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Afternoon Session

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Pages 1-81

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PRELIMINARY SITE-SPECIFIC RESULTS OF THE

LICENSE RENEWAL

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3

+ + + + +

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

The Plantation Golf Resort & Spa

9301 West Fort Island Trail

Sabal Room

Crystal River, Florida

The above-entitled hearing was conducted at

2:00 p.m.

BEFORE: GEORGE SMITH, Facilitator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

2:02 P.M.

1
2
3 MR. SMITH: All right. Good afternoon.
4 My name is George Smith. I'm from NRC Region 1. That's
5 up in King of Prussia in Pennsylvania. I'll be
6 facilitating the meeting today.

7 Can everyone hear me fine? Good.

8 I would like to welcome you to the Crystal
9 River Draft SEIS which is the Supplemental Environmental
10 Impact Statement for the licensee renewal of Crystal
11 River Unit 3, Nuclear Generating Plant.

12 Again, the purpose of this meeting today is
13 to present the results of the NRC's Environmental Review
14 for Crystal River License Renewal Application as
15 published in the Draft SEIS that is publically available
16 in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management
17 System, which is ADAMS. This Session Number is
18 ML11139A153. And that was issued May 26th of 2011.

19 Before we start I have three simple rules
20 that we, as facilitators, like to go over. I don't know
21 if you can see them, but the first rule we have up is
22 respect. And what we mean by respect is that we
23 understand that we all have information that we may want
24 to provide for the meetings.

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1 For example, we have the comment cards and
2 we would like to have everyone to have an opportunity to
3 provide their comments. So in doing so, we would like
4 to ask that you try to minimize or refrain from side-bar
5 conversations while either the presenters or
6 stakeholders are providing their comments.

7 Also, cell phones. If you have a cell phone
8 if you could put it on the silent mode.

9 Also, if others are speaking we ask that you
10 don't try to over-speak the other person. You know, just
11 stand up and shout comments, those type things. Again,
12 because it slows down the process of the meeting and also
13 it doesn't allow everyone to have their opportunity to
14 provide their comments. We understand that all the
15 comments are important and you want to get that
16 information out. We only ask that just, you know,
17 provide it at the appropriate time.

18 The comment cards. Again, if you have a
19 comment card you can please give it to Mike in the back
20 of the room and I'll collect the comment cards. And
21 during that portion of the meeting we'll allow you to
22 provide your comments in the time frame.

23 Right now we don't have a lot of comment
24 cards in the back of those who have expressed interest

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1 in providing comments. So we haven't put a time limit
2 on the comments, per se, but if there's information --
3 for example, if you've given your information and either
4 the NRC representative can actually provide you an
5 answer, you know, I may step in and say, "Hey, Dan, or
6 Mike, can you provide that information?" If it's
7 something that we may not be able to answer at that point,
8 we have a parking lot that I'll write the information
9 down.

10 I ask that if I don't represent what you're
11 actually asking as a question and I write it on the
12 parking lot, just come and let me know, and that's no
13 problem. Also, at the end of the meeting the NRC
14 representatives will -- they'll stay around and they'll
15 answer questions as long as you have questions to ask.

16 So I think the bottom line I want to -- the
17 point I'm trying to get across is that whatever question
18 you have, if you don't feel that that question has been
19 answered sufficiently enough, the NRC representatives
20 will stay around and answer those questions. It may get
21 a little hard to get too extensive of an answer if we're
22 trying to let everyone get their questions in.

23 Again, I've talked about the parking lot.
24 We'll put the information on the easel.

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1 At this time I will allow the NRC
2 representatives to introduce themselves and we'll go
3 from there. Dan?

4 MR. DOYLE: Good afternoon. My name is Dan
5 Doyle. I just wanted to, like George said, is to
6 introduce some of the NRC staff that we have here if you
7 haven't met them yet, if you wanted to talk after the
8 meeting.

9 I'm Dan Doyle. I'm an Environmental
10 Project Manager in the Division of License Renewal. We
11 also have Farideh Saba from the Operating Reactor
12 Licensing Branch, and Mr. Doug Broaddeus sitting over
13 here.

14 At the back table we have Mike Wentzel,
15 another Environmental Project Manager from the Division
16 of License Renewal. We have the Senior Resident
17 Inspector, Mr. Tom Morrissey in the green and blue shirt
18 back there. Let's see. Who else? And then we have Mr.
19 Roger Hannah, who is Public Affairs in the Region.

20 And I think that was everybody today.
21 Anybody, any other NRC staff?

22 Okay. Great. Thanks.

23 We had also set up a telephone line for
24 someone to call in to participate.

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1 Do we have anyone on the telephone at the
2 moment?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. DOYLE: I just wanted to check and see
5 if there's someone there.

6 (No response.)

7 MR. DOYLE: They may call in later. They
8 may have their line muted at the time. But they are able
9 to participate or to give their comments via telephone
10 and we're going to accept those comments at the end.

11 Okay. So I'm going to present today the
12 preliminary results of the NRC's review, the
13 site-specific issues related to the proposed license
14 renewal for Crystal River Unit 3. I hope the information
15 we provide will help you understand the process that
16 we're going through and what we've done so far, and the
17 role that you can play in helping us make sure that the
18 final environmental -- Supplemental Environmental
19 Impact Statement is accurate and complete.

20 I'll start off with a brief project
21 background and then move on to presenting the preliminary
22 findings in our environmental review which assesses the
23 impacts associated with renewing the operating license
24 for another 20 years.

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1 Then I'll provide some information about
2 the schedule for the remainder of our review and how you
3 can submit comments. After my presentation there will
4 be time for you to present your comments. For those of
5 you who would prefer to send in your comments after the
6 meeting I'll explain some options for doing that.

7 The NRC was established to regulate
8 civilian uses of nuclear materials, including
9 applications that produce electric power. The NRC
10 conducts license renewal reviews for plants whose owners
11 wish to operate them beyond their initial license period.

12 The NRC license renewal review addresses
13 safety issues related to managing the effects of aging
14 and environmental issues related to an additional 20
15 years of operation, as well as any potential major
16 refurbishment activities the plant owner or operator may
17 undertake during or in preparation for an additional 20
18 years of operation.

19 In all aspects of the NRC regulation our
20 mission is three-fold: To ensure adequate protection of
21 public health and safety; to promote the common defense
22 and security; and to protect the environment.

23 Before getting into the preliminary
24 findings of the environmental review I would like to take

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1 a few moments to acknowledge two topics of public
2 interest: The containment delamination at Crystal
3 River Unit 3 and the nuclear accident in Japan.

4 While the plant was shut down in 2009 to
5 replace the steam generators, the licensee discovered
6 cracks or delamination in the containment wall. This
7 structure serves as an important barrier to prevent
8 radioactive material from escaping to the environment in
9 the event of an accident. The plant has been shut down
10 for repair since this discovery, and there is no impact
11 on public health and safety currently. Additional
12 delamination was discovered in March of 2011 and the
13 licensee announced their intention to repair the
14 containment yesterday.

15 So, the two main issues that I wanted to
16 address in this meeting is to explain what the impact is
17 of this event on the licensing renewal process and then
18 how it relates to this meeting.

19 So as far as the impacts to the license
20 renewal process. This is a current operating issue at
21 the plant. The applicant is going to -- the licensee is
22 going to work with state regulators and federal
23 regulators to develop a plan for repair; to implement the
24 plan and make sure that the plant can operate safely prior

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1 to restart. So, the plant is shut down and the repair
2 would have to be completed before the plant can start back
3 up.

4 So this is a current operating issue which
5 is managed in a separate process from this specific
6 review that we're talking about today, which is, what
7 would the environmental impacts be of an additional
8 20-years of operation.

9 It does relate, though, to the safety review
10 aspect of the application, which is that we've asked
11 questions. We have issued a request for additional
12 information about how the applicant would manage the
13 effects of aging and how they're going to, you know, to
14 answer some questions associated with how this happened,
15 and what their plan is.

16 So, for the license renewal process to move
17 ahead the applicant would have to respond to those
18 questions and the NRC would have to review those
19 questions and feel that the answers were satisfactory.
20 So that's one impact on the renewal process, is that we've
21 asked questions they would have to answer.

22 Another impact is that we've issued the
23 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.
24 These are our preliminary findings.

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1 We have a -- the next step in the
2 environmental review process is to issue the Final
3 Environmental Impact Statement. The date for issuing
4 that has not been set so that is pending responses from
5 the Applicant and their plan.

6 So once we receive that we'll set a date for
7 issuing the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact
8 Statement and that will include responses to comments and
9 also have some discussion about how this relates to
10 environmental impact. So that date is to be determined.
11 When we make that decision for when it will be released
12 we will issue a public letter. It will be updated on the
13 website, on the NRC's website.

14 And the other question we wanted to answer:
15 Is it possible that the NRC could issue a license renewal
16 prior to the repairs actually completed? And the answer
17 I would say is, yes, if we have an approved plan for moving
18 forward and that the NRC feels that they have a good
19 understanding of what the impacts would be.

20 But as I said, again, this is a current
21 operating issue that would need to be resolved prior to
22 the plant actually restarting. So, that's the impact on
23 license renewal.

24 For this meeting, we will accept comments

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1 from the public. I just want to make it clear that the
2 purpose of this meeting is to solicit comments on the
3 environmental impacts for license renewal. We're
4 trying to prevent the meeting from being focused solely
5 on the containment repairs. I know that's a major
6 concern. We're certainly interested in hearing your
7 public comments, but what we're specifically looking for
8 is a comment about the draft SEIS; comment about things
9 that you think the NRC should consider in our
10 environmental review for an additional 20-years of
11 operation.

12 This past March an earthquake and
13 subsequent tsunami led to a nuclear accident at the
14 Fukushima Daiichi site in Japan. The NRC is conducting
15 an analysis of the lessons learned -- the lessons that
16 can be learned from the events in Japan in order to see
17 if there are changes that we need to make here in the
18 United States to further protect the public.

19 NRC's staff will present the 90-day update
20 to the Commission on July 19th. You can find more
21 information about this effort on our website,
22 www.nrc.gov under the link for Japan Nuclear Accident NRC
23 Actions. The direct link to the website is on this slide
24 and also in the meeting handout.

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1 To date there have not been any immediate
2 changes to the license renewal process as a result of the
3 NRC's review. Seismic risk is considered in the design
4 basis for all plants and the license renewal review
5 includes an analysis of severe accident mitigation
6 alternatives which are potential changes that the
7 licensee could implement to reduce the effects if a
8 severe accident were to occur.

9 The results of this review are presented in
10 Appendix F of the draft SEIS.

11 I am now going to move on to talk about the
12 potential site-specific impacts of license renewal of
13 Crystal River Unit 3. These findings are contained in
14 the Draft SEIS which the NRC issued on May 26th, 2011.

15 There are copies on the table in the back
16 of the room there. There's also CD's that have Adobe PDF
17 versions of the document, so a little smaller. And the
18 CD's also have a lot of other good background information
19 for reference, including the license renewal application
20 and other brochures. All of the brochures that are on
21 the table are also on the CD, plus there are other --
22 there's other background documents included there.

23 So, please feel free to take a copy of one
24 of those CD's or any of the hard copies that are on that

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1 table.

2 The draft SEIS contains analyses of all
3 applicable site-specific issues as well as a review of
4 the issues common to many or all nuclear power plants.
5 Issues for which the environmental impacts are the same
6 across some or all nuclear power plant sites are
7 discussed in the generic environmental impact statement.

8 The NRC staff reviewed these issues to
9 determine whether the conclusions in the generic
10 environmental impact statement are valid for Crystal
11 River Unit 3. The NRC staff also reviewed the
12 environmental impacts of potential alternatives to
13 license renewal. In other words, other ways to replace
14 Crystal River Unit 3's electrical generation capacity if
15 it were shut down to determine whether the impacts
16 expected from license renewal would be unreasonable.

17 This slide lists the environmental issues
18 that the NRC reviewed for the continued operation of
19 Crystal River Unit 3 during the proposed license renewal
20 period. Overall the indirect impacts of license renewal
21 for most issues was found to be small, which means that
22 the impacts would either not be detectable or would not
23 noticeably alter the environment.

24 The impact to aquatic resources ranges from

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1 small to moderate due to the effect of the plant's
2 once-through cooling system on fish and shell fish in the
3 Crystal Bay aquatic community. A finding of moderate
4 indicates that a noticeable but not -- indicates a
5 noticeable but not destabilizing effect.

6 And the section in the draft SEIS that these
7 issues are discussed is listed on the slide.

8 When reviewing the potential impacts from
9 license renewal on the environment, the NRC also looks
10 at the effects on the environment from other past,
11 present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.
12 For example, the NRC continued -- considered the
13 operation of the coal plants at the Crystal River Energy
14 Complex, the possible construction and operation of new
15 nuclear reactors in Levy County, and a possible uprate
16 of Crystal River Unit 3, among other things.

17 The NRC preliminarily concluded that there
18 are moderate cumulative impacts on water resources due
19 to non-point sources of pollution and the potential
20 increase in the ocean water temperatures over the next
21 20 years.

22 For aquatic resources impacts are moderate
23 due to multiple stressors affecting aquatic resources in
24 the Crystal Bay such as continued operation of the

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1 Crystal River Energy Complex, continued withdrawal of
2 water for various human uses, commercial and
3 recreational fishing and boating, residential,
4 commercial and industrial development, invasive
5 species, disease and climate change.

6 For terrestrial resources impacts are
7 moderate due to the extent of expected wetland losses and
8 habitat fragmentation from ongoing and planned
9 development projects, continued widespread manipulation
10 of habitats for commercial forest management, and
11 anticipated losses of habitat for important species.

12 For socioeconomic resources, impacts are
13 moderate to large due to the possible extended power
14 uprate in the proposed new nuclear power plant in Levy
15 County.

16 For air quality, impacts are moderate due
17 to the cumulative impact to ambient air quality from the
18 continued operation of the plant and other sources of
19 criteria pollutants in the region of interest.

20 In other areas that the NRC considered, the
21 preliminary conclusions are that the cumulative impacts
22 would be small.

23 A major step in determining whether license
24 renewal is reasonable or not is comparing the likely

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1 impacts of license renewal with the alternatives
2 including other methods of power generation or not
3 renewing the Crystal River Unit 3 operating license.

4 In the draft SEIS, the NRC considered
5 natural gas, combined cycle generation, super critical
6 coal-fired generation, and as part of the combination
7 alternative, natural gas with conservation and
8 efficiency.

9 Finally, the NRC considered what would
10 happen if no action is taken and Crystal River Unit 3
11 shuts down at the end of its current license without a
12 specific replacement alternative.

13 The NRC found that the impacts from energy
14 alternatives would vary widely based on the
15 characteristics of the alternatives. In most cases
16 construction of new facilities created significant
17 impacts. This is discussed in detail in the document.

18 Based on a review of the potential
19 environmental impacts from license renewal and
20 alternative to license renewal, the NRC staff's
21 preliminary recommendation in the draft SEIS is that the
22 adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for
23 Crystal River Unit 3 are not great enough to deny the
24 option of license renewal for energy planning decision

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1 makers.

2 To state it more simply, the NRC is saying
3 that license renewal would be an acceptable option from
4 an environmental standpoint.

5 The environmental review, however, is not
6 yet completed. Your comments today and all written
7 comments received by the end of the comment period on July
8 25th will be considered by the NRC as we develop the final
9 SEIS. Due to the containment damage the NRC has not set
10 a date to issue the final SEIS. When the date is set the
11 NRC will issue a public letter and we'll update the
12 schedule on the website.

13 The final SEIS will contain the NRC's final
14 recommendation on the acceptability of license renewal
15 based on the work we've already performed and the input
16 we receive in the form of comments during the comment
17 period. Your comments can help to change the staff's
18 findings in the final SEIS.

19 The primary contact for the environmental
20 review is Ms. Elaine Keegan. Rob Kuntz is the primary
21 contact for the NRC's safety review. This information
22 is on the website.

23 Hard copies of the draft SEIS are available
24 on the table as are copies on CD. In addition, two local

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1 libraries, the Central Ridge Library and the Coastal
2 Region Library, have agreed to make the document
3 available for public review.

4 You can also find electronic copies of the
5 draft SEIS, along with other information about the
6 Crystal River Unit 3 license renewal review online from
7 the website on the screen, which is also included on the
8 handout on the table by the door.

9 The NRC will address written comments on the
10 draft SEIS in the same way we address spoken comments
11 received today. To submit written comments you may send
12 them to the NRC by mail to the address listed here and
13 in your handout. You may also submit them
14 electronically via the Federal Rule Making website,
15 www.regulations.gov.

16 If you have written comments this evening
17 you may give them to any NRC staff member. Again, to
18 ensure consideration, comments must be received by
19 Monday, July 25th, 2011.

20 I would like to be available or just open
21 up the meeting for any clarification comments prior to
22 receiving prepared comments or other comments about the
23 review, if there are any comments about the slides or
24 something that I just presented.

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1 Are there any questions about something I
2 just presented that anybody has?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay. That concludes my
5 remarks. I'll turn the meeting back over to George for
6 receiving public comment. Thank you.

7 MR. SMITH: All right. Thank you, Dan.

8 If there are no clarifying questions, I have
9 a list of all the comment cards. I'll come around with
10 the -- actually we'll have them to come up to the
11 microphone, to the podium, and you will be able to make
12 your comments.

13 Again, we would ask that-- just to make sure
14 everyone remember the rules and to allow everyone to have
15 an opportunity to express their concerns and to make
16 their statements.

17 The first person we'll have is Rob Brinkman.

18 MR. BRINKMAN: Good evening. I'm glad to
19 see a reasonably full room here. I think a lot of people
20 are justifiably concerned about nuclear power.

21 Unfortunately our modern lifestyle is very
22 dependent on energy, specifically electricity, and there
23 are no really good options. I mean, the coal plants next
24 to the Unit 3 nuclear plant probably emit as much

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1 radiation into the atmosphere as does the nuclear plant
2 in normal operation, because coal has small amounts of
3 radioactive thorium and small amounts of radioactive
4 uranium. And when it burns some of this is released into
5 the atmosphere.

6 Indeed, the presumption has always been,
7 though, that these amounts were very low and that they
8 were, indeed, often generally below the background level
9 that everybody on the planet receives from outer space,
10 basically from the sun, et cetera, and also from uranium
11 in the earth and other nuclear elements.

12 But I think that presumption just might be
13 mistaken, and that we have made the mistake of assuming
14 that the effects of radiation are a straight line
15 response, dose to effect. And we base that dose to
16 effect relationship -- dose to impact, I should say,
17 health impact -- based on our studies of the people we
18 bombed in Japan at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Now that was
19 a very brief, very prompt high-level exposure to ionizing
20 radiation.

21 All of us on the planet are exposed to low
22 level doses of ionizing radiation. Indeed, if you fly
23 in an airplane you're exposed to a significantly higher
24 dose than you are on the ground. If you live in Denver,

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1 Colorado you're exposed to more of a dose.

2 But my concern -- and this is why I oppose
3 -- this is how my comments relate, just for the NRC's
4 benefit, to the draft Environmental Impact Statement and
5 the continued operation of this plant -- because I simply
6 do not feel that it is safe or advisable to continue
7 operating nuclear power plants.

8 Now, I have to admit I was kind of trying
9 to get more comfortable with nuclear power and I have been
10 doing a lot of research, and, they do take a lot of safety
11 precautions. But I think that the experiences in Japan
12 and Russia, Chernobyl, and even in this country, show
13 that we are humans, we are fallible. And the problem to
14 me with nuclear power is it, is the world's most expensive
15 and most hazardous way to boil water that humans have ever
16 developed.

17 And one book I read recently is this book
18 by Professor Jay M. Gould and Benjamin A. Goldman, Deadly
19 Deceit: Low-Level Radiation, High-Level Cover-Up. And
20 they basically allege that the dose response impact ratio
21 is not a straight line. That actually people are more
22 susceptible to very low doses of radiation per unit of
23 radiation received than they are to very high-level
24 brief. For instance, getting a chest x-ray probably has

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1 less impact to your health than a continuous low-level
2 exposure.

3 And there's another difference. When we
4 -- I'll use the example of Chernobyl. When Chernobyl
5 happened the entire world, including in this country,
6 received essentially radioactive fallout. It went up
7 fairly high into the atmosphere; it was distributed
8 throughout the world. And most people in this country
9 didn't worry about it because the levels were thought to
10 be very low and not much cause for concern.

11 But actually public health data published
12 by the United States and by various counties and states
13 shows increases in the months immediately following the
14 arrival of that radiation in the United States in May of
15 1986 of increased infant mortality, increased cancer
16 mortality, and numerous other health impacts.

17 Indeed, I've often wondered if the
18 continued decline -- what I see as decline in the health
19 of our population in this country, both as evidenced by
20 cancer statistics, and also frankly in the mental health
21 of our society. It seems to me we have more people who
22 are -- have more mental issues now.

23 I think our intelligence level is dropping
24 as a society. I think the SAT test scores bear that out.

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1 And I had previously made the assumption that a lot of
2 this could probably be attributed to the use of various
3 environmental chemicals that we have also become very
4 prevalent in our society, especially since World War II.
5 But I think we also have to examine the possibility that
6 it's also an impact from low-level radiation.

7 And as I started out saying -- and I'm not
8 going to go on all afternoon, I'm going to wrap up with
9 this -- that the radiation that the world received from
10 Chernobyl, is receiving in smaller amounts from Japan,
11 and we have received in various localities in this
12 country, from what we thought were relatively minor
13 nuclear accidents in this country, may be doing us more
14 harm.

15 Because this occurs in elements like Iodine
16 131, which blessedly has a very short half-life, but if
17 it does get absorbed in sufficient amounts into your
18 body, your thyroid cells and only your thyroid cells will
19 take it up and it can lead to thyroid cancer.

20 Indeed, my former wife recently
21 successfully combated thyroid cancer, which I believe
22 was probably caused by Chernobyl.

23 Another particularly pernicious
24 radioactive element that's discharged from fission

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1 products is Strontium 90. Your body views this as
2 calcium and takes it up into your bones and your teeth.
3 And from there it resides in your body generally for the
4 rest of your life and continues to irradiate you.

5 Besides the obvious effect that most of us
6 would fear of genetic damage causing cancer, this book
7 suggests the possibility that it also causes the
8 formation of increased amounts of free radicals,
9 particularly the oxygen free radical.

10 And alternative health people have been
11 very concerned about free radicals for several decades
12 now. And this source of radiation may be a significant
13 or more significant source of free radicals in our body,
14 which can cause numerous health effects from cancer to
15 autoimmune diseases, et cetera, from this radiation
16 which we take into our bodies and resides in our bones
17 and our teeth.

18 These are just a couple of examples, and I'm
19 by no means saying that I know this is true for a fact.
20 But the possibility is there. There is a lot of evidence
21 that strongly suggests it. And I would suggest to you
22 that it's time to get serious about the impacts of our
23 energy, whether it's from nuclear, or coal, or even
24 natural gas.

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1 Talk to some of the people up in the states
2 where they're doing hydraulic fracturing about the
3 impacts to their gas wells -- I mean, to their water wells
4 from natural gas wells.

5 And so as much as I want to hold the NRC and
6 the companies responsible, I'm also going to suggest that
7 we all have a responsibility. We're sitting here in a
8 room that's frankly pretty cold in a very hot climate.
9 And we're using a lot of energy to do that.

10 If you really are worried about the effects
11 of nuclear energy, or even coal, the impacts to our
12 environment, climate disruption, the climate -- the
13 coming climate crisis, I suggest to you we all need to
14 learn to use a lot less energy.

15 I personally manage to live on about 100
16 kilowatts a month. That's about one-tenth the average
17 Floridian. If every Floridian in this state reduced
18 their energy consumption by 90 percent we wouldn't need
19 -- Progress would not need its nuclear plant, it would
20 not need its coal plants. Indeed, they would be
21 struggling to stay out of bankruptcy.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much, Rob.

24 Yes. This is George Smith from NRC. We

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1 would like to check to see if there's anyone on the phone.

2 (No response.)

3 MR. SMITH: We'll check periodically.
4 Also, I've received about 10 comment cards. Initially
5 we only had four. I would like to say we would limit the
6 amount of time for your comments. Right now we will
7 allow you to provide your comments without putting a time
8 period on it, but if you could please be conscious of the
9 fact that we have a lot of stakeholders that would like
10 to provide their comments.

11 And also, if you could focus your comments
12 on the "SIZ" that would be great also.

13 The next person would be Norman Hopkins.

14 The SEIS, rather. I'm sorry.

15 MR. HOPKINS: Good afternoon, ladies and
16 gentleman. My name is Norman Hopkins and I'm Director
17 of the Amy Remley Foundation which is engaged on science
18 research of published peer-reviewed documents and
19 produces the results on a website for teaching of
20 environmental science. And we have researched
21 extensively into alternative sources of energy because
22 it has a major impact as far as the environment is
23 concerned.

24 I am going to submit a written report after

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1 I've had time to review the documentation which has been
2 made available here. And I will send that in in due
3 course before the 25th. In fact, I have papers already
4 prepared that I can submit.

5 My principal concern today is safety. And
6 as a member of the environment I hope I can air this
7 situation at this particular time.

8 My main source of concern is that after
9 Hurricane Josephine we assembled in the City Hall in
10 Crystal River where we were addressed by FEMA officials
11 and others. And we were informed that a hurricane of a
12 certain source would put 35 feet of water over U.S. 19
13 and we should be prepared to evacuate.

14 Now, we're not sure because we don't know
15 the structure of the buildings concerned apart from what
16 we've read about the delamination of the containment
17 building. But we're concerned about the security of the
18 storage of the used fuel rods, which are more than 6
19 million times more radioactive after they've been taken
20 out than when they first -- when they were first put in.

21 And the issue that we're particularly
22 concerned about is that I live seven miles from the plant.
23 I also have a son who lives in Japan and so when the
24 nuclear -- sorry -- when the Fukushima Daiichi plant was

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1 underway, we took particular attention to pay close
2 attention to it and we were in touch with my son in Japan
3 every day for a period of about four-or-five months
4 concerning that issue.

5 One of the things about the nuclear -- about
6 the Fukushima Daiichi plant was that water overran the
7 plant and collapsed the machinery that was keeping the
8 fuel rods quiet.

9 And what we're concerned about is that if
10 we get 35 feet of water over U.S. 19, from a hurricane
11 which comes ashore in this region, then what is going to
12 happen out at the nuclear plant?

13 And although we can see on a photograph,
14 which we've all been given today, the building containing
15 the used fuel rods, we have no idea how robust that is
16 or how it's been designed to withstand an inflow of water,
17 say, 30, 35 feet, with, say, 180 mile wind behind it from
18 a suitable storm.

19 And that is something that we would like to
20 learn to be satisfied that it has been designed not with
21 simply a hundred year storm, which means that there's a
22 1 percent chance in any year of it happening. We need
23 to consider that with rising sea levels, which are rising
24 quite markedly and increasing temperature of sea levels,

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1 and the weather is going to become more ferocious than
2 it has been over the last 20 or 30 years.

3 And so that is one question that I will
4 certainly put in the paper that I submit. But if anyone
5 here from either the NRC or from Progress Energy can put
6 my mind at rest on that issue of what happens.

7 Now, it's important to ask, not only because
8 we live seven miles from the plant, but the insurance
9 means that because of what happened under the Price
10 Anderson Act in the 50's, there is no provision in any
11 homeowner's policy for any nuclear accident loss. And
12 it's governed instead by an inter-corporation fund to
13 repair damage.

14 Now, we have been told that that is
15 insufficient for the total risk to which we're exposed.
16 And so that is an issue of whether the insurance is going
17 to be enough. Because if there's a leak coincident with
18 a storm event of that size, it means that the property
19 we own is going to be uninhabitable for a very long time.

20 There is another issue from the
21 environmental point of view, and that is critical and
22 becoming even more critical. And that is the security
23 of the fresh water supply in this part of Florida.

24 It's contained in an arrangement which goes

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1 by the name of the Ghyben-Herzberg lens, and it means that
2 the fresh water supply is exposed to up-coning from
3 underneath by salt water, which will ruin the fresh
4 water, and also from the intrusion underground of salt
5 water from the Gulf of Mexico.

6 And that causes us great concern because it
7 could approach a tipping point which will enable the salt
8 water from the various sources of either up-coning from
9 underneath or underground intrusion from the Gulf of
10 Mexico. And that tipping point could be reached and
11 destroy the entire supply of fresh water in this part of
12 Florida.

13 So, we're very concerned about that and we
14 want to know what particular environmental impacts
15 provisions are made to govern that.

16 So in summary, it's safety, as I've
17 explained. It's also the cost. We're extremely
18 unhappy with the recovery of cost from customers under
19 the Florida Statute 633.90 -- sorry -- 366.93, which we
20 do not support in any way. And, after all, as customers
21 we didn't break the containment building. Progress
22 Energy broke it. But we're being asked to pick up the
23 tab on large slices of that damage and its repair.

24 Now I know there's an insurance policy that

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1 the company can call upon, but it has a \$10 million
2 deductible. And they may follow activities to recover
3 from customers rather than incur that. And we should be
4 looking for information about that to put our minds at
5 more ease than they are at the moment.

6 That's all I have to say. If there are any
7 questions I will be prepared to answer them now.

8 MR. SMITH: Mr. Hopkins, I think you have
9 a particular question for the NRC that you would like them
10 to address here. Did I hear you correct? Or are you
11 going to submit that?

12 MR. HOPKINS: Well, I will submit it but if
13 anyone can answer -- sorry. And I will submit the
14 questions that I've outlined, together with other
15 material that we have prepared, and we would like to see
16 a reasonable answer to that.

17 And, I'm glad to see that Betty Berger is
18 here, and she's a great lady, and she lives very close
19 to the nuclear plant. And if you can meet her she has
20 some wonderful stories to tell you.

21 MR. SMITH: And Betty did submit a comment
22 card.

23 MR. HOPKINS: But the --

24 MR. SMITH: Then did you want to --

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1 MR. HOPKINS: And I've asked the questions
2 as I've been speaking but I will repeat them in the
3 document that I submit.

4 No questions?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. HOPKINS: Thank you so much.

7 MR. SMITH: Okay. I'll announce the next
8 person who will come up to the podium, but I also will
9 announce the next two persons that will be after the next
10 person.

11 The next person is Joyce -- and you told me
12 how to pronounce your name -- it's "Becatta," is it?

13 MS. BRANCATO: Brancato.

14 MR. SMITH: Brancato. Okay. Thank you.
15 Also the person after her would be Art Jones and Steve
16 Lamb. So those are the next three people that will come
17 to the podium.

18 MS. BRANCATO: Joyce Brancato, CEO, Seven
19 Rivers Regional Medical Center, and I also serve as the
20 immediate Past President of the Citrus County Chamber of
21 Commerce. And I wanted to thank you for sharing the
22 preliminary findings today. And I just want to share my
23 support that, indeed, the social economic impact would
24 be large.

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1 So, I'm here to just share full support for
2 Progress Energy to renew their license for another 20
3 years on behalf of our community. Thank you.

4 MR. SMITH: Thank you, ma'am.

5 Okay. Art Jones?

6 And, before you start, Art, the next person
7 will be Steve Lamb and then Dixie Hollins.

8 MR. JONES: Yeah, my name is Art Jones. I
9 live here in Crystal River, I live within 10 miles of the
10 plant, right on Kings Bay. And I was just taking a glance
11 at this Environmental Impact Statement here. And it's
12 interesting that in the beginning of it they have
13 alternatives considered but dismissed. So, here they
14 are looking at alternatives but they've already
15 dismissed these.

16 They're dismissing offsite coal and gas
17 fired capacity; coal integrated gasification and
18 combined cycle, they're dismissing new nuclear power.
19 They're dismissing energy conservation and energy
20 efficiency. They're dismissing wind power. They're
21 dismissing solar power, et cetera, they're dismissing
22 wave and ocean energy, geothermal power, municipal and
23 solid waste, fuel cells. They're also dismissing
24 delayed retirement of the plant.

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1 It's a little upsetting to see that in the
2 index. I thought they hadn't made their decision yet.
3 So, I did a little more homework here and you bounce over
4 here to solar power. They have barely a page on solar
5 power. And it's interesting, they talk about
6 photovoltaic cells and how it's not practical because
7 it's going to take up too many acres to put these cells
8 all over to create the same amount of electricity.

9 They need to think outside the box. They
10 have power corridors that run all over Citrus County, all
11 up and down Florida, these huge power corridors.
12 There's no reason that solar photovoltaic cells couldn't
13 go up in those power corridors and follow the
14 transmission lines.

15 We're claiming to be smart people, but are
16 we really smart people? We can't even figure out how to
17 make energy from the sun. I mean all of our energy
18 ultimately comes from the sun.

19 They're also dismissing concentrated solar
20 power. Now, concentrated solar power I think we all --
21 a good example of that is you take a magnifying glass and
22 you can start a fire with it. They're saying, "Oh, it's
23 not going to be reliable enough because sometimes, you
24 know, the sun goes down at night or there's cloudy days."

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1 Well, oh, gee, this nuclear power plant, it's been out
2 of commission for two years. How about that for
3 reliability?

4 So, I mean, we need to go back and visit
5 these. These people are not being really honest or
6 they're not doing their homework or they're just plain
7 being stupid. Solar power really is the answer. It is
8 a viable alternative. It can be done. Don't tell me it
9 cannot be done.

10 I have Christmas lights on my house that
11 have little photovoltaic cells that work just fine.
12 Now, you can't tell me that we can't, with all these great
13 minds here in Crystal River, figure out how to make solar
14 power work here in Florida, the Sunshine State.

15 You know, I really want Progress Energy to
16 be a viable company and be smart and intelligent. So,
17 let's be smart and intelligent and let's just not be
18 dismissing all these wonderful alternatives out there
19 for power.

20 Now, they were talking about their plant
21 there now, and they want another 20 years for it. Well,
22 if it's already delaminating after 40 years, maybe trying
23 to fix that up isn't the best idea in the world. There's
24 nothing more dangerous than nuclear power, as we saw in

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1 Japan, and who's to say what's going to happen in the
2 future. Why play with fire like that when you don't have
3 to?

4 You know, talk about environmental impact.
5 If we had an accident out there, what will happen to Kings
6 Bay? What will happen to all of the Manatees that we're
7 trying to save? I mean, talk about an environmental
8 impact. It would destroy this place. So, I mean, why
9 shoot ourselves in the foot and go for such a dangerous
10 way to make electricity when it's not necessary. Let's
11 smarten up. And let's not buy what they're putting here.
12 They can't just dismiss solar power, wind power, all
13 these other things.

14 And he's saying here, "Oh, well, gee, the
15 concentrated, it's going to use too much water." Well,
16 concentrated solar power can also use mineral oil, so you
17 heat up the mineral oil that gets hotter than water and
18 then you store it and you can use it for up to seven days.
19 You can use it at night so you've got continuous energy.

20 I mean they're using that out in Nevada now.
21 Why can't we use it here in Florida? Why do we always
22 have to figure out, oh, there must be a better way, you
23 know, to do something when it's already been proven there
24 is.

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1 So, I don't know, I don't think we should
2 relicense it. I don't think they're going to be forced
3 to look and find a really good alternative until they're
4 forced to do it. For some reason they've got this idea
5 that nuclear power is fun to use or something, I don't
6 know. But it's not very much fun when there's an
7 accident. So, I'm opposed to recertifying it. I think
8 we need to look at alternatives once again, so.

9 It's already been shut down for two years.
10 The lights are still on. Let's look at some solar power
11 and some other alternatives. Thank you.

12 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Art.

13 The next person will be Steve Lamb. And
14 then after Steve we'll have Dixie Hollins and John
15 Siefert, is it?

16 MR. LAMB: Short and sweet. I've been a
17 member of this community for 28 years. I have a business
18 here, big investment here. I'm not worried in the least
19 about the nuclear power plant. You all are controlling
20 over 130 of them in this county, I understand.
21 Congratulations. You do a great job, and I would urge
22 you to renew the license. Thank you

23 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Steve.

24 Next will be Dixie Hollins. After Dixie

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1 Hollins will be John Siefert and Andy Houston.

2 MR. HOLLINS: Ladies and gentlemen, my
3 name's Dixie Hollins and I'm proud to be here as a citizen
4 here of Florida. I'm a third generation land owner, and
5 my grandfather bought property here in 1942, and I
6 watched Progress Energy -- back then it was Florida Power
7 -- build Units 1, 2, Units 3, 4, and 5.

8 I'm also a member and past president of the
9 Chamber of Commerce, with over 1200 members and we
10 support the renewal of license of Crystal River Unit
11 Number 3. This is a job generation machine here in
12 Citrus County. It produces electricity the cheapest way
13 that man has found, and the most friendly environmental
14 that I have looked at.

15 I have also lived on that property for in
16 excess of 30 years. Sold that property with the force
17 of my father's passing with inheritance tax. And if my
18 father hadn't of passed and I hadn't paid inheritance tax
19 I'd still be living there today.

20 They are a great neighbor and they have gone
21 beyond the call of duty to make that a safe place. I've
22 been in the timber and cattle business for over 50, 60
23 years in this community, and they have cooled the water
24 to help our fishery industry out there in the Gulf of

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1 Mexico. They have also put fish hatcheries to put the
2 fish back in the Gulf of Mexico. And they have cooled
3 down and planted grasses and all kind of things out there
4 to help this environment.

5 They have supported this community from one
6 end of Citrus County to the other, and they pay over 30
7 percent of the taxes in this community. And this
8 community needs to get behind Progress Energy and support
9 the renewal of this license.

10 They have also, as I mentioned, are the job
11 engine here. And I just heard from this morning's
12 newspaper that they are going to reconstruct the nuclear
13 power plant and spend in excess of probably a billion
14 dollars and have over three years of job employment here
15 in Citrus County. And we embrace that as the Chamber of
16 Commerce.

17 I have had people come to me on my property
18 to look at biomass fuel, and it's very cost prohibitive.
19 I've had several people with solar, same problem, cost
20 prohibitive; big issue here with clouds and storms.
21 I've also had people with wind generation, and there's
22 just not enough sustainable winds here and it's very cost
23 prohibitive.

24 We are in an economy now crisis and we are

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1 looking at the most economical way to put the lights on
2 as we enjoy here in this building today.

3 I salute Progress Energy and their staff,
4 and I also thank the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for
5 coming here and holding these public hearings, and this
6 community, the Chamber of Commerce, and the EDC is behind
7 you all one hundred percent.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Dixie Hollins.

10 Mr. John Siefert now. Also after him will
11 be Mr. Andy Houston and Mr. Rob Brinkman.

12 MR. SIEFERT: Good afternoon, and thank you
13 to the NRC for holding public hearings and listening to
14 the commentary on both sides.

15 I am John Siefert. I am the Executive
16 Directive of the Economic Development Council of Citrus
17 County, and we support the NRC in granting the license
18 extension and -- for another 20 years, and we do that
19 understanding the environment and the impact that
20 Progress Energy has on this community and has had for many
21 many years, and will continue to have.

22 As Dixie pointed out, they are the largest
23 single employer with above-average wages, they are the
24 single largest taxpayer, they are the single largest

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1 contributor to local causes and efforts to make this
2 community successful, and will continue to do so.

3 They are building a \$70,000 training center
4 -- 70,000 square foot training center, and we held, along
5 with Progress Energy, local vendor proposals to ensure
6 that the local people in Citrus County are utilized
7 whenever appropriate to assist with Progress Energy and
8 their numerous projects.

9 We support them and salute them and thank
10 them for their presence here. Thank you

11 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Siefert.

12 I'd like to take a pause and see if -- do
13 we have anyone on the telephone at this time?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you. Next will
16 be Mr. Andy Houston and then Mr. Rob Brinkman.

17 MR. HOUSTON: Thank you. My name is Andy
18 Houston. I'm the City Manager of the city of Crystal
19 River. It's been mentioned and I would like to reinforce
20 Progress Energy's a great corporate citizen for Citrus
21 County, they are a mainstay of our economy, they have been
22 nothing but a good corporate citizen. I think that is
23 something that's very important in an area like this. I
24 hope it's duly taken into consideration.

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1 I don't claim to be an expert in nuclear
2 power or any of the other powers. I have had the
3 opportunity to tour the plant. I know they take security
4 and safety very seriously. I think their record is very
5 strong, and I think that warrants a favorable
6 consideration of their permit application. I would like
7 to also point out that Progress Energy, I think, is a good
8 steward of the resources. We are currently in an
9 agreement with them to take the treated effluent from our
10 wastewater plant, take that out to their power complex
11 for their use in lieu of groundwater withdrawal. It's
12 a fairly expensive project and they have been good
13 corporate citizens, stepping to the plate with a
14 financial contribution to make that possible.

15 So, I am here personally to support their
16 application. Thank you.

17 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Houston.

18 Now we have Mr. Rob Brinkman, Mr. Kevin
19 Cunningham, and then Ms. Theresa Waldron.

20 Mr. Kevin Cunningham.

21 MR. CUNNINGHAM: Good afternoon. Thank
22 you for having us come up and speak at this public
23 hearing.

24 My name's Kevin Cunningham. I'm president

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1 of ReMax Realty One, I'm a relator in Citrus County, I'm
2 also past president of the Chamber, past president of
3 Economic Development Council, and immediate past
4 president of Relators Association of Citrus County.

5 And I've lived here over 20 years under the
6 power of Unit 3 here in Citrus County. And one of the
7 things that people always ask me, as a realtor -- I mean
8 I pride myself on trying to keep the pulse of Citrus
9 County because home ownership is the American dream in
10 the United States. And so when people move to Citrus
11 County people ask me -- what is the first question they
12 ask? It is not anything about Progress Energy, it is not
13 about the nuclear plant. It's about where they -- the
14 location they want to live; if they want to live on the
15 water, golf course, what's the best neighborhoods to live
16 in.

17 And, comments about the nuclear power, the
18 safety, hardly ever come up. And I think that's a great
19 indicator of how Progress Energy and Florida Power have
20 succeeded in the safety standards in bringing that
21 feeling of safety to the community, where that question
22 never comes up.

23 And so I'm here to lend my support and ask
24 that you extend out the Progress Energy's for their Unit

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1 Number 3. Thank you.

2 MR. SMITH: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
3 Cunningham.

4 I'd like to check again to see if we have
5 anyone on the phone line?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. SMITH: Okay, thank you. Ms. Theresa
8 Waldron. Then Ms. Betty Berger and then Mr. Mark Klutho.

9 MS. WALDRON: Good afternoon, everyone. I
10 am Theresa Waldron. I have been a citizen here for 11
11 years. I'm a Cracker, born in St. Pete. My father moved
12 here in 1954. I'm the past printer, everything, from the
13 Sierra Club for like eight years. I am speaking for
14 Public Citizen. I am the president of Public Citizen
15 CEO. I have been the treasurer of Public Citizen CEO.
16 I have many accolades also.

17 I am speaking here because I am boiling. My
18 blood is just boiling over. This is total insanity.
19 Proof has been done that nuclear power is old -- is an
20 old, outdated method of making energy. We advance as a
21 people and a society and we learn new things. We cannot
22 continue to base our economy on old methods. The old
23 methods have killed people, they are not safe, there's
24 not proof that you're not going to kill me and my family

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1 from the storms, the nuclear waste, the mercury.

2 Public Citizen, my private rights, public
3 citizens rights are being denied. I am totally opposed
4 to nuclear. It is ignorant as a society to continue
5 investing our economics on this method. We, as the State
6 of Florida, have so many miles of coast land that we could
7 have tidal energy so easily; it's pure. The sun is pure.
8 Why do we want to continue to take the chance of killing
9 our children, our grandchildren, our society? There is
10 no going back.

11 I'm not a doomsday person. I love life, and
12 I want to continue to live. And I'm invested in energy,
13 I'm invested. I have stocks just like everyone else. I
14 have a living. But we have to start new paths.

15 There is the interstate system, there is the
16 -- we have so much open, unused land that Progress Energy
17 could put solar panels. They are just doing it because
18 they don't want to invest in new methods.

19 I'm sorry. But all of your people that have
20 been in nuclear for 40 and 50 years, it's time to retire.
21 The solar industry needs more rebates, not tax credits.
22 We need more industrial support for solar and thermal and
23 tidal energy. It's here waiting to absorb.

24 Society -- history is continuing to make the

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1 same mistakes. The cycle of life. When are we going to
2 learn? And the people have to stand up for your private
3 rights. I have the right to clear air, clean water, and
4 a happy life. That's all I ask. I don't ask for
5 support, I don't ask you to feed me.

6 God given rights to live. You are taking
7 that away from each and every one of us. I am totally
8 opposed to nuclear advancement. It's a waste of time.
9 Invest in the new ways. You can continue to make money.
10 Your stocks will go up, you will create more jobs than
11 you ever dreamed of. There are so many young people
12 willing to learn a new job. Solar is the way to go. You
13 have the land, you have the money. Make the time. Your
14 infrastructure sucks. You can redo it. Thank you

15 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Waldron.

16 Again, do we have anyone on the line?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. SMITH: Ms. Betty Berger. Also we'll
19 have Mr. Mark Klutho after her and Ms. Barbara Sieling
20 after Mr. Klutho.

21 MS. BERGER: Well, I'm glad to see the NRC
22 rolled out the big guns, because I want to tell you
23 something you maybe don't remember. When I retired from
24 Florida Power more than 25 years ago, they had to replace

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1 their containment building for one reason, they didn't
2 put ice in the water they mixed the concrete with. NRC
3 didn't catch that. And they replaced the whole
4 containment building.

5 So this is the third time now. I'm saying
6 I think that it's worn out. I don't want to license it
7 for another 20 years. And what I read in the paper --
8 and the paper doesn't always say the truth -- but it says
9 that they had to put three senators on the case because
10 you're lowering the standards. Every time they can't
11 meet something you lower the standards so they can meet
12 it.

13 Now, that isn't right. You have to think
14 about that, because if there is an accident we aren't
15 going to leave for a weekend or a month. If we escape,
16 and I think there's a 50 mile radius, you can never go
17 back because there are years and years of half life of
18 atomic -- of nuclear radiation.

19 I read also that three-quarters of all the
20 plants in Florida today are leaking tritium into the
21 groundwater which you're drinking, and it's cancer
22 causing. What SWFWMD says is all the aquifers south of
23 the Suwannee River is fed only by rainfall, and that's
24 why Florida Progress -- Progress Energy had to move

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1 inland because they're running out of fresh water.
2 Better think about all the water that they're going to
3 have to use for nuclear plants.

4 Another thing. They were paid \$83 million
5 for ten years of storing their own spent fuel rods.
6 They're owed 20 more years by our government because
7 there is no place to store them.

8 Another thing I don't like to see is -- I
9 live in Inglis. I don't like to see you going miles north
10 of Inglis and building nuclear plants away from the water
11 and having to pipe your cooling water south to the Crystal
12 River site, because you have to dig five feet deeper in
13 the barge canal and that is forbidden by the government
14 who gave that land to Florida, and they have stopped it
15 at 12 feet. But the State of Florida don't listen to
16 that. They give them permission to do it.

17 So, I just say, think about what you're
18 doing. Don't lower the standards. If the Crystal River
19 plant is not meeting the present standards, see that they
20 do if you're going to give them 20 more years. I would
21 like to see you go another route. But I still think that
22 NRC is a great organization. They just need to get their
23 act together. Thank you

24 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Berger.

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1 Mr. Mark Klutho. Also, Ms. Barbara Sieling
2 will be after Mr. Klutho, and Mr. Chuck Riggs.

3 MR. KLUTHO: Mark Klutho, Largo, Florida.
4 As I've said before I come to this from a unique
5 perspective. 1970 I was on a nuclear weapons assembly
6 team, arming 155 warheads for the U.S. Army.

7 Here I have the book, Non-nuclear Futures.
8 The Case For An Ethical Energy Strategy, copyright 1975.
9 And here is the book, National Geographic. Repowering
10 the Planet, Energy For Tomorrow, and in here is an
11 interview with Amory Lovins.

12 And the first question to him: "You
13 popularized the term `negawatt.'" What are negawatts and
14 why should we care about them? Negawatts are watts saved
15 by more efficient use. It's enormously cheaper,
16 probably eight times cheaper on average to save
17 electricity than to make it.

18 And here in this neat book that I got from
19 the NRC there is, on 8-32, 8-44, Energy Conservation,
20 Energy Efficiency. It says, "Though often used
21 interchangeably energy conservation and energy
22 efficiency are different concepts. Energy efficiency
23 typically means deriving a similar level of service by
24 using less energy."

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1 No. That is only what it means. Nothing
2 else. And yet, to read further you find a contradiction
3 here. It says, "energy conservation/efficiency was not
4 evaluated as an alternative to license renewal except as
5 a component of the combination alternative." Now, this
6 is pretty ridiculous. I mean you're contradicting
7 yourself a page over from where you just said they're two
8 different things.

9 I mean, come on. And to go on to wind power:
10 It's not suitable, not feasible; geothermal, it's not
11 evaluated as a reasonable alternative -- the renewal of
12 CR-3, municipal solid waste, it isn't feasible to do this
13 either. Biofuels, can't do that; fuel cells, no;
14 delayed retirement.

15 The thing is, you can't take one and say,
16 this is the answer, this is the answer. What you need
17 is a mix. It has to be a mix. And as Amory Lovins says,
18 the only reason why people are saying that nuclear power
19 is cheap is because there hasn't been a plant built in
20 many many years.

21 The article that was written in the New York
22 Times last year talked about the plant over in Norway,
23 which is the same design as what they want to build in
24 Levy County. And this one is, in the article last year,

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1 50 percent over cost, and at the time they wouldn't give
2 a due date when it would be finished. And according to
3 the industry we have all these problems fixed.

4 Well, getting back to Crystal River. Now,
5 in the article that was written today, the Tribune
6 finally states that it was because of cutting this big
7 hole to take out the heart, the reactor core, that you
8 had the problem of the delamination. And in the St. Pete
9 Times you have this diagram here showing the tendons and
10 of course showing the rebar.

11 Now, the question I have -- I don't want a
12 big, detailed answer because I already know the answer
13 to this. I do concrete work when I build my waterfalls.
14 When you embed steel in concrete you can't pull these
15 things out of the concrete. It doesn't happen.

16 Just what's the difference between a tendon
17 and a piece of rebar?

18 But once either of them are embedded in
19 concrete you go and cut this big hole in a 42-inch wall,
20 which is something that was written -- in fact when I was
21 at this last hearing that was held, the talk by the NRC
22 and the utility both describe this big hole that was cut
23 as maintenance.

24 When this plant was built there was never

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1 any intention that a hole would be cut in that wall; that
2 that reactor core would ever be removed until that plant
3 was retired.

4 What we have here is a grand experiment like
5 nothing that's ever happened before. This is called
6 "rolling the dice." And there's a law, it's called
7 Murphy's Law. You don't know what's coming.

8 Like this article here that was in the paper
9 just recently. In bold prints says, "Nuclear plant
10 rules ease. Probe finds feds repeatedly weakened safety
11 standards." And I mean there are some damning
12 statements here: The NRC weakened the safety margin for
13 acceptable radiation damage to reactor vessels for a
14 second time. The standard is based on a measurement
15 known as reactor vessels reference temperature, which
16 predicts when it will become dangerously brittle and
17 vulnerable to failure. Over the years many plants have
18 violated or come close to violating the standard. As a
19 result the minimum standard was relaxed first by raising
20 the reference temperature 50 percent, then 78 percent
21 above the original, even though a broken vessel could
22 spill its radioactive contents into the environment.
23 "We've seen this pattern," said a nuclear safety
24 scientist, Dana Power, who works for the Sandia National

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1 Laboratories, and also sits on the NRC Advisory
2 Committee. "They're trying to get more and more out of
3 these plants." Several nuclear engineers and former
4 regulators use nearly identical terminology to describe
5 how industry and government research has frequently
6 justified loosening safety standards to keep aging
7 reactors within operating rules. They call the approach
8 "sharpening the pencil" or "pencil engineering," the
9 fudging of calculations and assumptions to yield answers
10 that enable plants with deteriorating conditions to
11 remain in compliance.

12 Now, I'm just reading a portion here. But
13 we're talking about doing something that has never been
14 done before. And as I've said, and I've been before you
15 several times. You're talking about bombarding metal
16 and concrete with radiation, and this is not good. This
17 isn't something that's ever happened before. You don't
18 have any kind of reference standard by which to make any
19 judgment. You don't know what will happen down the road.

20 But, here is a perfect example of the
21 utility and the NRC giving the blessing saying: Go ahead,
22 cut through that 43-inch wall. And now it's, oh well,
23 September 2009. We'll have it back online in the spring.

24 Now it's 2014 before they're saying it will

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1 happen. Well, maybe, maybe not.

2 But supposedly this plant over there in
3 Norway, this is the new design where they said, we've
4 solved all the problems with nuclear power and we won't
5 have any cost overruns and we'll have it completed on
6 time. And neither of those were true. And I'm a child
7 of the '50s and I can remember when they said, it will
8 be too cheap to meter.

9 And, the Price Anderson Act is still on the
10 books. And I haven't heard anybody from the industry
11 say, let's get that Price Anderson Act off the books.
12 This power source is so safe and wonderful, we don't need
13 the Price Anderson Act any more. No, that hasn't
14 happened and I don't think it will.

15 But this is absurd. Absurd, this idea
16 about nuclear power to be the answer. And I just got the
17 word that this place is Green. I see incandescent bulbs.
18 Every time I've been at one of these hearings the lighting
19 isn't even right.

20 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much Mr. Klutho.

21 Okay. I'll allow you to come up, Ms.
22 Sieling.

23 We have someone on the line. I think I
24 heard someone come on the line?

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1 MS. SAPORITO: Yes. Yes, there's someone
2 on the line.

3 MR. SMITH: Okay. If you can hold on. We
4 have one more person to come up and we'll allow you to
5 ask your question.

6 And while we have that individual coming up,
7 who do we have on the line?

8 MR. SAPORITO: This is Thomas Saporito, I'm
9 the Senior Consulting Associate of Saproani and
10 Associates in Jupiter, Florida.

11 MR. SMITH: All right, thank you.

12 Okay, ma'am.

13 MS. SIELING: Hi there. My name's Barbara
14 Sieling. I'm actually from St. Petersburg but I now live
15 just over the Levy County line by Bronson, Florida, which
16 I think is in that 50 mile area.

17 My thing is, and just so you all know where
18 I'm coming from. My shirt, and I like to demonstrate my
19 shirts, I demonstrated the last one: "Only when the last
20 tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and
21 the last fish has been caught, we will realize that we
22 cannot eat money." Because that's all this is about, is
23 it's all about the money.

24 All the pros are the ones that have to do

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1 with the jobs, with the real estate, they're the ones that
2 are making the money. They say, profit has no conscious.
3 And that's basically where we are here.

4 The only thing that matters -- I don't
5 understand why you couldn't have jobs brought into this
6 County by -- instead of doing the nuclear plant, building
7 a solar energy plant for the manufacturer so we don't have
8 to go to China to get them, because they seem to be leading
9 us in that, like a lot of other things.

10 I don't understand why -- only positive
11 things people can say on the one said is, it's all about
12 the money, because that's what every person from Chamber
13 of Commerce, developers, realtors, everybody, it's all
14 about the money, or you already have the money, one or
15 the other. Or maybe you sold some of that land to Florida
16 Power so you got some more money.

17 There was an article in the St. Pete Times
18 earlier this month, it was in a Letter to the Editors,
19 that talked about the Duke -- John Blackburn, the former
20 Chancellor of Duke University published a study in 2010
21 showing that solar is cheaper than nuclear, and North
22 Carolina, where Progress Energy and Duke, which are in
23 the process of merging, are both headquartered. His
24 final statement was: Nuclear power is unsafe, unclean,

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1 uneconomical, and most important, unnecessary. Which
2 is why Germany and Switzerland is following Italy's lead
3 and doing away with it.

4 Energy efficiency, solar power, vanadium
5 redox batteries can exceed Florida's electricity demand
6 safely, cleanly, economically.

7 I haven't heard any real positive things
8 about nuclear energy except how much money. They're
9 getting their palms greased. Somebody's making money.
10 And most nuclear jobs, from what I understand, the good
11 jobs don't come from local labor, they come from
12 somewhere else.

13 Thank you very much.

14 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Sieling.

15 So the individual on the line, if you could
16 state your name and the organization again, and please
17 provide your question or your comments.

18 MR. SAPORITO: Can you hear me? I can
19 barely hear you. Can you repeat what you said?

20 MR. SMITH: Yes. My name is George Smith.
21 I'm the --

22 MR. SAPORITO: I can't hardly hear you.

23 MR. SMITH: Sir, we can hear you. My name
24 is George Smith. I'm the facilitator for the meeting.

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1 Can you hear me?

2 MR. SAPORITO: I can hear you now.

3 MR. SMITH: Oh, okay. Sorry about that.
4 We can hear you loud and clear. If you can just give us
5 your name, your organization, and you can provide your
6 comments at this time, sir.

7 MR. SAPORITO: All right, thank you. My
8 name is Thomas Saporito. I'm the Senior Consulting
9 Associate with Saprodani Associates and we're located in
10 Jupiter, Florida.

11 My comments today, which I'll get into here
12 in a second. But first I would like to follow the lead
13 of that previous speaker. You know, the utility here --
14 the operator of Crystal River nuclear power plant is
15 talking about expending approximately \$1.3 billion in
16 addition to the millions of dollars they've already spent
17 in patching this nuclear reactor's containment building.

18 Whoever the Chief Executive Officer is that
19 made that decision should be fired. That's throwing bad
20 money after good. If you've taken out \$1.3 billion and
21 provided that in the form of financing so that the
22 customers of Progress Energy could install solar systems
23 on their homes and businesses, the electric grid load
24 demand would be cut by more than 50 percent, just on that

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1 one initiative alone. And you wouldn't even need the
2 Crystal River nuclear power, you wouldn't need any new
3 nuclear plants, the AP-1000 which the utility intends to
4 build. In fact, you would most likely have to start
5 shutting down a few of the other plants that are online
6 right now supporting that grid.

7 However, this utility has made a business
8 decision to expend \$1.3 billion, and I hope they have
9 every intention for their stockholders to foot that bill
10 and not the customer.

11 The NRC should be gravely concerned about
12 this decision. And one of your prior speakers covered
13 some of the facts that came out in a recent AP
14 investigation on nuclear energy, which the Senate
15 Subcommittee now has asked the GAO to do a formal federal
16 investigation on the NRC.

17 With respect to the Crystal River plant,
18 however, that nuclear reactor is approximately 40 years
19 old. That reactor vessel, the metal that holds the
20 nuclear fuel is embrittled. The NRC knows it's
21 embrittled, science has documented that. Neutron
22 bombardment of the metal, which makes up the reactor
23 vessel, causes that vessel to become brittle. And, the
24 AP article also extensively investigated the issue of

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1 these reactors becoming brittle.

2 How can the NRC possibly even consider
3 extending and operating a license for this nuclear plant
4 with a reactor vessel known to be brittle? This is
5 nothing more than a nuclear experiment on the part of the
6 United States Government as represented here today by the
7 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, with public health and
8 safety hanging in the balance of this nuclear experiment.

9 No one knows when these reactors will become
10 too brittle to crack and spill. Because the NRC, over
11 the years, has continued to adjust their own federal
12 safety margins and their own federal safety standards to
13 allow these embrittled nuclear reactors to continue
14 operating.

15 The NRC -- let the record reflect I'm
16 requesting that the NRC require the licensee to do
17 destructive testing on the metal of the reactor vessel
18 to determine the exact state of embrittlement and whether
19 or not that embrittlement is acceptable by the NRC to
20 allow this nuclear reactor to operate 20 years beyond its
21 original design basis and its original license issued by
22 the NRC.

23 Should that reactor vessel crack or shatter
24 because of stresses due to operation and continued

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1 bombardment by neutron radiation during the fission
2 process, that would result in what's called a loss of
3 coolant accident, a LOCA, which is exactly what caused
4 the meltdown that is continuing at three, maybe four
5 reactors in Japan right at this time.

6 The water in the reactor core would
7 dissipate, because there would be no vessel to hold it.
8 It doesn't matter how many pumps you turn on, the water
9 would leak right out. The reactor core would melt down
10 and it would result in an explosion that would rip apart
11 that containment building and contaminate probably --
12 most likely the entire State of Florida and parts of
13 Georgia and Texas, and wherever prevailing winds would
14 carry the rest of the contamination.

15 The other issue the NRC should be gravely,
16 gravely concerned about is the licensee's evacuation
17 plan. The NRC is fully aware over the years that these
18 evacuation plans are nothing more than a joke. They're
19 some scribblings on paper that the NRC says, well, that's
20 good enough for us because, you know, we really don't have
21 any regulation with respect to your evacuation plan.
22 You just have to have a plan.

23 But the NRC doesn't require the licensee to
24 actually test the plan. We want to see you turn on your

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1 sirens, we want to see you alert people. We want to see
2 whether people stay in their houses and believe you that
3 they're safe, or if everybody decides to leave at one
4 time.

5 The NRC doesn't look at whether there are
6 choke points which would prevent evacuation of the
7 populus within a 10 mile or a 50-mile zone of that nuclear
8 plant, because in reality the NRC knows it can never
9 happen. You can never evacuate the people. It's not
10 going to happen.

11 And, as the AP article addressed, the
12 population in and around nuclear plants in the United
13 States, have grown more than tenfold. So when the
14 Crystal River plant was originally designed and licensed
15 by the NRC, well, the population has exploded ten times
16 at least. But the NRC hasn't updated their assessment
17 of the evacuation plan for the Crystal River nuclear
18 power plant. The NRC has never required the licensee to
19 test the plant.

20 So, how can the NRC sit here today and tell
21 the public they're considering extending the operating
22 license by 20 years for this nuclear plant? It doesn't
23 have an actual workable, functional, validated
24 evacuation plan to protect public health and safety.

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1 Next, spent nuclear fuel. Crystal River
2 nuclear power plant has a swimming pool on site where they
3 put spent nuclear fuel. Every 18 months they add more
4 spent nuclear fuel to this swimming pool. We saw the
5 swimming pools in Japan catch fire and spew high level
6 radioactive contamination all over the world. It
7 touched California, went all the way across the United
8 States and was picked up in New Jersey, and now even in
9 Florida; Iodine 131.

10 Yet, the spent fuel pools were only designed
11 to meet the capacity of a 40-year license. What's the
12 NRC going to do -- or what requirements are the NRC going
13 to place on the licensee for operating this plant for 20
14 more years? 20 more years of high level nuclear reactive
15 waste for which there's place to store it.

16 It was the NRC's responsibility 30 years
17 ago, and for 30 years the NRC failed to meet its own
18 responsibility to protect public health and safety in
19 designing, constructing and authorizing a high level
20 nuclear waste storage facility.

21 The containment building. The containment
22 building's been the subject of discussion between the
23 NRC, the licensee, and the public, and personally, me,
24 because I have an enforcement petition filed with the NRC

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1 specifically addressing the containment building and the
2 delamination event.

3 This delamination event is nothing new to
4 the NRC with respect to the Crystal River plant because
5 years ago the roof of the containment building had one
6 or more cracks in it, it was found to have delaminations
7 in it. And the NRC allowed the licensee to put band-aids
8 on the roof, patch it up, make the problem go away and
9 go ahead and operate that reactor at full power
10 nonetheless.

11 Now, because the plant has operated near the
12 very end of its safety design basis for which the NRC
13 initially issued a operating license, the steam
14 generators failed. Why did they fail? Well, they
15 plugged up. Contamination from the water going inside
16 the tubes, inside the steam generator. Why? Because
17 that's the end of their life. Forty years, they're
18 supposed to decommission these plants. The engineers
19 knew that, the NRC engineers knew it also. But what
20 happens? Well, the licensee says, we'll just cut a big
21 hole in the side of this containment building and we'll
22 put two more new generators in there so we can continue
23 to operate. The NRC says, go ahead.

24 They did that and they found out that the

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1 concrete that was originally poured to make up that
2 containment building was defective. That's right.
3 They found out that the aggregate used in the concrete,
4 which was originally poured to form the walls, the
5 45-inch thick walls of that containment building, was
6 defective. But they told the NRC, but really, you know,
7 what happened was we -- well, when we took the tension
8 off these tendons, these big metal cables that surround
9 the containment building horizontally and vertically,
10 well, we didn't do it right, and that caused extra stress
11 on this 42-inch concrete perimeter wall, and that's why
12 the delamination occurred.

13 Well, I'm here to tell you today, on this
14 public record, nothing could be further from the truth.
15 That concrete crack and the delamination occurred
16 because the concrete itself is defective. The aggregate
17 used in that concrete wasn't qualified. And, the Turkey
18 Point nuclear power plant is made of the same concrete.

19 The reactor -- excuse me -- the containment
20 walls of that containment building, they're 42-inches
21 thick, but the tendons of the outside are within 10 inches
22 of the perimeter of that wall, and the rebar inside that
23 is supposed to provide extra engineering strength to
24 ensure the integrity of that wall. That wall, as

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1 required by the NRC Federal Safety Standards on the
2 licensee's final safety analysis report, is required to
3 be a consistent wall. Meaning, it has to be one solid
4 structure. You cannot patch it. You cannot put any
5 kind of adhesive in there. It has to be a one continuous
6 pour of concrete.

7 So the only way to effectively and correctly
8 repair that concrete is, you have to build another wall.
9 Another wall outside that wall or remove that wall all
10 the way into the reactor vessel's liner, the three-eighths
11 stainless steel liner that surrounds the inside of that
12 containment. Well, you're not going to do that because
13 you might as well just go ahead and replace the whole
14 building.

15 So the only way to effectively repair that
16 delamination event is you're going to have to build
17 another containment building around that containment
18 building because that concrete's defective. I don't
19 care what the licensee tells you. No matter how many
20 engineers look at it, if you've got defective aggregate
21 in your concrete, your concrete's defective, no matter
22 how many -- which way you try to tighten those tendons,
23 which way you try to loosen them, you're always going to
24 have delaminations inside there. And some of them may

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1 be so minute you may not even be able to detect them until
2 it's too late, until that containment vessel -- excuse
3 me -- until that containment building is stressed because
4 the reactor tripped offline or because there was an
5 accident inside that containment building which stressed
6 that building to a point where it broke, and it wasn't
7 designed to break. But, it failed because it has
8 defective concrete in it.

9 So if all these issues; the embrittled
10 reactor vessel, the failed evacuation plan, the problem
11 with where do you put the spent nuclear fuel, and the
12 containment building, which has more delaminations now
13 than it did a year ago, how can the NRC sit here today
14 in a public forum and even consider granting an extension
15 for the Crystal River nuclear power plant to operate that
16 nuclear reactor for another 20 years?

17 My research to date, and which was also
18 documented by one or more articles in the media over the
19 course of the last two weeks, shows that every time a
20 licensee applied for an extension to operate their
21 nuclear reactor 20 years beyond its original safety
22 design basis, the NRC reached under their desk, grabbed
23 their rubber stamp and rubber stamped, approved, on the
24 license application. Every time.

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1 Now, let's think about that. There's 104
2 nuclear reactors and approximately 65 of them have
3 already been rubber stamped, approved. Do you mean to
4 tell me not one of these nuclear reactors failed any type
5 of licensing reapplication, no matter how different in
6 design the numerous ones are?

7 Because they are very different in design.
8 You have boiling water reactors, pressure water --
9 pressurized water reactors, some made by GE, some made
10 by Westinghouse, some made by Combustion Engineering.
11 And they date back to the early `70s, if not earlier, some
12 of them in the `60s, but they're all fine and dandy.
13 Rubber stamped, operate another 20 years. It just
14 doesn't -- there's just no common sense there that all
15 these nuclear reactors could be fine and safe to operate
16 for 20 more years.

17 So, in closing comments I have to, again,
18 stress that this is a public record, and the people to
19 hold accountable here today are the United States Nuclear
20 Regulatory representatives both here in the room with
21 you, as represented today, and in Washington, DC,
22 including Chairman Gregory Jaczko himself. Because
23 there's something very, very wrong going on in the United
24 States Government vis-a-vis the Nuclear Regulatory

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1 Commission, where these license extensions are being
2 granted just as if your child would ask you, "Is it all
3 right if I have a candy bar?" "Go right ahead, it's not
4 going to hurt you."

5 Thank you very much, NRC.

6 MR. SMITH: Thank you, sir, for your
7 comment. If we could also ask you, if you stay on the
8 line, please, sir, put your phone on mute because if not
9 we could hear you -- we'll be able to hear you. Thank
10 you, sir.

11 Next will be Chuck Riggs. Also after Chuck
12 Riggs will be Helen Spivey and then Clay Clements.

13 While Mr. Riggs is coming to the podium, is
14 there anyone else on the line?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

17 MR. RIGGS: My name is Chuck Riggs. I'm
18 from St. Petersburg, and I'm opposed to nuclear power
19 because it just doesn't make any sense. Money is what
20 makes decisions here in America and around the world.
21 And, there is no common sense. There is no logic. There
22 is no reasoning. And if we had all those things, nuclear
23 power wouldn't even be an issue.

24 And I don't know if being up here will do

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1 any good, but we want to stop this from happening. Thank
2 you.

3 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Riggs.

4 Mrs. Helen Spivey and then Mr. Clay
5 Clements.

6 MS. SPIVEY: Good afternoon. I'm speaking
7 today as a private citizen, but in my background I'm a
8 former member of the Florida House of Representatives and
9 a member of the Crystal River City Council.

10 I just really don't understand why you would
11 grant a 20-year permit to a nuclear plant that is not
12 operational, seems to be disintegrating, and still has
13 onsite all the nuclear waste generated since Day One of
14 its operation.

15 I have often told the incident when I was
16 on Crystal River City Council. I was interviewed -- not
17 interviewed -- I met with a member of the NRC and he gave
18 me a bunch of information and asked if I had any questions
19 and I said, yes. Do you ever feel like the gentleman
20 inventor who was attempting to invent a universal solvent
21 until it finally dawned on him he had nothing to put it
22 in? It's kind of like the spent fuel we're generating
23 here. I feel that what is happening with the attempt to
24 store spent fuel somewhere, and the safety of the spent

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1 fuel chamber at Crystal River is adjacent to the damaged
2 containment building.

3 Citrus County government removed the five
4 mile safety limit for evacuation around this energy
5 complex saying it was useless, and besides, a developer
6 wanted to build with great density within the five mile
7 limit. So, the County just took it away.

8 Citizen safety appears to be a fickle
9 component with this plant in this County. And I would
10 strongly suggest that it not be given 20 years more when
11 it is not in a safe functional state, nor is its spent
12 fuel safe, and they have no place to put it and nowhere
13 to put it.

14 Nuclear technology is constantly
15 frightening citizens with what will never happen, but
16 does happen. Several years ago there was a meeting here
17 by Progress Energy, and they gave out a brochure. It
18 wasn't this one but it was about Progress Energy. And
19 the last chapter in there said that Florida does not have
20 enough sunshine to have solar power. It just really
21 didn't make sense.

22 Do not issue this permit, please. I have
23 grandchildren and friends who live here. And last but
24 not least, myself. Thank you

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1 MR. SMITH: Thank you, ma'am.

2 Mr. Clay Clements.

3 Is there anyone else on the line that we have
4 not heard from?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

7 MR. CLEMENTS: My name's Clay Clements.
8 I'm with Somex.

9 What we need in this County is responsible,
10 safe, employers. Progress Energy share in that. We
11 fully support the extension. They create jobs and
12 they're a good business partner. So, we really want to
13 support the extension. Thanks.

14 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Clements.

15 I'm showing this to be my last comment card.
16 Is there anyone that I mixed up the cards and did not get
17 to?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. SMITH: Or are there any other comments
20 you would like to make at this time?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. SMITH: On behalf of the NRC we would
23 like to thank you for your comments and thank you for
24 showing up today at the public meeting.

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1 I just want to emphasize the fact that the
2 public comments today will be utilized for the results
3 of the NRC Environmental Review, and this will be part
4 of the final review.

5 Also, you have the e-mail site and the
6 Federal Rulemaking website.

7 Sir, on the line, if you don't have that
8 information if you'll hold on we'll give you that
9 information once everyone has left. I don't want to hold
10 them up to provide you that information.

11 Okay. Good. We have your e-mail address
12 and we'll provide you that information.

13 Again, thank you very much. We have a
14 second meeting at 6:00, the open house will start at 5:00.
15 Thank you.

16 Again, that meeting is at 7:00, open house
17 is at 6:00, meeting's at 7:00.

18 (Off the record, 3:48 p.m.)

19 (Back on the record for public comment, 4:37
20 p.m.)

21 MR. MOORE: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Brian Moore. I live in Spring Hill, Hernando County,
23 approximately 25 miles south of the Crystal River nuclear
24 plant project. And I'm here today, on the 28th of June

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1 of 2011, to voice my opposition to the NRC's conclusion
2 that the subject system's operability is reasonable and
3 insured.

4 NRC based its conclusions on licensing --
5 a letter report request from October of 2008 through
6 January of 2010, and possibly beyond. However, in light
7 of the recent developments during the previous three
8 months, it should be noted that the NRC, hopefully, will
9 update its various requirements for subject systems
10 current licensing design basis and regulatory
11 requirements and controls. One has the impression that
12 they're basing their decision based on data submitted
13 over the last two years and prior to the recent
14 developments that have occurred worldwide in the nuclear
15 industry.

16 We have seen and read about Japan's
17 experience and its problems with its nuclear reactors
18 because of the earthquake and subsequent floodings. We
19 also have recently read of the two Nebraska nuclear plant
20 floodings and the Yankee plant in Vermont where the
21 people have voted to discontinue its operation.

22 Just recently, in the last Sunday's New York
23 Times, there was a major article on Japan's situation,
24 and they addressed the issue of the safety myth. And the

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1 idea was that the government and the utility and power
2 companies kept promoting with the people the idea that
3 nuclear power is always safe, and they did it to the point
4 where it's almost a myth. And it caused a situation
5 where the population hardly questioned the danger, or in
6 the reverse, there were protestors. However, the press
7 and the media never gave them proper recognition as to
8 their concerns. And the subsequent result, of course,
9 has been the failure and contamination of a part of the
10 country and possibly a part of the globe.

11 Recently we're also read of Germany
12 deciding to close down its nuclear system, France
13 questioning its own nuclear power situation, and Japan
14 is now moving away from the use of nuclear power. In
15 fact, even though there's been no decommissioning of
16 plants in the United States, we have read of them
17 occurring in Germany, Italy, and now Japan.

18 Another issue I'd like to raise is the five
19 year hiatus of the plant operating. Apparently it went
20 down in 2009 due to a crack and it will not be up and
21 operating until 2014. And this would be a five year time
22 frame where the populous is being charged monies to pay
23 down without any power benefits. So now that a second
24 crack has occurred most recently, I would hope that the

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1 Nuclear Regulatory Commission would take that into
2 consideration.

3 My impression from their letter, of the 24th
4 of June of 2011, is that they have concluded that the
5 licensee here in Crystal River has adequately
6 demonstrated its ability to take appropriate action when
7 conditions adversely arise. However, they demonstrated
8 that fact in 2008, 2009 and 2010. And this was prior to
9 all of the subsequent failures that have occurred in
10 Japan and here in the United States, and even with regard
11 to Crystal River itself.

12 Another factor that I am concerned about is
13 that Progress Energy, apparently who are running this
14 nuclear plant, indicate that they have insurance
15 coverage for their repairs. However, one has to raise
16 the question about insurance for the nuclear plants.

17 It's my understanding that even the Lloyds
18 of London, and no insurance companies, will insure
19 nuclear plants because of the incredible costs involved
20 and the level of danger. So maybe the insurance coverage
21 that they speak to is just a repair factor.

22 Now, personally I have been a candidate for
23 Congress in 2002 and 2004, and I was a candidate for the
24 U.S. Senate against Senator Nelson in the Democratic

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1 Primary in 2006, and I was a Presidential candidate in
2 the Socialist Party in 2008, and a Gubernatorial
3 candidate in the Democratic Party in 2010.

4 All of these times I have taken the position
5 of objecting to the use of nuclear power. And I not only
6 speak as an individual, but I'm chairman of a coalition
7 of people that represent a variety of political parties;
8 democrats, republicans and independents, who have
9 similar strong beliefs. And even though I speak as an
10 individual at this meeting, I know I reflect a serious
11 concern on the part of most people of the coalition.

12 And, finally, I want to acknowledge that our
13 Congressman, Richard Nugent, who was recently elected to
14 be Congressman for this District, which includes Crystal
15 River and Levy County, just this week came out in favor
16 of withdrawing from the wars in the Middle East. And he
17 represents a conservative republican philosophy, and we
18 not only oppose the wars over the last ten years, but we
19 have opposed nuclear power. And I think it's an
20 indication that the population is certainly open and
21 willing to change with regard -- if they can change on
22 major wars, then they can change on the use of nuclear
23 power, or the elimination of it and the closing down of
24 it.

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1 So, I am making this statement because I
2 want to go on record, but I also want you, the
3 Commissioners and the politicians, to understand the
4 concerns of some consumers, and that you also will be held
5 accountable in the subsequent future regarding the use
6 or misuse or abuse of this power. And we hope that you
7 will reconsider your position and do not extend the lease
8 until 2016, and also to decommission this plant and cease
9 construction of two new major plants in the Levy County
10 area.

11 I have brought with me several signs that
12 I used over the past years. Here's a sign that says, "No
13 nuclear projects," and it says, "Socialist `08." It had
14 my name there which I blacked out because I use it in
15 subsequent years. But it was opposition to the nuclear
16 projects in our country.

17 This is a recent sign banning the nuclear
18 power that our coalition is using and has used over the
19 past year-and-a-half. We question whether we are safe
20 with nuclear power or not.

21 And this just goes to show the history of
22 our concern in the community. In 2002 we have this sign.
23 And we have been prophetic and vindicated in our
24 positions regarding wars, and we think the same will be

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1 true of nuclear power, not only in Crystal River but in
2 the State of Florida and in the entire United States.
3 So, I thank you very much.

4 I forgot to mention that I have a letter here
5 from Congressman Nugent that was sent to my colleague,
6 Jerry Cox, on the 20th of April. And, the Congressman
7 mentions that the Crystal River nuclear plant has steel
8 lined pools which are approximately 43 feet deep from top
9 to bottom. And since 1977, when the nuclear plant went
10 online, the station has stored its fuel onsite. And as
11 of March 2011, 1,319 assemblies reside in this spent fuel
12 pool and reactor vessel.

13 Each fuel assembly is 14-feet long and
14 9-inches wide. And the assemblies are stored in the
15 pools and are covered by 20 to 30 feet of water, treated
16 with boron, which serves as a neutron absorber. Now, we
17 realize and recognize that Crystal River is very close
18 to the Gulf of Mexico, the major water body, and so was
19 Japan and also the two nuclear sites that are of concern
20 in Nebraska. So this raises another issue of, how safe
21 is the plant in proximity if a hurricane or some major
22 catastrophic thing should occur. Thank you.

23 (Afternoon session concluded, 4:51 p.m.)

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