11 STP, the area evaluated was the ERCOT Service Region,
12 which includes most of Texas. ERCOT is the Energy
13 Reliability Council of Texas.

14 The team evaluated the ERCOT forecast and
15 studies, and determined that they met the necessary
16 criteria, and provided justification that the power
17 produced by the proposed new plants would be needed by
18 the time the plant is completed. You can read more
19 about the need for power in Chapter 8 of the EIS.

20 Alternatives is often referred to as the
21 heart of NEPA. So, in Chapter 9, the staff evaluated
22 alternative energy sources, alternative site system
23 designs, as well as the no action alternative. In our
24 alternative energy analysis, the review team evaluates
25 the generation of baseload power. We examine sources,

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1 such as coal and natural gas, and combinations of
2 sources, such as coal, natural gas, wind, and hydro
3 power. The NRC determined that none of the feasible
4 baseload energies would be environmentally preferable.

5 The review team also compared the proposed
6 STP site to three other alternative locations, Red 2,
7 Trinity 2, and Allens Creek. We determined that none
8 of the alternative sites would be environmentally
9 preferable to the STP site.

10 And, lastly, the staff determined no
11 alternative cooling system would be environmentally
12 preferable to the proposed plant design.

13 So, in Chapter 10 of the Draft EIS, our
14 staff makes a preliminary recommendation to the
15 Commission. This recommendation is based mostly on
16 the small environmental impacts, and the fact that no
17 alternative site, or alternative baseload energy
18 source would be environmentally preferable.

19 So, based on the environmental review, our
20 preliminary recommendation to the Commission is that
21 the Combined Licenses for STP Units 3 and 4 be issued.

22 If you don't already have a copy, and you
23 want to take a look at the EIS, we have copies
24 tonight. They're out in the lobby, hard copy and a
25 CD. You can also call me, or e-mail me, and I'll mail

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1 you a copy. You can also find it on line, or you can
2 go down to the library. They should have a hard copy
3 and a CD there, as well.

4 So, as Ryan stated earlier tonight, really
5 the purpose of tonight's meeting is to hear from you,
6 and get your comments on our environmental review.
7 So, many of you have already signed up to speak at
8 tonight's meeting, but just in case you don't want to
9 speak in front of a large crowd, or you need to leave
10 early, there is a table at the back of the room where
11 you can type in your comments if the wi-fi is working,
12 or you can handwrite it. And you can mail it in, or
13 hand it in to one of the NRC staff. Of course,
14 there's other ways, if you think of something later
15 when you get home, you can email it to us, submit it
16 on line, you can mail it in, or you can fax it in.

17 So, again, several different ways for you
18 to submit your comments. I would just ask that you
19 take note that the comment period runs through June
20 9th.

21 So, with that, I conclude my presentation.
22 And, again, I appreciate your time and attendance
23 today, and turn it back over to Chip.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Jessie.
25 We just heard a high-level overview of the review

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1 process that the NRC and the Corps conducts, and also
2 some of the findings from the Environmental Impact
3 Statement. We have some time for questions before we
4 get to the comment portion of the meeting. Are there
5 questions about the NRC process? Can we clear
6 anything up for you along those lines? Okay. Any
7 questions at all that we can answer before we go on?
8 As I mentioned, we do have a lot of the NRC staff and
9 our experts here to talk with you about anything that
10 you might want to talk about after the meeting.

11 Let's go to the comment portion of the
12 meeting, and I'd like to go to Elected Representatives
13 first before we go to the rest of you. And we have
14 Dianna Kile here, who is the Chief of Staff for
15 Representative Ron Paul. Dianna.

16 MS. KILE: Good afternoon. On behalf of
17 Congressman Paul, I would like to read a letter of
18 support. And the Congressman says, "I am writing in
19 support of the South Texas Project Units 3 and 4
20 Combined License application. This project will
21 provide much needed energy, generation capacity in the
22 area, and will have a significant positive impact for
23 economic development in Matagorda County, which I
24 represent as a member of Congress for the 14th
25 District of Texas. Please contact my office if there

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1 is anything we can do to assist you in this matter.
2 Thank you. Sincerely, Congressman Ron Paul."

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
4 Dianna. Yes, we'll attach any written statements that
5 people have to the transcript, and thank
6 Representative Paul for us.

7 Next, we're going to go to Representative
8 Randy Weber, a State Representative. Representative
9 Weber.

10 MR. WEBER: Good afternoon. First I want
11 to say welcome to the NRC to Matagorda County, one of
12 Texas' best secrets where quality of life is not just
13 a slogan, it's an experience worth living. You all
14 can write that down.

15 I want to read a letter from Senator
16 Hegar, my colleague over in the lower chamber of the
17 State Legislature. Senator Hegar could not be here,
18 and he writes to Mr. Flanders. "Dear Mr. Flanders, as
19 the Texas State Senator whose district includes
20 Matagorda County, and the South Texas Project, I am
21 pleased to endorse the proposed expansion of the
22 facility. Texas needs a clean, stable, and reliable
23 supply of electricity to maintain the state's dynamic
24 growth. Texas is the second largest state in the
25 country, has the 12th biggest economy globally, and

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1 continues to grow despite the recession. The Electric
2 Reliability Council of Texas, or ERCOT, projects that
3 the state's demand for electricity will increase more
4 than 30 percent in the next two decades. Today,
5 nearly 85 percent of our state's electricity is
6 generated by fossil fuels, primarily natural gas. The
7 volatility of natural gas has produced record high
8 costs for electricity in our state, and Texas must
9 have a diversified mix of energy sources to meet our
10 needs cost-effectively.

11 And this is probably no surprise to you
12 all, but nuclear energy must play a larger role in our
13 state's energy future. Nuclear energy has the lowest
14 fuel and production costs of all major power sources
15 together, averaging less than 2 cents per kilowatt
16 hour. It also is the most reliable source, because
17 nuclear power plants operate around the clock, and
18 throughout the year. Nuclear energy is also carbon-
19 free, and produces no greenhouse gases. Increased
20 nuclear generation will help secure our state's energy
21 future. It will also stabilize our energy costs,
22 produce a cleaner environment, and reduce our
23 dependence on fossil fuels.

24 The expansion of STP will create hundreds
25 of well-paid permanent positions, as well as thousands

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1 of contractor jobs during plant construction, and will
2 add several billion dollars to the local and state
3 economies, several billion dollars. STP is already
4 Matagorda County's largest employer with more than
5 1,200 employees. The company will need an additional
6 800 well-trained and highly-skilled technicians,
7 engineers, operators, and other personnel to staff its
8 planned new units."

9 And he adds, "STP has committed to
10 attracting and training that workforce locally. The
11 company, in cooperation with Texas A&M University, and
12 several local colleges has initiated new two-year and
13 four-year degree and certification programs to train
14 the next generation of nuclear workers, probably no
15 pun intended. STP is investing \$4.2 million over a
16 six-year period to pay students' expenses for that
17 training, and STP has demonstrated an exceptional
18 commitment to its community, and the facility's
19 expansion is essential to the continued progress of
20 our state. It is an honor to write to you on behalf
21 of this vitally important effort." Senator Glenn
22 Hegar, Senator for the 17th District, which includes
23 Matagorda County.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
25 Representative.

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1 MR. WEBER: Now for my own comments.

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay.

3 MR. WEBER: Did I mention that Matagorda -
4 - it's the quality of life, it's not just a slogan,
5 it's an experience worth living?

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I think that sounds
7 familiar. It sounds familiar.

8 MR. WEBER: Make sure I get that. As a
9 State Rep for this great part of the State of Texas, I
10 get to see a lot of this up close and personal. And,
11 actually, I've traveled throughout the state and
12 across the county, the Speaker appointed me to the
13 Energy Council, so I've had quite an experience, and
14 quite a time learning. I've recently been to Andrews
15 County, where they have, as you know, probably, the
16 waste specialist, waste control specialist has a
17 nuclear waste facility out there. And I want to tell
18 you that in Matagorda County, we have fine people. We
19 have a good group. They're focused on their clean
20 environment, they're focused on their economy, and
21 they do a terrific job. And STP, in my opinion,
22 epitomizes that focus, and that commitment to quality
23 of life.

24 STP, in my estimation, is a good corporate
25 citizen. Like the Senator said, they employ about

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1 1,200 employees already, and that number is going to
2 go substantially higher as the process goes on. I was
3 pleased to find out that last year STP invested about
4 \$421,000 in their giving initiative throughout this
5 community. That's a pretty shocking statistic. They
6 were the largest contributor to the United Way of
7 Matagorda County. In addition, their employees have
8 contributed about \$200,000 of their own, which speaks
9 well that they're very, very community-oriented.

10 STP, in fact, in the last three years has
11 been about the largest contributor to the Matagorda
12 Regional Medical Center, somewhere to the tune of just
13 over \$250,000, a quarter of \$1 million, so you can see
14 the impact they have.

15 They do support the Matagorda County Fair
16 and Livestock show in a major way. Their employees
17 serve on school boards, city councils, navigation
18 districts, chambers of commerce, which makes me
19 question their thought process wanting to run for
20 political office, having been there. They're members
21 of countless chambers of commerce, and countless
22 charitable organizations. STP pays around \$4 million
23 annually to the county and hospital district. And, as
24 the Senator said, they're working with A&M in
25 conjunction with other junior colleges, so they're a

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1 good corporate citizen. They've got great industry
2 standing.

3 What do I mean by that? With a generating
4 capacity of 2,700 megawatts, the two-unit facility is
5 currently, you all probably know this, currently one
6 of the nation's largest generating stations, plants.
7 They've done it with the highest net capacity factor
8 over the last three years, where the nuclear arena, if
9 they've got a 90 percent capacity factor, that's good.

10 Most of them operate at 90 and above. STP operates
11 at 98.7, so it's a tremendous net capacity operating
12 factor. They've got the highest measure of reliability
13 of any multi-unit site in the country. Let that sink
14 in for a minute, in the country.

15 The Project is considered a front runner.

16 You all very well know that this is the first permit
17 in a long -- applied for in a long time. Over 30
18 years ago when STP was built, it was originally
19 designed for four units, and the design is carrying
20 forward today, and it's going to serve well. So, in
21 my opinion, they have a great industry standing.

22 Now, let's talk about their track record.

23 For the last 30 years, STP has called Matagorda
24 County home, and supplies 2 million Texas homes with
25 power, 2 million Texas homes with power. That'll

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1 double, if we get the other two units, they'll be able
2 to supply 4 million Texas homes. And with 50 million
3 people slated to be in Texas by the year 2040, 2050 at
4 the latest, we're going to need some power.

5 The debate over climate change, without a
6 doubt, has increased the focus on greenhouse gases,
7 global warming, and those types of things, so what
8 better, more effective, more reliable way to do it,
9 with nuclear energy. I could go on, and on, and on.
10 But, like I say, Senator Hegar in his letter, and I
11 quote, "Nuclear energy must play a larger role in our
12 state's energy future." And I tell you all these
13 things, because Matagorda County does not take their
14 community, nor their environment for granted. So, I
15 want to go on record as being in support of this
16 project, and to reiterate that Matagorda County has a
17 quality of life that's more than a slogan, it's an
18 experience worth living. Thank you very much.

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you,
20 Representative Weber. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Next, we're going to
23 go to Judge McDonald, Matagorda County Judge.

24 JUDGE McDONALD: I may just have to speak
25 loud. Can most of you hear me? I'll try to speak up.

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1 Since we're here today to hear comments on
2 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, I think I'm
3 going to confine my comments to the environment. And
4 I'm going to start by thanking the NRC for paying so
5 much attention to our environment. We take it very,
6 very seriously around here, the protection of it, and
7 the growth of its goodness.

8 I'd also like to thank you all for your
9 attention to detail. And that's the most important
10 thing. It's typically the small things that are
11 overlooked that become very large problems, and I want
12 to thank the NRC. And on that note, I want to move
13 forward and thank STP for having paid attention to the
14 detail of safeguarding, and safekeeping, and growing
15 the good things in our environment in Matagorda County
16 through their work, and through their benevolence, but
17 mainly through their everyday operations. The way
18 that they do business is to study, and to restudy, and
19 to restudy every minute detail. And, to that end, not
20 only do we have a wonderful operation out there, but
21 we've also got a wonderful productive environment
22 that's immediately around that plant. We've got
23 productive farm and ranch land, we've got on site a
24 premier birding spot, premier wetlands that these
25 folks have, with their own dollars, and with their own

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1 labor take care of on a daily basis.

2 I can tell you that immediately adjacent
3 to the plant, we've got what I like to think is the
4 very best river in the State of Texas. I can tell you
5 from personal experience that the contact recreation
6 is wonderful. I expect I ski more than anybody in
7 this county, and if I don't, I'll work on that. I'll
8 try to add another day. I don't golf, but I do ski a
9 lot, and it's in that Colorado River. And I feel
10 abundantly safe to engage in those types of activities
11 at least twice a week.

12 I can tell you, also, that I catch many
13 fish in that river. I consume them, along with my
14 son, who consumes now more than I do, because he's
15 grown up and recently graduated college. So, keeping
16 him fed is always a chore. And we have that ability,
17 and we have that gift from our good neighbors out
18 there that do take our environment safely, and do not
19 pollute it. And I'd ask you all to continue to do
20 what you do for us at the NRC. I thank you very, very
21 much for that. It means a lot to have you all looking
22 over our shoulder, and working with us, and providing
23 good personnel on site to help us meet our mission.
24 And I'd also like to publicly thank STP for the
25 wonderful job they've done over some many long years,

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1 and the great job they will continue to do, as we move
2 forward. And please accept this as my endorsement of
3 Units 3 and 4, and my endorsement of the Draft
4 Environmental Impact Statement that we're hearing
5 today. Thank you all very much.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Judge
7 McDonald.

8 (Applause.)

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Next, we're going to
10 hear from Mayor Knapik, Mayor of Bay City.

11 MAYOR KNAPIK: Thank you, Chip. To the
12 NRC, I want to say welcome on behalf of the citizens
13 of Bay City. It's a pleasure to have you back in our
14 community. And I, too, am here to speak in favor of
15 the Environmental Impact study.

16 Judge McDonald touched briefly on the
17 wetlands that STP has on the north side of their
18 plant. For years, birders would flock to that,
19 because during the winter months, a lot of watering
20 fowl would winter there. It became a traffic hazard,
21 because people were parked right on FM-521. Thanks to
22 STP's leadership, and corporate citizenry, they built
23 a road, and a parking lot that allowed citizens and
24 bird watchers to pull in there and safely observe the
25 birds during the winter months. That, to me, is

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1 corporate citizenship above and beyond the call of
2 duty.

3 Two years ago, I stood at this podium and
4 I said PIMBY. I suppose you can't remember what PIMBY
5 is, that's Please In My Back Yard. I'm still in favor
6 of that. The eyes of the world are on this project.
7 The United States to say we're having a nuclear
8 renaissance, not only the State of Texas, but America,
9 but the world watching what happens in this project,
10 and I strongly urge the NRC to grant the license.
11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
14 Mayor. We're going to go to City Councilwoman Carolyn
15 Thames. Carolyn.

16 MS. THAMES: Good afternoon. I, actually,
17 signed up as a Workforce Solutions Business
18 Consultant, so I apologize for making you sit through
19 my walk from back there, but as a business consultant
20 with Workforce Solutions, we need these jobs. We need
21 these construction jobs in the construction process,
22 we need STP. I look so forward to working with all
23 the contractors, and STP, itself, in creating jobs.
24 With our unemployment rate higher than the national
25 rate, and the Texas State rate, we need these jobs, we

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1 need these people to come to our community.

2 As a City Council person, we want STP as a
3 partner. We love STP as a partner. We want the jobs,
4 we need the jobs. And thank you, NRC, for your
5 findings. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you,
8 Councilwoman. We have another Thames on the speaker
9 list, a lesser light in the family, but Mitch Thames.
10 And then we're going to go to Ed Halpin, Owen Bludau,
11 and Tom Smith.

12 MR. THAMES: Thank you, Chip, and thank
13 you so much, NRC. We welcome you, we certainly do. I
14 have to follow my boss in coming up here and welcoming
15 you, but we certainly do appreciate you coming to
16 Matagorda County.

17 I wear a couple of hats, but the ones that
18 I really enjoy is selling Matagorda County. I love
19 talking about our Christmas Audubon Society North
20 American Bird Count Winner for 11 out of the 12 years,
21 where they're seeing hundreds of our migrating birds.

22 I love talking about fishing in the Colorado River,
23 East Bay, West Bay, deep sea fishing in the Gulf of
24 Mexico. I love talking about the sports and the
25 recreation. It's a lot of fun. We talk about a

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1 sensitive environmental area when you talk about fresh
2 water, when you talk about blackfish and salt water,
3 and all of that right here in Matagorda County, very,
4 very unique. And those accomplishments that I
5 contribute to God, not us, but I also make sure and
6 tell you that all of those things have been going on
7 the whole 25 to 30 years that Units 1 and 2 have been
8 in operation.

9 The ladies and gentlemen at STP are our
10 friends, and our neighbors. We go to church with
11 them. They're on our leaders, as you've heard before,
12 they're on the ballfields, they're coaching Little
13 League. They are a solid part.

14 This project, 3 and 4, will not only help
15 the State of Texas with power needs, it'll help this
16 community, as well. We do appreciate you coming here.

17 Thank you so much, and we certainly hope that you do
18 your due diligence. I was quoted in the paper as
19 saying that I want the NRC to do their due diligence,
20 but get on with it. Thank you very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mitch.
23 We're next going to hear from Ed Halpin, who is the
24 Chief Executive Officer for South Texas Nuclear
25 Operating Company.

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1 MR. HALPIN: Good afternoon, everyone. My
2 name is Ed Halpin. I'm the President and CEO of the
3 South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company. I want
4 to warmly welcome you this afternoon. Public
5 involvement in this process called licensing of new
6 nuclear power plants, is essential. What it does is
7 it, in the end, helps to bring a better product. And,
8 frankly, it adds a lot of transparency to the process,
9 and also builds public confidence and trust, which is
10 essential. So, thank you very much for being here.

11 Speaking of trust, we have been given a
12 special trust by the people who live in Matagorda
13 County, and that trust is to keep people safe. We
14 take that responsibility with the utmost of
15 seriousness, and we focus on it every minute of every
16 day. We do that by operating safely, and by putting
17 nuclear safety first in everything we do.

18 Our employees, who are experts in the
19 areas of operation, in the area of maintenance,
20 engineering, and in the environment, work hard each
21 and every day to operate safely, and reliably. And
22 you know what, as was said here today before, those
23 employees just don't confine that expertise to the
24 gates of STP, they transcend past those gates out into
25 the community, where they are involved in a number of

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1 different committees and leadership opportunities to
2 help make life better for all of us, and for those who
3 are in Matagorda County. And that's very consistent
4 with our vision at the station, which is simply to
5 improve people's lives through excellence in energy
6 generation, and we take that vision very seriously.

7 Some of you have probably seen the map of
8 the world at night with the lights. You see all the
9 lights that are up there, and you see areas of our
10 globe that are without lights. Now, some of those are
11 covered with ice, and some are covered with sand, but
12 a lot of where people live, and try to live out a
13 life, and it's not a very good life, because they
14 don't have electricity. And when you don't have
15 electricity, you don't have industry. And when you
16 don't have industry, there are no jobs. And when
17 there are no jobs, there's poverty. So, what we do at
18 South Texas is we create a commodity that's essential
19 for life, electricity. And we think that helps to
20 improve people's lives. And we do it using nuclear
21 technology. And we think nuclear is very good for all
22 of us, for the environment, avoiding across the United
23 States some 700 tons per year of carbon dioxide going
24 into the environment, avoiding that. And we create
25 jobs, as was mentioned. Thousands of construction jobs

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1 will be created with Units 3 and 4, an additional 800
2 or so permanent in-house jobs at the station. That
3 improves quality of life.

4 You know, some 30 years ago, South Texas
5 was envisioned as a four-unit station, four units.
6 And, today it's seen as the premier spot in the United
7 States to construct two more units. And there's a
8 list that's a mile long as to why, but let me mention
9 two reasons. Number one, is because of the track
10 record of 1 and 2. Units 1 and 2 have been run in a
11 fashion that's safe, and industry-leading. And the
12 second, and more important reason to build at South
13 Texas is because of the relationship that's just been
14 talked about that we have with the community. It is
15 one that's been forged over the last 30 years, and
16 it's more than a partnership, it's a friendship, and
17 it's one that we cherish, and it's unique. And,
18 therefore, it is why people want to build here.

19 So, consider all that. We need the energy
20 to happen. It should happen through nuclear. Nuclear
21 is safe and clean. So, as you sit here, and you talk,
22 and you provide your questions, think about our
23 future, think about our energy strategy, think about
24 nuclear. Thank you very much for your attention.

25 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,

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1 Ed.

2 (Applause.)

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: We're going to go to
4 Owen Bludau, and then we're going to go to Tom Smith,
5 and then Michael Griffith, and then Karen Hadden.
6 This is Owen.

7 MR. BLUDAU: Good afternoon. My name is
8 Owen Bludau. I'm Executive Director of the Matagorda
9 County Economic Development Corporation, and Executive
10 Director under contract to the City of Palacios
11 Economic Development Corporation. On behalf of those
12 two organizations, I have letters to submit in support
13 of the approval of the Draft EIS, making it a Final
14 EIS. I'd like to read one of them. The wording is
15 different, but the sentiments are the same.

16 "The Matagorda County Economic Development
17 Corporation fully supports the granting of Combined
18 Operating License for STP Units 3 and 4. The four
19 reactors at the site were envisioned from the
20 beginning. The site and the cooling pond sizes were
21 determined based on four reactors. The environment
22 impacts of constructing Units 3 and 4 will be minimal,
23 because of the construction that occurred initially
24 with 1 and 2.

25 The Matagorda County Economic Development

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1 Corporation submits this letter in support of the
2 findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
3 that there are no significant environmental reasons
4 for denying the construction, and operating license
5 for Units 3 and 4.

6 STP has proven its trustworthiness to the
7 NRC, and to Matagorda County by its safe and reliable
8 operations since the early 1980s. Its performance and
9 safety records have set national and international
10 standards. STP is a valued business in our community.

11 Its employees are active in all types of civic,
12 religious, recreational, and political areas within
13 the community. We expect an enlarged STP with the
14 addition of Units 3 and 4 to continue the same level
15 of safe, reliable, and dependable operations, and
16 their employees to continue the same level of
17 community involvement. And on behalf of the Matagorda
18 County Economic Development Corporation, and the City
19 of Palacios Economic Development Corporation, we urge
20 approval of the Draft EIS into a Final EIS, and
21 quickly proceed to issue the operating license in
22 early 2012 with the construction of Units 3 and 4."

23 Thank you.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,
25 Owen. We'll put this on the transcript. Thank you.

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1 And there's two letters here.

2 (Applause.)

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Next, we're going to
4 go to Tom Smith. And I have to apologize to Smitty,
5 we don't provide capability for people to show
6 PowerPoint here, and he does have PowerPoint, but we
7 are going to attach the PowerPoint to the transcript.
8 Tom Smith.

9 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. My name is
10 Tom Smith. I'm better known as Smitty, and I'm here
11 because I don't think the NRC has done an adequate job
12 in analyzing the need for the plant. And if the plant
13 is not needed, then we, as tax payers, and you, as
14 residents of Matagorda County, may end up with a plant
15 that is never completed, and may end being an economic
16 albatross, both through having to pay out on the loan
17 guarantees, but with you having a plant that's never
18 completed, and dreams unfulfilled.

19 I don't think the NRC has done an adequate
20 job in looking at the efficiency potential, and the
21 potential for renewables, combined heating and power,
22 geothermal, the impact of what we call nodal
23 transmission, or nodal dispatch, and demand side
24 management. Without a doubt, Texas is going to need
25 some kinds of new sources of electricity. The

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1 Electric Reliability Council says we need 30,000
2 megawatts of new energy. We don't think we need
3 anywhere near that, but I'll get into that in just a
4 minute.

5 But what's important is that study, after
6 study, after study, after study all show that nuclear
7 power is the most expensive way to meet our energy
8 needs of the future. Industry studies indicate that
9 energy efficiency, wind, coal with carbon
10 sequestration, natural gas with carbon sequestration
11 are all lower cost than nuclear power. The Federal
12 Energy Regulatory Commission has similar numbers. And
13 a study we had a consultant do last April by a former
14 expert for the Office of Public Utility Council in
15 Texas, came to the same conclusion. But what he
16 showed in his study, which I think is important, is
17 that it's 20 years before this plant starts to make a
18 profit. And, at some point, the investor community is
19 going to get wise to this, and say why would we invest
20 in a plant like this, if there are a bunch of cheaper
21 ways to end up making money, and to generating
22 electricity?

23 Now, the plant originally was expected to
24 cost about \$5.4 billion, is now \$18.2 billion. The
25 plant's cost has trebled before we've even turned dirt

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1 out here. And, as a result, there aren't a whole lot
2 of buyers showing up in the marketplace, either as
3 partners, or who are likely going to end up buying the
4 power, if it's finally produced and sold on the open
5 market.

6 And one of the things that's important to
7 recognize is the folks who are in charge of
8 determining whether we need power, the Electric
9 Reliability Council of Texas, haven't done their
10 homework. They haven't really looked at the amount of
11 wind we've got, potentially, or amount of energy
12 efficiency, haven't added in all the coal plants that
13 have been permitted, or are close to being permitted.

14 For example, they assume that wind only blows 8.7
15 percent of the time. I've been to your coast. I know
16 it's a hell of a lot stronger than that. The numbers
17 on the coast seem to be around 40 percent of the time,
18 high 30s in the evenings and night out in the West
19 Texas wind areas.

20 A number of studies done for the PUC and
21 others indicate that we can meet 101 percent of our
22 demand for electricity in the I-35 corridor, and about
23 76 percent of the growing demand over that same period
24 of time through energy efficiency. We will need some
25 new power plants in the industrial belt along the

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1 coast, but not nearly as many as the Electric
2 Reliability Council of Texas has indicated we will.

3 You all know about cogen. There's about
4 another 15,000 megawatts of cogen out there that have
5 never been plugged in that could be utilized. And
6 there's a great untapped resource called geothermal
7 energy that's underground. And anybody who has ever
8 drilled for oil and gas knows one of your problems is
9 you've got to deal with the hot stuff, the hot water,
10 the hot brines that come out from underground. That
11 can be turned into electricity and sold to the grid.

12 I've got bad news for you all. We are
13 number two in the nation, and those nasty people on
14 the other side of the Red River, the Sooners have got
15 more of it than we do, but we have more than 5,000
16 megawatts of geothermal energy that are about half the
17 cost of the nuclear power plant just waiting
18 underground to be used, about 5,000 megawatts.

19 Energy storage is right on the horizon.
20 And we know how to do it, we've been doing it for over
21 50 years with compressed natural gas. We can do it
22 with wind, and other kinds of renewable energies. So,
23 let me give you some of the big numbers you would have
24 seen on the chart. We think that there's about 1,100
25 -- what STP is fixing to put out, about 2,600

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1 megawatts. We think we can save 1,100 megawatts with
2 the new building codes that are now required in Texas,
3 154 megawatts with better appliances, 3,300 megawatts
4 with the programs that the Public Utilities Commission
5 is putting in there. There are 1,900 megawatts of new
6 permitted coal that aren't in the NRC report that you
7 saw up here, and we think there's another 2,400 likely
8 to get permitted within the next six months.

9 We think that there is about another 3,500
10 megawatts of geothermal that's likely, and other non-
11 wind resources that could be put on line in the same
12 period of time at a fraction of the cost. And that
13 the real number is probably about 8,000 megawatts of
14 wind on peak, off peak, serving as baseload with
15 storage. And 15,000 megawatts of combined heating and
16 power that could economically be put into place.

17 The bottom line is, that entire capacity
18 hole under the worst case scenario of 30,000 megawatts
19 and leaves another 5,000 on the table leftover, spare.

20 There's not a market for this power plant. There's
21 no real need for the power plant. And we don't think
22 the NRC did a good enough job at looking at the need
23 for the power plant, or its alternatives.

24 What does that mean for this community,
25 and what does that mean for the United States

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1 government? If loan guarantees are granted, if this
2 plant is started, somewhere along the line the market
3 is going to do what markets do, and say this power is
4 too expensive to use, and this plant will never be
5 completed. And we believe that the NRC needs to go
6 back and take a good hard look at the basis of the
7 assessment for the analysis of need, and alternatives.

8 Thank you all very much.

9 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Smitty.

10 (Applause.)

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Michael Griffith,
12 and then we'll go to Karen Hadden, and Steve Smith,
13 and then Kaley Roberts.

14 MR. GRIFFITH: I'm Mike Griffith with Port
15 of Bay City Authority. We're the local sponsor for
16 the federal project, which is Colorado River
17 Navigation Channel. We've been affiliated with the
18 nuclear plant in some of their activities, and they've
19 been a great partner. And the Port fully supports the
20 expansion of Units 3 and 4.

21 Just personally, I've served on many local
22 boards, and civic organizations with employees of the
23 nuclear power plant, and it's evident that they
24 receive training, and they have a team effort, and
25 they bring a lot to all of these boards. And it's

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1 just comforting to know that these are the people that
2 are out there operating this plant, and it seems like
3 it's been a very professional and good manner. So,
4 that's all.

5 FACILITATOR CAMERON: All right. Thank
6 you, Michael.

7 (Applause.)

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Karen, are you
9 ready? This is Karen Hadden.

10 MS. HADDEN: Good afternoon. Like Tom
11 "Smitty" Smith ahead of me, I would like to relay some
12 of my concerns with the Draft Environmental Impact
13 Statement on behalf of the SEED Coalition, Sustainable
14 Energy and Economic Development Coalition.

15 The Draft Environmental Impact Statement
16 is not adequate. It does not have adequate scientific
17 analysis on many fronts, and it paints a glossy
18 picture, while minimizing risks. I have come to call
19 it the "Don't Worry Be Happy Report." We will be
20 submitting written comments, and more detailed
21 comments in the future.

22 Many of our original concerns remain, and
23 we've spoken with scientists all along and tried to
24 give input for this study, but it appears to have been
25 disregarded. We have concerns with safety, security,

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1 radiation risks for the general population, and for
2 workers, radioactive waste problems that still have no
3 solution, and the consumption of vast quantities of
4 water.

5 The STP proposed reactors are incredibly
6 expensive. They could be as much as \$22 billion,
7 according to one study. Federal loan guarantees, if
8 granted, and if there were to be a default, would cost
9 billions of dollars, and all U.S. tax payers would be
10 left with that bill.

11 If there was a serious accident at South
12 Texas Project, hopefully, there never will be, it
13 could impact the whole State of Texas, not just Bay
14 City. A 1982 report that was done for the NRC by
15 Sandia Labs found that there could be 18,000 early
16 deaths if there was a meltdown. That would be
17 followed by thousands of cancers, and they would not
18 be limited to Bay City. These are risks that Texans
19 don't need, risks that we don't need to take. There
20 are ways to generate electricity. There are safe,
21 affordable, less risky options to do so, and plenty of
22 ways to have economic vitality in the community
23 without building nuclear reactors.

24 The Environmental Impact Statement uses
25 the categories of small, medium, and large. These are

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1 not scientific terms. These are not numbers, and,
2 yet, they are used throughout the EIS without giving
3 corresponding numerical parameters. This is not
4 scientifically valid. This is a judgment call.

5 Water use, again, is of a great concern.
6 The Draft EIS points out that in 26 of 60 recent
7 years, the Colorado had lowered river flow. It was 75
8 percent of the average flow during those years. The
9 lowest the river has gotten down to is 20 percent of
10 the average flow, so while STP may be allowed to use
11 up to 100,000 acre feet per year, there is no
12 guarantee that that water will be there. Last
13 September, the water in the main cooling reservoir got
14 quite low, and extensive pumping was needed to refill
15 it in a time of serious drought.

16 The proposed reactors, Units 3 and 4,
17 would use over 23,000 gallons per minute, per minute.

18 That is filling 1,440 swimming pools in one day,
19 backyard swimming pools. So, this vast consumption of
20 water raises the question of how will other users get
21 water if there is a drought, the water needed for rice
22 farming and ranching, the water needed for recreation.

23 Together with all four reactors, the site would use
24 42,604 gallons per minute.

25 In addition, there would be ground water

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1 use of 1,860 gallons per minute, and I would
2 recommend, and I don't see it in the EIS, that the
3 water be tested to make sure that there's no
4 radioactivity, since that will be drinking water.

5 The aquatic organisms have been identified
6 in the Environmental Impact Statement, which is great.

7 They're supposed to do that. They did impingement
8 testing, testing what's there in the reservoir, and
9 they looked at what's out there around in the
10 community. What they did not do was take any of these
11 organisms into a laboratory and find out, is there
12 radioactivity already here? Is there tritium already
13 here? And they should. There's condition reports
14 from the plant that say there is tritium getting into
15 the Colorado River, not high levels compared to other
16 sites around the country, but it's there. There are
17 reports that show that the monitoring wells have
18 increasing levels of tritium. Why were these
19 organisms not tested, fish, snakes, invertebrates,
20 birds, shell fish, blue crabs, oysters, and even the
21 larger aquatic mammals. No testing, and we
22 recommended this from day one.

23 In terms of that, the EIS acknowledges the
24 shortcoming in data, and they simply say STPNOC does
25 not conduct any routine monitoring of aquatic

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1 resources of the site. Regulatory agencies have not
2 required ecological monitoring of the STP site, and it
3 hasn't been done, even with this Draft Environmental
4 Impact Statement looking to build two more reactors.

5 According to the Environmental Impact
6 Statement, there were over 122,000 people living
7 within 50 miles of the South Texas Project site. They
8 could, according to the document, be exposed to 2.5
9 millirem per year from the two proposed units. No
10 mention was made at the same time of exposure from the
11 existing units, and what the cumulative impact is, nor
12 any kind of real estimate of what the health risks are
13 from this level of exposure.

14 These are some of the many reasons that
15 we're concerned. I would like to note that in terms
16 of looking at the pathways, and the organisms, the
17 testing that was done involved visual inspection.
18 They requested laboratory -- we requested laboratory
19 testing, but what was actually done was that people
20 came out and toured the site. You cannot tell if an
21 organism has absorbed radiation by looking at it. You
22 do need to go into a laboratory. That has not been
23 done. And there needs to be significantly more work
24 done on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

25 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Karen.

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1 (Applause.)

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: We're going to go to
3 Steven Smith, then Kaley Roberts, Mark Griffin, and
4 Mark McBurnett, and Steve Smith, medical.

5 MR. SMITH: I was not smart enough to
6 print it big enough that I don't have to use my
7 glasses. I'm Steve Smith, and I'm the Chief Executive
8 Officer for Matagorda County Hospital District. And
9 it's my privilege to deliver a letter of endorsement
10 on behalf of our Governing Board. And I'm going to
11 read that into the record.

12 "Matagorda Regional Medical Center Board
13 of Managers supports the expansion of South Texas
14 Project's proposed Units 3 and 4. For nearly 30
15 years, STP has been a key part of Matagorda County and
16 the local communities. STP is the largest employer in
17 Matagorda County, with more than 1,200 employees. The
18 new units will add an additional 800 permanent jobs to
19 the local economy. The company's employees are active
20 and engaged in the local community, serving on school
21 boards, chambers, and in civic and service
22 organizations.

23 Last year, STP made the largest single
24 contribution. You've already heard the number, the
25 cat is out of the bag, \$250,000 by one single

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1 organization to support the Matagorda Regional Medical
2 Center Foundation, as we moved into our new hospital,
3 the Matagorda Regional Medical Center. This state-of-
4 the-art facility opened last year, and provides much
5 needed first-class medical services to the local
6 region. In recognition of the company's contribution,
7 the main entrance to the Medical Center was named STP
8 Avenue.

9 For 20 years, STP's existing units have
10 provided safe, clean, reliable energy to 2 million
11 Texas homes. The facility is a recognized industry
12 leader in production, reliability, and safety.
13 Earlier this year, STP surpassed 10 million man hours,
14 nearly three years, without a loss time or restricted
15 duty injury. The facility is focused and committed to
16 the safety of its employees, and the surrounding
17 communities.

18 We believe nuclear energy must play a
19 larger role in our state's long-term energy future.
20 There is a growing recognition of nuclear energy's
21 environmental benefits, and its role in providing much
22 needed generating capacity in Texas for the decades
23 ahead.

24 The Matagorda Regional Medical Center
25 Board of Managers supports STP's expansion. The new

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1 units will benefit not only our local communities, but
2 our entire state for decades to come. And as its
3 Chief Executive Officer, I'd like to extend my
4 continued commitment to Ed and family at STP to
5 continue our partnership in developing safe processes
6 and procedures to work together for the safety of
7 their employees, and we look forward to growing and
8 expanding along with STP, as this community's health
9 care needs grow. Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,
12 Steven. We're next going to go to Kaley Roberts.

13 MS. ROBERTS: Again, I'm Kaley Roberts,
14 and I'm with Hampton Inn & Suites here in Bay City,
15 and Titan Hotels Group.

16 Titan Hotels Group is a hotel management
17 company with properties in Bay City, Texas, Mount
18 Pleasant, Texas, and future sites in Ponca City,
19 Oklahoma. We are a Hilton-approved management company
20 with over 40 years experience in hotel operations, and
21 we have chosen to build and manage the Hampton Inn &
22 Suites here in Bay City.

23 A few years ago, the owners of the Hampton
24 Inn & Suites had never even heard of a little town
25 called Bay City. Then watching television one night,

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1 one of the owners saw a news report on STP, and what
2 they were doing to bring growth to the local area.
3 Over the next few months, a lot of research was done,
4 and they decided that Bay City is where they would
5 most like to invest their time and money. However,
6 when building a hotel, owners aren't the only ones
7 that have to be convinced of a location's viability,
8 and prosperity. In this case, Hilton also had to be
9 convinced that STP was a wonderful reason to bring an
10 \$8 million project to Bay City. Needless to say, both
11 parties felt it was worthwhile endeavor.

12 As the person in our community that is
13 greatly involved with a lot of the local people and
14 businesses, I was surprised to find there were a lot
15 of people who couldn't understand our reasons for
16 wanting to bring another hotel to Bay City. However,
17 after a while, I realized that a lot of their
18 confusion on why we were here is because they were
19 simply unaware, and uneducated as to what STP does for
20 their own businesses and community.

21 As someone who does not permanently reside
22 in Bay City, or South Texas, for that matter, myself
23 and all of us at Hampton Inn & Suites and Titan Hotels
24 Group would never try to sway your beliefs on the
25 environmental aspects of STP. However, as a group of

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1 people that are extremely environmentally aware, and
2 health-conscious, we do feel perfectly comfortable in
3 spending extended periods of time here, and with
4 having employees that live and work in Bay City. We
5 believe this is a decision that needs to be influenced
6 by the people who live and work in Bay City, and are
7 as excited and comfortable about being in the areas as
8 we are.

9 Titan Hotels Group and Hampton Inn &
10 Suites have chosen to put roots down in Bay City, and,
11 therefore, we're here to show our support for STP, and
12 we ask that you do the same. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Kaley.
15 We're going to hear from Mark Griffin, and then Mark
16 McBurnett, then we're going to go to Vatsu Kumar,
17 Susan Dancer, and John Corder.

18 MR. GRIFFIN: Good afternoon. I'd like to
19 thank the NRC for providing the opportunity for me and
20 others in the community to express our views in this
21 format. As you said, my name is Mark Griffin. I'm a
22 second generation nuclear worker. I followed in my
23 father's footsteps into this business. My father began
24 in the nuclear power plant industry back in the `60s,
25 late `60s is when he started. His career took our

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1 family from Illinois, to Alabama, to Louisiana,
2 Florida, and even here at South Texas Project twice,
3 where he did retire.

4 I followed my father's footsteps beginning
5 in 1987 at Turkey Point Nuclear Plant in Homestead,
6 Florida. I then followed him here to Bay City, Texas
7 in 1989. I was hired as an apprentice here in the
8 Mechanical Maintenance Department at STP, where I
9 currently am employed as a Head Journeyman, and I have
10 nearly 21 years of service. I currently serve a dual
11 role at STP, and I have for the better part of the
12 last 16 years. In addition to being a Head Journeyman
13 in the Maintenance Department out there, I am also the
14 Unit Chairman of the International Brotherhood of
15 Electrical Workers, Local 66 out of STP. I'm also a
16 Shop Steward in the Mechanical Maintenance Department.

17 As both a union member, and a union
18 officer, I would just like to express my support for
19 this expansion project. STP Units 3 and 4 will
20 produce approximately 4-6,000 construction jobs, which
21 will be staffed, primarily, by the AFL-CIO, the
22 Building and Construction Trades Department, who
23 currently represent over 2 million skilled crafts
24 persons in both America and Canada. The construction
25 phase will also inject several billion dollars into

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1 this local community.

2 Once these units are complete, they will
3 create an additional 800 well-paying full-time jobs,
4 many of which, again, will be filled by skilled union
5 craftsmen. In addition, the potential for as many as
6 12-1300 jobs will be created between 2011 and 2017 to
7 compensate for the loss of retirees at the current
8 units.

9 My family has been supported by income
10 received from the nuclear power generation since I was
11 a small child. My father supported a family of five.

12 I have helped to raise four children, and am now the
13 proud grandfather to five grandchildren, and have the
14 sixth grandbaby coming this summer. Between my father
15 and I, we have over 40 years of worth of safe,
16 healthy, gainful employment in the nuclear power
17 industry.

18 I have experienced firsthand the benefits
19 of a project of this nature on the local community.
20 This project will produce well-paying jobs, with solid
21 benefit packages, and stability to the local area for
22 decades to come. I am extremely proud to work in a
23 business that can provide such stability and
24 opportunity. I would also be very proud to have my
25 children and my grandchildren follow in my footsteps.

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1 Environmental Operating Report. We put it out every
2 year, actually, we're required to put it out every
3 year, but in this report, it goes through great detail
4 of how we are good stewards for the environment. It
5 has technical information in it on monitoring, and the
6 data that comes out from both radiological and non-
7 radiological impact on the environment from STP.

8 You read that report, as I'm proud to show
9 it, it shows that South Texas is a good steward of the
10 environment. And it does show what -- and if you go
11 through it, you'll see things in it, like it does talk
12 about tritium. In the case of tritium -- tritium, by
13 the way, is a naturally occurring element on earth.
14 It's created by cosmic radiation and water, it's the
15 primary source of tritium.

16 Nuclear power plants, particularly,
17 pressurized water reactors also produce tritium. So,
18 what happens at boiling water reactors, which are the
19 type that we're building in Units 3 and 4, produce a
20 small fraction of the amount of tritium that is
21 produced in pressurized water reactors.

22 The important thing here is we know what's
23 there, we measure, we monitor it. And, by the way, it
24 is not in the drinking water, not in the deep aquifer.

25 It is also -- what we have in our reservoir is

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1 actually below the Environmental Protection Agency
2 limit, significantly below the Environmental
3 Protection Agency limits for drinking water.

4 A couple of other topics I wanted to hit
5 on. The main cooling reservoir in South Texas, as our
6 source of cooling, that reservoir, basically, is a
7 storage facility. We pump water out of the Colorado,
8 store it in that reservoir, and use it for cooling.
9 Over time, it evaporates, and we have to add more
10 water to it. We pump water out of the Colorado River
11 when the river is flowing. In fact, this last year
12 the reservoir was at a low level towards the latter
13 part of last year due to the dry conditions, so we
14 hadn't pumped water in a long time. Just when the
15 rain started, we basically had filled that reservoir
16 back to full capacity now. We fill it, basically, off
17 the run of the river. The rain that's sent between,
18 basically, Columbus and Bay City, has provided
19 sufficient water to refill that reservoir. And that's
20 been our normal practice. That's really how that
21 reservoir is kept full. So, we store it for times.
22 If we have sufficient storage quantity in there for
23 times of drought, such that we don't have to draw from
24 the river during times of drought. And then there's
25 provisions to deal with those circumstances, as well.

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1 One last item I'd like to talk about is
2 cost. Nuclear power plants are very large capital
3 investments, no denying that. They're also long-term
4 investments. This plant will run for upwards of 60
5 plus years generating reliable power. It's a long-
6 term investment. We look back at Unit 1 and 2, and we
7 were saying the same things in the mid-1980s about how
8 enormously expensive these plants were, and how could
9 they possibly be economical. We look at it today, 25
10 years later, and we see that South Texas generates
11 power at the lowest cost in the state. We see
12 communities, like San Antonio, that get the majority
13 of their power from South Texas have the lowest rates
14 in the state for power, substantially lower than what
15 we do in the state at large.

16 It's true the new units are going to be
17 expensive. The precise detail of those cost estimates
18 is proprietary information, it's not released. But
19 what we do know is, basically, we are deregulated
20 market. We're a merchant power producer. Our owners
21 are a merchant power producer. If this plant is going
22 to be built, it's got to satisfy their economic model
23 to show that it will make money. It's got to satisfy
24 their economic model, such that they can satisfy their
25 investors. So, basically, it won't start construction

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1 unless it passes that hurdle first, because they won't
2 finance it.

3 Any questions you have regarding the
4 plant, we have some staff here who would certainly be
5 happy to talk to anybody about any of these details,
6 or any others on a break and between the meetings.
7 Thank you, Chip.

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Next three speakers,
11 Vatsu Kumar, Susan Dancer, and John Corder. Vatsu, am
12 I pronouncing that right? Here he is.

13 MR. KUMAR: Good afternoon. My name is
14 correctly spelled as Vatsu Kumar. Thank you. I am
15 probably the first speaker here this afternoon that is
16 a retired employee of STP. I speak with pride, and
17 will speak with passion about what I'm going to
18 present to you, not because I worked in STP, because
19 what I'm going to say to you is just the truth. And,
20 also at the end of my presentation, I'd like to leave
21 this paper as a reference too.

22 (Off mic comment.)

23 MR. KUMAR: Okay. Can you all hear me
24 now? Okay. Thank you.

25 First of all, why nuclear energy? And,

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1 secondly, why STP? The answer to this question, first
2 of all, nuclear energy, availability of advanced
3 technology in the area of plant design that's provided
4 by nuclear energy industry. Large amount of power
5 that is reliable, economical, that will be available
6 for a long period of time, like 60 years or longer
7 with the same facility. Clean environment, not fly
8 ash, no sulfur dioxide emission, no sludge removal, no
9 need to store enormous quantities of raw fuel, either
10 carting them in, or carting them out, no raw
11 materials, no unnecessary raw materials needed on the
12 site.

13 The nuclear industry has continuously done
14 engineering, monitors the plant performances, looks
15 for ways and means of continuously improving the plant
16 efficiency. Mr. Ed Halpin, CEO of South Texas Project
17 who spoke earlier, said safety is number one. As a
18 matter of fact, on my sheet here, I wrote down safety
19 as number one. I will read it to you. It says,
20 "Safety of plant personnel and plant equipment is
21 number one priority to STP," and I am standing proof
22 of that, because I worked at STP for 26 years, started
23 in 1978, and retired the latter part of 2004, so I
24 know what it means to them about safety of personnel.
25 That is number one priority.

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1 Also, the training. Although I worked at
2 STP, I will not be giving any information that is very
3 specific to the plant. I will not go there. Training
4 of personnel. Trained personnel perform far more
5 better than people that are not trained. STP provides
6 super, super training that I have not seen anywhere
7 else. The emphasis on quality of work, there are
8 multiple points of checks and balances, so there's
9 nothing that can fall in the crack. Reviews, updates,
10 new designs are done in a very timely manner.

11 Cost of generation has gone down
12 continuously due to improvement of plant performance,
13 training of personnel, and a very positive attitude
14 that can be seen and experienced at the STP. There
15 are more deaths, in fact, I just wrote this page last
16 night, and this morning I got this book here, and I
17 would like to read from here two statements. One, the
18 first one, "Roadway conditions are a significant
19 factor in approximately one-third of traffic
20 fatalities. There were 41,059 traffic fatalities in
21 2008 in the USA, a total of 212,423 people died on
22 U.S. highways from 2004 through 2008." And like I
23 said earlier, I worked at STP from 1978 to 2004, in 26
24 years I didn't hear of any fatality, not one single
25 fatality at STP, to my knowledge.

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1 from his office, and I will provide you with a copy of
2 the entire email so that you can have it in its
3 entirety. This is from April the 30th, and this is a
4 forward from Police Chief Barker. It looks like maybe
5 it went to everybody in the Police Department, and
6 here are just some excerpts.

7 "This is a very important meeting. It is
8 critical that we show support for our future in the
9 construction of STP Units 3 and 4. Just like last
10 time, the opposition will bus in out-of-town people to
11 speak. Don't sit home and let them speak for you. If
12 you don't want to speak, we have to have you here
13 showing support. Just show up and sit with our team.

14 Showing strong local support for STP expansion Unit 3
15 and 4 at this meeting is important. STP is the
16 largest employer in Matagorda County with more than
17 1,200 employees. Units 3 and 4 will add an additional
18 800 permanent jobs to the local economy. Strong
19 support from local businesses and residents is
20 important, as the NRC considers STP's federal license
21 application. Displaying strong community support for
22 this project is important."

23 What bothers me about city officials,
24 including our Police Department's highest ranking
25 official getting involved at that level is that the

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1 effect on people here is too often -- they feel
2 squelched by their employers, and they don't feel
3 empowered to educate themselves to speak their mind.
4 What bothers me is the mischaracterization that
5 opposition is bussed in. I have been to every hearing
6 here so far, I have yet to see a bus.

7 What bothers me the most is the hearing, I
8 feel is made a mockery and a sham as local authorities
9 try to make it a popularity contest. I have yet to
10 see one single local official encouraging the populous
11 to read the actual document that we should be here
12 today to discuss with the seriousness becoming it, the
13 environmental impact of a nuclear expansion on our
14 community, nor do I believe that any official who
15 addressed you today has read the document. And I
16 challenge everyone who stands here today before they
17 begin their address, to state whether or not you've
18 actually read the EIS that you're here addressing, or
19 if you're just here to give support.

20 I am from Matagorda County, I was born and
21 raised here. I'm a third or fourth generation,
22 depending on which side of the house you look at,
23 Matagordaian, one of the few locals you will hear
24 speak against the expansion and its impact on our
25 environment and socioeconomic status. And while we're

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1 talking about who's from where, I'd like to issue a
2 challenge to our STP leaders, who are here to speak to
3 you today, to proclaim their loyalty to Matagorda
4 County, to tell you before they begin their
5 presentation what county they reside in.

6 I believe that although the NRC makes
7 every opportunity to have every citizen heard, and
8 thank you for that, for coming. I really do
9 appreciate the chance to participate. For reasons
10 mentioned earlier, the citizens are not allowed, in
11 many cases, to voice opposition. Because of that
12 fact, I want everyone to know that Karen Hadden from
13 the SEED Coalition, and Smitty from Public Citizen are
14 here at my request. I actually contacted them back in
15 2006 when I became concerned about an apparent lack of
16 commitment from STP to our community, might have been
17 2005, actually, I'm not sure about that. But this is
18 before Unit 3 and 4 were ever on the board. I
19 contacted them, found them on line, and asked them to
20 help me intervene in trying to get some more things
21 brought to light in this community, so they're not
22 just here bused in from Austin, they're here because I
23 asked them to be.

24 You will hear STP officials pledge their
25 concern for the physical environment, and they do have

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1 responsibility for a huge chunk of our county, about
2 12,000 acres, I think. But who is this land's
3 husbandry entrusted to, the lowest bidder. Things
4 like toxic herbicide and pesticide applications, and
5 wildlife management are handled by some of the lowest
6 paid, least well-trained contractors on site, not in-
7 house employees. Our state's wildlife and fur bearing
8 animals laws are regularly broken as underpaid,
9 inexperienced staff kill protected species, relocate
10 infectious disease specimens, and kill off honeybee
11 swarms necessary for pollination of our food crops.

12 I have personally spoken with some of the
13 contractors, and the STP personnel in charge of them
14 on multiple occasions. I'm a state-licensed wildlife
15 rehabilitator, and regularly teach classes on peaceful
16 and safe coexistence with our native species. When I
17 offered to teach, or provide other instructors or free
18 resources during the last wildlife crisis at STP, I
19 was told, and I quote, "We're not ready to take it to
20 that level." What does that say to you about STP's
21 real commitment to the environment where the rubber
22 meets the road?

23 Socioeconomically, STP proponents say that
24 the expansion is good for our area, yet 30 percent of
25 the children in the districts closest to STP live

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1 below the poverty level, and Matagorda County's
2 unemployment is the highest in the state. Is that
3 STP's fault? No, of course not, but they do play a
4 role. The only way for us to get out of our economic
5 slump is to acknowledge how we got here, and in that
6 STP does have a role. Here's how it works.

7 You get a big construction project going
8 on. You get an influx of people from around the
9 country, and in this case even from around the world.

10 And each professional who comes seeking job brings
11 with him an un- or under-skilled spouse, 2.3 children,
12 and encourages others to come with him, as well. Each
13 of these others come into the scenario and compete
14 with locals, who are already here, for the menial jobs
15 they already have. Unemployment here skyrockets. --
16 Can you hear me?

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Why don't you try
18 this one, but I'm going to have to ask you to just
19 sort of give us a summary.

20 MS. DANCER: Okay, I'm there. Okay.
21 Thank you. Okay. Socioeconomically, where am I?
22 Sorry about that. Meanwhile, infrastructure costs are
23 borne mostly by existing locals for classrooms,
24 hospitals, roadways, law enforcement efforts go
25 through the roof, so people already established here

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1 get a double whammy.

2 Mr. Thames' email promotes another entry,
3 that the STP employee basis here contributing to
4 Matagorda County, the truth is that a very large
5 percentage of the current 1,200 employees, and likely
6 800 to come live elsewhere. A huge chunk of STP's
7 upper managers live in neighboring Brazoria County,
8 leaving Matagorda County the risk, the infrastructure
9 burden, and the economic backlash that worsens the
10 very issues it proposes to remedy.

11 Another undeniable factor in STP's
12 inability to be the answer to our economic woes is
13 that STP's upper management positions appear to be
14 only open to white males. I have created a few charts
15 here that show the racial and gender makeup of
16 Matagorda County versus the percentage of minorities
17 and women in the highly touted, highly sought after,
18 high paying jobs at STP.

19 The fact of the matter is that STP 1 and 2
20 did not bring prosperity to our community by any
21 economic indicator one may use, child poverty,
22 unemployment, et cetera. The fact of the matter is
23 the local people look realistically at indicators via
24 the EIS process, expanding the nuclear plant seems to
25 only worsen our situation.

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1 intervener for or against? Each one of you can decide
2 yourselves if you intervene. Ask the questions.
3 Don't depend on public comments by those that are for
4 or against. Ask the questions.

5 I have asked questions of each of these
6 people that I've just mentioned in these
7 organizations. I have not always got the answer, in
8 some cases never. I learned today that there was an
9 answer, not yet gotten to me. It is important for
10 each one of you to ask questions, to intervene, if you
11 will. Exercise your freedom, because once the money
12 is spent, then the freedom doesn't make any
13 difference, because you didn't speak.

14 Here's a question that one might ask.
15 What percent of the United States manual labor or
16 labor hours are expended to put this plant on line in
17 contrast to the labor that's being provided overseas?

18 I don't think we'll ever get that answer, because we
19 have a corporation that is private, and I understand
20 that. I have a company, too.

21 My purpose in being here is to have you to
22 consider to ask the questions, decide for yourself to
23 intervene for or against. It is important, as it is
24 in anything else we have to do as citizens. Thank
25 you.

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1 (Applause.)

2 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I'm going to turn
3 this over to my colleague, Gene Carpenter, and Gene is
4 going to lead us through the rest of the speakers.
5 Gene.

6 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Chip. First up
7 will be Ben Holt, then Roy Craft, then Michael O'Day.

8 I apologize up front when I mangle your name, please
9 understand it's my fault, not yours. So, Mr. Holt.

10 MR. HOLT: Test. Can you all hear me? I
11 don't need a microphone. My boss is right there.
12 He'll attribute an account to that. But, man, this is
13 a big subject. I mean, it's big enough to where we
14 have meetings, we have government intervention of
15 safety, and I appreciate the NRC for coming down and
16 doing their study. It's exciting. The stuff that I'm
17 seeing is exciting.

18 Now, there are opposition, this is a great
19 country, so we can have going back and forth. I'm not
20 going to get political, because I'm Ben Holt, and I'm
21 with Heritage Homes. And we're coming to help
22 contribute housing to this community, because we see
23 the potential of the growth. There's no permit yet
24 that's coming, but there's the due diligence that's
25 coming, and it's all good news. It's kind of a big

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1 drum roll of coming with this community that I've seen
2 from getting to know the locals. I'm right up the
3 street. I'm at 35 Wayward, office out of Angleton.
4 So, the county coming down. No, I don't reside here,
5 but I should, because I'm here a bunch. And coming in
6 and getting to meet the people, and the patrons, and
7 the people that are in the stores, and different
8 things, and we're just real excited. So, we're not
9 waiting to see, we're kind of taking some risk. Where
10 we're coming from is, we're putting subdivisions in
11 here already. We have one that's already released and
12 open, another one that's coming that we have land that
13 we have a contract on. And we're banking on this for
14 that.

15 But, I tell you what I don't want. I don't
16 want a quick dollar, or something that comes from my
17 well being. I can't live, and can't sleep if there's
18 environmental impact that's going to hurt a community,
19 because it's going to hurt me, too. I'm right up the
20 street, and this is a nuclear facility. So, I'm
21 encouraged of the report. I haven't read the report.
22 I'm going to, and I'll ask some questions, too, as far
23 as being an intervener, because I have a conscience,
24 and I have family. I've got a three-year old little
25 girl, and a one-year old little girl, and they're

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1 going to kill me in other ways, but coming in with
2 this, this is an exciting time for this community.

3 I've seen the leaders, I've spoken hand-
4 and-hand with them, and we are here to support this
5 growth. And there's a little asterisk off with the
6 due diligence, that it's not going to be a harmful
7 deal. And I'm looking at a row of people that are
8 doing that, and community officials, and the people
9 that run this company that are seeing a great deal of
10 this. An exciting time for growth.

11 I'm coming from some scientific things,
12 too, from my past, and looking, and some research.
13 I'm a simpleton, and I'm like hmm, over two decades of
14 responsibility, and some reports and things, and going
15 back and forth, so it's fun, I guess, to go back and
16 forth, and have these things. And you've got to think
17 about this, but we're excited, as a company, to
18 support this growth, if being that it is for the good,
19 and it's showing that it's going that way for the
20 good. So, we're here, come and talk to me about a
21 house if you're looking for one, but coming in with
22 this for the study that's gone on for this community,
23 we are nothing but excited. And, to this point, with
24 the things that we've seen, and leadership that we've
25 talked with, and locals that we get to talk with every

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1 day, it's a super positive thing that I can gauge.
2 So, thank you all for coming and doing your work, and
3 we'll see how this goes, but we urge for the
4 certificate to be granted. Thank you.

5 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Ben.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CARPENTER: Next up will be Roy Craft,
8 then Michael O'Day, and then Valerie Segovia.

9 MR. CRAFT: Hi, I'm Roy Craft. I'm here
10 to support the implementation of the expansion of STP.
11 My background is that for more than 50 years I've
12 been a professional in radiation safety. I was at the
13 Savannah River Plant in South Carolina for several
14 years, and I have been able to do environmental
15 research, environmental monitoring, nuclear plant
16 operations, separations facility operations, and I'm
17 here to say it can be done safely, with no problems
18 that I could see from a technical standpoint for the
19 past -- well, I have to say, I made my first
20 radiological survey in January of 1951, so I have been
21 around for a while. Of course, I'm only 16. I aged
22 prematurely. But I do want to support the
23 implementation of the expansion. Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Roy. Michael

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1 O'Day, then Valerie Segovia, then Allison Sliva. I
2 apologize.

3 MR. O'DAY: Thank you very much, and my
4 name is Mike O'Day. I was your last State
5 Representative. I served on the House Natural
6 Resources Committee. I'm a water well driller, third
7 generation. My son is a fourth generation. We've
8 been drilling water wells in Matagorda County for
9 almost 100 years, so we're stewards of the
10 environment. We check the water. We maintain most of
11 the city municipal water wells in the county, so we
12 are monitoring those wells on a steady basis to see
13 what type of elements are in them. We see no impact
14 from STP on those.

15 I do live in Brazoria County, but my
16 second home is in Matagorda County. I'm just up the
17 river from STP, and I can actually see it at night
18 from my pier, so I know the plant, I know the safety
19 of the plant. I've been in STP many times. When it
20 comes to safety, these people don't just talk safety,
21 they live safety.

22 I really feel confident that they have our
23 best interest at heart when they're out there doing
24 their job. I have been in plants in Suzhou, China, in
25 Zibo, China, also, and worldwide nuclear energy is

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1 very efficient and very safe. I was listening to, is
2 it Griffin or Griffith? Mr. Griffin, and he was
3 talking about how much time he and his family have
4 spent in nuclear plants. I bet you his grandbabies
5 get more exposure to radiation from watching their
6 television, than he has ever had in a plant in his
7 entire life, or his dad.

8 So, with that, I also wanted to address
9 the fact that the only people here that have really
10 talked against the nuclear plant, as a whole, are
11 lobbyists, and they have come here to kind of make you
12 afraid of things. We talked about water. I'm on the
13 LCRA Advisory Board. I know how the plant takes their
14 water. Mark did a very good job of explaining it.
15 They take their water when the river is high. They
16 also take their water from below the fresh water
17 barrier, so the water they're taking is more brackish
18 than we would use for any of the other issues that we
19 use, especially for public consumption.

20 I have a lot of faith in this team as far
21 as they've run this plant -- this is the most
22 efficient plant in the United States. And I really
23 have a lot of confidence that they have the ability to
24 figure out if they could afford to run this thing, or
25 not, so if I'm going to rely on somebody to tell me if

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1 it's a good investment or not, and they could afford
2 to build it, I'm going to rely on the team here that's
3 built it before, doing it again, had been doing it for
4 20 years, have been good stewards of the community.
5 I'm going to rely on their ability to tell me that
6 they can make it, more than I would on somebody that's
7 just read a book about it.

8 With that, I just want to say, I believe
9 that STP has been a great steward. I've enjoyed all
10 my relationships with them. I've been in the plant.
11 I like the way they do their business. I think it's a
12 very safe facility, and I'm here in support. And I
13 thank the NRC very much for your participation.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you very much,
16 Michael. Valerie Segovia, then Allison Sliva. I
17 apologize for mangling your name earlier, and then
18 D.C. Dunham, please.

19 MS. SEGOVIA: Hello, my name is Valerie
20 Segovia, and I currently work for the Nuclear Power
21 Institute at Texas A&M. But I would like to just take
22 a little time and talk about several of the
23 perspectives from which I come. Number one, I've
24 lived in Matagorda County for, I'll just say it, 40
25 years. So, I was part of the community when the

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1 original plant came in. And I can just tell you as a
2 child, and as a young adult, and as an older adult,
3 always appreciated everything that the plant has done
4 for the community, wonderful stewards of the community
5 of all the events, of the environment. So, I
6 appreciate that very much as a young person, and as an
7 older person, but especially as a parent now. I have
8 three children of my own, and just the support, not
9 only in what they do for the environment, but also for
10 the educational system, and how they support those
11 programs.

12 Before I began working for the Nuclear
13 Power Institute at Texas A&M, I worked for the
14 Palacios Independent School District for a number of
15 years being a secondary principal, a high school
16 principal for the last years that I was there, and I
17 can tell you again, STP was hugely supportive of all
18 of our initiatives, not only in making them more
19 robust, and how they could facilitate in tours, or
20 just making -- supporting any kind of activities that
21 we had. They also provided scholarship opportunities
22 for our students, which was immensely important. So,
23 again, as an educator, I appreciate that so much.

24 And now that I work for the Nuclear Power
25 Institute, I'm able to work with several other school

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1 districts, especially in this county, and outside of
2 this county. And, again, I'm just so fortunate to be
3 able to see the growth that I see with the students
4 enthusiasm, because, believe it or not, teenagers are
5 paying attention, which is the good news, guys.
6 They're paying attention, and they're very much aware
7 that there is a possible expansion. And they're
8 getting excited. So many times, I think we
9 underestimate what the teenagers know, and what
10 they're aware of, but now they are feeling very, very
11 enthused about the possibility of job opportunities in
12 the community. Of course, they hear all the negative
13 things that have been happening in the last year and a
14 half, as far as employment in the United States, so,
15 of course, they've very concerned, too. But in this
16 immediate community, they're very excited about the
17 possibilities, which along with that brings a type of
18 focus for them. And that's extremely important for
19 secondary students to have that focus too, you know
20 what, now I know what I want to do. I know, I have an
21 idea of what I can use my math and science skills for,
22 so that's extremely, just as opportunities. And I can
23 tell you that STP again being a great steward, has
24 really struck, as they say, when the iron is hot, to
25 really key in on the enthusiasm with the schools, the

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1 programming, and not only with the immediate school
2 districts, but with the communities, the community
3 colleges, the universities and higher to really make
4 those programs robust, develop new programs,
5 innovative programs to really get students excited
6 about math, science, technology, which not only
7 benefits the area, the county, but also our county,
8 which is very, very important. So, thank you for
9 letting me speak today.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you very much,
12 Valerie.

13 (Off the record comment.)

14 MR. CARPENTER: Allison Sliva, then D.C.
15 Dunham, and then former Mayor Opella, please.

16 MS. SLIVA: Hi, I'm Allison Sliva, and I'm
17 a third generation Bay Citian. And I work for the
18 local school district here in Bay City. I was
19 actually a little kid when the plant was being
20 proposed, and I remember a lot of grief it caused my
21 family, because my great-grandfather's farm is now the
22 coolant pond. But I was little, I didn't know what
23 was going on.

24 Anyway, gotten over that. I just want to
25 say that I work with a lot of STP employees on

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1 different boards and in the community. The mentor in
2 our schools, and I coordinate the mentoring program
3 with ACIC. They come into our schools, and they teach
4 skills. They've got a welding program going in ACIC
5 giving our students some much needed real job, real
6 life skills that they will be able to get jobs with.
7 They do a lot of environmental awareness programs in
8 our schools. And a big thing for me, because I'm
9 always begging for money, is they are very, very
10 generous to our school district, and they never tell
11 me no, when a lot of other people do. And I really
12 appreciate that, and I just want to thank you all for
13 being here, and thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. CARPENTER: D.C. Dunham.

16 MS. DUNHAM: Good afternoon. I'm D.C.
17 Dunham, and I'm the Executive Director for Bay City
18 Community Development Corporation. And it's just
19 really an exciting time to be in economic development
20 in Texas, and especially in Matagorda County in Bay
21 City. In my industry, as an economic developer, we
22 very seldom get to experience this kind of expansion.
23 It's probably, maybe once in a lifetime. So, it's
24 important that we take advantage of the opportunities
25 that are put before us, and that are actually

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1 explained in this review in this document, which I did
2 read. Thank you, Jessie.

3 First, is to capture the great job
4 opportunities that are going to be coming. As most of
5 you know, that we purchased the old K-Mart building,
6 and built the STP Center for Energy Development, which
7 I think is, for most of us, quite a -- it's a pride
8 and joy for me, at any rate. And, of course, in that
9 facility we are educating our young adults, and
10 getting them prepared for these jobs at STP. So,
11 we're trying to be proactive there.

12 And then next we've got to capture the new
13 employees coming in. Susan, you're right, a lot of
14 the STP employees don't live in Matagorda County, but
15 we're trying to put some things in place right now to
16 make that happen, that those folks that are looking at
17 our area, see how great Bay City is, and look at some
18 of the developers, like Ben Holt that was just up
19 earlier. He's pretty energetic, and I think he's
20 going to be moving to Bay City shortly. But we are
21 developing subdivisions. We do have new housing going
22 in, and we even have -- there was a developer here
23 today that is looking at building some very nice high-
24 end apartments, so we will have those for people to
25 live in. And then, of course, the next big hurdle is

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1 creating those retail outlets that you all ask about,
2 and the entertainment venues. And I won't talk about
3 any specifics, but they are looking, and they are here
4 today, and wanting to know how some of these hearings
5 are turning out. So, I have to say that Bay City
6 today is truly a gateway to growth and opportunity.
7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you very much.
10 Former Mayor Opella, please. Then we will go to, and
11 I apologize up front, because I am going to butcher
12 this, Chance Chavez, and then Brent Marceaux.

13 MR. OPELLA: I want to thank you all, and
14 welcome everybody to Bay City. Today, at this time,
15 I'm appearing as just an ordinary citizen of Bay City.
16 I've lived in Bay City since 1961. Several years
17 ago, about 30, I was Mayor of Bay City. We had a
18 hearing, and I think you all called yourselves the
19 Atomic Energy Commission at that time. And as Mayor,
20 I represented the City of Bay City, the City Council,
21 and the majority of the citizens. We gave our full
22 support to the permitting, construction, and operation
23 at STP. And I certainly haven't changed my mind, as a
24 citizen, for that. But since this hearing is on the
25 environment, I want to speak a little bit about the

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1 environment.

2 My training is in accounting, but I spend
3 a lot of time outdoors. And one of the speakers before
4 me said her grandfather's place was a cooling pond.
5 Well, I knew her grandfather, and I knew her uncle.
6 We camped out there on that same spot for many years.

7 I was a Scout Master. For five years, we camped on
8 that place before the plant was even built. There
9 were deer, coons, possum, skunks, birds, everything
10 running all over the place, something where you can
11 have a lot of fun when you take 20 to 30 boys out
12 camping for a weekend. I also hunted on that same
13 spot. I'm a bird hunter, geese, ducks, and quail.
14 They were out there by the thousands, literally the
15 thousands, especially the geese during the wintertime.

16 Now, let's go forward to the present date.

17 What's out there now? The geese are still there, the
18 ducks are still there. In fact, the ducks are so
19 popular, they had to build a place where people can
20 stop and watch. The deer are out there. I also
21 fished in the river for years, and what I caught, I
22 ate, everything except the TRs. You all know what
23 they are. Those are the fish down here. But why are
24 those fish, why are those deer, why is those
25 armadillos, why is all that still out there after that

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1 plant has been built? A deer has to have something to
2 eat. It's got to eat acorns. There's acorn trees all
3 over the place, oak trees. They've got to have grass.

4 The birds got to have seed, all the different types
5 of animals that were there 30, 40 years ago are still
6 there, maybe not in the same spot. Of course, they're
7 not on the -- where the reservoir is, but they're all
8 around there. So, to me, as a layman, it says the
9 environment is still good out there. And I haven't
10 seen anybody that moved out of Bay City that I know of
11 because a nuke plant was built here.

12 I have two daughters that worked out
13 there, and neither one of them glow in the dark. So,
14 I think -- except the -- well, I'll leave it at that.

15 One of them is married to the Judge, so I've got to
16 be careful. But, anyway, my point is, I don't feel
17 there's been any kind of economic development out
18 there.

19 Now, it's been hard on the armadillos.
20 Most people in Texas know there's more roads to go on
21 when you're trying to cross that road, and I think the
22 only casualty out there at the nuclear plant, as far
23 as the environment has been, is more armadillos have
24 been ran over. Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, sir.

2 Mr. Chavez. How do you pronounce your
3 first name?

4 MR. CHAVEZ: Chance.

5 MR. CARPENTER: Chance.

6 MR. CHAVEZ: Yes.

7 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, sir.

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Hello, everyone. My name is
9 Chance Chavez, and I'm a member of the STP EIP
10 program. I am excited to be here with you all today
11 and wanted to talk a little bit about my life and my
12 experience in being in the STP EIP program, as well as
13 my excitement for the expansion of Units 1 -- 3 and 4,
14 sorry.

15 Growing up and being raised by my
16 grandparents, I haven't had the easiest life. I have
17 struggled at times in my life to find a sense of
18 direction and have endured many of life's hardships.
19 My first two years of high school, I was living with
20 my grandfather in North Carolina. I didn't focus on
21 my education, and I did not have a clue about what my
22 future held for me.

23 I knew I wanted to go to college, but I
24 had no idea what I wanted to do or how I was going to
25 pay for it, coming from a low income family. Towards

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1 the end of my sophomore year, my grandfather made the
2 decision that it was best for me to move to Texas to
3 live with my family here.

4 Being the age that I was, I did not
5 understand -- I did not see that my grandfather only
6 wanted what was best for me. As hard as it was for
7 him, he knew that by letting me go he would help me
8 grow as a young man and learn responsibility. This
9 experience taught me responsibility, how to
10 communicate with others, and helped me to develop a
11 strong work ethic.

12 For the next two years of high school, I
13 grew to believe in myself. I began to pay attention
14 in class and made really good grades. My confidence
15 grew, and I was headed in the right direction. I
16 heard about this opportunity with STP my senior year
17 and grew excited about it. I did everything I could
18 to get into the program and was already taking college
19 classes that were in the degree plan.

20 I submitted everything on time and waited
21 patiently for a phone call, hoping and praying to get
22 accepted into the program and have my education paid
23 for. I soon got a call for an interview, and after
24 that I received a call that I had been accepted into
25 the program and that STP would pay for my education.

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1 Valuing this opportunity I have been given, I have
2 reinvested in my schoolwork and have been -- and have
3 seen the benefits from my efforts.

4 I have been blessed to be a part of such
5 an amazing company as STP and take pride in the core
6 values that STP stands for, these core values being
7 safety, integrity, teamwork, and excellence.

8 STP holds themselves to the highest
9 standards. They would never compromise safety in any
10 circumstance. I have been taught that safety is the
11 number one priority at STP -- safety to the
12 environment, to the public, and to the plant. With
13 the unparalleled success of STP, Units 1 and 2 earning
14 more industrial honors than any other plant
15 nationwide, including producing more electricity than
16 any other two units in a power facility in the nation
17 for six consecutive years, and reaching a total safety
18 industrial accident rate of 0.0 in February 2009, and
19 during that time operated for 31 months, 10 million
20 labor hours, without a restricted duty or lost time
21 injury among its employees or contractors.

22 STP is, without a doubt, a leader in the
23 nuclear industry. With this being said, I am very
24 excited about STP's expansion of 3 and 4, and I am
25 highly confident that the new advanced boiling water

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1 reactors will be a huge success, complementing Units 1
2 and 2 well into the future.

3 With the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
4 overseeing reactor safety and security, reactor
5 licensing and renewal, radioactive material safety,
6 security, and licensing, the public can be assured
7 that STP will operate within every technical
8 specification and follow every guideline that the NRC
9 puts in place, thus building upon the trust and
10 support of the public and safety -- safely operating
11 the units.

12 With STP being a nuclear power plant, we
13 are able to produce electricity without polluting the
14 air or producing greenhouse gases, which damage the
15 atmosphere and cause harm to plants and animals. We
16 are an ecofriendly plant and offset the equivalent of
17 35 million barrels of oil or nine million tons of coal
18 each and every year.

19 STP also provides a protected habitat for
20 several threatened species, including bald eagles,
21 white-tailed hawks, and alligators.

22 Finally, STP ships a variety of materials
23 to be reprocessed for reuse, including oil, lead, acid
24 batteries, and more than a dozen tons of paper
25 annually.

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1 With this being said, it is clear that STP
2 takes pride in being an ecofriendly plant, protecting
3 threatened species, and recycling a variety of
4 material -- all positive characteristics that make STP
5 the world class plant that it is. With nuclear power
6 on the rise, the NRC overseeing nuclear reactor
7 safety, and with nuclear plants producing energy
8 without air pollution, it is apparent that nuclear
9 power is a clear-cut choice in producing electricity.

10 I am excited to start my career working at
11 STP this summer, and look forward to what the future
12 holds for me and for Units 3 and 4.

13 Thank you all very much.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Brent --
16 Chance. Brent Marceaux? Marco? I've got M-A-R-C-F-A-
17 U-X. Not here?

18 (No response.)

19 Okay. In that case, Veronica Hutto, and
20 then we will go to Rikki Stanley and Joe Yeaman.

21 MS. HUTTO: Good evening. My name is
22 Veronica Hutto, and I am currently attending Wharton
23 County Junior College at the Bay City campus. I am
24 finishing my third semester and will be graduating
25 this December with a degree in nuclear power

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1 technology.

2 I am speaking today in support of the
3 expansion of STP to include two new reactors, Units 3
4 and 4. One thing that has been taught to us students
5 repeatedly is safety. Safety is a major part of STP's
6 culture. Because of this, I have absolutely no doubts
7 or worries about the production of nuclear power.

8 This expansion will be great for our
9 community in that it will provide even more jobs for
10 our citizens we currently have, as well as bring more
11 people into our community. Bay City has been growing
12 over the past few years, just in the anticipation of
13 the new expansion. As it is coming more and more to
14 light, we are continuing to see Bay City and the
15 surrounding areas grow and thrive.

16 The Center for Energy Development has
17 given area students graduating high school, or those
18 going back to school, a place to learn, interact, and
19 grow. I have seen many younger students just out of
20 high school come in to -- come in and be serious about
21 their education. People such as myself who have long
22 since graduated, but have decided to make a change,
23 also have a thirst for this knowledge.

24 Our campus is unique in the fact that we
25 have actual equipment and simulators so that we can

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1 learn. We receive our education from literature, as
2 well as hands-on training. More than that, our
3 instructors come from the industry and have a real-
4 world working knowledge that they can share with us.
5 Our education is enriched because of this.

6 I think that is one of several advantages
7 to our program at WCJC. Another is that it is great
8 that the people that we are sitting in class with are
9 going to be the same people that we are going to be
10 working with.

11 We already are developing a working
12 relationship and learning about each other. We have
13 been given situations where we have had to solve
14 problems and create solutions in order to develop our
15 working relationship as well as learn effective
16 communication.

17 We are the future of the nuclear power
18 industry. We are the new generation of computer age
19 technicians.

20 One last point I would like to hit on is
21 the fact that I am very proud to go to a college where
22 the director of the nuclear program, Mr. Rudolph
23 Henry, works around the clock to ensure we have the
24 best, most up-to-date technology we could possibly
25 receive. WCJC is one in seven colleges out of 52 that

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1 have completed the INPO NEI gap analysis with our
2 nuclear technology program.

3 WCJC and STP have made that possible,
4 including the NRC giving scholarships to WCJC. And
5 they have helped a lot of people be able to continue
6 their education through these scholarships, and I
7 think it's a great opportunity for our community.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Veronica.
11 Rikki Stanley, and then Joe Yeamans, and Greg Lucero.

12 MR. STANLEY: My name is Rikki Stanley. I
13 live down in Matagorda on the beach, real close to the
14 beach. I got off the beach to come here, so this
15 means a lot to me.

16 I was born and raised here, and I am like
17 anybody else in this part of the region, especially
18 the people down in Matagorda. We are very, very
19 conscientious about the environmental issues that are
20 at play here.

21 However, I don't want to repeat what
22 everybody else has said. I will just go along with
23 this: I judge people and companies by what they do,
24 not by what they say or what other people say. And
25 STP has done an excellent job of performing the tasks

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1 that they have when they moved into town. They
2 provide a valuable product to this region of the
3 country. They provide employment opportunities for
4 people, and they do it in a very, very good and
5 neighborly way.

6 They support all county and civic
7 organizations tenfold. They go way beyond the call of
8 duty, and they do their business in a safety manner.
9 And because of that, I am for them. And you're
10 talking to a guy that grew up skinny dipping on
11 Matagorda Beach.

12 (Laughter.)

13 And I don't do that anymore, because if
14 you think the site of a coal plant or a nuke plant is
15 ugly, you ought to see me skinny dipping now, so --

16 (Laughter.)

17 -- it's not happening anymore.

18 But appreciate you all coming here,
19 listening to us. If you have a spare moment, drive
20 down to Matagorda. Drive down and see the beach, see
21 how nice it is. As my wife says as she's driving to
22 the store from Matagorda -- it takes about 25 minutes
23 -- if she is driving because Palais Royal has a sale
24 going on, it's only about a 15-minute drive.

25 (Laughter.)

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Mr. Stanley.

4 Joe Yeamans, then Greg Lucero, then David
5 Fuson.

6 MR. YEAMANS: I'm sorry, I don't have any
7 jokes that good. But hello, everybody. My name is
8 Joe Yeamans, and I'm currently a student at Wharton
9 County Junior College in the nuclear power technology
10 program. I am in my third semester, and I am going to
11 graduate in December.

12 I am excited to speak here today in
13 support of expansion of Units 3 and 4, because I am
14 passionate about the program and my future career at
15 the South Texas Project.

16 My family came to Matagorda County over
17 180 years ago from upstate New York in 1827. So I
18 guess you could say I'm a local. I have lived
19 directly across the river from the reservoir makeup
20 pumping facility, and just three and a half miles from
21 STP's Unit 1, for the last 20 years. In my opinion,
22 STP and the Center for Energy Development is the best
23 thing that has ever happened to Matagorda County.

24 Matagorda County citizens, as well as
25 citizens from surrounding counties, now have a place

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1 right here in Bay City where we can get an education
2 in the nuclear industry and go straight to work
3 earning a very nice salary.

4 It will be a privilege to become a part of
5 a world-class organization that produces clean,
6 affordable, reliable energy. Beyond that, in all my
7 life I have never experienced anything that meets or
8 exceeds the culture of STP. Their strong commitment
9 to safety and exemplary work ethics are a model for
10 any industry.

11 This is a great time to be a part of the
12 nuclear industry, and I would like to thank the NRC
13 for their nuclear education scholarship program, South
14 Texas Project, and their educational incentive
15 program, and Mr. Clarence Fenner, for providing me the
16 means for my education. I would also like to thank
17 Wharton County Junior College, and Mr. Rudolph Henry,
18 the director of our nuclear program, for providing a
19 top-of-the-line curriculum. And, last but not least,
20 I would like to thank my father, Joe Yeamans, for
21 always being there for me.

22 Thank you for listening.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Joe.

25 Greg Lucero, then David Fuson, then Rikki

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1 Stanley, please.

2 MR. LUCERO: Hello. My name is Greg
3 Lucero, and no, I did not read the report, except for
4 what I read today, what they showed here today. So
5 I'm sorry for that, but my stance truthfully has been
6 -- is I have been pushing nuclear power since I got
7 into the business.

8 My name is Greg Lucero. I am the business
9 manager and financial secretary of IBEW Local 66. I
10 represent about 300-plus employees down at the South
11 Texas Nuclear Project, and I am very proud to do so.
12 They are some of the most well-trained employees in
13 the world. I get to go around the country and brag
14 about my plant, my guys, my gals, all the people that
15 work down there, because of the job they do.

16 And that is what I'm here about. I think
17 part of the environment is the community itself, and
18 what these people down at that plant do, and the
19 opportunities that could be afforded them by expanding
20 the amount of people that work down at that plant.
21 Not only in -- just in the jobs itself from the
22 construction, but in the maintenance and operation of
23 that plant after they're online.

24 These employees are all well paid
25 employees, and I do believe that a majority of my

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1 employees do live in Matagorda County. So I do
2 believe that the majority of them that would be hired
3 are going to live in Matagorda County.

4 I am proud to see the scholarship kids
5 here. I want to say it was two contracts ago we
6 negotiated that with South Texas. So that's a joint
7 program done by IBEW and the South Texas Nuclear
8 Plant, and that was part of our contract negotiations.

9 I enjoyed it so much, because it wasn't
10 just send a kid to school and see him go. It was send
11 a kid to school and give him a job, give him a job
12 during the summer when he was out of school as an
13 intern, come down in there and actually work with the
14 craft employees, not just sit in there and shuffle
15 paper, carry the mail.

16 They get to go out there and work with an
17 instrument control technician, with a plant operator,
18 with a mechanic, with a welder, with a millwright, a
19 machinist, a boilermaker, a pipefitter, carpenter,
20 painter. And they get to do all of that. And that,
21 to me, is going to further their -- not only their
22 education but their lives.

23 The jobs and the wages that they do make,
24 like I said, are a fair wage. Of course, Local will
25 never say that we are satisfied with the amount. We

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1 are always going to say we need more.

2 Where did Ed go? Ed, you owe us more
3 money.

4 But it does help -- not just the good pay,
5 but also the health and welfare. These employees all
6 get insurance. They all have a retirement. Not
7 necessarily do they have to leave and go elsewhere
8 when they do finish working at that plant. They can
9 stay right here and spend that money right back at
10 home.

11 It is a trickle-down from the lower class,
12 I guess you would say. It's where these employees do
13 make the money, right here, and they spend it right
14 here.

15 So with that, I want to support -- please,
16 hurry this up, and let's get some people working.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, Mr. Lucero.

19 David Fuson, and then Rikki Stanley, and
20 then James Arnold, please.

21 MR. FUSON: My name is David Fuson. I am
22 an independent inventor, and I live in the Houston
23 area and have lived in Texas all of my life, except a
24 couple of months being out of state to do work.

25 I would like to tell you that I think that

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1 STP is doing a wonderful job in the community, because
2 when I went today to print out my paperwork that I
3 needed I told the clerk that I needed 40 copies,
4 because I was going to go to a nuclear reactor
5 hearing, nuclear reactor expansion hearing today, and
6 he goes, "There are nuclear reactors in Texas?" I
7 mean, he had no idea that was here. They are so good
8 in the community, with no problems, no one even knows
9 you're here beyond the boundaries of this local area.

10 Anyway, you will find my listing in the
11 front up there. You will find that about three years
12 ago, while I was unemployed, I thought of a solid
13 state power converter that attaches to a nuclear
14 reactor and converts gamma radiation, neutron
15 radiation, to DC electricity and uses no coolings and
16 no functioning to the system.

17 So it doesn't operate at the power levels
18 that you are wanting to work at, but you could build
19 more of them and put them in the same area. It would
20 do the same thing. So I would appreciate your looking
21 at it. I know that you are good for the community,
22 and you are doing really well.

23 One more last thing. My son is a --
24 finished up his scouting, but he had to go lone wolf
25 one time out here, close to here, and his scout master

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1 that we had to point to him, and his assistant scout
2 master, were a part of your reactor operating team
3 that assisted him in it, and he said that was the most
4 fun time in his life. Not only did he feel safe, but
5 he was also allowed to assist kids in going further in
6 their own scouting, so thank you very much.
7 Appreciate it.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, David.

10 Rikki Stanley, then James Arnold, and the
11 last person I have on my list is Michael Bradish.

12 MR. STANLEY: I have already gone. I cut
13 in line.

14 MR. CARPENTER: Oh, sorry.

15 MR. STANLEY: Unless you want me to talk
16 twice.

17 MR. ARNOLD: Good afternoon. I'm James
18 Arnold, and I really appreciate everybody here
19 concerning the expansion of Units 2 and 3 -- 3 and 4
20 of the STP plant.

21 My main concern here was the fact that
22 Matagorda County has one-tenth of the Texas coastline.

23 It also has 300 miles of unblemished, pristine
24 shoreline in Matagorda Bay.

25 I had questions concerning the water

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1 issues, which I addressed to STP officials. I also
2 had questions concerning waste disposal and storage.
3 They were answered in very well fashion, and I think
4 that the track record of the STP plant over the past
5 20 or 25 years, plus the fact that I have never heard
6 a complaint from an STP employee against the company,
7 against what they do and how they do things, has just
8 been an outstanding thing for this county. And
9 further expansion will only enhance that.

10 And I know that they are going to
11 continue. I feel like they will continue doing
12 exactly what they did as far as community leadership,
13 and I fully support the expansion of the project.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, James.

17 So I guess that means we've got everybody
18 now on the list? I'm sorry.

19 PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible comment from an
20 unmiked location.)

21 MR. CARPENTER: Yes, sir.

22 MR. BRADISH: I want to welcome you all to
23 Matagorda County. I am just a private citizen. I
24 moved to Bay City 13 years ago. I retired last year
25 from Bay City Gas Company, so I've got some knowledge

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1 of natural gas and how much there is left.

2 I spent seven years in the Navy in the
3 submarine service. My last five years was on a
4 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, and I was
5 a missile technician. So I've got a pretty extensive
6 background in the dangers of radiation and how nuclear
7 power plants work.

8 When I came to Bay City, and I found out
9 we had a reactor here, the first thing that went
10 through my mind was Three Mile Island and Chernobyl.
11 And I started asking questions, and the longer I lived
12 here the more I learned about STP. Right now, I guess
13 I know about 15 or 20 people there. Without a doubt,
14 every single one of them, in my opinion, are very
15 professional, very dedicated, and very proud of the
16 work they do. That says a lot to me about a company.

17 If you've got a company that's not really
18 doing things the way they should, the people there
19 aren't proud to work for them. They might have to,
20 but they are not proud.

21 I am not going to repeat everything that
22 everybody said about how great a job they do for the
23 community. I myself have found it to be true.

24 If you are asking just a regular citizen,
25 "Am I afraid of two more units going in?" absolutely

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1 not. Am I afraid for the environment being damaged?
2 Absolutely not. I think it is a great thing for
3 Matagorda, and I look forward to you all getting
4 started.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you, sir.

8 Now, before I turn it over to Tony Hsia to
9 close the meeting, I would like to see, is there
10 anybody else who hasn't had a chance to speak who has
11 any comments that they would like to make?

12 (No response.)

13 Okay. Tony.

14 MR. HSIA: My name is Tony Hsia. On
15 behalf of the NRC and our team members here, we
16 appreciate this opportunity to brief you on our Draft
17 Environmental Impact Statement, on the proposed
18 Units 3 and 4 for STP. And if there is no additional
19 questions, we wish you a good evening and safe driving
20 home.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 (Whereupon, at 3:56 p.m., the proceedings in the
24 foregoing matter were concluded.)

25

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