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Public Meeting - Evening Session

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING
PROCESS FOR DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR STATION
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

EVENING SESSION

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THURSDAY,

NOVEMBER 4, 2010

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PORT CLINTON, OHIO

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The Public Meeting convened at Camp Perry
Lodging and Conference Center, Camp Perry Military
Reservation, 1000 Lawrence Road, Port Clinton, Ohio.

Present on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory
Commission:

- RICHARD BARKLEY
- BRIAN HARRIS
- PAULA COOPER
- SCOTT BURNELL
- ALLAN BARKER
- JOHN RUTKOWSKI
- DAN KIMBLE

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 Brian Harris 5

Overview of Environmental Review Process,
 Paula Cooper 11

Closing Comments, David Wrona 36

Adjourn

P R O C E E D I N G S

7:00 p.m.

1
2
3 MR. BARKLEY: We appreciate your coming
4 out this evening. It's not the best of weather. I'm
5 the meeting facilitator for the meeting this evening.
6 My name is Richard Barkley, and I want to go over a
7 few ground rules for the function of this meeting. We
8 had the same ground rules this afternoon, and the
9 meeting went very, very smoothly. So, hopefully, the
10 same will occur this evening.

11 I would ask if you are interested in
12 speaking that you sign up on the yellow speaker card.
13 I have eight people so far who have been signed up.
14 If you want to sign up, please do so. We have plenty
15 of time this evening to take your comments.

16 To be fair, the amount of time allotted
17 will be limited, and based on the number of speakers
18 who have signed up, I generally allowed the people
19 five minutes this afternoon, and that seemed to work
20 well. We have a slightly smaller number of speakers
21 this evening. If you can be concise with your
22 remarks, I would appreciate it.

23 I will call three speakers at a time to
24 allow you time to prepare. This afternoon some of the
25 speakers actually stood up here in front. You don't

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1 need to stand up here if you don't want to. I just
2 want you to be aware that you will be the next person
3 that's going to be called to speak. You can speak
4 from either this microphone in the center stage or
5 from the podium, whichever you feel comfortable with.

6 Please silence all your cell phones. I'll
7 have to do it myself so mine doesn't go off. Please
8 speak clearly into your microphone as your remarks are
9 being transcribed. We had a couple problems this
10 afternoon with people not speaking clearly into their
11 microphones. I would ask you as a courtesy, do not
12 interrupt the speaker who is speaking at the
13 microphone.

14 Written comments are welcome during the
15 meeting or after the meeting. You can see Paula
16 Cooper at the front, you can provide your comments to
17 me, and there is also a comment period that runs until
18 the latter part of the next month that you can submit
19 written comments.

20 Finally, if you have any questions or
21 concerns regarding the conduct of this meeting, we'll
22 be glad to work through them.

23 I would like to introduce the NRC staff in
24 attendance this evening:

25 Dave Wrona, Branch Chief, License Renewal.

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1 Brian Harris, the Safety Project Manager
2 for this project.

3 Paula Cooper, the Environmental Project
4 Manager.

5 Scott Burnell, who is the Public Affairs
6 Officer with the Agency.

7 Allan Barker, who is the Region III State
8 Liaison Officer.

9 John Rutkowski, who is the Senior Resident
10 Inspector at Davis-Besse, and Dan Kimble, who will be
11 the replacement Senior Resident Inspector here very
12 shortly.

13 And, Adam who is not here this evening.
14 Adam Wilson was with us this afternoon. He's the
15 resident inspector at Davis-Besse.

16 At this point, I would like to turn the
17 meeting over to Brian to make his presentation.
18 Thanks very much.

19 MR. HARRIS: Good evening. My name is
20 Brian Harris, and I would like to thank each and every
21 one of you for coming out to this public information
22 session. I'm NRC's Safety Project Manager in charge
23 of the Davis-Besse license renewal application.

24 So this meeting will serve two purposes:
25 To explain the license renewal process and to gather

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1 your comments on environmental scoping. This slide
2 points out two parts of the meeting where you can get
3 involved. We'll have a question and answer session on
4 the license renewal process, and later we'll
5 officially record your environmental scoping comments.

6 Now, the first topic on the agenda today
7 is the license renewal process overview. As I said
8 earlier, we're here to help you understand the license
9 renewal process. I'll describe the safety review, and
10 Paula Cooper will describe the environmental review.

11 Before I get into the discussion of the
12 license renewal process, I would like to take a minute
13 to talk about the NRC in terms of what we do in our
14 mission. We protect the public health and safety,
15 promote the common defense and security and protect
16 the environment from radioactive materials that are
17 used for civilian purposes.

18 We accomplish this mission by establishing
19 rules and regulations, conducting inspections, issuing
20 enforcement actions, assessing licensing performance,
21 and evaluating operating experience for nuclear plants
22 across the country and around the globe.

23 One of the ways we can protect health and
24 safety is through our ongoing regulatory oversight of
25 nuclear power plants. The NRC's nuclear power plant

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1 oversight covers topics such as emergency planning,
2 security and current safety performance every day
3 through our resident inspectors and additional staff
4 in our regional and headquarters offices.

5 An example of ongoing oversight, the
6 recent NRC mandated inspection of the Davis-Besse's
7 reactor vessel head which revealed cracks in the
8 nozzles on the head. While the cracks do not affect
9 safe plant operation, the NRC oversaw First Energy's
10 repairs of the head and ensured that the plant did
11 everything necessary to keep the plant operating
12 safely before Davis-Besse started this summer.

13 The NRC will continue to oversee these
14 sorts of inspections, maintenance and repair
15 activities for every operating plant regardless of
16 whether the plant has entered the period of license
17 renewal.

18 The Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station was
19 originally licensed on April 22, 1977. The Atomic
20 Energy Act authorizes the NRC to grant a 40-year
21 operating license to nuclear power reactors. The
22 plant has been operating for 32 years under its
23 40-year license. Congress decided on the 40-year term
24 for economic considerations and antitrust factors, not
25 on safety or technical limitations. If the license is

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1 renewed, it will then be valid until April 2037.

2 The license renewal involves two parallel
3 processes: A safety review and an environmental
4 review. These reviews evaluate separately the various
5 aspects of the license renewal application. The
6 safety review focuses on the aging of components and
7 structures that the NRC deems important to plant
8 safety.

9 The staff's main objective in this review
10 is to ensure the applicant can adequately manage the
11 effects of aging on the plant. We will document the
12 results of our safety review in the Safety Evaluation
13 Report or SER.

14 For the environmental review, the staff
15 considers, evaluates and describes the environmental
16 impacts of operating the plant for an additional 20
17 years. The objective of the review is to determine if
18 the environmental impact of the license renewal are so
19 great that license renewal would not be a reasonable
20 option. The staff prepares an Environmental Impact
21 Statement, or the EIS, to document its environmental
22 review.

23 This slide, this diagram lays out the two
24 review paths as well as three other inputs to the
25 Commission's decision on whether or not to renew an

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1 operating license. One of the considerations is an
2 independent review of the staff's safety report by the
3 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS.

4 The ACRS is a group of scientists and
5 nuclear safety experts who provide professional advice
6 to the Commission. After reviewing the application,
7 the Safety Evaluation Report and inspection findings,
8 the ACRS reports their findings and recommendations
9 directly to the Commission.

10 Hearings may also be conducted if
11 interested stakeholders submit concerns or
12 contentions, and their request for a hearing is
13 granted. The Commission considers the outcome of the
14 hearing process in its decision on whether or not to
15 issue or renew an operating license.

16 As part of the environmental review, the
17 staff consults with local, state, and travel
18 officials.

19 Now, I'm going to describe the license
20 renewal process in a little more detail, and Ms.
21 Cooper will later describe the environmental review.

22 The regulations governing license renewal
23 are based on two principles: The first principle is
24 that the current regulations ensure that the current
25 licensing basis of all operating plants provide and

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1 maintain an acceptable level of safety.

2 The second principle is that the plant's
3 current licensing basis must be maintained during the
4 renewal period. In other words, the same rules that
5 apply to the current license will apply to the renewed
6 license. In addition, a renewed license will include
7 conditions that must be met to ensure aging is
8 adequately managed so that the plant's current
9 licensing basis is maintained during the extended
10 period of operation.

11 The staff performs rigorous reviews of the
12 applicant's application and supporting documentation,
13 and this review includes evaluating new and existing
14 programs and surveillance activities to determine
15 whether the effects of aging concerning the plant
16 structure and components will be adequately managed
17 and monitored.

18 The safety review also includes on site
19 audits to verify the applicant's technical basis and
20 to verify and confirm the application accurately
21 describes the applicant's aging management programs
22 and its activities. The staff documents the basis and
23 conclusions of its review in a public safety
24 evaluation report.

25 In addition, a team of specialized

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1 inspectors travel to the reactor site to verify aging
2 management programs are being implemented, modified or
3 planned consistent with the license renewal
4 application.

5 The Advisory Committee on Reactor
6 Safeguards independently reviews the license renewal
7 application and the staff's safety evaluation report
8 before making a recommendation to the Commission
9 regarding a proposed action to issue a new operating
10 license.

11 Now, Ms. Cooper will discuss the
12 environmental.

13 MS. COOPER: My name is Paula Cooper.
14 I'm the Environmental Project Manager for Davis-Besse.
15 As you can see from the diagram, Mr. Harris briefly
16 described the upper leg, safety review, and I'm going
17 to describe the bottom leg, the environmental review.

18 The environmental review follows the
19 guidelines set by the National Environmental Policy
20 Act, also known as NEPA. NEPA provides the basic
21 aspects of federal environmental review requiring a
22 systematic approach, advising the potential impact of
23 major federal actions.

24 At the NRC, license renewal is classified
25 as a major federal action. The environmental review

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1 considers the impact of the proposed action and any
2 mitigation for those impacts it considers to be
3 significant. We consider alternatives to the proposed
4 action, even impacts associated with not issuing a
5 renewed license, referred to as a no action
6 alternative.

7 As you can see, you have several
8 opportunities as the public to participate in the
9 license review process. A Federal Register notice and
10 press release will be issued for most of these
11 opportunities. The environmental review begins with
12 today's meeting, scoping that reveals important issues
13 that need to be analyzed. During scoping, we want
14 your comments on the scope of the environmental
15 review.

16 The public's input is the second half of
17 today's meeting and will be discussed in more detail
18 later on.

19 After studying the range of environmental
20 impact, we publish a draft Environmental Impact
21 Statement. After issuing the draft, we will have
22 another public meeting to obtain your comments on that
23 draft. Those comments will later be fed into our
24 final Environmental Impact Statement prior to the
25 issuance of the final Environmental Impact Statement.

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1 The opportunity for a hearing permits
2 those who are directly affected by the licensing
3 qualification. A hearing will be conducted by the
4 panel of administrative law judges who are called the
5 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, or the ASLB.

6 This slide is an important milestone to
7 the environmental review process. The notice of
8 opportunity to have a hearing was published on October
9 25th, followed by the notice of intent to prepare an
10 EIS and conduct scoping on October 29th.

11 The opportunity to submit contentions for
12 a hearing have to be received by December 27th.

13 In summary, before deciding to issue or
14 renew an operating license, the Commission considers
15 various factors: The staff safety review which is
16 documented in the SER, the staff environmental review
17 which is documented in the Environmental Impact
18 Statement, NRC's inspector's findings and conclusions,
19 and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on
20 Reactor Safeguards, or the ACRS.

21 If a hearing is conducted, the absence of
22 that process is considered as well. The typical time
23 frame for completing the license renewal is 22 months,
24 provided a hearing is not involved; 30 months if a
25 hearing is involved.

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1 We have also made available hard copies of
2 the license renewal application at Abigale Public
3 Library and Toledo Lucas County Public Library. The
4 draft of the Environmental Impact Statement will be
5 made available at those libraries.

6 In addition, several documents that have
7 been previously gathered and can be found on the CD
8 located on the table here to my right. They include
9 a copy of the frequently asked questions for license
10 renewal, the general Environmental Impact Statement,
11 the three Federal Registers and the license renewal
12 application in that one CD format.

13 You can also access the licensing
14 application on the NRC website. For information
15 relating to aging, scoping, storage, you can review
16 the regulations on site and additionally to keep
17 informed on aspects related to the NRC.

18 This concludes the presentation, and I'll
19 turn it back over to the facilitator.

20 MR. BARKLEY: Thank you. This is your
21 opportunity to ask questions regarding this process;
22 not to make statements on the Environmental Impact
23 Statement but to actually ask questions regarding this
24 overall process of the NRC staff. If anyone has any
25 questions, you're welcome to come to this microphone

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1 at this time.

2 MR. DEMARR: Is it possible that
3 additional scoping meetings such as this one will be
4 held if someone requested it?

5 MR. WRONA: This is Dave Wrona, and I
6 will answer the question for you. Thank you, Rich.

7 The regulations actually require us to do
8 a scoping, and it does not require us to do scoping
9 meetings. In general, we hold one meeting. If a
10 member of the public requests it and has a good
11 reason, we would consider it; but I couldn't say now
12 with any certainty we would have additions to the
13 scoping meeting. But, we do take comments, written
14 all the way up to December 27th.

15 In fact, if you're beyond that time, we
16 will accept the comments and review them and
17 incorporate them into our review if we're able,
18 depending on where we are at that time.

19 MR. BARKLEY: Okay, thank you.

20 Any other questions?

21 (No Response)

22 MR. BARKLEY: All right, let's move on
23 with our presentation. Thank you.

24 MS. COOPER: We previously presented
25 the license overview process. Now, we're going to go

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1 into the environmental scoping.

2 This slide was presented in the previous
3 presentation, and what I would like to point out is
4 we're on the second section of that, the public
5 scoping meetings. The scoping period started October
6 29th when the notice of intent to prepare an EIS was
7 published in the Federal Register.

8 We were looking for sources of information
9 about the environmental impact of continued operations
10 with the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant that we
11 should consider when we prepare our EIS.

12 You can assist in this process by telling
13 us, for example, what aspect of your local community
14 we should focus on, what local environmental and
15 economic aspect that the NRC should examine during our
16 environmental review and what reasonable alternatives
17 are most appropriate for this area.

18 These are just some of the examples of the
19 input we're looking for, and they represent the kind
20 of information we're seeking from the environmental
21 scoping process. Your comments tonight should be
22 helpful in providing insights in this manner in the
23 future.

24 Through the environmental review, the NRC
25 has established a team of staff and contractors who

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1 are experts in their various fields and disciplines.

2 This slide gives you an idea of the
3 various areas we are looking at during the
4 environmental review. They include terrestrial and
5 aquatic policies, environmental justice and hydrology.

6 For license renewal, the NRC environmental
7 staff looks at a wide range of impact. Additionally,
8 we consult with various federal, state and local
9 officials as well. We gather pertinent information
10 from these sources and ensure it's considered in our
11 analysis. These include the Environmental Protection
12 Agency, U. S. Wildlife, and State and Preservation.

13 This slide represents the different
14 methods for receiving public comment. This shows how
15 to mail, fax and use the internet. Scoping comments
16 are due by December 27, 2010.

17 We know you're the experts in your
18 community so your comments tonight will help to ensure
19 a thorough review of the environmental and economic
20 issues that the NRC should consider. You are the
21 primary contact with regard to issues with
22 Davis-Besse, the project manager, Brian Harris and
23 myself. If you have any questions on today's meeting,
24 we will be around to answer the questions following
25 the meeting. But, if you have any questions after you

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1 leave here tonight, please do not hesitate to contact
2 us.

3 This concludes my presentation. Mr.
4 Barkley?

5 MR. BARKLEY: Okay, thanks very much.

6 The first three people I would like to
7 call are Mark Stahl, Ottawa City Commissioner; Jere
8 Witt, Ottawa County Commissioner; and Mike Drusbacky
9 of Ottawa County EMS. Thank you.

10 MR. STAHL: Good evening, ladies and
11 gentlemen, and thank you for coming out on such a
12 rainy night. My name is Mark Stahl. I'm the
13 President of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners.

14 And, the county isn't successful unless
15 you're surrounded by successful community partners,
16 and I can tell you that Brush-Romley (ph) is one of
17 those partners. They contribute tremendously to the
18 good of this community. We also cherish the NRC's
19 partnership that we have. You are our eyes and our
20 ears. You are what helps us maintain the public
21 safety here, and we appreciate that as well.

22 With that said, we're going to have a few
23 people from the Agency describe what Davis-Besse does
24 for Ottawa County, and on behalf of the Ottawa County
25 Commissioners, I would like to extend our full support

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1. in regards to their application.

2. Thank you.

3. MR. WITT: Thank you, Mark. It's not
4. proper to correct your boss, but you meant
5. Davis-Besse.

6. Now, most of you were here at the first
7. session, so I will make my comments brief and not
8. repeat everything I said. The one thing I think I
9. want to make sure everyone understands, and for those
10. of you who were not here, I am the County
11. Administrator for Ottawa County. I also serve on the
12. County Nuclear Review Board for Davis-Besse, I also
13. was a part of the restart overview panel when they had
14. the head issue.

15. So I've had some broad experience with the
16. Davis-Besse people and with the Nuclear Regulatory
17. Commission, and I think this process and the processes
18. that the NRC uses are great processes, but I think
19. it's important to know that when we look at what
20. Davis-Besse has done over the years and how they have
21. responded to Ottawa County as a community, we couldn't
22. have asked for anything more.

23. And, we certainly fully support how they
24. have changed their safety culture; frankly, how they
25. have changed many, many personnel from the days when

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1 they had issues, and those people are not there any
2 longer. This is a new company. It has better
3 oversight from the corporate level, and I think most
4 importantly as we urge the NRC to approve this
5 process, let's remember that this is the lives of
6 people in Ottawa County and not let people with
7 political agendas somehow impede that process. The
8 people in Ottawa County have and will support
9 Davis-Besse, and we as a county on behalf of the Board
10 of Commissioners certainly do support them.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. DRUSBACKY: It stinks to get old.
13 My name is Mike Drusbacky, Deputy Director of the
14 Ottawa County Emergency Management Agency.
15 Commissioner Stahl and Jere Witt are a couple of my
16 bosses.

17 I've been with the Ottawa County Emergency
18 Management for 21 years, and I would like to speak
19 today on what Davis-Besse has meant to us as not only
20 the Emergency Management Agency but what Davis-Besse
21 and what we do affects Ottawa County as a whole, not
22 just on the nuclear side.

23 Our plans and procedures that we have for
24 Davis-Besse are very thorough, well maintained and
25 tested regularly because of the requirements of the

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1 plant. This ultimately makes us better able to
2 respond to other types of natural disasters,
3 technological hazards.

4 Unfortunately, we have had our share of
5 natural disasters with tornados in our community, and
6 we had one just this past June. And, we had
7 Davis-Besse's support in our Emergency Management
8 Agency and our emergency operation center in helping
9 to mitigate and respond to that disaster. We've had
10 train derailments, we've had electrical outages, and
11 we have had very good support from the plant.

12 So, the emergency operating center of the
13 EMA are better equipped, we're better prepared and we
14 have one of the largest staffs than those of other
15 counties in Ohio. This has been very good for our
16 radiological preparedness requirements. We exercise
17 regularly because of these requirements of the plant.

18 Other benefits also have been a very good
19 working relationship through Ottawa County's emergency
20 response departments, our local fire departments, our
21 local EMS departments, law enforcement, other
22 organizations because of the training and exercise
23 that we do to meet the requirements that we have for
24 Davis-Besse.

25 We have a county-wide siren warning system

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1 that is used for all hazards, not just Davis-Besse,
2 not just for the emergency planning zone, but all our
3 county is covered by alternate warning sirens.

4 All these I've mentioned, the training,
5 the preparedness and responses that we do, all this
6 ends up in that we have a very solid relationship and
7 that relationship has benefited the residents of
8 Ottawa County.

9 Thank you very much.

10 MR. BARKLEY: Thank you, Mike.

11 Okay, the next three people I want to call
12 are Joseph DeMarr, the Green Party at Wood County;
13 Jane Ridenour of OPEIU, Local 19, and then finally
14 Patricia Marida of the Sierra Club.

15 MR. DEMARR: Good evening. Like most
16 people in the Northwest Ohio area, I first found out
17 about the scoping meeting earlier in the week when
18 there was a story in the Blade. So, I had not had an
19 opportunity to completely read the Environmental
20 Impact Statement that's been prepared with the
21 application for the license renewal.

22 But, I think that that is one of the
23 issues that should be dealt with in the scoping
24 process at either another later meeting or perhaps
25 further announcements, and at the very least, I would

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1 like to request a hard copy also be placed in the Wood
2 County Library in Bowling Green, Ohio.

3 There are several unique aspects of the
4 location of Davis-Besse that should be dealt with in
5 any environmental review and proposed continuation of
6 this plant, most of them having to do with being on
7 the shores of the Lake.

8 One of them is that we must consider in
9 the case of a worst case scenario, coordination with
10 Canada in terms of the effect of an accident that
11 might occur at this plant.

12 Another is the possible effect on the
13 seven-billion-dollar fishery in Lake Erie.
14 Specifically, I think you should look at how the
15 wastewater and how the temperature effluent from this
16 plant would affect and possibly affect indicia species
17 such is the Asian carp. In other words, does the
18 operation of Davis-Besse make it more or less likely
19 that indicia species could come in here and ruin our
20 fishing.

21 There are several safety issues that
22 impact on the environmental questions. First of all,
23 I personally know a first responder. We've had
24 conversations about Davis-Besse. He told me that they
25 have been told that in the event of some sort of

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1 accident, the only thing they have to worry about is
2 radioactive iodine, and since they will be given pills
3 for radioactive iodine, they don't even have to worry
4 about that.

5 This suggests to me that the front line
6 first responders may not have an adequate idea of how
7 dangerous, meaning the radioactive nuclear heads are,
8 even to neutrons to spot them, and this could lead to
9 bad decision-making in the event of an accident which
10 could lead to increased contamination of the earth.

11 The siren system, I have lived in
12 northwestern Ohio off and on for 20-some years, and
13 about 24 years when my son was about one year old,
14 there was a short circuit at Davis-Besse, and the
15 evacuation sirens were all sounding, and no one
16 reacted at all in Northwest Ohio. I finally called
17 the state police and asked why the sirens were going,
18 and they told me, "Oh, it's just a short-circuit at
19 Davis-Besse." I believe the siren system is
20 completely adequate.

21 The plant has been operating long enough
22 with the nuclear radiation weakening the structure.
23 We've learned at Chernobyl that eventually this
24 weakening can proceed to such an extent that the
25 concrete or a portion of the concrete can actually

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1 fail, collapse.

2 I think an environmental review needs to
3 look at what would happen if the concrete wall either
4 collapsed from radiation or if the perimeter was
5 destroyed through the attack of a plane or through the
6 attack of some motorist or some terrorist group
7 planting explosives. What would happen to the
8 radioactive dust and the containment structure because
9 of the weakening?

10 We are in an area of the country that
11 could be affected by the fault if there is a large
12 earth quake, and I think this may not have been
13 examined sufficiently in the environmental impact
14 study.

15 Also, downwind from Davis-Besse in the
16 local communities here, there is a cancer cluster.
17 The state studied this cluster and it was woefully
18 inadequate. It consisted of dosimeters, given to
19 about a fifth of the families. They went out in the
20 yards and ran the dosimeters themselves looking at the
21 sky. They didn't find anything, but I'm not sure they
22 -- I believe this happened when Davis-Besse wasn't
23 actually running, and it doesn't address the fact that
24 there may have been emissions in the past, and there
25 could be emissions in the future.

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1 So, I think that any federal environmental
2 impact statement would have to look at known emissions
3 from Davis-Besse which are routine, such as I have,
4 and correlate those with the cancer cluster in these
5 local counties and look for cancers that are
6 specifically known to correlate with the nucleates
7 that we know of at least, such as thyroid cancer.

8 I know I only have about five minutes
9 here. I want to say that I know -- as an
10 environmentalist, I know that the NRC is given an
11 impossible task here. Any process that generates
12 radioactive pollution that will be able to cause
13 cancer, birth defects and hurt people for the next --
14 for millions of years in some cases, by definition, it
15 can't be done safely.

16 In this specific case, Davis-Besse has one
17 of the worst operating records in the industry.
18 That's widely known. This will actually be a very
19 interesting test case to see if the NRC is able to
20 deny any license. I think if any license should be
21 denied, it would be Davis-Besse.

22 But, thank you for your attention and have
23 a good night.

24 MR. BARKLEY: Thank you, Joseph.

25 MS. RIDENOUR: Thank you. Good evening.

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1 My name is Jane Ridenour, and I am President of the
2 OPEIU, Local 19. OPEIU stands for Office and
3 Professional Employees International Union, and we
4 represent the clerical support staff at Davis-Besse.

5 And, on behalf of the Union, I would like
6 to voice our support at this public meeting for a
7 multitude of reasons. The renewal of this license
8 will promote maintaining employment of not only our
9 members who live and shop and send their children to
10 the schools in this area, but it will also ensure the
11 delivery of reliable electric service to all of our
12 customers.

13 Research has shown that nuclear power is
14 clean, it is efficient and it produces more energy at
15 a lower cost than any other means of generation. So,
16 it is important that we keep this plant in operation.

17 Local 19 is proud of their safety record
18 and their operations at Davis-Besse as well as the
19 work that we do here and the service that we provide
20 to the public. OPEIU, Local 19, would like to
21 continue to be a part of that team for the next 20
22 years.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. BARKLEY: Thank you, Jane.

25 We'll call Patricia Marida.

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1 MS. MARIDA: My name is Patricia Marida.
2 I'm the Chair of the Nuclear Issues Committee of the
3 Ohio Sierra Club. And, we had a whopping four days to
4 know about this meeting. I had four days ahead. I
5 learned about it this morning and have come up from
6 Columbus here.

7 The Sierra Club opposes nuclear energy in
8 its entirety, citing serious environmental health and
9 public expense issues throughout the nuclear field
10 cycle.

11 The time frames needed to guard the
12 radioactive nuclear waste generated from this process
13 are geologic in nature. Isolating the radioactive
14 nuclear waste will consume all our time and money for
15 generations to come. The only viable solution for
16 radioactive waste is to stop generating it.

17 Radioactive contamination and waste are a
18 major reason to discontinue the use of nuclear power,
19 and I might add that the environmental effects occur
20 across the United States, and all of this should be
21 come under NRC's consideration.

22 The risk and reality is that radioactive
23 contamination has occurred, is occurring and will
24 continue to occur throughout the nuclear power cycle.
25 Mining is leaving radioactive plants exposed to the

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1 air and water of our First Nation Plan in the United
2 States, Canada and Australia. The story in Australia
3 that's devastating.

4 Contamination occurs throughout the
5 milling, refining, transport and conversion of uranium
6 to uranium hexafluoride and then enrichment in which
7 the gaseous diffusion process took as much energy as
8 a large city to enrich the uranium. Then additional
9 uranium must be formulated to ground.

10 An enormous waste -- uranium hexafluoride
11 which is 99 percent of the original uranium but is not
12 cushionable and, therefore, not useable for energy.
13 However, it is just as radioactive and must be then
14 converted back to the more stable uranium oxide. A
15 newly-operated plant at Piketon will take 25 years
16 running around the clock to deconvert the 40,000,
17 14-ton canisters containing hexafluoride that are
18 already on the site, and that is not counting how much
19 more that might be generated from other conventional
20 facilities, enormous amounts of energy due to this
21 process.

22 Added together, the disposal to support
23 the industry's nuclear power also comes with a heavy
24 carbon price, which means that nuclear power will not
25 address the pollution, global warming. Centralized

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1 electric power complete with centralized corporate
2 profits for the nuclear and coal industry has been
3 heavily subsidized by corporate for many years.
4 Without corporate subsidies, loan guarantees and
5 liability limits for which the public must bear the
6 burden, no nuclear power plant would ever have been
7 built.

8 In Ohio, the use of electricity has been
9 increasing for a number of years. Now, with
10 progressive legislation and Ohio Senate Bill 221,
11 energy efficiency and conservation combined with the
12 renewable sources of solar, wind and geothermal, these
13 are providing so much additional and conserve energy
14 to all plants and new coal plants in our state have
15 been cancelled, and there's a strong movement to shut
16 down the old polluting coal-fired plants.

17 The argument of rising energy is
18 irrational at best, and at worst, the resulting global
19 warming would threaten our life support system and,
20 yes, our way of life.

21 There is good reason why there are no
22 nuclear power plants coming on line to replace the old
23 ones. Wall Street will not support them. The normal
24 up-front cost and a 12- to 20-year length of time for
25 completion makes it financially uncompetitive with

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1 wind and solar. On the latter, decentralize, meaning
2 that jobs are being created all over the state. As
3 compared to Davis-Besse's extended shut-downs, if the
4 wind stops blowing or the sun is behind a cloud
5 somewhere, it is likely not too serious or a long-term
6 power shortage problem.

7 A 20-year extension of the Davis-Besse
8 operating license is unfounded on the grounds of
9 future electric generating needs. Even without the
10 afore- mentioned problems plaguing nuclear power in
11 general, the Davis-Besse facility is in a tenuous
12 condition to continue operation even at the present.
13 Continuing for 20 years past 2017 would constitute
14 reckless disregard for public safety and environmental
15 integrity.

16 The history of failures and dangers at
17 this plant is well known and well documented, so I
18 will not reiterate that here. However, the process by
19 which First Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory
20 Commission allowed an inspection of the reactor head in
21 2002 coming within one-eighth of an inch of a nuclear
22 disaster that would have left the Midwest
23 uninhabitable and the Great Lakes, the world's largest
24 fresh water supply, filled with radioactive
25 contamination shows that the public should have no

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1 confidence whatsoever in the ability of First Energy
2 to self regulate or in the NRC to rigorously enforce
3 and inspect so dangerous an operation of a nuclear
4 reactor.

5 They were willing to take these incredible
6 risks based simply on profit. Not only that, the
7 corporate culture makes it difficult for any one
8 person to wreck the system or feel responsible for
9 anything other than following the order of their
10 immediate superiors.

11 So, I live in Columbus, but this could
12 still affect me. Even the 40-year time frame for
13 operations of a parkland does not have an engineering
14 basis, but it was based on the time needed to pay off
15 construction costs. What happened to the engineering
16 responsibility to oversee and advise an operation of
17 this magnitude of danger?

18 Last but not least, nuclear power is being
19 used to keep the nuclear weapons industry afloat.
20 Facilities and research for nuclear power can be
21 transferred to weapons usage. The USEC, formerly the
22 United States Enrichment Corporation, now calling
23 itself USEC, the enrichment plant at Pikeville under
24 construction is a prime example. More importantly,
25 however, is the need for legitimating the nuclear

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1 industry. Without nuclear power, the nuclear industry
2 would be only about weapons of mass destruction, taken
3 in a very different light to university research
4 recruiting bright, young scholars to other jobs in
5 research in the industry. The time to protect the
6 current generation from nuclear power plants shutting
7 down approaches. The weapons industry desperate to
8 have a nonmilitary front is the tail wagging the dog
9 in the push for renewed and continued nuclear power.

10 And, I would like to add also that the
11 pools of radioactive waste are extremely vulnerable to
12 terrorists attacks or to other explosions. So, that
13 certainly should be a consideration of the NRC to look
14 at; that is, how are we going to protect those pools
15 of radioactive waste?

16 And, the Sierra Club believes that on-site
17 storage is the most practical way. Instead of
18 shipping these high, most highly radioactive materials
19 somewhere else in the country, that they should stay
20 as reasonably local as possible and put in canisters
21 that are hidden inside buffers.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. BARKLEY: Okay, thank you.

24 The other two people who have signed up to
25 talk who are Brian Boles, the Davis-Besse plant

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1 manager, and Matthew Heyrman, Lucas County EMS.

2 MR. BOLES: Good evening. My name is
3 Brian Boles, and I am the plant manager of the
4 Davis-Besse nuclear reactor.

5 The licensing renewal effort is a current
6 company and safety priority. A number of individuals
7 from the license renewal team are present, and they
8 have worked hard the last year to provide a quality
9 submittal to the NRC.

10 This effort is important to us for several
11 reasons. This licensing extension will allow us to
12 continue to provide safe, reliable environmentally
13 friendly electricity to our customers for years to
14 come. Davis-Besse is an important asset, and the
15 Company's generation portfolio shows we have a good
16 mix of power generation service.

17 We have long-term employment opportunities
18 for the surrounding communities. Younger engineers
19 graduating from college need to know that the nuclear
20 power is very efficient and is a great career.

21 Davis-Besse has a significant impact on
22 the economy of the local area, providing folks,
23 several hundred people employment, providing materials
24 and services in support of the operation of the plant.
25 We have always had a commitment to ensure public

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1 safety and a protection of the environment, and that
2 commitment continues today.

3 As you have already heard from several of
4 those speakers, we enjoy a good relationship with the
5 surrounding communities, and we look forward to
6 sustaining this relationship for an additional 20
7 years.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. BARKLEY: Thank you.

10 Matthew?

11 MR. HEYRMAN: My name is Matthew
12 Heyrman. I'm the Director of Lucas County Emergency
13 Management Agency. I just want to add to the things
14 that were said by the Ottawa County representatives.

15 Davis-Besse has -- although my tenure is
16 not 21 years, it's four. And, the four years that I
17 have worked with them, they have always been a partner
18 to us in our planning, our preparedness and our
19 equipment. I can honestly say that we would not be as
20 prepared for radiological issues or other emergency
21 planning issues, nor would we be as equipped as we are
22 today if Davis-Besse was not there to assist us and
23 push us in ways we probably wouldn't push ourselves.

24 I'm not sure but I believe every two years
25 we test our plans, our emergency response plans.

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1 Throughout the two years, we exercise those plans, we
2 review those plans, and Davis-Besse provides us a
3 liaison to work through those plans at a desk in our
4 office.

5 So, Davis-Besse has always been a very
6 great partner of ours with regard to emergency
7 preparedness and we look forward to working with them.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. BARKLEY: Thank you, Matthew.

10 That was the last person who had asked to
11 speak. Is there anyone else who still wants to speak?

12 (No Response)

13 MR. BARKLEY: Okay, thank you for being
14 very concise with your remarks. We have heard a
15 number of the good comments this evening, and I would
16 like to turn it over to Dave Wrona who will talk to
17 you just for the last minute.

18 MR. WRONA: Thank you, Rich.

19 I would just like to thank everybody for
20 coming out tonight and participating in our
21 environmental scoping process. There were a lot of
22 good comments. I would like to reiterate that there
23 was an earlier slide that indicates this meeting is
24 not the only way to give us scoping comments.

25 There are several methods listed on this

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1 slide, and we have all the way through December 27th.
2 So, if you go home tonight and you think of other
3 comments or something that somebody else said that
4 prompted something in your mind, feel free to use one
5 of these methods give us that information.

6 What we do with this information is issue
7 a scoping summary report which will address all the
8 comments we receive in the meeting tonight and through
9 all the various methods. That report will be made
10 available to the public. The comments will help us
11 identify what areas we're going to address in our
12 draft Environmental Impact Statement. Once that's
13 issued, it will be made available to the public and
14 we'll be back in the area to receive -- to hold a
15 meeting like this to receive comments on that
16 document.

17 With that, I would just like thank you
18 again for taking the time out of your busy schedule
19 and participating in the process.

20 MR. BARKLEY: With that, the meeting
21 is adjourned. Thank you again very much for attending
22 this evening.

23 (Whereupon the proceedings were concluded
24 at 8:00 p.m.)

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings
before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
in the matter of: Davis-Besse License Renewal

Name of Proceeding: Public Meeting:

Evening Session

Docket Number: (n/a)

Location: Port Clinton, Ohio

were held as herein appears, and that this is the
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Norma Carlin
Official Reporter
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