

**Official Transcript of Proceedings**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Title: License Renewal for Salem Units 1 and 2  
Hope Creek Generating Station  
Public Meeting: Evening Session

Docket Number: 50-272, 50-311, 50-354

Location: Woodstown, New Jersey

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2010

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Pages 1-45

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC MEETING

+ + + + +

Wednesday.

November 17th, 2010

+ + + + +

Woodstown, New Jersey

The Public Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m., at the Salem County Emergency Services Building, 135 Cemetery Road, Woodstown, New Jersey, Michael Rodriguez, Facilitator, presiding.

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ

WILLIAM BURTON

LESLIE PERKINS

BO PHAM

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

7:00 p.m.

FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: My name is Michael Rodriguez, from the Office of Administration, and I will be serving as your evening facilitator, this evening, along with Butch Burton, Branch Chief from the Office of New Reactors.

The purpose of this evening's meeting is to present the preliminary site-specific results of the license renewal Environmental Review for Hope Creek Generating Station, and Salem Nuclear Generating Station Units 1 and 2.

It is also known as a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, the SEIS. Following the presentation, you will have an opportunity to question and comment, on the presentation material presented this evening.

We ask you to limit the comments and questions to the material presented this evening, please. And also to the process.

So that you may follow along copies of the presentation are provided, at the table in the back of the room. Also, if you desire, printed copies of the Supplemental Report, which is the Supplement 45, is available back in the table as well.

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1 In addition to the draft report copies of  
2 the meeting agenda, the NRC Public Meeting comment  
3 form, and also the yellow card to speak are available  
4 at the back table.

5 In addition to that we have electronic  
6 copies of the draft report that you can use for your  
7 laptop computers, or your desktop computers.

8 If you desire to comment, we ask that you  
9 clearly print your name, on the cards, for us to call  
10 upon you to speak. At this time please allow me to  
11 provide some basic guidance on emergency egress items.

12 The emergency exit route is down the  
13 stairs behind you and, also, down the stairs and to  
14 the left, over here, behind us.

15 We ask that you assemble, in the front of  
16 the building, so we can account for all personnel. If  
17 you need to use the rest rooms, we have two rest  
18 rooms, a male and a female over here, and a co-ed rest  
19 room in the very back of the room.

20 I would like to lay out some basic ground  
21 rules that we ask you to follow during this meeting's  
22 agenda time frame.

23 The presentation, and the question and  
24 comment sessions are being transcribed by Ed Johns, at  
25 the back. So we ask you to speak clearly into the

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1 microphone, when speaking.

2 We ask that you limit your questions and  
3 comments to five minutes, with some exceptions that  
4 have been pre-arranged. We ask that you minimize side  
5 conversation, and respect the opinions of others.

6 We also ask that you silence any  
7 contention devices, except for our law enforcement  
8 staff, here. If you haven't done so, a sign-in sheet  
9 is located on the desk, in the back.

10 As a recap of tonight's meeting, our  
11 program manager, Leslie Perkins, will present the  
12 material, and we will follow with a question and  
13 answer session, and we will continue on with the  
14 public comment period.

15 At this point I'm going to turn it over to  
16 Leslie. Leslie, if you don't mind?

17 MS. PERKINS: Good evening. Again, my  
18 name is Leslie Perkins, and I am the environmental  
19 project manager for Hope Creek and Salem license  
20 renewal reviews.

21 Today I'm going to give you the results of  
22 the NRC's review of the site-specific issues related  
23 to the proposed license renewal of Hope Creek  
24 Generating Station, and Salem Nuclear Generating  
25 Station, Units 1 and 2.

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1 I will discuss the NRC's regulatory role,  
2 environmental issues and areas that were addressed and  
3 our findings. I will also give our schedule for  
4 receiving comments on our Environmental Impact  
5 Statement, as well as for completing our final  
6 Environmental Impact Statement.

7 At the end of my presentation there will  
8 be time for you to present your comments. For those  
9 of you who would prefer to send in your comments, I  
10 will explain some options for doing so. Next slide,  
11 please.

12 The NRC was established to regulate  
13 civilian uses of nuclear materials, including  
14 applications that produce electric power.

15 The NRC conducts license renewal reviews  
16 for plants whose owners wish to operate them beyond  
17 their initial license period.

18 The NRC's license renewal reviews address  
19 safety issues related to managing the effects of  
20 aging, and environmental issues related to an  
21 additional 20 years of operation, as well as any  
22 potential major refurbishment activities the plant  
23 owner, or operator, may undertake during or in  
24 preparation for additional 20 years of operation.

25 In all aspects of the NRC's regulation,

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1 our mission is three-fold. To ensure adequate  
2 protection of public health and safety, to promote  
3 common defense and security, and to protect the  
4 environment. Next slide, please.

5 In this meeting I will discuss the  
6 potential site-specific impacts of license renewal for  
7 Hope Creek and Salem. The site-specific findings are  
8 contained in the Draft Supplemental Environmental  
9 Impact Statement that the NRC Staff published on  
10 October 21st of 2010.

11 This document contains analyses of all  
12 applicable site-specific issues, as well as a review  
13 of issues common to many or all nuclear power plants.

14 The issues for which environmental impacts  
15 are the same, across some, or all, nuclear power plant  
16 sites, are discussed in the Generic Environmental  
17 Impact Statement.

18 The NRC staff reviewed these issues to  
19 determine whether the conclusions, in the generic  
20 environmental impact statement are still valid.

21 The NRC staff also reviewed the  
22 environmental impacts of potential alternatives to  
23 license renewal, to determine whether the impacts,  
24 expected from license renewal, are unreasonable, in  
25 comparison to other power generation options.

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1 Next slide, please. An earlier part of  
2 this review was the scoping period. During this  
3 period the NRC solicited comments concerning what to  
4 focus the review on.

5 The comments received, during the scoping  
6 period, and the responses to those comments, are  
7 addressed in Appendix A of the Draft Supplemental  
8 Environmental Impact Statement.

9 The comments were grouped into categories  
10 shown in the second bullet on this slide. Next slide,  
11 please. This slide is a continuation from the  
12 previous slide, showing the categories that the  
13 comments were placed in. Next slide, please.

14 This slide lists the environmental issues  
15 the NRC staff reviewed for Salem and Hope Creek during  
16 the proposed license renewal period.

17 Overall the direct and indirect impact,  
18 from license renewal, on all these issues were found  
19 to be small. Which means that there was some  
20 noticeable impacts, but not enough to cause any  
21 permanent alterations to the ecology or the  
22 environment.

23 Next slide, please. As part of its NEPA  
24 review, which is the National Environmental Policy  
25 Act, the staff also looked at the potential cumulative

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1 impacts associated with Salem and Hope Creek.

2           These impacts include the effects on the  
3 environment from other past, present, and reasonable  
4 foreseeable future human actions. It is important to  
5 note that these impacts may not even be related to the  
6 relicensing of Salem and Hope Creek.

7           Nevertheless, the intent of NEPA is that  
8 an agency be cognizant of, and ready to be able to  
9 disclose, all the environmental impact activities  
10 within the proximity of its action.

11           This slide provides a summary of our  
12 findings, with respect to the cumulative impacts.  
13 Overall, the one reasonable foreseeable action, in the  
14 near future, is the potential for PSEG to proceed with  
15 its request to construct additional reactors on-site.

16           Which, as you can see, expands the range  
17 of potential impacts for socio-economics, aquatic, and  
18 terrestrial resources.

19           We did note, in the Supplemental  
20 Environmental Impact Statement, however, that the  
21 specific impacts of that future activity is also being  
22 captured, and reviewed, in a separate Environmental  
23 Impact Statement by the NRC.

24           Our staff has been working closely, with  
25 the Office of New Reactors, to make sure we coordinate

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1 and capture the relevant information within scope.

2 Next slide, please. A major step in  
3 determining whether license renewal is reasonable or  
4 not, is comparing the likely impacts of license  
5 renewal with the alternatives, including other methods  
6 of power generation, and not renewing Salem and Hope  
7 Creek operating licenses.

8 In the Draft Environmental Impact  
9 Statement the NRC staff considered super-critical  
10 coal-fired generation, natural gas combined cycle  
11 generation, new nuclear generation.

12 And, as part of the combination  
13 alternative, conservation and efficiency, natural gas  
14 combined cycle generation, and solar power.

15 Finally, as required by NEPA, the NRC  
16 staff also considered the case of no-action  
17 alternative, which equates to no license renewal of  
18 Salem and Hope Creek at the end of their licenses.

19 The Staff found, go back to that slide,  
20 the staff found that the impacts, from the energy  
21 alternatives, would vary widely based on the  
22 characteristics of the alternatives.

23 In most cases, construction of new  
24 facilities created significant impacts. Overall the  
25 NRC staff concludes that continued operation of the

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1 existing Hope Creek Generating Station, and Salem  
2 Nuclear Generating Station, is the environmentally  
3 preferred alternative.

4 Next slide, please. Based on a review of  
5 likely environmental impacts from license renewal, as  
6 well as potential environmental impacts of  
7 alternatives to license renewal, the NRC's preliminary  
8 recommendation, and the Draft Environmental Impact  
9 Statement, is the environmental impacts of license  
10 renewal, for Hope Creek Generating Station, and Salem  
11 Nuclear Generating Station, are not so great that  
12 license renewal would be unreasonable.

13 Next slide, please. The Environmental  
14 Review, however, is not yet completed. Your comments,  
15 today, and all written comments received, by the end  
16 of comment period on December 17th, will be considered  
17 by the NRC Staff as we develop our Final Environmental  
18 Impact Statement, which is currently planned to be  
19 issued March 2011.

20 The Final Environmental Impact Statement  
21 will contain the Staff's final recommendation, on the  
22 acceptability of the license renewal, based on the  
23 work that we have already performed, and the input we  
24 received, in form of comments, during the comment  
25 period.

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1           Your comments can help change the Staff's  
2 findings in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

3       Next slide, please.

4           I'm the primary contact for the  
5 Environmental Review, and Bennett Brady is the primary  
6 contact for the Safety Review. Hard copies of the  
7 Draft Environmental Impact Statement are available on  
8 the back table, as well as CDs.

9           In addition, the Salem Free Library has a  
10 hard copy available for the public to review. You can  
11 also find electronic copies of the Draft Environmental  
12 Impact Statement, along with other information related  
13 to Hope Creek and Salem license renewal reviews, on-  
14 line.

15           Next slide, please. The NRC staff will  
16 address written comments in the same way we will  
17 address the spoken comments received today. You can  
18 submit written comments, by email, to either one of  
19 the email addresses, listed on the slide, or you can  
20 send in your comments by mail, conventional mail.

21           You can also submit your comments at  
22 regulation.gov and just search the docket numbers. If  
23 you have written comments, this evening, you may give  
24 them to any NRC staff member.

25           Thank you, and that concludes my

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1 presentation. I will turn it back over to Mike.

2 FACILITATOR BURTON: Thank you, Leslie.  
3 We are going to begin with the question and answer  
4 session. And following the question and answer  
5 session, we will entertain your comments. I have some  
6 comment cards.

7 Those of you who care to speak, who  
8 haven't filled out a yellow comment card, or a little  
9 NRC card, please feel free to do so, we will collect  
10 them and put you in a sequence to speak.

11 Any questions regarding the presentation  
12 material tonight? Yes, sir.

13 PARTICIPANT: I have a question just for  
14 something to be put on the record. As far as the  
15 ownership of this facility, what percentage does PSEG  
16 own, and who are the other owners of this facility,  
17 and what percentage do they own? Just for people to  
18 know who actually does own this facility.

19 FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Bo?

20 MR. PHAM: Hi, my name is Bo Pham, I'm the  
21 Branch Chief at the NRC. I don't have the -- you  
22 know, if I get a question like that, we would pull out  
23 the license and actually review it.

24 On the license, in the license for the  
25 plant, there is language regarding designating who is

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1 the operator, and who is the owner of the facility.  
2 So I would have to review that, and get back to you.

3 FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Any additional  
4 questions?

5 (No response.)

6 FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Okay, we will turn  
7 it over to our comment period. For those individuals  
8 that I call up, can you please go up to the podium and  
9 speak into the microphone for us? Mr. Louis Joyce,  
10 from the County of Salem.

11 MR. JOYCE: Good evening. My name is  
12 Louis Joyce, I'm the Director of the Planning  
13 Department for the county of Salem, also a licensed  
14 professional planner, and familiar with Environmental  
15 Impact Statements in a general sense.

16 I bring a message, tonight, from the Board  
17 of Chosen Freeholders. You will excuse me if I read  
18 this, because I want to get this correct from their  
19 perspective.

20 I am coming before you, this evening, to  
21 let you know that PSEG Nuclear is a valuable asset to  
22 our county. Not only are they great community  
23 partners, but they are the county's largest employer.

24 A majority of their employees are local  
25 residents, who live in our community. In tough

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1 economic times PSEG Nuclear provides an example of  
2 integrity and commitment, to positive growth, that we  
3 all need to see.

4 PSEG takes a very proactive role in  
5 developing positive relationships with members of the  
6 Salem County community, whether it is providing  
7 funding and support to local community groups, or  
8 attending every community event.

9 They are always demonstrating their  
10 commitment to Salem County's proud heritage, and great  
11 future.

12 We understand the hesitation of those  
13 within and surrounding our county, towards PSEG  
14 Nuclear. Their concerns regarding safety and plant  
15 performance are valid.

16 However PSEG Nuclear has consistently, and  
17 without hesitation, demonstrated its commitment to  
18 safety and excellence, through proper planning and  
19 transparency.

20 Furthermore, they have not only been a  
21 partner but a leader, in this county, in the area of  
22 conservation of our environment. With unemployment,  
23 in the county, hovering around 12 percent, the  
24 economic possibilities of this renewal, and continued  
25 operation of this plant cannot be understated.

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1           We hope that PSEG will have your support  
2 to move forward, as they already have our support, as  
3 a valued partner in our community.

4           We support PSEG Nuclear and the renewal of  
5 their operating license. We have found that, over the  
6 years, they have demonstrated that they do understand  
7 the importance to our environment.

8           And in terms of safety and operations they  
9 have proven, through their long record of continued  
10 safe operations, and without incident, that they are a  
11 very competent and qualified operator of the nuclear  
12 plant.

13           We have had a long, long history, in this  
14 county, in experiencing both the construction and the  
15 subsequent operations at the nuclear plant, and we  
16 find that it is very compatible with our environment,  
17 and the way that it is being run.

18           And we do not see that there are concerns  
19 that should stand in the way of renewal of the  
20 operational license for this facility.

21           And, just as a final note, I know you had  
22 mentioned the issue of the possibility of construction  
23 of another reactor at this facility will be separate,  
24 and part of a different study. But we do want to  
25 offer our support and would say that this is an

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1 appropriate site for the continuation and the  
2 expansion of the nuclear power generation that is  
3 here. Thank you.

4 FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Michael Burke,  
5 Salem County Improvement Authority.

6 MR. BURKE: Good evening, everyone. Once  
7 again, my name is Michael Burke, and I currently serve  
8 as the Chairman of the Salem County Improvement  
9 Authority, which oversees the landfill, nursing home  
10 and, more importantly, the reason I am here tonight,  
11 economic development for the county.

12 I am here representing our board, and our  
13 125 employees, in supporting PSEG's effort to extend  
14 the operating licenses for Salem 1 and 2, and Hope  
15 Creek Nuclear Generating units.

16 Part of the responsibility, of our  
17 Improvement Authority, here in Salem County, is  
18 directing the economic development efforts, and  
19 supporting both large and small businesses, by helping  
20 them expand, and maintaining their facilities, and  
21 support them in any way possible.

22 The Improvement Authority has developed  
23 the principles which were recently adopted in our  
24 economic development strategy. Those principles are  
25 green technologies, and construction methods;

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1 sustainability, focused location, with preservation of  
2 open space; regional cooperation, creation of a wide  
3 range of employment opportunities; reduction in  
4 property taxes, and transparency in civic involvement.

5 We believe PSEG's request for the renewal  
6 and extension of operating licenses meets or exceeds  
7 all the principles that govern our economic  
8 development efforts.

9 As the county's economic engine, we have  
10 partnered with PSEG, in the past, on various projects.

11 A couple of those being the gateway business park,  
12 the Salem County Emergency Services building.

13 It has always been our experience, in  
14 dealing with PSEG, they operate at the highest levels  
15 of integrity and business standards. They are  
16 involved in a large number of civic and non-profit  
17 organizations, that support the overall economic  
18 development efforts in the county and region.

19 PSEG's management constantly provides us  
20 with updates on their operational and civic issues.  
21 They also have a tremendous impact on local economy  
22 throughout the county.

23 They currently are the largest employer,  
24 with over 1,500 employees. The salaries for those  
25 full-time employees are roughly 154 million dollars.

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1 PSEG also pays 2.1 million in local  
2 property taxes. They also support and maintain the  
3 EERC in Salem, and out of those 1,500 employees, 600  
4 are full-time employees that live in this county.

5 Along with the full-time employee  
6 benefits, PSEG also has two scheduled outages each  
7 year. This creates employment for 1,600 highly  
8 skilled contractors, for up to eight to ten weeks.

9 Millions of dollars are injected into the  
10 local economy. Along with the employment benefits,  
11 created by PSEG, they also support the local economy  
12 by using their purchasing power to buy and rent  
13 products from local Salem County businesses.

14 Salem County is now recognized as the  
15 alternative energy capital of the northeast. Not only  
16 are we fortunate enough to have the three operating  
17 nuclear power plants, we also recently broke ground on  
18 a significant solar project that will develop 92  
19 megawatts of energy.

20 We firmly believe, and know, that PSEG  
21 operates their existing units at the highest safety  
22 and quality levels. We also believe their employees  
23 are a huge part of their success, and support, due to  
24 the training commitment they provide.

25 We know, and expect, that there will be

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1 many challenges for PSEG as this application process  
2 moves forward. We also want you to know that the  
3 Salem County Improvement Authority, will be there to  
4 support the efforts, of PSEG, in any way possible to  
5 help this move forward.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to be here  
7 this evening.

8 FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Michael De Luca,  
9 Rutgers University.

10 MR. DE LUCA: Good evening, my name is  
11 Mike De Luca, I'm with the Institute of Marine and  
12 Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, where I serve  
13 as the senior associate director. And I also manage  
14 one of 28 national estuarine research reserves in the  
15 country.

16 I have been at Rutgers for 20 years now.  
17 And during that time I have become very familiar with  
18 PSEG, and their corporate and environmental record.  
19 I'm also very familiar with the environmental impacts  
20 of the Hope Creek and Salem power plants, and the  
21 record of PSEG in addressing those impacts,  
22 particularly as they affect the Delaware River, and  
23 estuary.

24 And I think it should be noted that this  
25 is an ecosystem that is an urban ecosystem, and it has

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1 been altered by many human activities, ranging from  
2 port operations, industrial uses, dredging, channel  
3 maintenance for shipping and, of course, water  
4 withdrawal and subsequent discharge for power plant  
5 operations.

6 With respect to the Salem and Hope Creek  
7 generating facilities, I don't think anyone questions,  
8 you know, that the plants impact the environment.  
9 Primarily these include impacts to fish eggs and  
10 larvae, and the thermal discharges.

11 Quite appropriately efforts have, and must  
12 continue, to focus on mitigating of these impacts.  
13 And I think PSEG has done a very good job in  
14 addressing those in the past, and outlining what they  
15 will do in the future with respect to the relicensing.

16 There are many approaches that can be  
17 taken to mitigating impacts of a power plant  
18 operation. And these include preservation and  
19 restoration of wetlands, enhancement of fish stocks in  
20 the habitat that they use, or rely upon.

21 And, also, educational programs that help  
22 prepare our youth to be tomorrow's informed decision-  
23 makers. And it is clear, to me, again over a 20 year  
24 history of experience working with this company, that  
25 they have a very strong track record of contributing

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1 to and advancing these strategies, not just in the  
2 Delaware River, and estuaries, but other ecosystems in  
3 the New Jersey and mid-Atlantic region.

4 I think there is a poster in the back that  
5 illustrates the effort associated with the Estuary  
6 Enhancement Program, which was a major environmental  
7 achievement, restoring 20,000 acres of wetlands to  
8 natural function in the Delaware ecosystem.

9 They certainly enhance productivity of fin  
10 fish and shell fish, and engaged experts from around  
11 the country, scientists, technicians, and this program  
12 continues to date.

13 And I have to note that the success is not  
14 lost on my colleagues in the scientific community,  
15 because it has been featured at a variety of national  
16 science conferences.

17 Another program that I am familiar with,  
18 that also relates to the relicensing, is the Coastal  
19 Wetlands Restoration Program, which is administered by  
20 PSEG in the mid-Atlantic.

21 And this organizes regional efforts to  
22 restore wetlands. And I think it provides a very good  
23 example of private sector, government, academia  
24 partnership, that preserves wetlands for future  
25 generations of users.

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1           They have also been very active in stock  
2 enhancement, and habitat restoration. I think a few  
3 good examples of this are the fish ladders, and fish  
4 passages that they have developed to enable an  
5 endangered species to reach their spawning grounds.  
6 That is to get beyond human barriers, like dams.

7           And then, finally, environmental  
8 education. I think it is well known that PSEG  
9 supports a variety of efforts, programs, and  
10 facilities, that are aimed at science enrichment, that  
11 help enable today's youth to be tomorrow's  
12 environmental decisionmakers, to have a strong  
13 environmental ethic, and to be informed stewards of  
14 the environment.

15           I would like to mention two opportunities,  
16 I guess, with respect to mitigation, if warranted. I  
17 think we all recognize that there is always more work  
18 to be done to restore a system like the Delaware  
19 River, and estuary.

20           Certainly we want to continue to support  
21 essential services, like energy production but, at the  
22 same time, sustaining environmental quality, and the  
23 resources that depend on this system for, again, many  
24 users; commercial and recreational fishers, kayakers,  
25 boaters, hunters, swimmers, and so on.

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1 I'd like to mention two, what I will call  
2 signature species, or charismatic mega fauna, that  
3 merit attention, the oyster and the sturgeon, that may  
4 be factored into future mitigation programs.

5 I think it is well known that the oyster  
6 industry has long suffered from over-harvest and  
7 disease. However, over the past ten years, through a  
8 combination of shell planting, development of disease  
9 resistant strains, and stock management, the industry  
10 is now in the brink of recovery.

11 And that recovery could use a boost. PSEG  
12 is certainly involved in some of the education and  
13 stewardship programs that have helped to restore this  
14 fishery, and they can make a big difference in the  
15 habitat and water quality of the Delaware River, and  
16 estuary, by supporting continued restoration of the  
17 oyster.

18 Likewise, sturgeon have been over-fished.  
19 They were recently listed as a threatened species by  
20 the Federal Government. We have also learned that  
21 spawning recently has reoccurred, or is reoccurring in  
22 the river, which gives us hope that the stocks of  
23 sturgeon can be restored there.

24 But we need a lot more information on the  
25 critical habitat that sturgeon use, especially their

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1 spawning habitat, and to protect these areas from  
2 future disturbance.

3 So, again, if mitigation plans warrant, I  
4 think PSEG experience in environmental restoration,  
5 species restoration, habitat restoration, could  
6 advance the sustainability of these two critical  
7 signature species for the Delaware River and estuary.

8 And then, finally, I would just like to  
9 note that as the previous speaker, Lou Joyce, noted  
10 PSEG is a company that holds itself to very high  
11 standards when it comes to their operations, and its  
12 impact on the environment.

13 Environmental stewardship is part of their  
14 corporate culture. And I don't see this, very often,  
15 in other corporate environments. And I certainly  
16 believe that there is every reason to believe that,  
17 you know, these corporate traits will continue with  
18 the relicensing of the Salem and Hope Creek  
19 facilities.

20 So the impacts are well recognized, and  
21 the company has experience in addressing these. Thank  
22 you.

23 FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Andrew Hak from  
24 PSEG.

25 MR. HAK: Good evening. My name is Andrew

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1 Hak, and I work at the Hope Creek generating station.

2 I have two years of experience there, I have just  
3 graduated from Rowen University with a degree in  
4 electrical engineering.

5 My first two years at Hope Creek have been  
6 a great learning experience. I have been involved  
7 with the license renewal process for the last year.  
8 Most specifically the cable aging management program.

9 Through the license renewal process we  
10 have been developing these new aging programs to help  
11 ensure the reliability of Hope Creek. And through  
12 that, the last year, we have already done so much  
13 work, and implemented so much testing and inspections.

14 And it has been a great career development  
15 for myself, moving forward, as well. So we have  
16 another 15 years until license renewal, and I see that  
17 as a great career opportunity for myself.

18 I also want to say, working for PSEG, as  
19 most others have said, they hold safety to a high  
20 standard. It is also encouraging the work force,  
21 where they encourage us to raise issues, strive for  
22 excellence, and I look forward to working with public  
23 service for a long time, in implementing this license  
24 renewal process. Thank you.

25 FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr.

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1 Hak. Tom Knoche.

2 MR. KNOCHE: Good evening. I'm a resident  
3 of Haddon Township, I teach ecology and planning at  
4 Rutgers, and I'm a city planner by trade.

5 I teach about sustainability, and how we  
6 make urban areas more sustainable. And the extended  
7 licenses, and possible fourth facility really don't  
8 agree with what I know about how we make our society  
9 more sustainable.

10 Some comments have already been offered  
11 concerning the thermal pollution, and the damage to  
12 wildlife. I'm more familiar with the damage that has  
13 come from the Oyster Creek facility, further north,  
14 but it is a significant issue in both places.

15 Environmentalists talk about the  
16 precautionary principle, the idea that we shouldn't do  
17 things if there is high risk involved. And even  
18 though we may not have figured it all out, the science  
19 that connects things.

20 But we have serious issues regarding the  
21 disposal of nuclear waste and we do not have an  
22 adequate solution at the federal level. And so the  
23 continued use of nuclear facilities without that is of  
24 great concern.

25 We have available, we are moving in the

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1 direction of developing alternative renewable energy  
2 that is risk-free, safer, cleaner, and has less  
3 impact, certainly solar and wind.

4           There are countries in the world now where  
5 20 percent of their energy comes from those sources.  
6 We should be moving in that direction, and the need  
7 for nuclear power should gradually be reduced over  
8 time.

9           Certainly the economic life of these  
10 facilities should be fulfilled. But I think the  
11 future, barring a solution to the nuclear waste  
12 problem, and other environmental issues, is to try and  
13 minimize our need for it.

14           And, certainly, we have a push,  
15 nationally, to reduce our energy use, and to increase  
16 energy efficiency. I was just part of an evaluation  
17 of a building that is getting new elevators, and with  
18 new motors, new energy efficient motors for those  
19 elevators, the energy consumption can be reduced 25  
20 percent.

21           As we do this kind of upgrade, and  
22 retrofit, we should be able to reduce our energy  
23 demand, and so the need for additional nuclear  
24 capacity, given the other issues, strikes me as  
25 movement in the wrong direction.

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1           And, finally, there are the recently  
2 reported, and I'm no expert on the operation and  
3 maintenance of nuclear facilities, but the news  
4 reports were troubling, concerning the maintenance of  
5 the concrete containment, spalling and deterioration  
6 of that.

7           The piping that is part of the steam  
8 generator tube, corrosion in the steel liner,  
9 underground walls with evidence of groundwater  
10 penetration. These have all been covered, recently,  
11 in the news.

12           And I assume that these are issues that  
13 can all be addressed. But, certainly, probably relate  
14 to the age and presence of high, fairly high  
15 concentration of salt water and its corrosive effect  
16 on the facility.

17           So, you know, I see a future, a  
18 sustainable future that is less dependent on nuclear  
19 power, and moves us more into cleaner and safer  
20 renewables.

21           And I would hope that PSEG will reflect  
22 those priorities in its future planning. Thank you.

23           FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Mr. Knoche, thank  
24 you for your comments, and I apologize for  
25 mispronouncing your name. Paul Davison, PSEG.

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1 MR. DAVISON: Thank you, Mr. Rodriguez.  
2 Good evening, my name is Paul Davison, I'm the vice  
3 president of operation support at PSEG Nuclear. I'm  
4 also part of the senior management team that is  
5 responsible for the safe and reliable operation at  
6 Hope Creek and Salem generating stations.

7 I also am the executive sponsor for the  
8 license renewal project. On behalf of PSEG Nuclear,  
9 we look forward to today's public meetings, and the  
10 opportunity to continue to work with the NRC, and the  
11 public, on our license renewal application.

12 As part of the license renewal we have  
13 carefully reviewed the environmental impacts  
14 associated with continuing to operate Salem and Hope  
15 Creek for an additional 20 years.

16 In addition to our assessments, and as  
17 part of the National Environmental Policy Act, the NRC  
18 hosted two public meetings in November of 2009 to  
19 discuss the scoping of its license renewal  
20 supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, for Salem  
21 and Hope Creek stations.

22 The NRC also spent a week, earlier this  
23 year, on-site to gather plant specific documents,  
24 related to 92 industry-wide environmental issues  
25 associated with the license renewal process.

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1           And during that plant visit the NRC put  
2 special emphasis on information concerning the 21  
3 plant-specific issues. Multiple interviews and tours  
4 were conducted, including a tour of our local  
5 community.

6           This process has led to the NRC's recent  
7 publication of its Draft Supplemental Environmental  
8 Impact Statement. Since this meeting is to discuss  
9 the Impact Statement, I would like to touch on PSEG  
10 Nuclear's positive environmental impacts.

11           In addition to producing no green house  
12 gases, the Salem and Hope Creek plants have had no  
13 impact, adverse radiological impact on the  
14 environment.

15           The NRC requires PSEG Nuclear, and all  
16 U.S. nuclear facilities, to maintain an environmental  
17 monitoring program, to monitor local radiation levels.

18           We are also closely monitored by the New Jersey  
19 Department of the Environmental Protection's Bureau of  
20 Nuclear Engineering.

21           The Bureau of Nuclear Engineering, or BNE,  
22 independently monitors the local environment around  
23 our facility, through remote monitoring systems that  
24 collect real time data.

25           This sampling and monitoring has shown no

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1 adverse impact on the environment. We are also proud  
2 stewards of the Delaware estuary through our Estuary  
3 Enhancement Program.

4 This program involves on-going  
5 restoration, enhancement, and preservation of over  
6 20,000 acres of degraded salt marsh, and adjacent  
7 uplands within the estuary.

8 Studies have shown overall health of the  
9 estuary continues to improve. In addition, analysis  
10 of long-term fish population, in the estuary, shows  
11 that in most cases the populations are stable, or are  
12 increasing.

13 And the fish population trends are similar  
14 to other areas along the coast. We recognize our  
15 impact on the local community, 1,500 local employees,  
16 40 percent directly from Salem County.

17 The purchase of goods and services  
18 totaling more than 81 million dollars, from south  
19 Jersey businesses, and more than two million dollars a  
20 year in local property taxes.

21 We support dozens of local organizations,  
22 and have launched innovative partnerships, with local  
23 schools, to develop training, and education programs,  
24 that provide career opportunities for local residents.

25 Having said all that, our relationship

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1 with the community is something that we do not take  
2 for granted. With them we have no surprises. We  
3 proactively engage the community when a plant issue  
4 arises, so that they can have their questions answered  
5 directly by us.

6 We operate within a culture of safety and  
7 transparency. This year we have provided more than 35  
8 site tours for key stakeholder groups. Close to 600  
9 elected officials, educators, students, community and  
10 trade groups, have had an inside look of PSEG Nuclear.

11 What better way to answer questions than  
12 to let people see, first-hand, the important role of  
13 nuclear power?

14 Earlier this year we opened our new Energy  
15 and Environmental Resource Center, housed at our old  
16 training center on Chestnut Street in Salem. This new  
17 information center uses interactive displays to  
18 educate the public about climate change, and various  
19 ways we can all have a positive impact on our  
20 environment. To date 3,000 people have toured this  
21 state of the art facility.

22 In closing, PSEG Nuclear looks forward to  
23 continuing to work with the NRC, and the public, as  
24 you review our license renewal application, and Draft  
25 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

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1           We have worked hard to provide safe,  
2 reliable, economic, and green energy, for more than 30  
3 years, and look forward to the opportunity to build on  
4 our success in the future. Thank you.

5           FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Davison. Richard Schneider, from the Coalition to  
7 Protect Fisheries.

8           MR. SCHNEIDER: Hello, my name is Richard  
9 Schneider, and the question that I asked earlier, of  
10 the NRC gentleman, I believe I spoke earlier tonight  
11 with a gentleman from Exelon, and he said it is 60/40;  
12 PSEG owns 60 percent, and the other is 40 percent.

13           So I just wanted to let people know who  
14 owns what, and who actually owns the facility, and its  
15 ownership.

16           Hello, my name is Richard Schneider, from  
17 Delaware. I'm with the Coalition to Protect  
18 Fisheries. We feel that Salem 1 and 2 should not be  
19 permitted to operate for another 20 years, because of  
20 many areas of concern.

21           If, however, it is allowed to, by the NRC,  
22 to operate for another 20 years, the needless and  
23 senseless destruction of aquatic life, millions of  
24 dead fish and crabs every year, must not be allowed to  
25 continue.

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1           There are several aspects that are  
2           troubling. First, the Salem 1 and 2 units are over 40  
3           years old. The projected life of these nuclear plants  
4           was designed for 40 years. To extend the operation of  
5           these old plants is very risky. It is time to  
6           mothball them.

7           Second, Salem 1 and 2 are built at the  
8           worst location possible. They are built on mud, and  
9           at sea level. They are built on mud, and their  
10          foundations are not imbedded in bed rock. Their  
11          pilings do not reach the bedrock.

12          They are prone to great damage from  
13          earthquakes. Being based on mud, the well-known  
14          earthquake liquification process amplifies the damage  
15          that can occur.

16          A mild earthquake is amplified, many  
17          times, by the liquification effect. The nuclear  
18          complex would be shaken severely.

19          Third, Salem 1 and 2 are at sea level.  
20          They are prone to flooding from storm surges, and high  
21          tides from hurricanes.

22          If the NRC allows Salem 1 and 2 to  
23          operate, for another 20 years, the massive fish kill  
24          caused by Salem 1 and 2, needs to be stopped, as part  
25          of a permit renewal.

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1           The outdated, destructive, open loop  
2 cooling system used at Salem 1 and 2, needs to be  
3 changed to a non-destructive closed loop cooling  
4 system, a cooling tower, the same as used at Hope  
5 Creek.

6           To allow Salem 1 and 2 to kill billions of  
7 fish, every year, for another 20 years, is  
8 unacceptable, and unexcusable. Salem 1 and 2 draws in  
9 over three billion gallons of water a day. Three  
10 billion gallons of water a day, every day.

11           The EPA estimates that Salem 1 and 2 kills  
12 over 350 million age 1 equivalent fish every year.  
13 And age 1 is a standard of measuring the fish kill.  
14 It actually kills billions of little fish, also.

15           But they, for the statistics, they say  
16 that 5,000 little fish equals one age one-equivalent  
17 fish. But the statistics, and data, uses age one-  
18 equivalent fish as a standard that is common in the  
19 fish analysis industry.

20           This massive amount of fish are needlessly  
21 being destroyed. Salem 1 and 2 is, also, in violation  
22 of the Federal Clean Water Act, of the 1970s, which  
23 requires the best technology available to protect  
24 fisheries.

25           Salem 1 and 2 is not using the best

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1 technology, a closed loop system. Salem 1 and 2 is  
2 the largest destroyer of aquatic life on the Delaware  
3 River.

4 It has, and is still, destroying the  
5 fishing industry along the Delaware River. To say  
6 that Salem 1 and 2 is having no negative effect on the  
7 Delaware River fishery is absurd, and outrageous.

8 I'd like to present, as evidence, a  
9 Wilmington News Journal Article, dated January 14th,  
10 2007, titled, "Cooling Systems Ravage River",  
11 subtitled "Big Industrial Sites on the Delaware Kill  
12 Tens of Billions of Fish in Crabs Each Year".

13 It is an excellent article about the fish  
14 kill along the Delaware River. The EPA estimate of  
15 350 age one-equivalent fish kill by Salem 1 and 2,  
16 every year, is shown in this article. The facts show  
17 the destruction Salem is causing.

18 The NRC needs to know that weakfish are so  
19 few in numbers, now in the Delaware River, that the  
20 fishing regulation is you can only legally catch one  
21 weakfish a day, recreationally, fishing.

22 So the fisherman goes out, on his boat, is  
23 only allowed to keep one weakfish, and that is it.  
24 All that effort, trying to go fishing recreationally,  
25 and that is all he can keep. The weakfish are low.

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1 I'd also like to present, as evidence, a  
2 fish kill report by Dr. Desmond Kahn, of the Delaware  
3 Department of Environmental Control, DENREC, on the  
4 fish kill damage to the weakfish, and stripers, in the  
5 Delaware River caused by Salem 1 and 2.

6 This is an excellent in-depth report. The  
7 report states that Salem 1 and 2 killed more weakfish  
8 in one year, than what was caught commercially, and  
9 recreationally, in Delaware, in the same year.

10 It is an excellent report. Salem 1 and  
11 2's outdate open loop cooling system is one giant  
12 aquatic life death machine. It doesn't discriminate,  
13 it kills all species, all ages.

14 Salem's effort to fix up a few acres of  
15 wet does not even come close to compensate for the  
16 years, decades of damage, to the fisheries caused by  
17 Salem 1 and 2.

18 Salem 1 and 2 has destroyed, and is  
19 continuing to destroy the fishing industry. It is not  
20 right that Salem continues to needlessly destroy the  
21 fishing industry, while commercial and recreational  
22 fishermen suffer.

23 The water intake issue, the fish kill  
24 issue, is relegated to be a state permit decision.  
25 The federal rules say that the state decides the water

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1 intake.

2 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as part  
3 of a permit renewal, considers environmental impacts.  
4 As part of an overall environmental review, the NRC  
5 comments on various aspects, the water intake fish  
6 kill being one part.

7 For the NRC to say that Salem 1 and 2  
8 drawing in over three billion gallons of water a day,  
9 and killing over 350 million age one-equivalent fish  
10 every year, is causing little harm to the fishery, is  
11 totally wrong and unexcusable.

12 The NRC's environmental evaluation on the  
13 fish needs to state the truth and the facts. Salem 1  
14 and 2 draws in over three billion gallons of water a  
15 day, Salem 1 and 2 kills 350 age one-equivalent fish  
16 every year.

17 Salem 1 and 2 is the largest destroyer of  
18 aquatic life in the Delaware River. Salem 1 and 2  
19 has, and is, destroying the fishery and will continue  
20 to destroy the fishery for another 20 years, if the  
21 destructive open loop cooling systems are still used.

22 The NRC needs to recommend that the non-  
23 destructive closed loop cooling system be used at  
24 Salem 1 and 2 to stop the fish kill, and protect the  
25 fisheries and the fishing industry.

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1           The NRC needs to step up to the plate and  
2 do the right thing. We, the Coalition to Protect the  
3 Fisheries, are just trying to stop the needless and  
4 senseless destruction of the fisheries.

5           If you want to create jobs build the  
6 cooling towers, which would create hundreds of  
7 construction jobs. Also the fish that are no longer  
8 killed by Salem 1 and 2, will create hundreds of jobs  
9 in commercial and recreational fishing.

10          The fishing docks at Salem should be  
11 packed with fish, fishing boats, and there should be a  
12 fishing industry, like there used to be. That is the  
13 way Salem should be if you want to create jobs.

14          Another part of my comments pertains to  
15 the actual Environmental Statement in the report,  
16 there. There are the sentences, and I want to go  
17 over, like, three of them that are part of the report,  
18 that I need -- that I feel need to be discussed. And  
19 I differ on my opinion, or my opinion differs from  
20 what was said.

21          The first sentence, in the statement,  
22 about the open loop cooling system, and the impact, is  
23 "This analysis found that in the vicinity of Salem and  
24 HGS, since 1978, when Salem began in operation, fin  
25 fish richness has not changed, and species densities

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1 has increased, PSEG 2006C". End of quote.

2 I disagree with that statement, strongly  
3 disagree with it. I would like to present, to the  
4 NRC, a report that states -- a fish kill report on  
5 another facility, but I was a study done, from the  
6 weakfish, from 1980 to 1990, the population declined  
7 85 percent. In ten years it was 15 percent of the  
8 population that it used to be.

9 The fish have declined, the weak fish has  
10 declined. Also, the weakfish now are so low, that the  
11 regulations for weakfish, in the Delaware River, is  
12 you are only allowed to catch one fish,  
13 recreationally.

14 And now I would like to provide some  
15 information about that. And then also, too, in  
16 another fish kill report that I have read, and I will  
17 provide information. The stripers were so low, in the  
18 1980s, that commercial stripe fishery industry was  
19 banned for five years, from 1985 to 1990.

20 For five years no commercial stripe  
21 fishing industry in the Delaware River. The  
22 commercial stripe fishermen were put out of business.

23 But yet the nuclear plant continued to kill them  
24 needlessly.

25 So to say that the fish are doing great,

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1 and they have been for decades, is factually wrong.  
2 And I will provide this information. And just because  
3 PSEG cited it in a particular report, does not mean  
4 that it is correct. And I will provide this  
5 information on the fish kill, and the decline in the  
6 fish population.

7 The second sentence, or the following  
8 sentence: "Operation of Salem, during relicensing  
9 period, likely would continue to contribute  
10 substantially to cumulative impacts on aquatic  
11 resources, in conjunction with HCGS, and other  
12 facilities, that withdraw water from, or discharge to  
13 the Delaware River".

14 This is a true statement. It will continue  
15 to cause harm to the fishery, because of all the water  
16 being withdrawn. And it is not just the Salem  
17 facility. There are dozens of them, all along the  
18 river, that draw in. Salem happens to be the one  
19 single biggest.

20 But you must consider the cumulative  
21 effect of all the facilities. So, you know, it  
22 wouldn't be so bad if you only had one facility that  
23 took a little bit of water, but you have many, and  
24 Salem is the biggest. So that statement is true.

25 However, the following sentence kind of

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1 contradicts what this one said. The next sentence,  
2 "However, given long-term improvements in the  
3 estuarine community, during the recent decades while  
4 these facilities were operating, NRC expects  
5 cumulative impacts expected to be limited, with  
6 effects on individual species populations, potentially  
7 ranging from negligible, to noticeable."

8 Well, the first part is wrong, because the  
9 fish populations have declined. And the last part is  
10 just saying, well, there is the fish kill, but it is  
11 okay, don't worry about it, you know?

12 It is not okay, they are destroying the  
13 fisheries. And this is the statement, and the  
14 sentences that I want to critique. And, specifically,  
15 I find incorrect.

16 So for the NRC to conclude that, oh, it is  
17 okay, it is wrong, it is not okay. And I will provide  
18 the data and the information that I was talking about,  
19 previously.

20 The moral code we should live by is, if  
21 something is causing harm, it should be stopped. The  
22 open loop cooling system is causing great harm to the  
23 fisheries, and should be stopped.

24 Salem knows they are causing great harm.  
25 Why do they continue to destroy the fishery? Thank

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1 you very much.

2 FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you for your  
3 comments, Mr. Schneider. Are there any additional  
4 comments that need to be addressed?

5 (No response.)

6 FACILITATOR RODRIGUEZ: I want to thank  
7 everybody that provided comments. We understand that  
8 you have taken lots of time to develop these  
9 complaints. The staff will take them, they are being  
10 recorded, they will review the comments.

11 And since this concludes the public  
12 comment period, I'm going to turn it over to Bo Pham.  
13 Thank you, sir.

14 MR. PHAM: Good evening. My name is Bo  
15 Pham. Once again, I'm the Branch Chief, at the NRC,  
16 that oversees this review for the license renewal of  
17 Salem and Hope Creek facilities.

18 I just want to reiterate, again, we thank  
19 you, everybody, for showing up tonight, and taking the  
20 time to give us your comments. Where we will go next,  
21 from here, is we will -- the staff will gather up the  
22 comments from now until the end of the comment period,  
23 which ends on December 17th.

24 Then we will take a look at every single  
25 one of the comments and figure out how to either

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1 incorporate them into the document, or respond to them  
2 appropriately.

3 So, once again, thank you very much for  
4 your time and patience.

5 (Whereupon, at 8:10 p.m., the above-  
6 entitled matter was concluded.)

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