

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Vogtle Electric Generatin Plant
 Draft EIS - Public Meeting

Docket Number: (n/a)

Location: Waynesboro, Georgia

Date: Thursday, October 7, 2010

Work Order No.: NRC-466

Pages 1-100

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

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

+ + + + +

A PUBLIC MEETING

RELATED TO THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR COMBINED LICENSES FOR VOGTLE
ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4

+ + + + +

AUDITORIUM

AUGUSTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

216 HIGHWAY 24 SOUTH

WAYNESBORO, GEORGIA

Thursday, October 7, 2010

7:00 p.m.

BEFORE:

F. CAMERON, Facilitator

NEAL R. GROSS

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

CONTENTS

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

PAGE

Welcome and Introductory Statements 3

Overview of NRC Environmental Review Process
and DSEIS Findings 13

Public Comments 37

Closing Statements 99

Adjourn

NEAL R. GROSS

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

P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:10 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. CAMERON: Good evening, everyone.
4 It's nice to see all of you again. Welcome to the
5 public meeting.

6 My name is Chip Cameron and it's a
7 pleasure for me to serve as your facilitator tonight,
8 and in that role, I'm going to try to help all of you
9 to have a productive meeting tonight.

10 The focus of the meeting is the
11 environmental review that the Nuclear Regulatory
12 Commission, which we'll be calling the NRC -- the
13 environmental review that the NRC has conducted on an
14 application that we received from the Southern Nuclear
15 Company to build and operate two new reactors here at
16 the Vogtle site.

17 The environmental review that the staff
18 has conducted is documented in a Supplemental Draft
19 Environmental Impact Statement and it's a supplemental
20 statement because it's an additional review that the
21 NRC has done on this license application, additional
22 to the one that was conducted on the early site
23 permit. And the staff will be telling you more about
24 that in a few minutes.

25 I just wanted to spend a little time on

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 meeting process issues so that you know what to expect
2 tonight. I'd like to talk about the format for the
3 meeting. Secondly, some simple ground rules to help
4 us have a productive meeting. And the last thing I'd
5 like to do is introduce the NRC staff who will be
6 speaking to you tonight.

7 In terms of the format for the meeting,
8 it's a two-part format. And the first part is to give
9 all of you some background information on the staff's
10 environmental review, what the process is and what
11 some of the findings are in the Draft Environmental
12 Impact Statement. And after these two presentations
13 we'll have to give you that information, we'll have
14 some time for questions on those presentations.

15 And after the questions, we'll move on to
16 the second part of the meeting. And that's an
17 opportunity for the NRC staff to listen to your
18 comments, your concerns, your recommendations on the
19 environmental review issues. And if you want to speak
20 during that part of the meeting, hopefully you filled
21 out a yellow card up front and that just tells us how
22 many people to anticipate speaking and I'll call you
23 up and we'll have you come up to this podium so that
24 you can talk to everybody in the community.

25 The NRC is also taking written comments on

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 these issues and they'll give you some information on
2 how and when to submit those written comments. I just
3 want to emphasize that anything that you say here
4 tonight is going to carry the same weight as a written
5 comment. Feel free to speak tonight and to also send
6 in a written comment. You may hear things from the
7 NRC staff or you may hear things from others that are
8 in the audience that prompt you to submit a written
9 comment to us.

10 In terms of ground rules, the first ground
11 rule, I would just ask you to wait until both of the
12 NRC presentations are completed before you ask
13 questions. And if you have a question, just signal me
14 and I'm going to bring you this cordless microphone
15 and if you could just introduce yourself to us, that
16 would be very helpful and then we'll proceed to answer
17 your questions.

18 If we don't have time to answer all the
19 questions that you have before we need to move on to
20 the comment part of the meeting, the NRC staff will be
21 here after the meeting to talk to you about whatever
22 concerns you have or to answer your questions.

23 The second ground rule is I would ask that
24 only one person at a time speak. Two important
25 reasons for that. The most important is so that we

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 can give our full attention to whomever has the
2 microphone at the moment. And the second important
3 reason is so that we can get what I call a clear
4 transcript of the meeting. We have Peggy Warren here,
5 who is our court reporter. We're taking a transcript.

6 That's going to be your record of what was said
7 tonight, it's going to be the NRC's record of what was
8 said tonight. So if we only have one person speaking,
9 then Peggy will be able to know who that is for the
10 record.

11 Third ground rule and probably most
12 significant, I would just ask you to be brief in your
13 comments tonight so that we can make sure that
14 everybody has a chance to speak. I'm going to ask
15 that you follow a three- to five-minute guideline for
16 your comments and that should give you enough time to
17 get your major points across. If you want to amplify
18 that, you can do so in a written comment. And it's
19 not like anything drastic is going to happen when you
20 get to five minutes, I'm just going to -- may ask you
21 to just sum up your comments. And I apologize in
22 advance if I have to ask you to finish before you're
23 ready to finish, because I know that you spend a lot
24 of time preparing for these types of meetings.

25 There's a couple of things that I'd like

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 to emphasize, is that this meeting is on the NRC's
2 environmental review, but we know that the issues and
3 concerns around facilities like this are very broad.
4 So we know that there may be things that people say
5 that might not be exactly on point and also we know
6 that there's many different ways that people can
7 express themselves besides getting up here and making
8 a written comment. We just want to respect that and
9 just ask that the way you express yourself is
10 respectful of everybody in the audience.

11 The second thing I'd like to note is that
12 the NRC staff is here to listen carefully to your
13 comments tonight. They're not going to be responding
14 to the things that you say at the podium or the
15 questions that you might ask at the podium, but they
16 will listen carefully and they will consider all of
17 your comments and questions when they prepare the
18 Final Environmental Impact Statement. And as I said
19 before, they're going to be here after the meeting if
20 you want to talk to them.

21 And finally, and I always say this, but I
22 don't need to say this here, but I will; is just for
23 all of us to extend courtesy to everybody else. You
24 may hear opinions tonight that differ from the
25 opinions you have on these issues, but I would just

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 ask you to respect the person who's giving that
2 opinion.

3 In terms of our speakers, we have two
4 speakers. The first is going to be Greg Hatchett,
5 who's right here. Greg is the Chief of the
6 Environmental Review Branch for the review of this
7 license application. And his branch is in the
8 Division of Site and Environmental Review at the NRC's
9 Office of New Reactors. Greg has been with the NRC
10 about 12 years and before he assumed his branch chief
11 job, he was a senior reactor engineer for operating
12 reactors. He also was a senior program manager in the
13 high-level waste program at the NRC. And notably, he
14 was policy advisor to Commissioner Gregory Jaczko on
15 the Commission.

16 Before Greg came to the Commission, he was
17 with the Army Corps of Engineers and he was a program
18 manager there for hazardous waste disposal activities.

19 He has a bachelor's of civil engineering from the
20 Virginia Military Institute.

21 Greg is going to give a welcome, tell you
22 a little bit about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

23 We're then going to move to the heart of
24 the matter and we're going to have Mallecia Sutton,
25 right here. Mallecia is the project manager for the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 environmental review on this license application for
2 Vogtle, and she's going to talk about what's in the
3 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

4 Mallecia has been with the NRC for three
5 years and she also worked for the Army Corps of
6 Engineers before she came to the Commission. She was
7 with the Army Corps of Engineers for seven years as a
8 biologist and a manager of ecosystem restoration,
9 watershed management and doing the environmental
10 reviews for some of the many Corps of Engineers civil
11 engineering projects.

12 She has a bachelor's of science from Bowie
13 State University, a bachelor's in biology.

14 And just let me tell you who else that we
15 have with us -- not everybody, but I did want you to
16 meet Becky Karas. Becky is the senior NRC official
17 here tonight and she's the acting Deputy Director of
18 the Division of Site and Environmental Reviews within
19 the Office of New Reactors.

20 We have the safety project manager. As
21 the staff will note, there's two parts to the NRC's
22 evaluation of these new license applications, and we
23 have Ravi Joshi right here. He's the safety project
24 manager.

25 We have a number of staff experts and we

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 also use expert consultants to help us in these
2 environmental reviews. They're here to answer any
3 questions you might have. We have people from our
4 public affairs staff here and also our Office of
5 General Counsel to try to answer any questions either
6 during the meeting or if we don't have time, after the
7 meeting.

8 With that, I think I'm going to turn it
9 over to Greg Hatchett. Greg.

10 MR. HATCHETT: Good evening. As Mr.
11 Cameron said, I'm Greg Hatchett, I'm Chief of the
12 Environmental Project Branch in the Division of Site
13 and Environmental Reviews in the Office of New
14 Reactors.

15 We're happy to be out here in the
16 community again. Just reflecting and talking to
17 staff, we've been out here on several occasions in the
18 last few years for both license renewal in one
19 context, and then in the other the early site
20 proceeding that finally concluded in August of last
21 year. So you've seen us on several occasions for
22 different reasons, but we're still in the new reactor
23 process because Southern submitted a combined
24 operating license application several months before
25 the proceeding on the ESP concluded.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The Commission essentially exists to
2 license the commercial use of radioactive and nuclear
3 materials. Anybody who seeks to use these materials,
4 either in nuclear power plants, for medical reasons --
5 if you have to go to the hospital and need treatment
6 for cancer, things of that nature, there's a nuclear
7 medicine department, we license that. We license
8 research and test reactors and we license other
9 industrial uses of nuclear materials.

10 A lot of people are familiar with nuclear
11 power plants and understand something about them, but
12 in the medical and industrial and academic use area,
13 we have over 5000 licensees. We only have a few
14 nuclear power plant licensees. So most of the
15 licensees we have are in the other arena, and more
16 often than not, people are closely touched by the
17 medical arena before they're touched by anything else.

18 So we do a lot of work in that area.

19 Again, we're an independent agency, we
20 grew out of the Atomic Energy Commission, which is now
21 the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory
22 Commission. So again, we exist primarily to -- we're
23 not an opponent or a proponent of the use of these
24 materials but we do look to make sure that anyone who
25 wishes to use them can satisfy the requirements of the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Commission.

2 Just a little bit about tonight. What we
3 hope to discuss with you is the staff process for what
4 we did to analyze the conditions for the combined
5 license application and looking at the differences in
6 the environmental issues from the early site permit to
7 the COL. So we're interested in what I'll say are the
8 deltas, what are the things that didn't get resolved
9 and anything that we didn't discover at that
10 particular point in time that we needed to bring
11 forward to supplement the ESP EIS for the COL review.

12 We hope to talk to you a little bit about
13 where we are in the process and the schedule and we
14 hope to essentially hear feedback from those of you
15 who are here. And if you know people who are
16 interested in the process and were unable to make it,
17 we'll talk to you a little bit about how long the
18 comment period on the draft is going to last and how
19 much more time you have left to provide us feedback so
20 that we can take that information forward in our
21 deliberations in how we finalize that supplemental
22 document before it's finally published. So tell us
23 something we don't know, help us think a little bit
24 harder about the process and help us make it a little
25 bit better.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Since I'm just the icing and she's the
2 cake, I'm going to sit down and let her give the
3 presentation.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. CAMERON: That was a great
6 description. Thank you, Greg.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. CAMERON: The slides are in the blue
9 folders, okay? If you're having trouble reading the
10 screen. I don't want to put it into total darkness,
11 so they're in your folder.

12 Mallecia.

13 MS. SUTTON: Again, my name is Mallecia
14 Sutton, I'm the Environmental Project Manager assigned
15 to Plant Vogtle for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

16 I'm grateful to have you all come out
17 tonight to provide your comments on the Draft
18 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. I'll
19 refer to it throughout the night as the DSEIS.

20 Like Greg mentioned, it's been three years
21 since we've been here and a lot has transpired on this
22 project since then. I'd like to take a few minutes to
23 go over the project background with you.

24 In August 2008, the staff issued the EIS
25 for the ESP, also known as the Early Site Permit.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Also, LWA, which is a Limited Work Authorization, was
2 issued with the permit. The Early Site Permit with LWA
3 was authorized August 26, 2009.

4 To address the issues concerning the need
5 for additional backfill, Southern submitted three
6 requests for LAR, which is called License Amendment
7 Requests in April, May and June of this year. We
8 authorized those license requests in May, June and
9 July.

10 The Early Site Permit is approval of the
11 site. It is not approval to construct or operate the
12 nuclear units. The Early Site Permit gives the
13 applicant the ability to bank the site up to 20 years.

14 With the Limited Work Authorization, the
15 applicant is able to do limited construction
16 activities at the site. With this LWA, the applicant
17 was authorized to conduct engineered backfill,
18 retaining walls, concrete mats and mudmats and
19 waterproof membrane.

20 In March of 2008, Southern submitted
21 application for the combined license for Units 3 and
22 4. The application was accepted and documented in
23 June of 2008. Once the ESP was authorized, the staff
24 began the review for the COL environmental review
25 process.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The combined license, if granted, will
2 authorize the construction and operation of the two
3 units at the Plant Vogtle site.

4 In October 2009, Southern also submitted a
5 second LWA request and this request was for
6 reinforcing steel, which is also known as rebar,
7 sumps, drains and other embedded items as well as
8 placement of the concrete for the nuclear island.

9 So for the Vogtle license application
10 review, the NRC is conducting two concurrent reviews -
11 - the safety review and the environmental review.
12 Tonight, I'll be discussing the environmental review
13 process with you.

14 The process 10 CFR 51.75 explains what
15 the requirements are for COL application referencing
16 an Early Site Permit. The NRC staff will prepare a
17 draft supplement to the early site permit
18 environmental impact statement in the same way that
19 the ESP EIS environmental statement was prepared. In
20 accordance with that, the staff will supplement that
21 impact statement and that is found 51.92.

22 Now 10 CFR 51.92 states that the
23 supplement to the ESP shall incorporate by reference
24 the final EIS for the ESP, contain no separate
25 discussion of alternative sites, contain an analysis

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 of all issues that were not resolved in the ESP
2 proceeding, and include an analysis of resolved issues
3 which contains new and significant information that
4 has been identified.

5 Now I just mentioned to you the new and
6 significant process. What I'd like to do is go over
7 how that process relates to the review and explain to
8 you how the process -- walk you through the process.

9 The term "new and significant" means that
10 the information was not considered in preparing the
11 ESP or environmental review or generally known to the
12 public during the ESP EIS preparation.

13 Also, the term "significant" means the
14 information must be material to the information being
15 considered and must have the potential to affect the
16 findings and analysis and conclusion of the staff
17 findings in the ESP EIS.

18 Therefore, in order for staff to change a
19 conclusion, the information must be both new and
20 significant to change their conclusion from the ESP
21 EIS.

22 The new and significant information review
23 process consisted of several activities.

24 First, Southern developed and implemented
25 a new and significant information process. This

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 process included contacting the federal, state and
2 local agencies, academia. They also spoke to several
3 experts to see if any new and significant information
4 developed after the issuance of the EIS.

5 An example of new information may be a new
6 species to the endangered species list or if there is
7 a major population increase around Plant Vogtle.

8 The staff then audited Southern's process
9 to find its effectiveness and documented the results
10 in a report dated October 2009.

11 The staff then determined that Southern's
12 process was adequate.

13 The NRC staff also conducted its own
14 independent review. We looked at research papers, we
15 looked at -- we also talked to the states, we talked
16 to other academia to see if there was any new
17 information that we wasn't aware of during the
18 preparation of the ESP EIS.

19 Once the staff was comfortable that we did
20 a hard look for new information we then started the
21 preparation of the draft supplement in accordance with
22 10, 51.92.

23 As I mentioned earlier, the staff
24 environmental review activity was guided by 10CFR51.92
25 which required the staff to look for new and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 significant information concerning issues we saw in
2 the ESP EIS and to determine if the information indeed
3 would change the impact level conclusion in the
4 staff's environmental impact statement.

5 This slide represents areas where the
6 staff looked and found new information -- or found
7 information that caused the staff to conduct further
8 analysis in these resource areas. There was no
9 information found that changed the staff's conclusion
10 from the ESP EIS to the COL review.

11 This slide represents where the staff did
12 find new and significant information in the
13 terrestrial ecology area. This information came about
14 when Southern submitted the license amendment request
15 for additional on-site backfill areas and basically
16 what took place was there was a need to relocate some
17 state threatened species -- the Southeastern Pocket
18 Gopher and as well as the sandhills milk-vetch that
19 was relocated. Now Southern is working with Georgia
20 DNR and they have mitigation in place to make sure
21 that no harm comes to these species.

22 In this slide, I would like to go over how
23 we analyze the impact level. I did mention previously
24 that in terrestrial there was a change and the change
25 was from small to moderate. And I'd like to explain

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 how -- these impact levels are the exact same impact
2 levels that were used in the ESP EIS and how they're
3 defined, and to explain when I say small to moderate
4 what I'm discussing.

5 In a small impact level, the effect is
6 either not detectable or so minor to neither
7 destabilize nor alter noticeably the resource.

8 For a moderate impact, the effect is
9 sufficient to alter noticeably but not to destabilize
10 the resource.

11 For a large impact, the effect is
12 noticeable and sufficient to destabilize the resource.

13 In this slide, with all the information
14 we've gathered and the information presented in the
15 COL Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the staff
16 preliminary recommendation to the Commission is to
17 authorize the combined license and the second LWA
18 request that was submitted to the agency.

19 In this slide, I would like to discuss
20 some important dates and where we are currently in the
21 process.

22 On September 3 of this year -- the Draft
23 Supplemental
24 Environmental Impact Statement was issued on September
25 3.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The public comment period ends on November
2 24 of 2010.

3 The issuance of the Final EIS is scheduled
4 to be issued in April of 2011.

5 Now if you don't already have a copy of
6 the draft supplement or would like to have one, we do
7 have some on the back table, we also have the CDs for
8 your convenience as well. You can also contact me, my
9 information is listed. Also in the folder, you have
10 my business card as well. We do have the website
11 listed and next door at the Burke County Library,
12 there is a hard copy and a CD for your convenience, so
13 you can view the document.

14 As we already mentioned this evening, we
15 really are here to gather your comments. So if
16 there's anything that we have missed, something that
17 we are not aware of, we will greatly appreciate your
18 comments and providing information to us.

19 Also if you don't have the documents and
20 would like to provide comments, there are several
21 different ways that you can provide comments. Like
22 Chip mentioned, we do have a comment card that you can
23 fill out and provide comments tonight. If you are
24 uncomfortable speaking in front of a large crowd, we
25 do have comment cards that you can fill out your name

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 and provide to any of the NRC staffers that you see.
2 You can also -- there's a Vogtle COL EIS mailbox that
3 you can just send that comment to directly. You can
4 also fax it and you can also send it in to the Rules
5 and Directive.

6 Please note that the comment period ends
7 November 24. Any information that we gather and it's
8 appropriate enough to change any of our conclusion, we
9 will review those comments and address them in the
10 Final EIS before we publish the final documentation.

11 Again, with that, that concludes my
12 presentation. Please note that the comment period
13 does end November 24. And I will turn it over to
14 Chip.

15 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you very much,
16 Mallecia.

17 Mallecia gave you an overview of what's in
18 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and we have
19 some time for questions before we go to the comment
20 period if anybody has a question about the process or
21 anything that Mallecia has said tonight.

22 Okay, Sara.

23 MS. BARCZAK: Hi, Sara Barczak with
24 Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

25 I just wondered if an example of

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 significant information or new information is the
2 reality that the proposal to store radioactive waste
3 in Yucca Mountain, Nevada has been suspended, since
4 that has occurred, that decision has occurred since
5 this process began.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay, the termination of the
7 Yucca Mountain license review, is that new and
8 significant information in the context of this
9 licensing proceeding?

10 Greg Hatchett.

11 MR. HATCHETT: Appreciate the question.

12 While that information is new, that
13 information isn't necessarily tied directly to a
14 licensing decision. It is important to note though
15 that the Commission has recently deliberated on
16 changes in what it calls its waste confidence
17 decision, and that's where that information is dealt
18 with.

19 In the context of saying can the waste be
20 basically managed for 60 years beyond the license life
21 of the plant, which may include a renewed license, and
22 has asked the staff as a separate matter to evaluate
23 the safe storage of spent fuel for another 120 years.

24 So the Commission is of the mindset that -
25 - and there have been several studies done over the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 years -- that spent fuel is safe in the pools and
2 they're also safe inside dry storage. So while they
3 have recently changed their waste confidence decision
4 on spent fuel, they also are operating under the old
5 rules which simply says that there will be storage in
6 the 21st century -- within the first quarter of the
7 21st century -- and the adaptation of that to come is
8 going to state that spent fuel disposal will be ready
9 when necessary.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Greg.

11 So the bottom line is that the waste
12 confidence decision is still controlling here in terms
13 of the license applications for this plant or any
14 other plant, I gather.

15 Anybody else have a question? Okay, let's
16 go to you, ma'am. And if you could just introduce
17 yourself.

18 MS. WILSON: My name is Lilly Wilson and
19 I'm totally in the dark about Plant Vogtle because it
20 never concerned me. But basically what y'all are
21 saying, this is a plant where they just dump waste and
22 they're bringing waste to Burke County and dumping it
23 down here at this plant?

24 MR. CAMERON: I'm glad you didn't say you
25 were in the dark because I kept turning the lights off

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 on everybody.

2 Can we just explain what the nature of
3 this application is, that it's for a nuclear reactor
4 to produce electricity, rather than a waste disposal
5 site? Ravi.

6 MR. JOSHI: The purpose of the nuclear
7 reactor is to produce electric power, not to produce a
8 waste. Of course, there's a byproduct that talks
9 about some waste but that's minuscule. So the real
10 purpose is not to make waste but they're making
11 electricity. That's the real purpose of the reactor.

12 MR. CAMERON: So it's not to dispose of
13 waste and we can talk to you a little bit more about
14 that if there's still some confusion in your mind.
15 Thank you.

16 Okay, let's go over here.

17 MS. OGLE-Y-OLIVER: I'm Emma Ogley-Oliver.
18 Could you define minuscule waste, please?

19 MR. CAMERON: I'm sorry, can you just
20 repeat the phrase you want defined?

21 MS. OGLE-Y-OLIVER: Minuscule waste.

22 MR. CAMERON: Greg, did someone say -- did
23 you say the word "minuscule"? Oh, Ravi.

24 Okay, Greg.

25 MR. HATCHETT: Forgive us sometimes for

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 maybe not having used the appropriate adjective, but
2 the plant does generate all kinds of waste. It
3 generates solid waste, it generates liquid waste, they
4 generate -- they have to have discharges to meet NPDES
5 requirements, which is, you know, allowing certain
6 contaminants to go back into the receiving streams of
7 the U.S. that meet discharge limits under non-
8 pollution elimination discharge systems -- forgive me
9 if I say it wrong. But then there's spent fuel and
10 other waste that's generated. All those things are
11 managed and processed in accordance with the
12 Commission's regulations.

13 So I don't -- forgive me for not having
14 the exact amounts that every plant generates, but we
15 do keep track of those things, both inside the NRC and
16 then the DOE also has a process where they track how
17 much waste is generated through an electronic
18 management system that the DOE manages.

19 MR. CAMERON: Thanks for asking about that
20 clarification.

21 Yes, sir?

22 MR. YOMI NOIBI: Yomi Noibi, Environmental
23 Community Action, Atlanta, Georgia.

24 Mallecia mentioned about new information
25 or information that is significant and you mentioned

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 about some species that you considered. So my question
2 is what new information or what do you consider
3 significant or the criteria for your significance that
4 may impact this application?

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

6 Mallecia, maybe you can use an example to
7 illustrate what new and significant information is.

8 MS. SUTTON: Well the term "new and
9 significant", it must have the potential to change the
10 staff's analysis and conclusion that was in the ESP
11 EIS. For example, in the presentation, I mentioned
12 how when we discussed the state threatened species in
13 the ESP EIS, we said that we knew they were on site,
14 but we didn't think that they were going to be
15 relocated. So that information was significant enough
16 to change our conclusion from the ESP EIS. So by
17 moving these state threatened species and relocating
18 them, that was significant in our review.

19 So the example given by the federal listed
20 species was just an example and we looked at a slew of
21 new information to see if there was anything
22 significant enough to change our analysis, but the
23 relocation of state threatened species we thought was
24 significant enough to change our conclusion from small
25 to moderate.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I hope that answers your question.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mallecia.

3 We're going to go to comment now. And I
4 would just emphasize -- and we'll go to Sara for one
5 more question, but in your comments tonight or in your
6 written comments, the comments are not limited to the
7 areas where the NRC has found that there's new and
8 significant information. You may comment, you may
9 want to comment on one of the areas that Mallecia
10 called attention to where the NRC did not find any new
11 and significant information. So it's very broad in
12 terms of what's up for comment.

13 Sara.

14 MS. BARCZAK: Sara Barczak, Southern
15 Alliance for Clean Energy. The question I thought
16 might have been addressed but it didn't come up.
17 Could someone please provide the most recent
18 evaluation of where the AP1000 certificate process is,
19 given that Vogtle is supposedly going to have two
20 AP1000 reactors?

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay, design certification
22 of the AP1000, what is the status of that? And I
23 think -- okay.

24 MR. JOSHI: This is Ravi Joshi again.

25 Right now we are -- and understand it is a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 phased process; phase 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 sites. The phase
2 4 is the one that we are putting together the
3 certification report with open items, that's the phase
4 we are in right now. And also in Power also, they are
5 also conducting a briefing for the ACRS Subcommittee
6 also. So right now that's the process we are. Once
7 that is complete, we will be completing the final SER.
8 So that's where we are at this point.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay, and Becky, did you
10 want to add something on that?

11 MS. KARAS: Yes, just to say that it is
12 still under staff review, as Ravi has explained some
13 of the technical process steps that we go through.
14 But it does still remain under staff review and it has
15 to go to our Advisory Committee also to look at. So
16 it's in process.

17 MS. BARCZAK: Do you have a schedule?

18 MR. JOSHI: You're looking for a schedule
19 for completion of our review? Right now we are
20 estimating that we'll be finishing our review by end
21 of this year -- that's estimate.

22 MR. CAMERON: And then what happens after
23 the review is completed? Is there a -- is it put out
24 for comment for the public?

25 MR. JOSHI: Once all of our review is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 complete, then what we call a Design Certification
2 Rulemaking process begins. So that particular process
3 will start, based on the current estimated time, some
4 time early part of next year. And that would take
5 approximately I would say a nine to twelve month
6 period, at which time the design will be certified and
7 will be available for industry. This is all
8 estimated.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay. But there will be
10 opportunity for the public to comment?

11 MR. JOSHI: When we actually submit the
12 design certification rule as a proposed rule, public
13 will have opportunity to comment on the rule itself.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And that proposed
15 rule will be in what time frame?

16 MR. JOSHI: The proposed rule right now is
17 currently scheduled to be available to the public
18 sometime in the spring of 2011.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

20 MR. JOSHI: At which time, public will
21 have opportunity to comment.

22 MS. KARAS: Those typically go out for a
23 75-day public comment period. So if you have any
24 comments on the AP1000 design certification, there
25 will be notice in the *Federal Register*, that comment

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 period, and you can provide comments through that
2 rulemaking process.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

4 Let's go over to Reverend Utley.
5 Reverend, can you just introduce yourself too?

6 REV. UTLEY: Charles Utley, Blue Ridge
7 Environmental Defense League.

8 On the design, in spring of 2011 -- I want
9 to make sure I've got my dates right. That's when
10 you're going to present your findings of the EIS,
11 which means that you're going to go public. And also,
12 is not yet the design of the AP1000 hasn't been
13 approved? Wouldn't that be significant and cause some
14 changes? I just want to make sure I've got my dates
15 right. Both of them are taking place in 2011. We
16 have an AP1000 that has many flaws and if those flaws
17 are not filled by spring, are you still saying there's
18 not any significant changes that will cause any
19 changes to going ahead and approving your decision,
20 which will come out also in the spring? I'm trying to
21 get my springs right.

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you, Reverend
23 Utley.

24 I think that if we could just talk about
25 when you anticipate this draft to be finalized, when

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 you think the design cert roughly will be finalized
2 and if there's anything that you can say about the
3 relationship between the design certification and the
4 licensing or non-licensing, as the case may be, of the
5 plant.

6 MR. HATCHETT: Greg Hatchett, staff.
7 Great question.

8 One of the things we do, the rules allow
9 for an applicant to submit a combined license
10 application and reference a design, even if the design
11 is not certified. And the process requires that the
12 certification be completed before a decision on a
13 potential authorization of a license is given to an
14 applicant. Okay?

15 And one of the things that we do
16 constantly on the environmental side to make sure we
17 maintain constant contact with our counterparts doing
18 the safety review is we look at those things that
19 cross both the safety review and the environmental
20 review. We're looking at things like is there a
21 change in the heat output of the plant. Is there a
22 change in what we call the source term that would
23 impact accidents that could happen at a plant.

24 And so what we had sometime back was an
25 AP1000 certified design of Rev. 15 and then they had

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Rev. 17 come in. And one of the things we did -- for
2 example, one of the things we did when that came in
3 was we looked for how does this Rev. 17 impact what
4 we're doing in the environmental space. And sometimes
5 what we would do is we'd say hey, we're going to slow
6 down the environmental review because we understand a
7 change is coming. So we want to understand that
8 change to see how it impacts our environmental
9 analysis. What ended up happening in that case was
10 they changed the source term and they changed the
11 source term in a way that it was downward positive,
12 not -- it didn't get worse, it got better.

13 Fifteen is already approved by rulemaking
14 and 17 is in this process. So we looked at that and
15 determined that it wouldn't impact our environmental
16 analysis. And as we understand it right now, any
17 technical concerns that they have remaining with the
18 AP1000, these are not technical concerns that have
19 cross-cutting concerns for us over in the
20 environmental arena so we can't keep moving.

21 So we do do that, to make sure that we're
22 not getting ahead of the design certification in a way
23 that would cause us to resupplement the supplement.

24 MR. CAMERON: And Greg, I think the
25 implications of what you're saying is that when people

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 are commenting on the design certification, if they
2 see something in that design that they think would
3 need analysis in the environmental impact statement,
4 then it's fair game for people to suggest that.

5 MR. HATCHETT: Absolutely.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay, great.

7 Bobbie.

8 MS. PAUL: Bobbie Paul, Georgia WAND,
9 Atlanta, Georgia.

10 For those of us who may in the house not
11 know, what does AP stand for? Is the design being
12 suggested for other potential sites other than Vogtle?

13 And who is designing this one, is the company, is it
14 American-financed solely? If we could get that.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. CAMERON: Okay, let's see if we can
17 provide some information on the design, how many other
18 plants, approximately are going to use the same
19 design. What revision of the design is being
20 evaluated now and who is the designer? Becky, Becky
21 Karas.

22 MS. KARAS: It's a Westinghouse design, so
23 it's an American company, and it's advanced
24 pressurized -- it's a pressurized water reactor, so
25 it's just a name brand, AP1000. It is being proposed

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 for other sites including the V.C. Summer site, the
2 Levy site, Bellefonte, Turkey Point and Harris. And
3 it's proposed and built internationally also at
4 multiple sites.

5 MR. CAMERON: And the revision that we're
6 trying to certify or the NRC is trying to certify?

7 MS. KARAS: That's right. And they're all
8 planning on using Revision 17 which is the one that's
9 currently undergoing certification right now.

10 MR. HATCHETT: Let me just add this right
11 quick. This is an evolution of the AP600. So all
12 they did was say we're going to take the AP600 and
13 increase the power output by 400 additional megawatts.

14 So the staff certified that back in the '90s and
15 somebody had the bright idea that why don't we just
16 scale it up. So it's not something that we haven't
17 seen before. That's why it's not a design
18 certification in and of itself, it's a design
19 certification amendment. Right? So we're only
20 reviewing the changes.

21 The base idea of this plant, how it's
22 designed with the passive cooling and all that other
23 good old stuff, that's always been there from the
24 AP600 to AP1000. This is just -- you know, it went
25 from a Honda Accord to an Odyssey, just a little bit

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 bigger than what it was before.

2 MR. CAMERON: Okay. AP, advanced
3 pressurized, and 1000, 1000 megawatts. Bobbie, do you
4 have a follow-up?

5 MS. PAUL: I just wondered -- so you're
6 dealing solely with Westinghouse on this, not
7 Mitsubishi or any other companies?

8 MR. CAMERON: Just Westinghouse on the
9 AP1000, is that correct?

10 MR. JOSHI: Yes, that's correct.

11 MS. KARAS: Yes.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay, the answer is that's
13 correct. Thank you.

14 Let's go for one more question and then
15 we'll go to comments. Excuse me, I'm just going to
16 sneak in here.

17 MS. VALENTIN: Dianne Valentin, Georgia
18 resident.

19 I was under the impression in researching
20 the sites, Westinghouse's nuclear division is
21 currently owned by Mitsubishi or is Japanese owned.
22 So I guess I need some clarification on that because
23 it's not really --

24 VOICE: Not Mitsubishi.

25 MS. VALENTIN: Oh, I'm sorry, I was just

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 using -- sorry.

2 MS. CAMERON: Did we get your name?

3 MS. VALENTIN: Dianne.

4 MS. CAMERON: Dianne, okay.

5 The question is, is Westinghouse owned by
6 a Japanese company?

7 MR. HATCHETT: With respect to part
8 ownership or majority ownership by other entities,
9 companies that build nuclear power plants, the agency
10 does have a process called foreign ownership and
11 control that we go through to make sure that all of
12 the issues associated with allowing someone to play in
13 that environment, it's still -- the review process and
14 the entry into how things get done is solely through
15 and not controlled, if you will, by that foreign
16 entity. So we put these firewalls in place through
17 the regulations. I want to say it's -- forgive me
18 because we're talking about the environmental review
19 here, so you're challenging every part of the
20 regulations, I'll do the best I can. It's a Part 95
21 review, if I remember exactly what it is. And we go
22 through, we call it a FOCI review and we make sure, we
23 work with the Department of Energy and we work with
24 the State Department to resolve those foreign
25 ownership issues. And sometimes Congress gets

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 involved in foreign ownership issues to make sure that
2 before something is approved or allowed, it passed
3 muster even with Congress.

4 So we do do detailed reviews of these
5 things.

6 MR. CAMERON: And the answer is?

7 MR. HATCHETT: They do have majority
8 ownership.

9 MR. CAMERON: Westinghouse?

10 MR. HATCHETT: No, Toshiba has majority
11 ownership, from what I understand. But I'm not the
12 person that gets involved in that.

13 MR. CAMERON: So the answer, I think
14 you're correct, Dianne, Toshiba has majority ownership
15 of Westinghouse. So, Bobbie, there's a little slight
16 clarification on the answer for you.

17 Okay, let's go to comment. Thank you,
18 Greg, for talking about the review process on that.

19 We have a few elected officials that we're
20 going to go to first and then we want to hear from our
21 host at the Technical College, and then we're going to
22 go to Sara Barczak, Charles Utley and Bobbie Paul, and
23 then we're going to just move down the list. Mayor
24 Deloach, if you could just come up there and talk to
25 us. Mayor Deloach of Waynesboro, Georgia.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MAYOR DELOACH: First of all, I'd like to
2 welcome everyone to Waynesboro, Georgia, the bird dog
3 capital of the world. Chip, you met my dog out in the
4 car. How did you know it was my dog? That was a joke
5 we had between us before the meeting started.

6 Plant Vogtle has meant a great deal to
7 this town and county and we expect it to have a great
8 impact on us in the next five to ten years.

9 We were not quite ready for --
10 construction-wise -- on Units 1 and 2 back in the '70s
11 and '80s, but we've got a lot of our infrastructure in
12 place now and we expect a lot of growth and with the
13 economic situation like it is now, you know, we're
14 excited about the future.

15 I would just like to say -- I'd like to
16 thank the NRC for having this public meeting here in
17 Waynesboro. No other countries have the freedom that
18 we have of dissent and being for something.

19 I'd just like to say, Chip, my
20 relationship with the NRC at city hall and others has
21 been very professional and I thank you for what you
22 are doing and most of all I thank you for having the
23 safety of the general public first in your mind.

24 If there's anything we can help you with
25 at city hall, feel free to call us. Thank you.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

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

2 Next, we're going to go to Dick Byne from
3 the City Council and then we're going to go to Lucious
4 Abrams, County Commission. Dick Byne.

5 MR. BYNE: I appreciate you letting me
6 speak tonight. My name is Dick Byne. I grew up here
7 my whole life, I go back to 1600, my family. I'm very
8 proud of Waynesboro, very proud of Burke County.

9 I'm also an organic blueberry farmer, and
10 to give you an idea what organic blueberry farming is,
11 we don't use chemicals. We believe in building up the
12 soil, building up the soil will feed the plant.

13 The reason I say that is because I do care
14 about the environment, I do care about recycling, I do
15 care about clean air, clean water and I do care about
16 clean energy.

17 The reason I am here is because I have
18 everything to lose and nothing to gain. I love
19 Waynesboro and Burke County, I think it's the greatest
20 place in the world. I graduated from Georgia, I do
21 have 40 hours of science, chemistry and biology and
22 physics. If there's anything that I have learned --
23 the more that I learn, the less that I know. And I
24 think that's the reason we have to ask Georgia Power,
25 we have to ask the NRC questions and we have to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 continue to ask questions and you have to hold them
2 accountable.

3 I believe in this nuclear power plant, I
4 believe it will be good for Waynesboro, Burke County,
5 Georgia and this great country. I feel like this
6 panel has been thorough up to this point, I expect
7 them to continue and I believe in the men and women of
8 Georgia Power and the Southern Company. I feel they
9 have the best workforce in the southeast. You've seen
10 them tonight, we see them in restaurants, we see them
11 in our grocery stores, we see them in our churches and
12 we see them in our schools.

13 They have treated me with respect and have
14 answered my questions as well as can be expected. I
15 feel very confident in their work ethics, I trust them
16 and I appreciate their willingness to come to Burke
17 County.

18 I take my job as a councilman and a leader
19 very seriously because I am responsible to my family
20 and the citizens of Waynesboro and Burke County.

21 I do appreciate you letting me come speak
22 tonight. I believe in this plant and I know it will
23 work and I feel very comfortable with it. Thank you
24 so much.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dick.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Lucious, would you like to come up? This
2 is Lucious Abrams.

3 MR. ABRAMS: I'd like to say good evening
4 to everyone. We bring you greetings from the Burke
5 County Board of Commissioners.

6 I'm here speaking on behalf of the
7 relationship, since I've been a county Commissioner,
8 with Georgia Power and Plant Vogtle. They have been
9 true professionals. And not only with being a very
10 true professional in whatever they do, the workers,
11 how they handle their business, how they work in the
12 communities, and beyond the impact, we know that it's
13 a blessing due to the economy, the way everything is
14 going on.

15 I just left a meeting in Atlanta, Burke
16 County is one of the most blessed counties in the
17 state of Georgia, compared to what all other
18 commissioners, what they're going through.

19 But beyond that, today when I was in the
20 meeting with NRC today, not only Plant Vogtle and
21 Southern Nuclear, all of them, how they handle
22 themselves professionally, they have all these
23 agencies -- and it just blew my mind today how they
24 have to make sure that every screw, every bolt, every
25 grain of dirt, has to be right. So I feel

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 comfortable, and whatever we can do from the Board of
2 Commissioners, Burke County Board of Commissioners,
3 we're here to assist you because you are true
4 professionals, you're a blessing for Burke County and
5 whatever we can do to continue this relationship, we
6 support you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Lucious.

8 Next we have Terry Elam, who is the
9 President of Augusta Technical College. And after
10 President Elam, we're going to go to Sara Barczak,
11 Reverend Utley, Bobbie Paul, Tommy Mitchell and Robin
12 Baxley.

13 Yes, sir.

14 MR. ELAM: To the Nuclear Regulatory
15 Commission, on behalf of Augusta Technical College, a
16 Georgia-based two-year technical college, we offer our
17 support regarding the expansion of Plant Vogtle in
18 Burke County by the Southern Nuclear Company.

19 The expansion of Plant Vogtle is key to
20 the growth of the region because it will provide
21 employment opportunities to this part of the state,
22 with steelworkers and well-paying jobs.

23 At peak construction, over 3500
24 construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs at the site
25 in a vast array of levels from administrative to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 technical to security.

2 Permanent jobs will be a driver of the
3 local economy, bringing with it small businesses and
4 services that will benefit both the transient and
5 permanent jobs that will be created at the site.

6 The expansion of Plant Vogtle opens up
7 opportunities for innovations in training and for the
8 industry to continue improving on its already existing
9 high quality standards.

10 The expansion will drive students to our
11 technical college to develop fundamentals in math,
12 science and other technologies that would be
13 applicable to Southern Nuclear's employment needs and
14 help create a more educated workforce in general.

15 Augusta Technical College has partnered
16 with Southern Nuclear on several initiatives over the
17 last few years.

18 Augusta Tech has created an Energy Academy
19 at Burke County High School targeted at middle school
20 students to interest them in futures in the energy
21 area and in science. Many young people are not aware
22 of the opportunities that lie in front of them in the
23 technology area of energy.

24 We've also hosted an energy camp on our
25 main campus to provide opportunities so young people

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 will be able to make good decisions as they prepare
2 for careers in the future.

3 But probably the most significant step in
4 the process of finding a workforce to make this plant
5 a very safe and reliable operation is that we have
6 partnered with Southern Nuclear and have developed a
7 two-year associate degree program in nuclear
8 engineering technology. This NET program is a high-
9 tech two-year associate degree program that provides
10 an outstanding foundation for jobs in nuclear plant
11 maintenance and non-licensed operations. This program
12 started two weeks ago and the selection process
13 involves selecting 40 of the best students out of a
14 applicant pool of 158.

15 The Industrial Technology Division of
16 Augusta Tech currently partners with Plant Vogtle's
17 training department on the maintenance --
18 Manufacturing Maintenance Fundamentals Technical
19 Certificate in both areas of electrical and
20 mechanical. Currently 23 of the plant employees are
21 enrolled in this program. This partnership has been
22 ongoing for the past seven years.

23 Augusta Tech is celebrating Careers in
24 Energy Week in Georgia beginning the week of October
25 18. Displays promoting careers in energy will be

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 features on all of our campuses.

2 Augusta Technical College endorses
3 expansion of Southern Nuclear Company's efforts in
4 Burke County. The impact on creating an educated
5 workforce and the potential for additional businesses
6 will greatly benefit the local economy of Burke
7 County. We will also benefit because we will receive
8 students who will need training and taking advantage
9 of the educational opportunities with the current and
10 future crop of students.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

13 Next we have Sara Barczak.

14 MS. BARCZAK: Good evening. My name is
15 Sara Barczak. I'm a program director with the
16 Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, a non-profit
17 energy policy organization with members throughout
18 Georgia and the region who are concerned about energy
19 and the environment.

20 Nearly four years have passed since the
21 NRC held its first public scoping meeting for the
22 proposed Vogtle expansion -- I looked at my notes and
23 it was like October 16 of 2006 we were all sitting
24 here in the same room with many of the same people.
25 At that time, it was for the early site permit

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 licensing process. And since then, many, many things
2 have changed, but strangely, much remains the same in
3 terms of this project. Regulators, in our opinion,
4 continue to have blinders on. We again believe that
5 the NRC has failed to protect the public by
6 recommending approval of Georgia Power and its utility
7 partners' push to build two new reactors here for an
8 estimated \$14 billion price tag.

9 I mentioned four years ago that the issue
10 of building more nuclear reactors would affect not
11 just this local community, but Georgia as a whole and
12 our region overall. And I had hoped that the NRC
13 staff understood that it was important to do something
14 that would benefit all, not just a select few. Sadly,
15 that has not happened.

16 So what has changed since then? What has
17 happened over these last four years? Many reactor
18 proposals have fallen by the wayside, such as the most
19 recent news by Progress Energy to perhaps abandon the
20 new reactors in North Carolina, the Harris reactors
21 that were referred to by one of the staff people
22 earlier. Costs have gone through the roof. New
23 reactors proposed in Florida have more than tripled in
24 cost. In fact, in just over the course of one year,
25 Progress' estimate for the Levy County reactors in

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Florida sits at \$5 billion more than it did in 2009,
2 it's now \$22 billion overall for the two AP1000
3 reactors, and they now have a five-year delay to boot.

4 Most astonishingly -- and we heard it
5 discussed just this evening -- the AP1000 design still
6 is not certified, Revision 17. I think all of us
7 vividly remember being told that having a certified
8 design would make this process much smoother, save
9 money and on and on. Well, that hasn't happened and
10 the most recent news is that Westinghouse has again
11 missed another deadline. Yes, maybe eventually
12 they'll get it together and the NRC will approve the
13 design, but it has certainly been a long and bumpy
14 road.

15 Additionally, since four years ago, this
16 region suffered through a severe drought and the
17 reliability of existing nuclear plants were tested,
18 and there were failures then that have continued even
19 through this year. The powering back or shutting down
20 of TVA's Browns Ferry reactors along the Tennessee
21 River in Alabama, for example. And yet somehow the
22 NRC is able to recommend approving the combined
23 operating license for Vogtle even though the reactor
24 design that Southern Company intends to build here has
25 yet to be approved and water concerns remain and other

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 issues are yet to be resolved.

2 And I mentioned earlier, the proposed
3 nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain to store the
4 nation's radioactive waste from the existing Vogtle
5 units, all the reactors across the country, the new
6 reactors being proposed have been suspended, zeroed
7 out in the budget.

8 What else has changed? And I have time
9 left, Chip, you know I do have.

10 What else has changed? Many things that
11 the NRC doesn't really concern itself with but that
12 are of utmost importance to most citizens. For
13 instance, Georgia Power ratepayers now are saddled
14 with a bum deal that will cause their electric bills
15 to start going up come January, because of the Georgia
16 legislature passing anti-consumer legislation in 2009
17 to help finance the new reactors. This nuclear power
18 tax is a prepayment scheme that takes money out of
19 Georgians' pocketbooks today, instead of from the
20 wallets of Southern Company shareholders and the big
21 industrials who managed to get exempted from this
22 scheme, for something that may never come to fruition
23 tomorrow -- and there will be no rebate. You are not
24 going to get a check in the mail if this plant doesn't
25 get built. And this all happened as the country is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 stuck in the middle of an historic recession that has
2 devastated the economy, families and our overall
3 future. And this recession has also impacted the fact
4 that future energy projections have fallen putting
5 projects such as this in serious question -- but
6 nothing in the draft NRC report touches on these
7 realities.

8 If Vogtle is abandoned, Southern Company
9 and its utility partners managed to also feed from the
10 trough of the U.S. Treasury over these last four
11 years, which is ultimately the U.S. taxpayers'
12 checkbook, by getting an \$8.3 billion conditional loan
13 guarantee award from the Obama Administration that was
14 awarded in February. All of us in this room could be
15 on the hook financially for this boondoggle. That's
16 what high paid lobbyists can get a giant corporation -
17 - assurance that all of the risks will be shouldered
18 by some other unsuspecting soul -- in this case,
19 taxpaying Americans and hard working Georgians. No
20 wonder Georgia utilities remain doggedly set on
21 pushing the Vogtle reactors forward -- they have very
22 little in this game and are proposing a very risk
23 project in a very regulatory friendly environment that
24 is shrouded in secrecy.

25 I could go on about the fact that there

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 are more cost effective, less water-intensive energy
2 choices that would actually save money in the long
3 run, keep money here at home and protect people's
4 health and the environment such as energy efficiency
5 and conservation and renewables including biopower,
6 solar and wind. But why bother? As it all falls upon
7 deaf ears in terms of the NRC and I'm afraid of other
8 regulators overseeing this project. Let's fact it,
9 Georgia is using its natural resources, impacting its
10 citizens' health, and allowing radioactive nuclear
11 waste to pile up within its borders to power other
12 states' air conditioning units and to line Southern
13 Company's shareholders' wallets.

14 Does the NRC even care that if Plant
15 Vogtle is expanded less water will be available in the
16 Savannah River for other users both upstream and
17 downstream? People have heard me state this statistic
18 before, but I'm going to do it again tonight. To put
19 the consumptive water loss in perspective from Plant
20 Vogtle -- that is the water that does not go back into
21 the river -- with average per capita daily water use
22 in Georgia at 75 gallons from surface and groundwater
23 sources, this means the two existing and two proposed
24 reactors could use enough water to supply 1.4 to 2.3
25 million Georgians. Somehow the NRC thinks that is a

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 "small" impact. Read the EIS, they consider it a
2 small impact. We disagree and we believe that the
3 future communities upstream and downstream of the
4 plant will vehemently disagree as climate change
5 impacts are observed and droughts get longer and more
6 severe and everyone is fighting over water. But it'll
7 be too late by then.

8 In closing, we hope that the NRC and other
9 regulators overseeing this project will step back and
10 rethink all of this, will step back from all the
11 hoopla surrounding this boondoggle and do what is
12 right for the public and our natural resources and
13 deny the license for the proposed Vogtle reactors. It
14 is not fair for the power companies to be given the
15 biggest straw to pull from our precious water
16 resources and a blank check from our wallets. As I
17 said four years ago, the future safety of not only
18 this community, but many, many others are at stake.

19 Thank you for your time and consideration.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Sara.

22 We'll call Reverend Utley now and then
23 we're going to go to Bobbie Paul.

24 REV. UTLEY: Good evening. It's good to
25 be able to come and share with you this afternoon on

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 this proposed expansion. Any time you talk about
2 expansion, you need to know all the "ands" and all the
3 "buts" about it.

4 I too am a lover of water, lover of the
5 air and a lover of farmers. My daddy and my mother
6 who were called Mary Lou and Bunk lived right here in
7 Burke County too. But we didn't have to worry about
8 whether the air was going to be okay or whether we had
9 water in Briar Creek.

10 But the high water that's being consumed
11 by the plant is just astronomical. And when you think
12 about it, you know, there are farmers who are going
13 around now putting wells down and they're going deeper
14 and deeper and deeper because as Sara said earlier,
15 there is a drought. If you don't think water is a
16 problem, when they went to the moon, what did they
17 say? Hmmm? "It looks like it's a planet that has
18 water." It looks like there may be life on Pluto.
19 Why? Water. And yet we don't care about ours, so
20 we'll let them just suck and suck and suck all the way
21 to the aquifer, that beautiful water that's underneath
22 the earth and nobody should be even bothering with it.
23 But it's okay because we're going to use it for the
24 almighty dollar.

25 At the same time, God's air has not

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 stopped blowing. His sun certainly came up this
2 morning and I'm looking forward for it in the morning.
3 And with those two natural things, why in the world am
4 I upsetting what God has given me to live on? And
5 then I'm going to build two more of them. Why? It's
6 easy because it's not out of my pocket, it's out of
7 those people who live in Georgia. I get my money, my
8 power from Jefferson Electric. Are you kidding?
9 Jefferson Electric buys from Georgia Power. You still
10 paying, those who live around Jefferson Electric
11 beware. I guarantee you it's going to be cut off when
12 the evening comes. They're going to meet their
13 deadline. People all over this area, including an
14 aunt of mine who lives in Thomas County, Georgia.
15 Walked in to visit with her and she said, "Well, tell
16 me one thing about it, Charles, I just can't
17 understand why my electric bill keeps going up." I
18 said, "Because they decided that you need to pay to
19 build something that you're going to give a blank
20 check and when they get through, you're going to pay
21 to use it because every time you cut it on, you're
22 paying." I said, "You know, that's a good concept.
23 Why don't I come up with something and you pay me to
24 build it and I in return sell it back to you and you
25 then buy it back from me." Isn't that crazy? That's

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 what you're doing, that's exactly what you're doing.
2 At the same time, you're having fallout from the
3 atmosphere, you have all that to breathe, coming down
4 on you. You have to be aware of the fact that it is a
5 major thing when you have children in our impacted
6 area, it is a disproportionate environmental injustice
7 for one community to stand all the pollution being
8 poured on them.

9 You can come and say well, they come from
10 Atlanta, they come from Savannah, they come from
11 Wisconsin. It doesn't affect them. But yeah, look at
12 that one community, Shell Bluff, look at those folks.

13 There is a definite impact on those who live near
14 plants. Brain tumors in a 12 year old -- think about
15 it. Babies are susceptible, the rest of the people
16 like me, I got near a whole lot of stuff in Vietnam.
17 So it doesn't bother me as bad as it's going to both
18 that young unborn child who's being carried by that
19 unprotected mother because even at a meeting in
20 Chicago, we went with some people out of Australia who
21 live as far as their reactor is from here almost to
22 California. They had iodine. How many of you got it
23 in your water? Talk to me.

24 We talk about these same issues but yet
25 they're not here. We talk about FEMA, we talk about

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 GEMA, we talk about all of these acronyms that's
2 supposed to be helping us, but where are they when
3 you're on your sick bed and all you're getting is
4 radiation and fallout and you're trying to say send it
5 over here, we're not going to take it. You've got the
6 Savannah River Site across the river, they don't want
7 it, nobody wants it but you say you've got enough
8 space to keep it. Where in the world are you going to
9 put it? Nonsense. Don't fool yourself. Everybody in
10 the world is looking at Waynesboro, they want to know
11 what are you going to do with all that radiation when
12 it gets here, because it's going to be a glow in the
13 dark. The world is going to know. Think about it,
14 it's your choice.

15 You've got one heck of a job to do, but
16 think about it, put you in Shell Bluff.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Reverend Utley.

20 Bobbie, Bobbie Paul. And then we're going
21 to go to Tommy Mitchell and Robin Baxley.

22 MS. PAUL: Is Mr. Hatchett still -- oh,
23 there you are.

24 My name is Bobbie Paul with Georgia WAND
25 and eight years ago, I was just watch dogging the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Savannah River Site and I heard that the monitoring
2 from the Department of Energy to the state of Georgia
3 had been cut after 12 years. And I couldn't believe
4 it. When I investigated it, it brought me to Richmond
5 County, to Screven County, Effingham County, Chatham
6 County and especially to Burke County.

7 This was right when the secret energy
8 talks were happening in Washington and no one would
9 disclose who was in them. We know Southern Company
10 was there. I wondered today, when that was cut if
11 those findings that our Georgia EPD -- Environmental
12 Protection Division of DNR, DOE, everything -- had
13 found or had explored, sampled and tested in beer,
14 peanuts, pears, fish, the river -- I wondered why we
15 didn't want that information any more. Who didn't
16 want to have information about their community, about
17 their environment?

18 So Mr. Hatchett and NRC people, for seven
19 years, my non-profit peace organization has been
20 working to try to restore that monitoring with DOE for
21 our state. And the good news is that a President
22 Obama appointee who has been in DOE for awhile, Dr.
23 Ines Triay came down to Savannah River Site and
24 several of us went to meet her, several people from
25 Burke County -- Keysville, Shell Bluff and others --

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 and when we asked her about the monitoring for our
2 state and especially for this county which is directly
3 downwind and downstream, she turned to Mr. Allison at
4 the time, who I don't think is still in the site
5 manager position, and said well, you can tell them
6 about it. And he had to admit that monitoring had
7 been cut. Although we did find, through a Freedom of
8 Information Act, that Department of Energy has been
9 telling Congress that South Carolina and Georgia have
10 been getting money for the past eight years, when we
11 haven't. It's been zeroed out. So I think it was good
12 news. Dr. Triay said get with my people, this is
13 ridiculous, radiation doesn't acknowledge state
14 boundaries.

15 So we've been working for about 14 months
16 to restore that and we have a commitment from the
17 Department of Energy and our state -- Georgia EPD --
18 and I believe Mr. Hardeman is here, who was involved
19 in the former monitoring -- has submitted a very
20 robust -- to use a DOE term -- proposal and we're
21 hoping that it will be funded, the first one was
22 rejected. But we're hoping that we can come to some
23 agreement about human health and protection.

24 So why tell this story? I guess it's
25 because we're all connected here in this country,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 whether we live in Waynesboro; Shell Bluff, four miles
2 from the reactor as the crow flies; Atlanta;
3 Rockville, Maryland; whatever. And we know that DOE
4 and NRC and EPA and DNR and South Carolina DHEC and
5 all these people talk to each other. And I've come
6 here to plead with you that what was rejected in this
7 or whatever the term is -- no change -- are the things
8 that deeply impact the people that live in this
9 community, especially around the reactors. And it's
10 been -- getting to know them and having them be my
11 friends has been amazing. And I have truly gotten to
12 hear their stories and their fears about these
13 reactors and their fears about not being able to pay
14 their bills.

15 And so I would suggest that the NRC in all
16 its deliberations and all the things before you from
17 the intervenors and companies and whatever, get to
18 know the people, not just what we say here. But get
19 to know the people, investigate that the cancer rates
20 since '87 and '89 when 1 and 2 went on line, have gone
21 perhaps from 11 percent below the national average to
22 26 percent above -- look at those CDC figures and
23 investigate for yourself. Support us with DOE because
24 very often we come here and it's like this is not in
25 our purview, we are outside of the box, and this and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 that. We know people talk, we know how deals are
2 done.

3 There's no doubt that Southern Company is
4 one of the largest businesses in the world and its
5 reach through Georgia Power in our state is huge -- 71
6 or more lobbyists pushed the construction while in
7 progress, the tax that Sara talked about through the
8 legislature last year with record speed as momentum
9 was mounting and people were becoming aware of what it
10 really was. The promise of \$1.30 a month for the
11 first year starting in 2011 has now turned to \$3.73 a
12 month, almost tripling what was proposed. Too many
13 promises have been broken, financially and spiritually
14 and I can tell you that people are afraid.

15 Lastly, I'd like to say that tonight I was
16 disappointed that there were not the booklets that are
17 handed out when you go to Plant Vogtle or when you ask
18 for evacuation routes. There was PR on Vogtle, there
19 was one line in there that mentioned "the public" or
20 "public safety" about evacuation. I've looked at this
21 book with a checklist. There are four levels of
22 radiation releases and you're supposed to look at it
23 and determine which one is safe to stay in your house
24 and which one you get in your car and get the hell out
25 of Dodge. How to put a cloth on your mouth, turn off

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 your air conditioning, shut down your heating, shut
2 the windows. It's a new form of terrorism for the
3 people living around these reactor sites. And I just
4 ask for further screening on the NRC's part.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Bobbie.

8 Tommy Mitchell, and then we're going to go
9 to Robin and then to Annie Laura Stephens and Glenn
10 Carroll.

11 MR. MITCHELL: Good evening. My name is
12 Tommy Mitchell, and I was born and raised in Burke
13 County and I've spent my entire life here in this
14 county. I've spent the last 23 years in public
15 education, of which 14 of those years were spent in
16 educational administration. I am presently principal
17 of Waynesboro Primary School that is the home to some
18 1150 students, pre-K through second grade, and 204
19 employees.

20 From a public school perspective, we are
21 very proud to have Plant Vogtle in our community. Here
22 are just a few reasons why:

23 Our educational facilities are second to
24 none in this area; and due to the taxes generated from
25 Plant Vogtle, our school board has been able to

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 maintain a relatively low millage rate in comparison
2 to many other counties throughout the state.

3 The poverty rate in Burke County is
4 relatively high; and due to the taxes from Plant
5 Vogtle, it levels the playing field giving
6 opportunities to students that would never have those
7 opportunities otherwise.

8 The education today is the engine of our
9 future economic growth and development. Due to Plant
10 Vogtle's contributions, we are able to provide a
11 quality education to all of our students here in Burke
12 County.

13 A key question asked by companies and even
14 families seeking to move to this area is about the
15 quality of the public education system where they
16 would be located. Because of Plant Vogtle's
17 involvement, we are able in Burke County to answer
18 that question with satisfaction and pride.

19 We are extremely proud to have Plant
20 Vogtle in our community.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Tommy.

23 This is Robin Baxley. Robin.

24 MS. BAXLEY: Good evening. I will first
25 say that I do not like to speak in public, but Plant

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Vogtle, Southern Company, Georgia Power has had a big
2 impact on my life.

3 I've been here since '79 and I am a local
4 small business owner. And of course, from an economic
5 standpoint, it has been great for us and helped us
6 through this economy in the last year, this expansion.

7 We are excited about it.

8 I am also, and four of our employees, are
9 badged at Vogtle so we are in and out of there. I
10 have to be there every 30 days, usually more than
11 that, thank goodness for doing business. But it has
12 been very interesting to me to see all the things that
13 they are doing for safety and EPD and it's been a
14 great thing. I love to learn and they are following
15 guidelines and welcome that accountability, from what
16 I see. Now I know I may be this dumb blonde from
17 Georgia and I don't have some of this education -- and
18 I've met plenty of engineers here tonight and things
19 like that -- but, you know, I know that they had to
20 recently wait -- and this is not on the record exact
21 figures -- four months for some bird eggs that were in
22 an area that they had to wait to purge some land. I
23 mean the land is changing every day and I think that
24 they are going by those guidelines and doing those
25 things to try do research and make it as safe as

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 possible.

2 I think there is always risk in anything
3 that we do. My business is a couple of blocks -- a
4 block away. We have a big railroad going behind it,
5 you know, I mean a train accident would kill us all.
6 But we still have to take those risks.

7 We welcome them to our community, it's
8 been a great asset. As a business we are members of
9 other chambers of commerce and different things like
10 that around the area and Burke County and the local
11 community are very lucky to have this as far as
12 financial impact. And people are jealous and envious
13 that we have this in our area and I think we need to
14 embrace that.

15 I believe that's pretty much all I have to
16 say. We welcome it and look forward to learning and,
17 you know, checking into things on our own and trying
18 to keep them accountable as well.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Robin.

21 Annie, Annie Laura Stephens.

22 MS. STEPHENS: Good evening. Greetings,
23 my name is Annie Laura Stephens.

24 I can see that Georgia Power, Plant Vogtle
25 are determined to build two more new reactors to the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 two existing reactors not regarding the affliction,
2 the burden and the confusion that they are bringing to
3 the community of Burke County and all other
4 communities where these reactors are located.

5 Now Georgia Power is here, Plant Vogtle is
6 here. We can't do anything about that, two are
7 already here. And these two, Georgia Power and Plant
8 Vogtle, has become bread to this community. And I say
9 don't fight the hand that feeds you bread. But this I
10 do say, pray the word of God, call on the name of
11 Jesus that the God of heaven may have mercy upon us
12 all.

13 Hearing from other persons, we realize
14 that there is cancer and no amount of money can ease
15 the suffering that I have encountered in this
16 community. And it's just not only blacks, but it's
17 whites also that are suffering from a high rate -- an
18 increase of cancer.

19 And this I say too, we're talking about
20 how blessed Georgia Power has been to this community.

21 Now my concern started a long time ago before Georgia
22 Power came here. My grandfather came out of slavery,
23 out of Louisville, ran out of Louisville, Georgia and
24 came to Burke County in 1919 and bought land in Burke
25 County down in that area, that his children would not

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 be under the foot of the white man. And God allowed
2 him to keep that land and it was left in the family.

3 But then as time went on and both parents
4 died, my grandmother died, then Georgia Power got our
5 land. If you have land, you can stay there until
6 things get better, but when you don't have land nor
7 money, that is a problem.

8 So I say to the NRC, the suffering that no
9 amount of money can help us, let us pray and call on
10 Jesus for guidance as caring for the people in the
11 community. And I heard you mention about moving the
12 species, certain species -- well, what about mankind
13 like over on the South Carolina side where SRS moved
14 six communities from that site. Do you all plan to
15 look into that as moving us as a people to another
16 place? Take that into consideration and see if that
17 will impact your decision when it comes down to
18 humanity. That's what we are praying for, the health
19 and welfare for all humanity in this area and all
20 other areas where these plants are built.

21 And I think I have one more little thing I
22 would like to say. Now back in 1976, the angel of God
23 came to me for me to pay the taxes, to get my family
24 together to pay the taxes so that we would have our
25 land. After we paid the taxes, got the family

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 together, then they went through the court system and
2 got our land. It's on record at the Probate Court in
3 Burke County Courthouse. And if you read *The Upper*
4 *Room*, and I don't know whether y'all read *The Upper*
5 *Room* or not, but today it's talking about when God
6 told Jeremiah to go buy that property. Now fellows,
7 y'all should have listened to me then and not sold our
8 land to Georgia Power because otherwise, I really
9 wouldn't have no reason to be here but since that is
10 the case, I am here.

11 And so on this night, October 7, 2010, my
12 65th birthday, I say to all who are here for and
13 against these two new reactors, take heed because
14 there is coming One who is mightier than I, who shoe
15 latches I am not worthy to stoop down and unlatch.
16 And He has stood by me and gave me strength to stand
17 and to speak in the midst of adversity knowing that as
18 a black woman, that we are not really appreciated and
19 loved by some people.

20 So I ask you this night in the name of the
21 Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, ask the Lord to
22 have mercy upon us all.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Annie.

2 Glenn Carroll.

3 (Members of the audience rise and sing the
4 hymn "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior.")

5 MR. CAMERON: Beautiful. Thank you.

6 Glenn Carroll.

7 MS. CARROLL: This is from the group

8 (A document was proffered to the court
9 reporter.)

10 MS. CARROLL: My name is Glenn Carroll,
11 I'm with Nuclear Watch South, formerly Georgians
12 Against Nuclear Energy. My group was founded in 1977
13 over concern about the licensing of nuclear reactors
14 at Plant Hatch on the Altamaha River, and have been
15 involved in the Vogtle resistance since its beginning.
16 It's wonderful to be here tonight with people from
17 Burke County.

18 One thing very fundamental has changed
19 since reactors 1 and 2 and that is this county has
20 experienced nuclear reactors in its community. It has
21 come to know cancer and now we know a lot more going
22 into Vogtle 3 and 4 than we did when we talked about
23 Vogtle 1 and 2.

24 I want to talk about a couple of items in
25 the EIS. First of all, I don't quite know how after

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 33 years we fell off the list, but we didn't get a
2 copy of the EIS and fortunately we have arrived and
3 submitted comments, but tonight I sort of crammed a
4 little bit and a couple of things jumped out at me.

5 Section 5.5 on page 5-6, it's about socio-
6 economic impact. Now I don't see it really discussing
7 the tax giveaway in the middle of the worst recession
8 since the Great Depression. But what I want to talk
9 about was an experience I had last November when I
10 came over here with a BBC reporter, doing an article
11 about the Vogtle reactors for a business magazine and
12 the community of Shell Bluff was gracious enough to
13 host us at a church and we sat around. And I heard
14 something that didn't make the radio program, but
15 changed me very profoundly.

16 I've ridden around on the main drags of
17 Burke County and I've admired the large schools and
18 the large churches and the very evident prosperity
19 that this community enjoys in the main parts of town.

20 But when you get off the paved roads out there in
21 God's country and you just see fields just going and
22 going, it's just beautiful and you just know you're in
23 Georgia, it's just so beautiful.

24 I got out at this church, this little
25 bitty church has a mighty big graveyard for a little

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 church in a little community that's a lot of land
2 between the houses. If you just walk right over there
3 on the main drag, you can't get past the visitor's
4 center, you can't see those reactors, but you go out
5 on the dirt roads, you can just walk right up, you can
6 get your picture made -- not the cooling towers, mind
7 you -- the reactors where the real radiation danger
8 lies.

9 But what I heard in Shell Bluff that
10 dropped my world and changed me very profoundly was
11 that in that part of the county, said the community,
12 "we don't have a grocery store. If we have a fire, it
13 takes 45 minutes for emergency personnel to get here."

14 That is not in this EIS. Economic benefits are not
15 created equal in Burke County. That needs to be
16 noted.

17 Section 9.2 about energy alternatives.
18 Well, the word is out -- sorry I don't have the book,
19 I hope everybody will read it off the newsletter and
20 this darling little piece, you can get both of these
21 out on the table out there -- *Carbon Free and Nuclear*
22 *Free by 2050*.

23 Well, a skeptic said you've got to have
24 coal, nuclear, one of these big baseload types of
25 energy to keep on business as usual in this world.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 The name is Arjun Makhijani and he works for Institute
2 for Energy and Environmental Research. Well, he was
3 challenged to prove that we're stuck with these large
4 polluting, poisonous power sources. And what he
5 found, much to his surprise, a skeptic, was that we
6 can, with existing technology -- this is not the kind
7 of leap between mimeograph machines and iPhones with
8 e-mail, we're not talking about those leaps, although
9 they are possible if we would get focused. We're
10 talking existing technology, which is sadly mostly
11 developed in the U.S. and being deployed in every
12 other country in the world. Germany is cold and
13 they're doing solar power.

14 Solar -- the historic cross over happened
15 two months ago. Solar is now equal in price to
16 nuclear. And do you think we are giving \$8.2 billion
17 to anybody to do that?

18 Wind power generation has surpassed
19 nuclear on the planet. This is happening.

20 Well, what happened was the book came out
21 and all this data that hadn't been found in the
22 initial research came tumbling out and he had to
23 radically revise his projection on how quickly you
24 could pull this off. Now it is official, in 30 years,
25 if we will get it together, we can be off all poison

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 power. He even covered the transportation sector's
2 use of oil.

3 Well, something needs to be re-looked at
4 in the EIS. I do want to point out a wonderful book,
5 copyrighted 2009, brand new book, written by an
6 industry insider, he writes for *Nucleonics Weekly* and
7 *Nuclear Fuel* and your favorite trade publications --
8 has written a book. It looks at -- you know what,
9 this rotten nuclear industry is the same age as that
10 young lady over there, 65 years old. This is not a
11 proper way of doing business. This is a relatively
12 new way of doing business, it can't make it, it's
13 going out of business. This is happening. We can get
14 ripped off until the cows come home. I predict no
15 reactor will ever come on line in this country again.

16 We should save our money, we should give the good
17 folks in Shell Bluff emergency services and a grocery
18 store at a minimum. Why doesn't Georgia Power do that
19 as a consolation prize for leading Burke County down
20 this disappointing path.

21 I'm going to put these two goodies about
22 the new way of doing business in the record and good
23 to be here tonight. Happy birthday.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 We're going to go to Sue Parr and Ashley
2 Roberts and Jesse Stone. Sue.

3 MS. PARR: Good evening. My name is Sue
4 Parr and I'm the President of the Augusta Metro
5 Chamber of Commerce. We serve a membership of 1200
6 businesses and organizations throughout four counties
7 in two states. Our constituents include the private
8 sector, public entities and non-profits. And
9 collectively they employ approximately 25,000 people.

10 The role of our chamber is to help educate
11 the community and to serve as a voice on the issues
12 that impact our economic growth and the prosperity of
13 our region. Since 2005, I've been traveling to
14 Waynesboro and we've been actively engaged in the
15 regulatory and licensing process for Vogtle's reactors
16 3 and 4. Our organization is a strong advocate for
17 diversified clean and safe solutions that will meet
18 our growing energy needs.

19 The Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce
20 supports the construction of reactors 3 and 4 at the
21 Vogtle Generating site. We have confidence in the
22 regulatory process that has occurred thus far and we
23 believe it has provided the necessary oversight to
24 ensure the best possible outcome for our community.
25 The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the DSEIS, further supports our opinion. The staff
2 conclusion that the DSEIS finds no reason to deny the
3 future issuance of combined operating license and an
4 additional Limited Work Authorization is good news for
5 Georgians.

6 In the future, our community will need the
7 clean, dependable energy provided by the new units at
8 Plant Vogtle and the continuing regulatory process
9 assures safe and responsible construction.

10 While the construction and operation of
11 the new units is certain to impact the environment and
12 people amongst whom it is built, the Draft
13 Supplemental EIS provides a thorough consideration of
14 those impacts and recommends that the positive impacts
15 justify continued construction and licensure.

16 The Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce is
17 pleased to support the expansion of Plant Vogtle. We
18 believe that the facility is a good neighbor,
19 supplying a needed commodity in an efficient and safe
20 fashion.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sue.

23 We're going to hear from Ashley Roberts
24 and then Jesse Stone.

25 MS. ROBERTS: Good evening. My name is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Ashley Roberts and I'm the Executive Director of the
2 Burke County Chamber of Commerce. I've served in this
3 position for the past 16 years, I'm married and have
4 two young daughters and our family lives here in
5 Waynesboro.

6 On behalf of the Burke County Chamber of
7 Commerce and the Board of Directors, I would like to
8 state that we are in full support of Georgia Power in
9 the expansion of Plant Vogtle. The Chamber feels this
10 is a positive development for our community and region
11 in several ways.

12 We believe this expansion will allow us to
13 continue to receive clean, cost-effective and reliable
14 energy to serve our community as well as the state.

15 In addition, the thousands of short-term
16 jobs created during the construction as well as the
17 permanent jobs, once they are added, will provide a
18 much needed boost to our economy. Also, the tax
19 revenues that we receive from Plant Vogtle allow our
20 local government to provide a menu of services to our
21 residents, all of our residents. And I think our EMA
22 Director in the back would argue the fact that it
23 would take 45 minutes to get to Shell Bluff.

24 It also affords our Board of Education the
25 opportunity to provide outstanding educational

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 opportunities to benefit the children in our
2 community, all of our community including the kids
3 from Shell Bluff.

4 In summary, I would like to say that Plant
5 Vogtle is one of the finest corporate citizens a
6 community could ask for and we are proud to have them
7 in ours. Whether it is through civic involvement or a
8 charitable cause, we can always count on overwhelming
9 support of the company and the employees.

10 While many may argue that the community
11 leaders such as ourselves support this expansion and
12 Plant Vogtle because we are blinded by the dollar
13 signs of a project of this magnitude, I can promise
14 you there is no amount of money that would be worth
15 sacrificing the safety and security of my family and
16 my community. Instead, we support the company and
17 this project because of the relationship we have
18 developed and the safe and reliable record that they
19 have earned over the past 20 years in our community.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

22 Jesse. Jesse Stone.

23 MR. STONE: Good evening. Some of you
24 know me, some of you don't. I used to be Mayor of
25 Waynesboro, I'm a private citizen now. My profession

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 is as a lawyer.

2 Over the last 25 to 30 years, I have
3 represented working people, small businesses and farms
4 not just in Burke County but in all our surrounding
5 counties. And I can tell you that this is not just
6 important to Burke County, this is important for our
7 region of the state. This is the economic engine for
8 what's moving our economy forward. These are jobs
9 that won't be exported.

10 I can understand all of your concerns
11 about safety, and believe me, we are concerned too and
12 we're not dumb, we read these preliminary reports and
13 we study them and we know the experiences of our
14 friends, our workers, our family members, our
15 colleagues who work out there and have worked out
16 there for years. We know the safety record that
17 Southern Company, Southern Nuclear and Georgia Power
18 and all the other partners in that venture have
19 chalked up.

20 We are proud to have Plant Vogtle in our
21 backyard. This is -- we're not only proud to have it
22 in our backyard, we're proud to be on the forefront of
23 leading our country to energy independence. And we
24 are just sorry that it has taken so long for us to get
25 back on track. We need to catch up with other

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 countries like Japan and France, and lead the nation
2 in the way we need to go.

3 Now we're blessed so much it's hard to
4 describe, at having Plant Vogtle here. We are very
5 grateful for all concerned, everybody in this room,
6 but most particularly the NRC in the thoroughness that
7 you have devoted in studying the plans for this
8 reactor expansion.

9 I can tell you that this is going to have
10 a positive (sic) impact on us if for some reason it
11 doesn't go forward; to many, many people, to the
12 people in Jenkins County where unemployment is 21
13 percent. It's only that low because they're able to
14 commute up to Burke County to work up here, all the
15 surrounding counties. We are hoping and praying that
16 this project will go forward.

17 I appreciate y'all opening up this forum
18 for public comment and look forward to listening to
19 all the thoughtful comments that are coming ahead.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

22 We're going to go to Courtney Henson, Emma
23 Ogley-Oliver and Claude Howard. And first we'll go to
24 Courtney and then to Emma.

25 MS. HENSON: Hi, my name is Courtney

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Henson and I'm a resident of Georgia.

2 I've been deeply concerned about the two
3 new nuclear reactors that are proposed at the Vogtle
4 site.

5 First, the AP1000 design has gone through
6 several revisions and it's still not safe.

7 Second, Georgia Power continues to
8 implement rate hikes to pay for these new reactors and
9 that's burdening myself financially and I'm sure other
10 Georgians as well.

11 And finally, the addition of the two new
12 reactors even further increases the environmental and
13 health and safety dangers that the communities around
14 Plant Vogtle face every day.

15 So I think there is sort of a clear choice
16 here. We can choose to build the reactors and
17 continue to burden Georgians financially and put their
18 safety at risk, or we can choose to stop the
19 construction and take one step forward to a better,
20 safer Georgia. And I hope we will consider the
21 latter.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

24 This is Emma.

25 MS. OGLEY-OLIVER: Thank you for having us

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 out tonight.

2 So we have two nuclear reactors at Plant
3 Vogtle. These two reactors were brought to Shell
4 Bluff, Waynesboro to boost an economically depressed
5 area. It was proposed that the area would be saved by
6 the nuclear industry. It was proposed that the people
7 residing in Shell Bluff would be saved by the nuclear
8 industry. Maybe we thought that these two reactors
9 would define Shell Bluff or the larger Waynesboro area
10 as a celebrated zone, a special zone.

11 However, we've come to think at Shell
12 Bluff as a sacrifice zone. What does this mean? The
13 local government and big businesses have taken
14 advantage of people who are economically and
15 politically powerless. My friends from Shell Bluff
16 have not been saved by the nuclear industry. The
17 wider area of Waynesboro has not been saved by the
18 nuclear industry. Reactors 1 and 2 have brought daily
19 radioactive releases. Reactors 1 and 2 prevent locals
20 from eating from the river. Reactors 1 and 2 prevent
21 locals from drinking the local tap water. It's hot.
22 Reactors 1 and 2 produce significant amounts of waste
23 -- not minuscule amounts of waste.

24 This area is contaminated just as the
25 areas in France are contaminated. They have

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 reprocessing -- reprocessing, which is a way to deal
2 with the waste, they have it in my hometown in
3 England, there's lots of leukemia there too. So if we
4 think by producing more waste, we're going to have a
5 way to deal with it, let's speak to our friends in
6 England and in France. It's not happening.

7 The area is contaminated. The people are
8 sick with cancer. Local government and big businesses
9 profit, everyday folk suffer. We have a choice --
10 health or radiation; prosperity or devastation.

11 Reactors 3 and 4 will represent a
12 continuation of environmental destruction. More
13 polluted land and water, more money for local
14 government and big businesses. Who suffers? The
15 people.

16 We have a choice today, let's choose
17 health and prosperity, not radiation and devastation.

18 And I'd just like to point out, you're not
19 a dumb blonde, you're a smart woman, and you don't
20 have to take a risk, you deserve better.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Emma.

23 Claude Howard.

24 MR. HOWARD: Good afternoon. My name is
25 Claude Howard, a resident here in Burke County.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 As I came back from Vietnam and came back
2 to Burke County to live, I looked around and saw the
3 things that was happening here, and some mornings when
4 I wake up, I look out on the back porch there and look
5 out at Plant Vogtle at the black smoke coming out of
6 the stacks. Sometimes I wonder why is black smoke
7 coming out of the stacks sometimes? My question is
8 what's going on out there polluting and poisoning
9 people within the community?

10 As I looked around, I was looking at the
11 Scriptures, in Luke, the 12th Chapter, from the 1st to
12 the 59th verse and then in Micah, the 7th Chapter,
13 from the 1st to the 21st, it talks about some of the
14 things that we see going on around our area today and
15 in this world.

16 Then it came to the point I said where are
17 we today? Two things I thought of after I read those
18 Scriptures -- greed and death. The dollar has
19 almighty value, human life has no value when it comes
20 to the dollar.

21 As was said earlier, Georgia Power has the
22 power to do what they want to do. They have the
23 ability to buy who they want to buy.

24 Now this is something I wrote after I
25 heard and listened to what was being said and going on

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 in this area by greed and death.

2 There was a community that was a peaceful
3 area, they made their living off the land. They had
4 strong family moral values and they passed it on to
5 the next generation, their land and their homes. But
6 as time moved on, there was a pimp that observed the
7 way that they lived. He disguised himself to take
8 advantage of the community.

9 The pimp decided to bring two females and
10 to take the man from his family. So if you kill the
11 head, the body will die. Those two females were
12 prostitutes, they had a disease that is called AIDS.
13 So he got the man out and he began to enjoy the
14 pleasures of life. The man did not know that these two
15 females had AIDS. The pimp knew because he was their
16 master, so he thought. The pimp made good profit on
17 the two prostitutes. He had nowhere to take them
18 after being used but to store all their venom in the
19 land. Their scent got in the air, water and soil.
20 The community started dying because of them.

21 The pimp saw how much wealth he had made.
22 So he got him two more prostitutes to bring in the
23 area. But this time he shared some of the wealth with
24 some of the community, so they were blinded by their
25 desire and did not warn the community of the lies and

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 the sickness in the land.

2 For she has cast down many wounded, many
3 strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the
4 way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.
5 When you allow the dollar and human lives to control
6 your decisions, then God will handle you.

7 Jesus Christ is the one who has all power
8 in his hands. Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Claude.

11 We're going to go to Patricia Vincent and
12 Dianne Valentin. You can help me with that. And then
13 Betsy Rivard.

14 This is Patricia.

15 MS. VINCENT: Good evening, everyone. My
16 name is Patricia Vincent and I'm a concerned Georgia
17 resident.

18 The things that I find that are very
19 important to me -- God, our planet, clean water,
20 family and friends, helping other people, and work.

21 Now I don't know about everybody here, but
22 personally I'm comfortable sleeping in my bed that's
23 not near a nuclear reactor. I do not value nuclear
24 energy because from what I've seen and heard, they
25 bring death to communities that are near them.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 For example, I was sitting talking to
2 somebody and she told me about a woman that lived in
3 the Shell Bluff community. She knew 30 people that
4 had cancer. This is something that really hit home to
5 me, because my mom, she just completed her radiation
6 therapy that she had to go through for breast cancer.

7 So can you imagine 30 people with cancer that you
8 know personally? To me, I picture my mom and 30
9 versions of my mom, you know, with cancer.

10 So this makes me think -- okay, you've got
11 this Plant Vogtle here, right? Why don't we turn it
12 into something that uses sustainable energy, like
13 solar or wind? You know, we're not saying get rid of
14 the plant entirely, but I think it's better to find a
15 way to use energy that's less dangerous. You know,
16 you could still bring jobs to the community, still
17 have better schools and I think a lot of people within
18 the Shell Bluff area would be -- could sleep better at
19 night too.

20 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Patricia.

23 Is it Dianne?

24 MS. VALENTIN: It's Dianne, yes.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 This is Dianne.

2 MS. VALENTIN: My name is Dianne Valentin,
3 greeting, I bid you peace and blessings.

4 My comments are relative to the Nuclear
5 Regulatory Commission's investigations and their
6 research into the environmental impact. I really
7 don't think that as a regulatory agency you have met
8 your, what should be a standard when you allow the
9 research and information that you use primarily to
10 come from those that you regulate and you don't go
11 into the communities that are affected adversely by
12 the presence of these reactors, the two that are
13 already here and the ones that are coming.

14 It's important that people be considered.
15 You have considered birds, you have considered
16 fishes, you considered a lot of things, but nobody
17 came to the communities that live in the shadow of
18 these reactors and watched the water pressure change
19 as Plant Vogtle does its flushing systems. I don't
20 think you have sent anybody into the communities and
21 asked or investigated in any way where people who
22 thought their dog had mange took them to the vet and
23 found out that they had cancer from eating the foliage
24 out of the yard and drinking from the puddles. I
25 don't think you sent anybody into the communities

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 where I saw a beautiful black lab that turned around
2 and had a huge tumor hanging off of its side.

3 Now I know that there are people in the
4 audience and who have spoken, who live in Waynesboro,
5 who are not adversely impacted by the presence of the
6 reactors. That's great because I don't want anybody
7 to be adversely affected. But those who are not
8 adversely affected should not disrespect the people
9 who are. And should now not consider the people that
10 are adversely impacted by the groundwater
11 contamination, by the contamination of the land and
12 soil.

13 So I think it's important that the NRC
14 give consideration to the fact that there are people
15 living in these communities who have to deal with
16 awful things as a result of the reactors being there,
17 very awful things including cancers, adverse health
18 effects. You don't want to consider human life?
19 Consider the lives of the pets if you don't want to
20 consider human life, because it seems that you're very
21 willing to consider how birds and fishes are impacted
22 but not how humans are impacted.

23 Now if you don't live in an area of
24 Waynesboro that is impacted by the contaminations from
25 Vogtle 1 and 2 and you don't have to be afraid of the

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 environmental impacts of Vogtle 3 and 4, that's great.

2 But at least give consideration to the people who do.

3 You don't know them? Go get to know them, see what
4 is actually happening in their communities,
5 understand, talk to them because obviously you have
6 not, because there is no way that you could sit
7 through conversations with these people who live in
8 these communities and not be personally impacted even
9 if you don't think the environment is impacted. They
10 don't live a block away from this building, they don't
11 work a block away from this building. And
12 unfortunately, their children die or they move away,
13 so they don't have as many children in these schools
14 that Southern Nuclear is building and making, you
15 know, the community shine and polish. But I don't
16 think you know that because you never came and you
17 never asked.

18 So I'm looking at the notes that you gave
19 in your PowerPoints and it's smart for you to put
20 something like "new and significant" because nine
21 times out of ten, the people in the community who are
22 already really oppressed both financially and socially
23 are not going to be able to provide you with new and
24 significant information. You have a list of staff
25 conclusions that did not change and you -- I thought

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 it was kind of nervy for you to list environmental
2 justice, especially since nobody came to talk to the
3 people in Shell Bluff. But you talk about socio-
4 economics and the people of Shell Bluff are getting
5 poorer. You listed water-related impacts, cultural
6 and historic resources. You know, I'm wondering if
7 you talked to anybody from the Yemassee Tribe. But
8 yet maybe it's not new or maybe it's not significant
9 and maybe you wouldn't consider it either.

10 Now I mentioned a couple of things. I
11 turned the page and it says how impacts are quantified
12 and you have small, moderate and large. And having
13 worked in that community and met with a lot of people,
14 watched people die from painful cancers in that
15 community, I wondered how people feel -- you know,
16 they're watching their friends and their families in
17 hospital beds, if they consider the tubes and the
18 death a moderate effect, a large effect or a small
19 effect? I'm not understanding how you're making these
20 determinations when you haven't come into the
21 community and talked to the people.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dianne.

25 Betsy Rivard and then Sam Booker and David

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Sardi.

2 MS. RIVARD: Hi, I'm Betsy Rivard and I
3 live in Atlanta, Georgia.

4 I did try to read some of the EIS and it's
5 really kind of necessary to have the original EIS next
6 to you which I didn't have, but my concern is the
7 design is not complete.

8 The AP1000 in Finland, I have heard about,
9 it's not on line yet and they have made multiple
10 design changes. I don't know if their design is
11 design 17 or not, but they've had many cost overruns
12 and it's still not on line yet and it's way behind
13 schedule.

14 But it's just a little unnerving to hear
15 about early site permits, combined operating licenses,
16 et cetera. It implies that everything is kind of in
17 flux, there's no set design and I don't really know
18 too many people that would build a house without a
19 design. And I have heard that things are being built.

20 I mean it's not just a flat level piece of dirt -- I
21 don't think so anyway.

22 The Supplemental EIS is difficult to
23 comment on, as I said, because it mostly says the
24 staff is not aware of any new and significant site-
25 specific or reactor-specific information, blah, blah,

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 blah. And therefore, our conclusion remains valid.
2 The problem is the NRC is dependent on Southern
3 Company to provide that information, which I think is
4 a little strange. They're the ones to provide the new
5 and significant information. And so it just seems odd
6 that they would be the ones to provide it. Would the
7 NRC be talking to people in Finland that are still
8 waiting for the AP1000?

9 I did notice that there is something in
10 the Supplemental EIS about a new dairy in Gerard,
11 Georgia, which will only be six miles south of the
12 site. That's a concern to me, what radionuclides are
13 looked for when they do check the milk? Is the
14 information on the monitoring of the existing dairies,
15 which I think there are like 26 within 50 miles -- is
16 that open to public scrutiny? What is an acceptable
17 amount of radiation in milk? I don't know.

18 There's a new off-site dose calculation
19 manual mentioned. Is that produced by NRC or by
20 Southern Company?

21 Let's see, how many local people are
22 actually employed -- will be employed by building
23 Plant Vogtle, or were actually employed by building
24 Vogtle 1 and 2? I'm of the impression they brought in
25 a lot of people from the outside, I don't think it

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 really had a big impact on employment in the county
2 and how many will be brought in for 3 and 4. Burke
3 County has a very high unemployment rate of 11.5
4 percent. Is that going to be substantially decreased
5 by building Vogtle 3 and 4?

6 Radiological impacts are something I
7 wanted to address but the Supplemental EIS does not
8 provide me with much information. Does the NRC
9 monitor groundwater or is it Southern Company that
10 does the monitoring? I would think it should be NRC.

11 Is information public? What about rainwater, off-
12 site groundwater? NRC should require that Southern
13 Company provide the information to the public if
14 they're doing the monitoring, but I really think NRC
15 should be doing the monitoring.

16 The Report of the National Academy
17 concluded that -- in their report -- they concluded
18 their report with this hypothesis: Every exposure to
19 radiation produces a corresponding cancer risk. Even
20 if it's low, it all adds up. And tritium releases
21 constitute the largest routine releases from nuclear
22 power plants. And these releases have caused
23 widespread contamination of water bodies at low
24 levels. Tritium becomes tritiated water and that can
25 cross the placenta, we know that. Non-cancer fetal

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 risks are not part of the regulatory framework and I
2 got this from an IEER publication, Institute for
3 Energy -- Environmental Energy Research.

4 Vogtle 1 and 2, for 2006, the average
5 amount of picocuries per liter in drinking water was
6 746 and 766. And the surface water for 2000, 307
7 picocuries. Well, Ontario, California has lowered
8 their standards so that -- actually it's kind of
9 difficult to see where they lowered them, but they
10 have changed their limit to -- Ontario has changed
11 their limit to 540 picocuries per liter and California
12 has a public health goal at 400 picocuries per liter.

13 This is for drinking water. And these figures, 746
14 and 766, that's the average daily amount in the
15 drinking water that's higher than the standards for
16 Ontario and California. And of course if you consider
17 that the EPA says we can allow 20,000 picocuries, 700
18 sounds pretty good. But people are becoming more
19 aware that tritium in your drinking water is not good
20 for you.

21 So I just feel like the NRC should address
22 this issue and I think that considering that this
23 impact is small, you know, we don't really know if
24 it's small or not. More studies should be done and
25 I'm in favor of using alternate sustainable sources

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 like wind and solar.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Betsy.

5 This is Sam Booker.

6 MR. BOOHER: My name is Sam Booher, I live
7 in Augusta, Georgia.

8 Georgia Power may be correct. In the
9 winter time, with plenty of cold river water, maybe
10 Georgia Power can run all four reactors within the
11 water limits that they already have permitted, which I
12 believe is 83 million gallons a day. The problem is
13 that in the summer with low flows and the river water
14 a lot warmer, Plant Vogtle needs a lot more water just
15 to cool the current two reactors efficiently. I would
16 offer that during low flow and drought conditions, 83
17 million gallons will not be sufficient to cool the
18 water for all four reactors.

19 The second problem is that I believe
20 federal law requires Georgia Power to keep track of
21 the temperature and quantity of the river water they
22 remove and record the temperature and quantity of the
23 water being discharged back into the river. Equally
24 important is the need to keep the NRC and the public
25 informed of this information.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 When the Tennessee Valley Authority, TVA,
2 finds the Tennessee River temperature is too warm, TVA
3 is required to reduce the energy production. Why,
4 with the current two and soon to be four reactors will
5 Georgia Power not be required to monitor the Savannah
6 River water temperature they remove from the river? I
7 can see 160 million gallons of very warm river water
8 needed to cool all four reactors.

9 The Savannah River needs to be allowed to
10 retain some dissolved oxygen for Savannah. During
11 drought conditions four unconstrained reactors will
12 not allow sufficient dissolved oxygen downstream.

13 The problem is that the current Georgia
14 Power operating permit from EPD, the current Vogtle
15 permit, does not have a requirement for anyone to keep
16 track of how much Savannah River water and its daily
17 temperature of that water is removed from the river.
18 Nor is there any daily record of the amount of water
19 and its temperature being discharged back into the
20 Savannah River provided EPD, NRC or the public.

21 Last, I read paragraph 5.3 in the Draft
22 Supplemental EIS. My understanding is that your
23 staff's result is from modeling and not real water
24 withdrawal and discharge or actual on-site data.
25 Also, your modeling does averaging and it's not based

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 on low flow and drought conditions, the water
2 temperature, which is my only concern. The law says
3 the returning water cannot be more than five degrees
4 greater than the temperature of the original water as
5 withdrawn from the river.

6 We will be having more drought conditions
7 before reactors 3 and 4 go back on line. You need to
8 check your data under these conditions, not averaging.

9 Since federal law requires this information of TVA,
10 why is EPD allowed to issue permits to Georgia Power
11 without following the same legal daily water
12 temperature requirements? I do not believe the law
13 talks about diluting plumes out in the river. It is
14 my understanding that EPD allows periodic testing of
15 water temperature downstream from the discharge point.

16 I offer these diluted plumes in the river as nothing
17 more than a way to get around federal law and it
18 should be reviewed by your office.

19 Conclusion: The operating permit must
20 address drought conditions, when are they critical and
21 what are the limits.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sam.

25 David.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 MR. SARDI: Good evening. My name is
2 David Sardi, I'm a former resident of Georgia and
3 presently living in nearby South Carolina. I have
4 very deep ties to Georgia, a lot of my family still
5 lives here.

6 I am greatly concerned over Vogtle's
7 proposed new reactors here in Waynesboro. It's my
8 belief that granting this permit will impact our
9 national security and endanger our water supply,
10 especially in the face of global warming.

11 Now given there are other and better
12 available energy sources, such as wind, solar,
13 biomass, I respectfully ask that you reconsider your
14 preliminary recommendation.

15 Hailing nuclear energy as a replacement
16 for fossil fuels as a solution for global warming
17 would be dangerous and irresponsible in a post-9/11
18 world. First of all, the United States will lose all
19 moral authority in trying to deny North Korea and Iran
20 their right to pursue nuclear energy. We can't
21 champion nuclear energy as the future and at the same
22 time reasonably keep it from the rest of the world.

23 Second, the dangerous materials could
24 potentially make it a prime target for terrorists
25 attempting to harm the United States. And even if

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 terrorism has to be a concern in dealing with nuclear
2 energy and other dangerous materials, you also have to
3 consider the potential for accidents.

4 Now the H.B. Robinson Nuclear Plant in
5 Hartsville, South Carolina, not too far from where I
6 live, has already shut down three times this year due
7 to mechanical failures. And dealing with these
8 mechanical failures, while minor, are somewhat common.

9 Increasing the amount of power plants in the state
10 and the region only allows for more chances for
11 something catastrophic to occur. We've heard so many
12 times tonight about, you know, the horrible things
13 that happen to people very close to the power plant.
14 So that's something you really have to keep in mind.

15 So for these reasons, continued and
16 increased reliance on nuclear energy does not and
17 cannot make sense within America's national security
18 policy.

19 As a separate issue, I want to touch on it
20 briefly because the speaker just before me talked
21 about it, but I ask you to consider the power plant's
22 impact on our water resources. Power plants require
23 both certain temperature and enormous quantities as
24 was just said, and the new plants will make a large
25 impact on our water supply in the future, which is

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 expected to be a lot more limited. Electricity
2 supplies threaten the water resources that's an
3 important aspect of the region -- tourism,
4 agriculture, fishing industries and sensitive
5 biodiversity. This is an interesting fact, in 2006,
6 over 3.7 million people spent almost \$3.5 billion on
7 ecotourism, hunting and fishing, just in the state of
8 Georgia. And so draining the water, decreasing the
9 water supply to produce nuclear energy is going to
10 hurt our economy tomorrow. We can't sacrifice
11 thousands of permanent jobs tomorrow for temporary
12 jobs today.

13 For over five decades, nuclear power has
14 diverted major funds away from the development of more
15 benign but powerful forms of energy production and as
16 we continue to feel the effects of global warming,
17 water temperatures are expected to increase and
18 droughts are going to become more severe.

19 France, as has already been mentioned
20 today, generates the majority of their energy from
21 nuclear energy, has already been forced to shut down
22 power plants days at a time for these reasons and
23 given the dangers and uncertainties of nuclear energy,
24 it would be more prudent to continue to develop
25 renewable energy such as wind, solar and biomass.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 Georgia has great potential in these types of energy
2 and its potential greatly outweighs that of nuclear
3 energy.

4 So for the aforementioned reasons, I do
5 not believe the NRC should approve this permit. Thank
6 you for your time and consideration.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, David.

9 That's the last speaker that we had signed
10 up for tonight. The NRC staff is going to be here
11 after the meeting to talk to you about any issues you
12 have. And I know that they've been listening to your
13 comments and they may want to talk to you in more
14 detail about your comments. I would just thank you
15 for your comments and thank you for the hymn also.

16 And I'm going to ask Becky Karas, our
17 senior official, to close this part of the meeting out
18 for us.

19 MS. KARAS: I just wanted to thank
20 everybody for attending. It's good to see so many
21 people who are interested in this, who have taken the
22 time, given a lot of thought to their comments. We're
23 certainly going to take those back, give those all
24 careful consideration. Remember the public comment
25 period does continue through November 24.

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

1 I hope this meeting has given you
2 additional insights and you can think about it further
3 and provide any of those additional comments. We'd
4 like to take those into consideration as well.

5 If you have any comments also on the
6 conduct of this meeting, how it was run, in the blue
7 folders, there is a form that you can provide feedback
8 on that so we can improve our public meetings and how
9 we conduct them in the future.

10 So again, I'd just like to thank you and
11 we'll be staying around to answer any additional
12 questions. And hope everybody has a safe journey
13 home.

14 (Applause.)

15 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at
16 9:45 p.m.)

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

NEAL R. GROSS

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

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

(202) 234-4433

www.nealrgross.com