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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS DRAFT SUPPLEMENT 47
TO THE GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR LICENSE RENEWAL OF NUCLEAR PLANTS FOR
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

+ + + + +

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

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RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

+ + + + +

The Public Meeting convened at the Red
Lion Hotel, 802 George Washington Way, Richland,
Washington, at 2:00 p.m., Geraldine Fehst,
Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

GERALDINE FEHST, Facilitator

DANIEL DOYLE, Environmental Project Manager

LARA USELDING, Public Affairs, Region IV

MICHAEL WENTZEL, NRR

DAVID WRONA, Branch Chief

MAHDI HAYES, Resident Inspector

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

(2:05 p.m.)

MS. FEHST: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for coming. I think it's -- we'll get started just a few minutes late here.

My name is Gerri Fehst, and I'm a Communication Specialist with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I'll be moderating this afternoon's meeting.

And you'll hear the Nuclear Regulatory Commission called NRC. You're probably very familiar with that acronym but for those who aren't, that's what we usually go by.

I'm going to do my best to keep today's meeting worthwhile for everyone, and I hope you'll help me out with that. There are two purposes for today's meeting. The first is to present the results of the NRC's Environmental Review for the Columbia Generating Station's License Renewal Application, as published in the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement issued on August 23rd, 2011.

The second purpose is to provide members of the public with an opportunity to provide comments regarding environmental issues that the NRC should consider during its review.

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1 I'd like to stress that this is an NRC
2 public meeting, and that NRC is not a part of the
3 United States Department of Energy, or DOE, as it's
4 usually called.

5 The mission of the NRC is to regulate the
6 nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and
7 special nuclear materials to ensure the adequate
8 protection of public health and safety, to promote the
9 common defense and security, and to protect the
10 environment.

11 Essentially, that means that the NRC's
12 regulatory mission covers three main areas, commercial
13 reactors for generating electric power and research
14 and test reactors used for research, testing, and
15 training. Uses of nuclear materials in medical,
16 industrial, and academic settings and facilities that
17 produce nuclear fuel. And, finally, transportation,
18 storage and disposal of nuclear materials and waste,
19 and decommissioning of nuclear facilities from
20 service.

21 The Department of Energy's overarching
22 mission is to advance the national economic and energy
23 security of the United States, to promote scientific
24 and technological innovation in support of that
25 mission, and to ensure the environmental cleanup of

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1 the national nuclear weapons complex.

2 Today's meeting is just one way that you
3 can participate in the process. And you'll be hearing
4 more about that as the events -- as we go forward in
5 the meeting. So, first we'll hear a presentation from
6 the NRC Staff member, the Project Manager, on the
7 results of the Environmental Review of Columbia
8 Generating Station's License Renewal Application.

9 The presentation will be short to allow as
10 much time as possible for the second part of the
11 meeting, which is to listen to you and any comments
12 that you would like us to take back, and that we will
13 have on the record. We do have a court reporter here,
14 so there will be transcript of today's proceeding.

15 There were yellow and blue cards on the
16 table as you signed in, and the yellow cards were for
17 those who plan to make comments at today's meeting,
18 and the blue cards were just for those who were here
19 but wanted to be sure to be on our mailing list for
20 the follow-up final publication.

21 We have several yellow cards from those of
22 you who are here, and we also have cards from people
23 who are on the line. We do have people calling in
24 today, so we'll be taking comments from both you, the
25 audience members, and the callers.

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1 If you haven't filled out a card yet and
2 you decide you want to speak once the meeting gets
3 going, that's okay. Just get my attention and --
4 well, actually, let me direct you to the back of the
5 table where the sign-in is, and just head over there
6 for a yellow card and fill it out, and I'll be aware
7 of that, and maybe Mike will come up and bring me the
8 yellow cards, if there are any more.

9 We ask that you fill out the card not only
10 so that we have a good list of people who spoke at the
11 meeting, but we also would like it so we can get your
12 name correct on the transcript. And let me just take
13 a minute here to ask if anyone has not yet signed in,
14 please take the time to do so now before you forget.
15 We just have a running list of people who are
16 attending, and the sign-in table is just as you walk
17 in the door here.

18 We're going to do our best -- well, let me
19 explain why it's important for us to have your sign-in
20 and your names on the cards. As I mentioned, we are
21 transcribing the meeting, and we do want to have as
22 clean a record as possible, and we want to fully
23 capture your comments, so we need your name, clear
24 spelling of your last name, if we have it, or callers
25 who are making comments, we'll ask them to remember to

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1 spell their last name certainly before making their
2 comments.

3 We also ask that you keep any side
4 conversations to a minimum so that the reporter can
5 hear everything clearly, and that we just have one
6 person speaking at a time so that everyone can hear
7 what is going on, and we can continue moving the
8 meeting forward.

9 As I said, when you get up please -- for
10 the first time, please identify yourself by name. And
11 if you're representing any organization on behalf --
12 making a comment on behalf of any organization,
13 please let us know and that will also go into the
14 transcript.

15 And it would also help very much to have a
16 clean transcript if you have any electronic devices,
17 if you could turn them off now, or at least put them
18 on vibrate so that that doesn't interfere with the
19 meeting, as well.

20 We're going to do our best to answer -- to
21 address any questions that you might have about the
22 results of the NRC's Environmental Review for
23 Columbia, and possibly any other NRC regulatory topics
24 that might come up, but we do ask that you please keep
25 in mind that we have only a few people from the NRC

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1 here in this room, and we may not have the best person
2 here to answer your question. So, we can always take
3 your question back and get back to you, but just a
4 head's up that we may not have the absolute right
5 person to answer your individual question.

6 Other items. I'm hoping that when you
7 signed in you picked up an NRC public feedback form.
8 It's really important to us that we take back any
9 comments, any insights, any criticisms, any positives
10 that you have to communicate to us. We try to give
11 the best possible meeting that we can, but we also
12 need your feedback to enable us to do that. So, we
13 would really appreciate getting your opinion on that
14 form. And, as I say, if you haven't picked one up
15 already, they're on the same table where the yellow
16 and blue cards are, where the sign-in was.

17 So, just a couple of housekeeping items
18 before we get going. Restrooms for those who want to
19 take a break are directly out the door you came in.
20 Take a right, go all the way down the hall to the
21 first place where you can turn left, and restrooms are
22 on the right-hand side. Emergency exits, I doubt that
23 we'll need it, but in case we do, the exits are
24 certainly where you came in. And these two exit doors
25 will lead to the lobby, as well. So, three doors in

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1 this room that lead directly to the lobby. This is
2 not an exit door. It goes to the kitchen. You don't
3 want to go there.

4 We already have some callers who have
5 identified themselves by name in advance of the
6 meeting, so I think the process that we'll follow here
7 is to take a few comments from the -- at the comment
8 period time, we'll take a few comments from the
9 audience, and then we'll turn to the phones. But for
10 those people who are calling in, I will identify them
11 by the names that we have, and I would also -- because
12 the goal is to, again, have one person speaking at a
13 time, and we want to avoid any situation where callers
14 are actually talking over each other. So, after we go
15 over the names of the callers whose names we already
16 have, I will ask if there are any other callers whose
17 names I did not call who like to make a comment. And
18 as I say, I know we have the names of some callers. I
19 understand some may be making comments and some may
20 just be listening in.

21 I've already, I think, emphasized enough
22 that we're creating a transcript for the meeting, but
23 bear with me. I'll repeat one more time for the sake
24 of the transcript, please identify yourself, both
25 callers and audience members by name, by organization,

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1 and callers, please spell your name for the record so
2 we can keep it clear.

3 Now, for those on the phone, again,
4 anything -- if the callers would remember to as a
5 courtesy to all mute their phone by pressing *6. That
6 way while the meeting is going on, we will not be
7 distracted by any noise that's going on or
8 distractions that are going on in the room you happen
9 to be listening to your call in.

10 Also, with callers, if you could be sure
11 to -- when you take a turn to make a comment if you
12 could be aware that we will need your mailing address
13 if you want to receive a final Supplemental
14 Environmental Impact Statement when they are ready to
15 go. So, when you do -- if you do want to receive
16 that, please identify a mailing address. Well,
17 actually, the best thing would be for you to mail your
18 address to Daniel Doyle who is the Project Manager for
19 Columbia, who will be making the remarks immediately
20 following my opening remarks here. And he can be
21 reached I'll say it now daniel.doyle@nrc.gov. And if
22 you didn't catch that, his name and contact
23 information is on the Federal Register Notice, and
24 it's up on the web.

25 Finally, as a courtesy to all we do ask

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1 that you confine your comments to five minutes.
2 Again, as an opportunity to -- we see this is as an
3 opportunity for you to be heard, but we do want those
4 who need to leave on time be able to leave on time
5 without missing any part of the meeting, anything that
6 goes on.

7 So, I want to take this opportunity to
8 introduce some of the other NRC people who are here
9 today. And I'll begin with David Wrona, the Branch
10 Chief for the Division of License Renewal for the NRC;
11 Daniel Doyle. He's the Environmental Project Manager
12 for Columbia. He's also with the Division of License
13 Renewal. Michael Wentzel, who you met at the table.
14 He's another Environmental Project Manager, again with
15 the Division of License Renewal. Lara Uselding, there
16 she is at the back of the room. She is the Senior
17 Public Affairs Officer for our Regional Office, Region
18 IV in Texas. Do we have a Resident Inspector here
19 today? Oh, okay. And that is -- you're Jeremy Groom?

20 MR. HAYES: Mahdi Hayes.

21 MS. FEHST: Oh, you're Mahdi Hayes. Okay,
22 good. Hello, Mahdi, welcome. And if you'd like, you
23 can stay back there, or join the rest of the NRC up
24 here.

25 With that, I'll hand the microphone over

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1 to Daniel Doyle, who will make a presentation on the
2 results of the Environmental Review.

3 And we'll take a bit of time to explain
4 how to submit comments. I'll be back when we move to
5 the second part of the meeting, so if you have any
6 questions about the material that is covered today,
7 I'm going to ask that you hold your questions until
8 Daniel finishes his remarks, and then if you have
9 questions specifically on the presentation, I'll go
10 around the room with a handheld mic and take each of
11 your comments or questions, clarifying questions at
12 that point on -- in the order that I see the
13 questions. And then we'll move to the public comment
14 period. Thank you.

15 MR. DOYLE: Thank you, Gerri. My name is
16 Daniel Doyle, and before getting into my presentation,
17 I'm actually going to do things a little bit out of
18 order to accommodate a public official who has taken
19 some time to provide some comments here today,
20 Representative Brad Klippert is here. He has another
21 engagement that he needs to make it to, so what I'm
22 going to do actually before starting my presentation
23 is allow Representative Klippert to come up to the
24 podium and provide his comments. Mr. Klippert.

25 MS. FEHST: And I also just wanted to give

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1 a hello and welcome to Barbara Lisk, who is from U.S.
2 Congressman Hastings's office. Thank you. And also
3 David Reeploeg from U.S. Senator Cantwell's office.
4 Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE KLIPPERT: Well, if I
6 didn't feel honored before, I do feel honored now.
7 Thank you very much. I greatly appreciate your
8 accommodating me in this way.

9 I am Representative Brad Klippert of the
10 Washington State House of Representatives, and
11 Klippert is spelled K-L-I-P-P-E-R-T. And I just
12 wanted to say thank you very much for this time to
13 address you, the NRC.

14 I actually worked on the Columbia
15 Generating Station when it was constructed, and I
16 helped pay my way to go to college by the construction
17 of that site, so I can guarantee the soundness of that
18 structure simply because I worked there. So, it's got
19 to be good if I had a hand in the construction there.

20 I also wanted to say that this is a very
21 responsible steward in terms of our environment, this
22 generating station. Zero, I say again, zero impact on
23 our environment in terms of greenhouse gases. Is that
24 great, all that power being produced by that one site
25 without any greenhouses gases being emitted into the

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1 air. And it has secure onsite storage of used fuels,
2 and that's something that's really important today.
3 And we're talking about what are we going to do with
4 all the used fuels from the past, where are we going
5 to put them; Yucca Mountain and all that, and here's a
6 place that has its own onsite storage for used fuels.

7 It's safe, it's reliable. I love going
8 there and watching the sign how many days have gone
9 past since an injury took place that resulted in a
10 time loss accident, took place, and it goes on, and
11 on, and on because they are so safety conscious there.

12 Redundant safety systems to ensure safety
13 standards exceed the requirements. I flew helicopters
14 for the Army for 20 years, and we had two generators
15 on that aircraft, two engines on that aircraft, five
16 transmissions on that aircraft to make sure that that
17 aircraft would stay in the air and keep flying.
18 Redundant systems to ensure the safety and the
19 production of power in that helicopter, and the same
20 is true of Columbia Generating Station, redundant
21 systems to insure the safety of the power that's being
22 generated there.

23 As an economic driver to this area, over
24 1,100 people are employed at Columbia Generating
25 Station, and Energy Northwest creates more than \$440

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1 million into our economic activity in this area.

2 Sustained strong economic recovery will
3 require continued support of these reliable, cost-
4 effective baseload resources.

5 I just took a tour as a member of the
6 Transportation Committee this last week, and it's so
7 important these days in our economy in Washington
8 State and the United States as a whole to ensure that
9 our exports -- we do everything we can to keep our
10 exports keep up with or exceed our imports. And
11 because of the low-cost power that we produce here in
12 Washington State, many corporations, many producers
13 want to come here and produce their products and ship
14 them all around the world because of the low-cost
15 power that's produced right here by the Columbia
16 Generating Station.

17 So, I just would like to encourage you
18 with all of my heart, as someone who believes in safe,
19 reliable nuclear energy, that it would be a very wise
20 thing on your part to extend the license for the
21 Columbia Generating Station. Now, I've been told to
22 ask for the next 20 years, but I've watched the Disney
23 cartoons and I say let's extend that license to
24 infinity and beyond. So, thank you, ladies and
25 gentlemen, and have a great day.

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1 MR. DOYLE: Thank you. I'm now going to go
2 into my presentation, and then we will have a question
3 and answer period, and then we'll open it up to other
4 public comments.

5 Again, my name is Daniel Doyle. I'm the
6 Project Manager at the NRC responsible for
7 coordinating all environmental-related activities for
8 the Columbia Generating Station License Renewal
9 Application.

10 On August 23rd, the NRC published its Draft
11 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, or Draft
12 SEIS, related to the Columbia Generating Station
13 License Renewal Application. The Draft SEIS documents
14 the NRC's preliminary review of the environmental
15 impacts associated with renewing the Columbia
16 Generating Station operating license for an additional
17 20 years. And today I'm going to present to you those
18 results.

19 I hope that the information provided will
20 help you understand what we've done so far, and the
21 role you can play in helping us make sure that the
22 final Environmental Impact Statement is accurate and
23 complete.

24 Just to point out one other thing for the
25 callers, is that we do have the bridge line in a

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1 listen mode, so it's not necessary to mute the lines,
2 but if you've already done that, I think that that's
3 fine. But we have a moderator on the line, and when
4 we get to the portion where we'll be asking for either
5 questions or comments from the callers, we'll be
6 switching from a listen-only mode to a participation
7 mode.

8 Here's the agenda for today's meeting.
9 I'm sorry, one other thing I wanted to point out for
10 the callers, again, is that if you're near a computer
11 and you're not -- if you don't have the slides in
12 front of you, if are near a computer you can go to the
13 website, the NRC's website. If you go to Google and
14 search for Columbia Generating Station License Renewal
15 Application, click on that public website, these
16 slides that I'm presenting here in the room today are
17 available on the internet.

18 So, today I will discuss the NRC's
19 regulatory role, the preliminary findings of our
20 environmental review, including the power generation
21 alternatives that were considered, and I'll present
22 the current schedule for the remainder of the
23 environmental review, and how you can submit comments
24 after this meeting.

25 After that, I'll take some time to briefly

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1 discuss a topic that is not related to the
2 environmental review, but that is of interest to those
3 in attendance, the NRC's response to Fukushima. At
4 the end of the presentation, there will be time for
5 questions and answers on the environmental review
6 process, and most importantly, time for you to present
7 your comments on the Draft SEIS.

8 The NRC was established to regulate
9 civilian uses of nuclear materials, including
10 facilities that produce electric power. The NRC
11 conducts license renewal reviews for plants whose
12 owners wish to operate them beyond their initial
13 license period. NRC license renewal reviews address
14 safety issues related to managing the effects of
15 aging, and environmental issues related to an
16 additional 20 years of operation.

17 In all aspects of the NRC's regulation,
18 the Agency's mission is to ensure adequate protection
19 of public health and safety, to promote the common
20 defense and security, and to protect the environment.

21 We're here today to discuss the potential
22 site-specific impacts of license renewal at Columbia
23 Generating Station. The Generic Environmental Impact
24 Statement, or GEIS, examines the possible
25 environmental impacts that could occur as a result of

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1 renewing licenses of individual nuclear power plants
2 under 10 CFR Part 54. The GEIS, to the extent
3 possible, establishes the bounds and significance of
4 these potential impacts.

5 The analyses in the GEIS encompass all
6 operating light water power reactors for each type of
7 environmental impact. The GEIS attempts to establish
8 generic findings covering as many plants as possible.
9 For some environmental issues, the GEIS found that a
10 generic evaluation was not sufficient, and that a
11 plant-specific analysis was required.

12 The site-specific findings for Columbia
13 Generating Station are contained in the Draft
14 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, or Draft
15 SEIS, which was published on August 23rd of this year.
16 This document contains analyses of all applicable
17 site-specific issues, as well as a review of issues
18 covered by the GEIS to determine whether the
19 conclusions in the GEIS are valid for Columbia
20 Generating Station.

21 In this process, the NRC Staff also
22 reviews the environmental impacts of potential power
23 generation alternatives to license renewal to
24 determine whether the impacts expected from license
25 renewal are unreasonable.

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1 For each environmental issue identified an
2 impact level is assigned. The NRC's standard of
3 significance for impacts was established using the
4 White House Council on Environmental Quality
5 terminology for significant.

6 The NRC established three levels of
7 significance for potential impacts; small, moderate,
8 and large. For a small impact, the effects are not
9 detectible, or are so minor that they will neither
10 destabilize nor noticeably alter any important
11 attribute of the resources. For a moderate impact,
12 the effects are sufficient to alter noticeably but not
13 to destabilize important attributes of the resource.
14 For a large impact, the effects are clearly noticeable
15 and are sufficient to destabilize important attributes
16 of the resource.

17 This slide lists the site-specific issues
18 NRC Staff reviewed for the continued operation of
19 Columbia Generating Station during the proposed
20 license renewal period. The section of the Draft SEIS
21 addressing each of these issues is also shown here.

22 And, as discussed on the previous slide, each issue
23 was assigned a level of environmental impact of small,
24 moderate, or large by the environmental reviewers.

25 The Staff's preliminary conclusion is that

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1 the site-specific impacts related to license renewal
2 for each of these issues is small.

3 When reviewing the potential impacts of
4 license renewal on the environment, the NRC also looks
5 at the effects on the environment from other past,
6 present, and reasonably foreseeable future human
7 actions. These effects, referred to as cumulative
8 impacts, not only include the operation of Columbia
9 Generating Station, but also impacts from activities
10 unrelated to the plant, such as the radioactive waste
11 disposal, and tank waste stabilization and closure at
12 Hanford, the proposed reduction of the Hanford site
13 footprint, the cleanup of radioactive waste burial
14 grounds 618-10 and 618-11, proposed construction of
15 new energy projects, and climate change.

16 Past actions are those related to the
17 resources before the receipt of the license renewal
18 application. Present actions are those related to the
19 resources at the time of current operation of the
20 plant. And future actions are those that are
21 reasonably foreseeable through the end of plant
22 operation, including the period of extended operation.

23 Therefore, the analysis considers
24 potential impacts through the end of the current
25 license term, as well as the 20-year license renewal

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1 term.

2 For water resources, NRC preliminarily
3 concluded that there are small to large cumulative
4 impacts due to DOE activities on Hanford depending on
5 the location. For aquatic resources, impacts are
6 large due to past alterations of aquatic habitat and
7 fish passage along the Columbia River.

8 For cultural resources, ongoing
9 construction, restoration, and waste management
10 activities on the Hanford site have the potential to
11 significantly affect cultural resources, particularly
12 within the viewshed of Gable and Rattlesnake
13 Mountains. Therefore, the cumulative impacts would be
14 moderate. In other areas NRC considered, the Staff
15 preliminarily concluded that cumulative impacts are
16 small.

17 The National Environmental Policy Act
18 mandates that each Environmental Impact Statement
19 consider alternatives to any proposed major federal
20 action. The major step in determining whether license
21 renewal is reasonable or not is comparing the likely
22 impacts of continued operation of the nuclear power
23 plant with the likely impacts of alternative means of
24 power generation.

25 Alternatives must provide an option that

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1 allows for power generation capability beyond the term
2 of the current nuclear power plant operating license
3 to meet future system generating needs. In the Draft
4 SEIS, the NRC initially considered 18 different
5 alternatives. After this initial consideration, the
6 Staff then chose the three most likely, and analyzed
7 those in depth.

8 Finally, the NRC considered what would
9 happen if no action is taken and Columbia Generating
10 Station shuts down at the end of its current license
11 without a specific replacement alternative. This
12 alternative would not provide power generation
13 capacity, nor would it meet the needs currently met by
14 Columbia Generating Station.

15 The NRC's preliminary conclusion is that
16 the impacts from energy alternatives would vary widely
17 based on the characteristics of the alternatives. In
18 most cases, construction of new facilities would
19 create significant impacts. All alternatives capable
20 of meeting the needs currently served by Columbia
21 Generating Station entail impacts greater than or
22 equal to the proposed action of license renewal.

23 Based on a review of the potential
24 environmental impacts from license renewal and
25 alternatives to license renewal, the NRC Staff's

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1 preliminary recommendation in the Draft SEIS is that
2 the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal
3 for Columbia Generating Station are not great enough
4 to deny the option of license renewal for energy-
5 planning decisionmakers.

6 I would like to emphasize that the
7 environmental review is not yet complete. Your
8 comments today, and all written comments received by
9 the end of the comment period on November 16th will be
10 considered by the NRC as we develop the final SEIS,
11 which we currently plan to issue in February 2012.

12 Those comments that are within the scope
13 of the environmental review and provide new and
14 significant information can help change the Staff's
15 findings. The final SEIS will contain the Staff's
16 final recommendation on the acceptability of license
17 renewal based on the work we've already performed, and
18 the comments we receive during the comment period.

19 I am the primary contact for the
20 environmental review; the contact for the safety
21 review is Arthur Cunanan. Hard copies of the Draft
22 SEIS are available on the table in the back of the
23 room, as are copies on CD. In addition, the Richland
24 Public Library and the Kennewick Branch Library have
25 agreed to make hard copies available for public

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1 review. You can also find electronic copies of the
2 Draft SEIS along with other information about the
3 Columbia Generating Station License Renewal Review on
4 line on the website on this screen, which is also
5 included in the handout.

6 The NRC will address written comments in
7 the same way we address spoken comments received
8 today. You can submit written comments either via
9 conventional mail, fax, or online. To submit written
10 comments online visit the website regulations.gov and
11 search for keyword or ID NRC-2010-0029. If you have
12 written comments this afternoon you may give them to
13 any NRC Staff member. Again, to ensure consideration
14 comments must be received by Wednesday, November 16th,
15 2011.

16 The notes that I copied on to this slide
17 are not the notes for this slide, so that's a good
18 plan for future preparation for checking the notes on
19 the slides. But I can handle it.

20 This is -- we added this slide for NRC's
21 response to Fukushima because we're aware that this is
22 a topic of significant public interest, so we wanted
23 to address it. We wanted to point out that the NRC's
24 response to Fukushima is a current operating issue.
25 The results from -- or actions that are -- decisions

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1 that are made by the NRC will apply to all plants that
2 currently have license regardless of license renewal
3 status. So, this is not within the scope of the
4 environmental review.

5 Following the earthquake and tsunami and
6 events at Fukushima in Japan earlier this year, the
7 NRC took several specific steps. We had increased
8 inspections at operating facilities to determine their
9 ability to respond to emergencies per their existing
10 guidelines.

11 The NRC created a near-term task force to
12 look at -- to review the information that was
13 available from the event and generate short-term
14 recommendations for how the NRC can move forward, or
15 potential actions to take to make U.S. nuclear
16 facilities more safe.

17 The NRC issued its report on July 12th,
18 2011. One of their conclusions was that continued
19 operations and continued licensing activities do not
20 pose an imminent risk to public health and safety.
21 There is a NRC Staff paper on the prioritization of
22 the task force recommendations due on October 3rd, so
23 the NRC Staff will have more information in that
24 report on which actions can be taken without further
25 delay.

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1 There's more information about NRC actions
2 in response to Fukushima on this website. On this
3 slide, there's a link, if you go to the main NRC
4 website, NRC.gov, there's a link on the left side to -
5 - I believe it says "Japan Accident NRC Action," so
6 the task force report is available there.

7 I also brought hard copies of the NRC's
8 task force recommendations. They're available in the
9 back of the room. And, again, as I said, they're
10 available on the website.

11 Before moving into receiving your
12 comments, we'd like to give you an opportunity to ask
13 questions that you may have about the presentation
14 that I just gave. Please wait for the facilitator,
15 Gerri Fehst, to bring the microphone to you so we can
16 ensure that your comments are captured on the
17 transcript.

18 We will take comments from people in the
19 room, or questions from people in the room, and then
20 I'll open up the phone line for people on the phone if
21 they want to ask questions. And once we've taken any
22 initial questions that you may have for me or about
23 the presentation, we will then move into the comment
24 portion of the meeting where I'll be calling the
25 people who had filled out the yellow cards, or

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1 indicated that they wanted to provide comments over
2 the phone, to provide their comments. And that's
3 where we'll -- that's when we'll take those comments.

4 So, I would be happy to take any questions
5 you may have at this time. Does anybody in the room
6 have any questions? Yes, sir? Can you just wait for
7 one minute, please?

8 MS. FEHST: One minute, please. I'll bring
9 you the mic so everyone can hear what you have to say.
10 Excuse me.

11 MR. POLLET: So, I have two questions. The
12 first is in regard to the location of the CGS station
13 on the Hanford nuclear reservation. And have -- does
14 the EIS -- I've not seen it in my review. Is there
15 any documentation of consideration of the unique
16 accident consequences elsewhere at Hanford in
17 combination with an event at CGS that affects all the
18 facilities on the Hanford nuclear reservation at the
19 same time?

20 MR. DOYLE: There is not. So, I understand
21 your question is about whether or not the
22 Environmental Impact Statement specifically addresses
23 the fact that there could be radiological accidents or
24 other accidents at Hanford, and that -- so, the answer
25 is no, that that's not addressed in the Draft SEIS.

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1 What we do talk about is the cumulative environmental
2 impact say on groundwater and air, other things that -
3 - other environmental impacts that other facilities or
4 waste burial grounds, or past actions at Hanford may
5 have on the environment, and how that -- the impact
6 from the plant would relate to those, basically. But
7 there are emergency response documents that the plant
8 is required to maintain. I forget the term for it. I
9 believe it's like an Emergency Response Plan, I think,
10 so these are -- I believe the best thing for -- to
11 address your question would be that there are current
12 documents that the plant is required to maintain
13 explaining how they would respond to offsite
14 accidents, like a fire or something like that.

15 MR. POLLET: But aren't you in the EIS --
16 aren't we entitled to see the cumulative impact and
17 how you would recover? I mean, you discuss design-
18 basis accidents and beyond design-basis accidents.
19 Right? And including population dose and recovery,
20 and mitigation requirements for accidents. All that
21 is in there. For most reactors around the country, I
22 guess for every other reactor around the country you
23 don't have a combination of the same design-basis
24 earthquake could release massive amounts of
25 radioactive and chemical material into the air because

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1 they're not located on anything like the Hanford
2 nuclear reservation with high-level nuclear waste
3 tanks that aren't -- so, telling me to look at the
4 emergency plan isn't relevant to what's in here, it
5 seems to me.

6 MR. DOYLE: Right. There is a section, as
7 you said, that talks about design-basis accidents and
8 severe accidents. That would be in Chapter 5. And
9 what we're doing in that section of the document is
10 talking about what the environmental impacts of those
11 two categories of accidents would be in the license
12 renewal period. So, the design-basis -- there is a
13 basic discussion in there, but I think the ultimate
14 answer is that no, that there's not a specific
15 discussion of the fact that the plant is located on
16 Hanford, and it sounds to me like you're essentially
17 making a comment that you think that it should. And
18 that's a fair comment, and if you want to take that,
19 then we can respond to that. But the answer to your
20 question is no, that's not specifically discussed in
21 the discussion of design-basis accidents and severe
22 accidents. So, the answer is no.

23 MR. POLLET: Thank you. That will help me
24 make a comment, because I didn't know if we just
25 missed it in the review, if there are associated

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1 documents.

2 My second question for Heart of America
3 Northwest is in regard to the alternatives analysis.
4 Who decided that the alternative analysis for
5 electrical generation or conservation and efficiencies
6 should be 1300 some odd megawatts, or 1350 when the
7 reactor itself doesn't produce that?

8 MR. DOYLE: I'm not familiar with that
9 number in the document or where that is. But,
10 essentially, you're pointing out that there's a
11 discrepancy between the alternative, and that it's
12 producing more power than what the plant is. And
13 that's maybe creating a higher impact for the
14 alternative. So that, again, would be a fair comment.
15 If that's stated in the Draft SEIS, that's not fresh
16 in my memory right now, what the electrical capacity
17 of the alternatives that we stated is. But the basic
18 intent is to see how could we replace the power
19 generation of the plant. So, if you think that
20 there's a discrepancy there then, again, that would be
21 more of a comment on the SEIS. But that's what we
22 were trying to do.

23 And who made the decision for those
24 alternatives is the NRC Staff that are working on it.
25 We're supported by contractors that we have, experts

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1 that are able to review potential alternatives and
2 determine what those impacts would be, and write up
3 the basis for their decisions and explain that in
4 Chapter 8 of the document. So, Chapter 8 addresses
5 the concerns and the basis for our decisions of what
6 the reasonable alternatives are.

7 MR. POLLET: Thank you.

8 MS. FEHST: And also for the record, could
9 we get you to identify yourself by name, and if you're
10 representing an organization?

11 MR. POLLET: Sure, Gerry with a G, Pollet,
12 P-O-L-L-E-T, representing Heart of America Northwest
13 Regionwide Citizens Group.

14 MS. FEHST: Thank you.

15 MR. DOYLE: Does anyone else in the room
16 have questions about the presentation or the process,
17 or anything else before we open up the phone line to
18 see if there are any comments from people who have
19 called in?

20 MS. OLIVER: Are you taking comments from
21 people in the audience?

22 MR. DOYLE: We will absolutely move into
23 taking comments from people in the audience. What
24 we're doing right now is seeing if there are any
25 questions before I step down, any sort of

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1 clarifications, or could you go back to that slide, or
2 just general process questions before moving into
3 taking comments. So, yes, we will definitely accept
4 comments from people in the room.

5 MS. OLIVER: Yes, my name is Marlene
6 Oliver. I represent a number of organizations,
7 although I don't speak for all of them. I do
8 represent Fighting Children's Cancer Foundation. I
9 have a background in cancer and working with National
10 Cancer Institute and with the American Nuclear Society
11 as a local member.

12 One of my questions has to deal with
13 neutron dosimetry and plant aging. We have a lab here
14 at Hanford that works with reactors all over the world
15 to determine how well they're holding up with time.
16 And I'm wondering if the nuclear plant here was
17 included in that analysis of plant aging with neutron
18 dosimetry, for example.

19 MR. DOYLE: There is a separate safety
20 review that is looking at how the plant is going to
21 adequately manage the effects of aging for passive
22 long-lived structures, so I believe that neutron
23 embrittlement is one of the issues that they are
24 looking at there.

25 They're looking at how -- for structures

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1 that are within the scope of license renewal, they're
2 looking at how they can adequately maintain. So, I'm
3 not sure if that answers your question. I'm not
4 specifically familiar with whether or not neutron
5 dosimetry is used. I'm not sure exactly if I
6 understand what your question is there, but yes, plant
7 aging is absolutely part of the NRC's review. It's
8 part of the safety review. And then managing the
9 effects of aging on certain structures, so I don't
10 know if that answers your question.

11 MS. FEHST: And again, just a reminder that
12 this is the period to ask clarifying questions of the
13 actual presentation. And immediately following this
14 we'll go into opening it up for public comment. Okay?

15 MR. DOYLE: Okay. Any other questions from
16 people in the room? Okay. I think we have a
17 moderator on the phone, Tamara. Are you there?

18 MR. LOPER: Hello?

19 MR. DOYLE: Yes, I can hear you.

20 MR. LOPER: Okay. I have one question.
21 And, also, to let you know the phone lines have
22 dropped the beginning portion so the people on the
23 phone only were able to hear the end of your comment.

24 MR. DOYLE: Okay.

25 MR. LOPER: Part of my comment is we urge

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1 you to stop relicensing the plants until after we
2 learn what caused the damage, and what happened at the
3 Fukushima reactors. I'm just wondering what does the
4 EIS say about MOX fuel?

5 MS. FEHST: Caller, if I could respond to
6 you just quickly. I'm a moderator here in the room,
7 and right now the -- it's time just to take clarifying
8 questions on what the presentation provided when
9 Daniel Doyle was making his presentation about the
10 Draft SEIS. And immediately following clarifying
11 questions, we are going to go into the public comment
12 period. And it sounds as though your remarks would
13 fall into the category of public comment.

14 MR. LOPER: That's correct. I'm sorry, me
15 on the phone, I called in at 2:00 and I did not hear
16 any of the presentation that he gave.

17 MS. FEHST: I'm very sorry about that. I'm
18 sorry that we had technical difficulties. I can refer
19 you to -- Dan, you mentioned where the callers, people
20 who are calling can find the actual PowerPoint
21 presentation that you have just made?

22 MR. DOYLE: Yes. The slides that we're
23 presenting here in the meeting are on the website. If
24 you go to Google and search for NRC Columbia
25 Generating Station License Renewal, the first result

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1 that pops up there should be the NRC's public website
2 for this review. And if you scroll down, there's a
3 subheading that says "Public Meetings," and then
4 there's the slides in there. So, I --

5 MR. LOPER: Thank you.

6 MR. DOYLE: -- expanded on the slides with
7 my remarks. I apologize for you not being able to
8 hear that, and the transcript will be released later
9 if you want to read that later. Also, later this
10 evening there's going to be another meeting starting
11 at 7:00 where I'm going to go through the same
12 remarks.

13 But just to -- I can point you to one page
14 in the Draft SEIS you were talking about, the
15 discussion of mixed oxide fuel or MOX fuel. There is
16 just a brief discussion. It's on page 2-2, the second
17 paragraph there where the NRC Staff is basically just
18 stating that we are aware of the -- I forget what it
19 was called. There was a -- basically, like an initial
20 feasibility study or something that environmental
21 group became aware of. There was a newspaper article
22 printed about it. We did talk to the applicant and
23 our brief summary of that issue is on page 2-2. Are
24 there any other questions from callers on the phone?

25 MODERATOR TAMARA: If there is a question,

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1 the line is open.

2 PARTICIPANT: Yes, I just wanted to make a
3 comment, but I'll wait.

4 MR. DOYLE: Okay, so she'll wait until the
5 comment period. Any other comments from callers on
6 the phone, or any other questions? I'm sorry.

7 MODERATOR TAMARA: Your line is open.

8 PARTICIPANT: Yes, I am going to wait until
9 the comment period.

10 MODERATOR TAMARA: We show no further
11 questions.

12 MS. FEHST: I'm sorry, caller. I think you
13 were kind of breaking up. Could you repeat that,
14 please?

15 MODERATOR TAMARA: We show no further
16 questions.

17 MS. FEHST: Oh, okay.

18 MR. DOYLE: Okay, great. Thank you. So,
19 that concludes the question and answer period. We're
20 now going to shift the meeting into receiving your
21 public comments. We'll be taking comments both from
22 people in the room and on the phone. And the
23 facilitator, Gerri, is going to moderate this portion
24 of the meeting.

25 MS. FEHST: Okay. As Dan said, we're going

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1 to transition to the public comment period now, and I
2 have several yellow cards in my hand from audience
3 members who would like to make a comment. And I also
4 have cards, as I said earlier, from some identifying
5 callers that we have on the line. I'm not sure ever
6 caller who's listening in has a question. So, for
7 those names that I already have, I will call out your
8 name when the time comes. And if you have a comment
9 to make at that time, please do. And if you don't,
10 we'll just pass. And then at the end, I'll ask if
11 there are any callers on the line whose names I
12 haven't called. So, we'll try to get everyone's voice
13 heard today who has a comment that they would like to
14 make.

15 Again, this is the time for comments on
16 the results of the NRC's environmental review for the
17 license renewal application for Columbia. And we ask
18 that you confine your comments to this subject. And a
19 reminder once again that we do need to end the meeting
20 on time as a courtesy to those who have to leave on
21 schedule, and that they shouldn't have to miss any
22 part of the meeting because some comments or question
23 have gone on too long. So, we do ask that you keep
24 the focus on the comments, on the subject at hand, and
25 that you limit the comments to five minutes.

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1 And if you have a question, we may try to
2 give a brief answer. But as a reminder, we may not
3 have the right NRC expert in the room at this meeting.
4 And if we can't help you with a question, your
5 specific question, we'll certainly try to get back to
6 you as a follow-up to this meeting.

7 And if you're looking for an in-depth
8 conversation, we do ask that you hold that and meet
9 with some of the NRC Staff after the meeting, so that
10 again we can move things along, but that you can still
11 have an opportunity to speak with NRC and get your
12 question addressed.

13 So, as a reminder, and people have been
14 good about this, but remember when you step up to the
15 podium to make your comment, please identify yourself
16 by name again for the reporter in the back. And,
17 also, if you're representing an organization, please
18 let us know on whose behalf you are speaking. And as
19 all of us in the room, let's try to give respect and
20 attention to the person who is at the mic here at the
21 podium making their comments. Let's try to remember
22 to keep one person at a time.

23 What I'll do is identify three audience
24 members, and ask the first speaker to come up and
25 begin their remarks, but the second two names that I

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1 mentioned, you'll still be seated in the audience, but
2 you'll know that you'll be the next two people to come
3 up, so that you can begin preparing your remarks, and
4 we can keep things moving. And after the first three
5 speakers from the audience, then we'll turn to the
6 phones and ask for a caller to make their remarks.

7 And, again, if I -- I will ask at the end
8 even for audience, if I -- has everyone been heard,
9 and ask you to fill out a yellow card if you haven't,
10 if in the course of the meeting you decide that you do
11 want to make a comment. It won't be too late. So,
12 just fill out a card and I'll get it, and we'll begin
13 that process.

14 Okay. So, the first speaker will be Colin
15 Hastings, Tri-City Regional Chamber, followed by
16 Marlene Oliver, followed by Lori Sanders.

17 MR. HASTINGS: Thank you. Colin Hastings,
18 Vice President, Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce.
19 On behalf of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of
20 Commerce, it is my honor to support Energy Northwest
21 for their license renewal application for the Columbia
22 Generating Station with NRC.

23 Columbia Generating Station and Energy
24 Northwest has been a vital part of the region's energy
25 mix, and has consistently provided vast amounts of

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1 clean and affordable power to homes and businesses
2 across the northwest.

3 Energy Northwest has operated Columbia
4 Generating Station as a responsible steward to the
5 environment, and in a manner that protects public
6 health and safety.

7 Washington State and Tri-Cities region
8 enjoys some of the lowest electrical utility rates in
9 the United States because of the federal hydroelectric
10 system in Columbia Generating Station. Economic
11 recovery will require continued support for these
12 reliable, clean, low-cost, baseload power sources.

13 Renewal of this operating license is vital
14 to meeting the region's electricity needs. It will
15 help ensure a reasonable cost of power for households
16 and businesses to drive a strong economy.

17 Energy Northwest shows us their commitment
18 to the region by their activities in the community and
19 associations like ours. They're an integral part of
20 this area, and deserve license renewal so they can
21 continue to offer us clean and affordable energy.

22 On behalf of the Tri-City Regional Chamber
23 of Commerce and its Board of Directors, we support
24 their efforts to secure license renewal for the
25 Columbia Generating Station with the NRC. Thank you.

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1 MS. FEHST: Okay, you're next.

2 MS. OLIVER: Yes. My name is Marlene
3 Oliver. I have several hats. I do not speak for the
4 American Nuclear Society, although I am a member
5 thereof of the local section. I also have a graduate
6 degree in fresh water ecology. I've also worked on
7 cancer issues for many years with the National Cancer
8 Institute as a consumer advocate for research and
9 related activity, and head up the Fighting Children's
10 Cancer Foundation, and I just have a few questions to
11 make sure that these items might be included in the
12 document and addressed thereof.

13 We already addressed the issue of plant
14 aging and dosimetry, which impacts directly reactor
15 safety. Hopefully, that question will be adequately
16 answered with the proper testing.

17 I wanted to address alternative energy,
18 and energy density. The energy density of nuclear
19 fuel is the densest known to man. The cost to build
20 alternative energy sources, such as windmills, et
21 cetera, speaking as an ecologist now, is far higher
22 than the energy projected to come from those windmills
23 for a long time. It also disrupts bird migration
24 patterns, et cetera, et cetera.

25 As far as waste transmutation goes, this

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1 is the norm in Europe and most of the rest of the
2 world. We might call it recycling. It's against the
3 law in the United States. That issue would have to be
4 addressed by Congress, and hopefully members of the
5 public can get Congress to reverse their decision made
6 in the Carter years to not recycle, so to speak, their
7 nuclear waste.

8 As far as cancer goes, on a scale of one
9 to ten using National Cancer Institute statistics
10 going back to 1950, and hopefully this information
11 will be included in the document. Cancer is rated on
12 a scale of one to ten, ten being highest, how much
13 cancer per unit of population, for example, in the
14 State of Washington. It goes county by county across
15 the United States. There is only one county in the
16 State of Washington that rates a ten out of ten being
17 highest, more incidents of cancer per person than any
18 other county in the state, and that is King County.

19 At the Hanford site, we rate a five out of
20 ten, which is average. Across the river in Franklin
21 County, we rate a four out of ten, which is below
22 average. And I hope the document takes these items
23 into consideration. Thank you.

24 MS. FEHST: Okay. As I say, the next
25 caller -- the next is Lori Sanders, come on up. And

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1 then the first caller will be Mark Loper. Mark, are
2 you there? Or Rachel Stierling. We'll come back to
3 Mark later. Is there a Rachel Stierling on the phone?
4 Or Jane.

5 MODERATOR TAMARA: Rachel, your line is
6 open.

7 MS. FEHST: I'm sorry?

8 MR. DOYLE: The moderator.

9 MS. STIERLING: I'm sorry. I'm still
10 having technical difficulty with the phone line, and
11 I'm not hearing very well at all, so I'll pass at this
12 time.

13 MS. FEHST: Okay. We'll get back to the
14 callers then.

15 MS. SANDERS: Thank you. Hello, I'm Lori
16 Sanders. I'm also a new member of the American
17 Nuclear Society, the local branch. I'm a Benton PUD
18 Commissioner, and I'm on the Executive Board of Energy
19 Northwest. And I'm also a member of this community
20 for the past 52 years, so I gave something away there.

21 But what I would like to talk about today,
22 I want to echo a lot of what Colin said, hitting the
23 major points of the benefits of Columbia Generating
24 Station. But one that I really want to emphasize is
25 the baseload generation.

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1 At Benton PUD, we are faced with, as many
2 PUDs in the state are faced with, meeting a renewable
3 portfolio standard. And it's difficult because the
4 wind just doesn't blow all the time. And we are
5 really concerned about what the future is going to
6 look like for our generation portfolio. And we really
7 would like to emphasize that it's good to have this
8 resource in our community that is reliable and
9 consistent, and produces a lot of megawatts.

10 I believe you would need about 1,000 wind
11 turbines to produce what Columbia Generating Station
12 produces. So, from a visual pollution point of view,
13 I hike up on Rattlesnake Mountain about three times a
14 week, and I look out at the area. And I can see a few
15 wind turbines over here, and that looks nice. And I
16 can see Columbia Generating Station over here, and
17 that looks nice, but I wouldn't want to see 1,000 wind
18 turbines. I much prefer the small footprint of Energy
19 Northwest, and the baseload that it gives us.

20 And I'd like to say that the ratepayers in
21 Benton County support the continued operation of
22 Columbia Generating Station and the pursuit of the
23 license renewal. Thank you.

24 MS. FEHST: Okay. Shall we try the phones
25 again? Okay. I'll start with the first name again,

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1 Mark Loper.

2 MR. LOPER: Can you hear me?

3 MS. FEHST: Okay, go ahead, Mark.

4 MR. LOPER: Thank you. Okay. I have three
5 quick comments. I ask that the risk of using MOX fuel
6 be included in the EIS. I ask that no further actions
7 be taken until the risk of the Fukushima events are
8 fully analyzed, so that we can understand what
9 happened there. And then I ask that until the NRC
10 incorporates necessary new requirements, to wait to
11 take further action and that new information be made
12 easily available to the public at large. Thank you.

13 MS. FEHST: Thank you. That was succinct.
14 Thank you.

15 All right. We'll have the opportunity now
16 for three more speakers from those in the audience.
17 In order of priority here we'll first hear from Larry
18 Haler, State Representative Larry Haler, to be
19 followed by Gerry Pollet, to be followed by Carl
20 Holder. So, those are the next three speakers.
21 First, Larry Haler, Gerry Pollet, and Carl Holder.

22 MR. HALER: Thank you very much. I guess
23 for the record, my name is Larry Haler. I'm State
24 Representative for the Eighth District. I represent
25 the Tri-Cities area, Prosser, Benton City, and West

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1 Richland.

2 I'm here mainly to talk today about what I
3 see and know as the economic benefits of having a
4 nuclear power station, a reliable one such as Energy
5 Northwest has with the Columbia Generating Station.
6 They have a highly skilled workforce of 1,100 people.
7 That's 1,100 people that we need to keep in this
8 community, especially in a time of, I don't want to
9 call this a recession, I think we're in a depression
10 economically nationwide, and I don't think we've
11 accepted that yet.

12 We're losing jobs left and right. We're
13 going to lose 3,500 jobs total by the end of October
14 at the Hanford site, and we need those 1,100 jobs in
15 this community. They're highly skilled people, and it
16 does add to our job base, as well as to our economy
17 because they're out there buying durable goods, which
18 we need to have purchased. And they're also buying
19 homes.

20 Energy Northwest itself creates \$440
21 million of economic activity in this area. We need
22 that kind of purchasing power and spending power by
23 Energy Northwest, and by the Station itself, because
24 that does provide us with a great deal of money in
25 this community that we all need.

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1 Energy Northwest also supplies a reliable
2 baseload of energy. Somebody just mentioned wind
3 turbines. Wind turbines are only 20 percent
4 efficient, at best, and I know that the west side of
5 the state is constantly looking after building more
6 wind turbines in hopes that we can have more wind over
7 here to turn more wind turbines, but it just doesn't
8 work that way. We need the baseload not only from
9 Energy Northwest and the Columbia Generating Station,
10 but we need it as well from renewal resources from the
11 hydro dams.

12 In general, Energy Northwest is a good
13 neighbor. They have been a good neighbor for 25
14 years, and I would encourage the NRC, as well as this
15 community to support the relicensing of this facility.
16 Thank you very much.

17 MS. FEHST: Thank you. Next, Gerry Pollet,
18 to be followed by Carl Holder.

19 MR. POLLET: Gerry Pollet speaking for
20 Heart of America Northwest. And let me start by
21 saying the relicensing and proposed extension of the
22 operation of the sole commercial reactor in the
23 northwest until 2043 is a major issue of great
24 regional significance and interest. No one can deny
25 that. And, therefore, it is sad that the NRC and the

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1 applicant, Energy Northwest, have refused to hold
2 hearings around the region, especially around the
3 State of Washington where the owners of the plant
4 reside, and the people who use the electricity. And
5 we urge you to revisit this question as we've
6 requested, and to hold hearings on the question of
7 extending this reactor's operation to 2043 in Seattle,
8 in Snohomish, Clark, and the other major utility areas
9 that own this reactor.

10 Secondly, we formally request that the NRC
11 extend the comment period on this Environmental Impact
12 Statement until such time as both Energy Northwest --
13 the applicant -- and the Energy Department respond to
14 Public Records Act requests and Freedom of Information
15 Act requests that are essential to allow the public to
16 comment fully on the proposals.

17 There are significant issue areas,
18 particularly the proposed use of plutonium fuel that
19 Energy Northwest has refused to make documents public
20 in regard to, and has informed us that they will not
21 respond to that request in full until a month and a
22 half after the close of the comment period. That's
23 unacceptable. And the NRC, as long as you are
24 conducting a NEPA process and there is an issue in
25 regard to a related proposal, the NRC should be

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1 cognizant of it and say we cannot close the comment
2 period until the information is available from the
3 applicant to the public.

4 Energy Northwest and the Energy Department
5 have a formal proposal to use highly dangerous
6 plutonium fuel in this reactor. It is missing from
7 the Environmental Impact Statement except to
8 acknowledge that you are aware of it.

9 Under the National Environmental Policy
10 Act, the NRC is required to include in the EIS the
11 potential impacts from all related proposals. At this
12 point in time, Energy Northwest, and a sister federal
13 agency, the Energy Department, have entered into
14 agreements, and the Energy Department has entered into
15 work orders with Pacific Northwest Lab and others to
16 study the use of plutonium fuel in the reactor.

17 The Energy Northwest's own technical
18 report distributed after Fukushima, where Reactor 3
19 used plutonium fuel, acknowledged that if Reactor 3
20 had a full load of MOX or plutonium fuel, MOX for
21 mixed oxide fuel, that it might have increased the
22 offsite radiation dose from what is already a horrific
23 accident by 40 percent. The region deserves to have
24 this debated in public, not behind closed doors, not
25 in biased briefings that never mention these risks to

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1 the Energy Northwest Utility Member Boards. And the
2 way to do this is to put it in the EIS with full
3 discussion of the risks.

4 How am I doing on time, Gerri?

5 MS. FEHST: You have about two more
6 minutes. Thank you for asking.

7 MR. POLLET: Thank you. The risks of using
8 plutonium fuel are not only the risks of a severe
9 accident. The proposal is to use the contaminated and
10 dangerous 325 Building at Hanford to make the
11 plutonium fuel, and to assay it.

12 That would lead to creation of more waste
13 at Hanford, and more severe problems. And there is
14 the related issue of transportation of the weapons-
15 grade plutonium to be made into the plutonium fuel
16 without any debate here.

17 It used to be when the FFTF reactor was
18 operating and you wanted to move plutonium fuel from
19 the 300 area where it was fabricated to the reactor,
20 you had a helicopter, rocket-propelled grenade guard
21 force to move the fuel three miles. Now we're talking
22 about moving plutonium, weapons-grade plutonium fuel
23 back to the region without any consideration of the
24 security risks, and at what price?

25 And the issue of the 325 Building raises

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1 the fact that this Environmental Impact Statement
2 draft fails to consider the unique location of the CGS
3 reactor in the middle of the Hanford nuclear
4 reservation. The 325 Building, as an example, is one
5 that will not withstand the same earthquake as it is
6 said -- claimed that CGS will withstand. The high-
7 level waste tanks will not withstand that earthquake.
8 There are numerous facilities at Hanford that will not
9 withstand that earthquake, and there isn't any mention
10 or consideration of how you recover, for instance,
11 bringing diesel fuel and do the backup to restore
12 power to the plant, which is vital, as we all have
13 seen in light of Fukushima, when there are numerous
14 nuclear and chemical accidents occurring and releases
15 occurring at the same time from which recovery is
16 attempted at the same time at the Hanford nuclear
17 reservation.

18 We'll be testifying more on the fact that
19 we believe firmly that this EIS fails to consider that
20 the power from this reactor can be replaced by 2023 at
21 low-cost and with great reliability for the region.
22 Thank you. And I want to thank the NRC for making
23 available the phone line. With just five days of
24 notice, I believe 36 people have signed up to be on
25 the phone with just five days of notice. It shows the

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1 need for having meetings around the region for the
2 public to be able to address you face-to-face. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. FEHST: Okay. Thank you for your
5 comments. Carl Holder, and then we'll be turning to
6 the phones, and maybe doing three callers in a row.

7 MR. HOLDER: My name is Carl Holder. I'm
8 representing myself, a member of the community, and a
9 taxpayer. I'm an energy consultant, and I believe
10 that the energy from -- the baseload energy from the
11 Columbia Generating Station is a vital part of our
12 community. It represents a terrific economic force
13 not only now, but well into the future. The facility,
14 as I see it and as I read is perfectly sound, should
15 go ahead. It should be approved expeditiously, as to
16 eliminate any doubt.

17 In regard to a potential for the use of
18 different kinds of fuel, there's a terrific process
19 for any type of valuation going forward, and any
20 different fuel than they're using would require an
21 exhaustive research, must be maybe a decade in the
22 future, if at all. So, as far as the use of a
23 different fuel is concerned, I see that as an
24 unnecessary roadblock in going forward.

25 The terrific use of the ability of

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1 Columbia Generating Station to achieve low-cost power
2 for our region, to be able to work in concert with the
3 river system and with the potential for renewable wind
4 energy. And as many people have noticed, wind energy
5 in this part of the world, it may be 20 percent at
6 best, but I like to say it's either on or off. Our
7 society does not work on energy that is off. We need
8 the baseload energy of the Columbia Generating
9 Station, and thank you for expeditiously moving this
10 forward. Thank you.

11 MS. FEHST: Thank you for your comments.
12 Okay. We'll turn to the phone once again, and
13 the three callers who are next in line, and again just
14 say pass if you are on the line but don't have a
15 comment. But, certainly, when I call your name if you
16 have a comment, please provide it. The three next
17 names are first, Rachel Stierling. Second, Jane
18 Boyajian, and third, Charles Johnson.

19 MS. STIERLING: Hi, this is Rachel
20 Stierling. And I'm going to hold my comments for the
21 7:00 call this evening, but I appreciate you calling
22 on me.

23 MS. FEHST: Thank you. Okay, good. We'll
24 move on to Jane Boyajian. Jane Boyajian, are you
25 there?

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1 (No response.)

2 MS. FEHST: Are we on?

3 MR. DOYLE: She's not there.

4 MS. FEHST: Okay. Charles Johnson.

5 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, hello. Can you hear me?

6 MS. FEHST: Yes, we can. Thank you. Go
7 ahead.

8 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Charles Johnson. I'm
9 calling in from Portland, Oregon. I'm on the Board of
10 Columbia Riverkeepers. I'm speaking on my own behalf
11 today.

12 First thing I guess I want to say is that
13 I have to recognize -- all of us who are participating
14 in this hearing need to recognize that this process of
15 NRC relicensing has been going on for several years at
16 this point, and as I understand, that there has not
17 been a single plant applying for relicensing that has
18 not been relicensed. So, I think that's one thing
19 that the NRC needs to be looking at right now,
20 particularly in light of the fact that the Fukushima
21 reactor was considered to be a very safe reactor by
22 the Japanese nuclear authorities up until it had its
23 postal meltdown.

24 And I guess the question that you at the
25 NRC should be asking yourselves is which of these

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1 reactors that you're now rubber stamping and
2 relicensing is -- could be in 30 years, over the next
3 30 years, I should say, the next Fukushima, or the
4 next Chernobyl.

5 Obviously, it wouldn't be a Chernobyl.
6 It's not a Chernobyl design, but you do have some
7 Fukushima type reactors. Several things have already
8 been discussed. And there are similarities to designs
9 between the reactor at Hanford and some of the
10 problematic factors at Fukushima.

11 So, that being said, that's one of the
12 technical arguments, but that is something that I
13 think the NRC should seriously consider, consider
14 these relicensings. And should, in my opinion, delay
15 relicensing this reactor and all other reactors until
16 -- Fukushima, and what scenarios might create a
17 similar situation at one of our reactors. So, I think
18 it's -- particularly when you consider that this plant
19 is licensed through 2023. Where is the fire in
20 relicensing this reactor? It is way premature to be
21 rushing forward relicensing a reactor that still has
22 another 12 years of active license. Particularly,
23 when you consider that none of these reactors were
24 designed initially to last longer than 40 years.
25 They're all on borrowed time, so why would we want to

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1 be rushing forward? We want a large cadre of reactors
2 way ahead of time, particularly in this case
3 definitely 12 years ahead of time. Particularly with
4 unanswered questions, such as the ones that Gerry
5 raised dealing with plutonium fuel potentially that
6 might be used at the site. The questions of other
7 accidents that may occur at that site. There are
8 questions being raised currently with the plant for
9 the high-level radioactive waste that is being built
10 in the central plateau at Hanford. Questions -- some
11 scientists there believe that there's a possibility of
12 a criticality accident at that plant. What impact
13 would that have upon the operation of Columbia
14 Generating Station? That's a question that you
15 haven't considered, and it's one that you should.

16 Finally, this is not a technical reason
17 for running the plant or not running the plant, but it
18 keeps coming up in the pro side of the argument that
19 this is a firm load plant, baseload plant. By gosh,
20 you need it for that reason. The problem with that
21 argument is that this plant was shut down in May, and
22 just recently was started up again. Nuclear power
23 plants are baseload when they're running, but when
24 they're not running, they're a very large chunk of
25 power that you have to replace. So, there are pluses

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1 and minuses in terms of baseload versus nuclear power
2 plant. And it's not all plus, if you have to put all
3 your eggs in one generating basket, so to speak,
4 because when they periodically have to shut it down
5 for refueling or if there's a problem or if there were
6 an accident that released any radiation whatsoever,
7 that possibly shut the plant down for a long period of
8 time, you have to replace all of that power. So,
9 large generating stations inherently have that
10 particular problem associated with them, and nuclear
11 power plants as well.

12 So, I appreciate the time and the fact
13 that you made it easy for those of us who were able to
14 take time in the afternoon and make a phone call and
15 listen to some testimony over a sticky phone line to
16 testify today, I really do believe that you should be
17 holding hearings throughout the region, particularly
18 in the hometowns of the utilities that own the
19 Columbia Generating Station so that the people who the
20 public utilities -- are the owners of those plants
21 have an opportunity to be able to testify. And I hope
22 that you'll reconsider that decision as you were urged
23 to do by Heart of America Northwest. Thank you very
24 much for your time.

25 MS. FEHST: Thank you, caller. Thank you

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1 for your comment. Let's take one other caller, if
2 she's on the line, she or he, and then we'll turn back
3 to the audience. If there's an M.C. Goldberg on the
4 line and ready to make a comment, we'll take your
5 comment. And then that would be followed by Gary
6 Petersen and Gary Troyer. So, first, M.C. Goldberg on
7 the line. Is there an M.C. Goldberg on the line? Are
8 we okay with the phone?

9 MODERATOR TAMARA: We do not show an M.C.
10 Goldberg on the phone line.

11 MS. FEHST: Okay. All right. Thank you.
12 All right. Is there a -- yes, there is. Gary
13 Petersen. Okay, and please spell your name, and
14 identify the organization you're representing, if any.

15 MR. PETERSEN: Yes. My name is Gary
16 Petersen, P-E-T-E-R-S-E-N. I represent TRIDEC. I'm
17 the Vice President of TRIDEC.

18 Let me just start by saying I believe that
19 I'm very uniquely qualified to speak today. I happen
20 to live and have lived within 10 miles of the plant
21 ever since it was built and started up. I have a
22 daughter, my eldest daughter, who worked out there for
23 a period of time within the plant. If there was
24 anybody who had any concern whatsoever about that
25 reactor you would think it would be the people who

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1 live closest to the reactor. And I have no concern
2 whatsoever.

3 So, I'm speaking on behalf of TRIDEC here.
4 TRIDEC is a community economic development
5 organization that serves both Benton and Franklin
6 Counties. We're designated by the State of Washington
7 as the associate development organization for both
8 counties, and we're also designated by the Department
9 of Energy since 1994 as a community re-use
10 organization for the Hanford site.

11 TRIDEC has about 350 member firms and
12 contracts with local cities, counties, port districts
13 to perform economic development services for the
14 community.

15 Energy Northwest has been a TRIDEC member
16 since the early 1960s. I am here today to speak in
17 favor of Energy Northwest's license renewal
18 application for Columbia Generating Station.

19 The Tri-Cities is the fastest growing
20 region in the state, if not in the country. It
21 continues to be identified as being one of the top ten
22 growing areas in the United States. The Columbia
23 Generating Station produces 1,157 megawatts of power.
24 By 2020, Bonneville Power Administration said that
25 this area will need an additional 150 megawatts of

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1 power. The license is a key to meeting the region's
2 current and future electric needs, and it's equally
3 important that Columbia Generating Station represents
4 one of the lowest cost, baseload clean energy options
5 available, zero greenhouse gas emissions.

6 From an environmental perspective, Energy
7 Northwest has operated Columbia in a manner that
8 protects the public's health and safety. I should
9 know, I live within 10 miles of the plant. And is a
10 responsible steward of the surrounding environment.
11 We support the NRC's preliminary recommendation that
12 Columbia does not have any environmental impacts that
13 would preclude the option of granting a license
14 extension for an additional 20 years.

15 Finally, Columbia is an important
16 employer, as Larry Haler has said, with over 1,100
17 highly skilled employees. At a time when we're seeing
18 a downturn in employment at the Hanford site each of
19 these jobs becomes critically important to us.

20 Finally, I close, unfortunately you've
21 heard a hypothesis of potential use of MOX fuel.
22 Before anybody examines that closely, I think they
23 better identify that it's real or not real. And at
24 this moment, I don't believe it's real. Thank you.

25 MS. FEHST: Thank you. Gary Troyer.

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1 MR. TROYER: Thank you. I'm Gary Troyer,
2 T-R-O-Y-E-R. I'm with the American Nuclear Society
3 Eastern Washington section.

4 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is
5 chartered with overseeing the technical and
6 operational safety of the U.S. nuclear power units.
7 This Agency is responsible worldwide for its work, is
8 respected worldwide for its work in ensuring safe
9 designs and operation. The Columbia Generating
10 Station of Energy Northwest is an example of those
11 efforts resulting in sustainable, reliable,
12 dispatchable, and economical electric energy for
13 regional users.

14 Renewing the operating license is
15 supported by the Eastern Washington section of the
16 American Nuclear Society. This essential resource,
17 Columbia Generating Station, ensures that region
18 continues an abundance of baseload electrical energy.
19 Lack of renewal would require replacement with higher
20 cost energy sources, including a mix of carbon fuel
21 supplies, which is currently unnecessary.

22 With reliability and capacity factors for
23 scheduled operation approaching 100 percent, the
24 Columbia Generating Station is our region's best
25 supplement to hydropower. Therefore, we fully endorse

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1 renewal of the operating license for Columbia
2 Generating Station.

3 I'd also like to address the MOX issue. I
4 don't know of very many light water reactors in the
5 United States that don't have that in their core at
6 this time. We realize that the process of burning
7 uranium generates a little bit of plutonium. The
8 uranium is mixed, is oxide fuel; therefore, we have
9 mixed oxide. It's safe, it works. It will be tested
10 when we up the percentage rates. It's a way of
11 disposing of plutonium that is in excess.

12 Further, if we look at dispatchable and
13 reliability, we know that currently the Bonneville
14 Power Administration has about 3,100 megawatts of wind
15 power on line. The day before yesterday that was
16 zero, it was unpredicted. On the other hand, Columbia
17 Generating Station works in concert with the
18 hydropower. They go down when the rivers are high;
19 they come up when the rivers are low. Thank you.

20 MS. FEHST: Thank you for your comment.
21 We'll turn back to the phone, and just see if Jane
22 Boyajian has possibly returned to the line.

23 (No response.)

24 MS. FEHST: And if not, are there any
25 callers on the line who have comments and have not

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1 been called on yet?

2 MODERATOR TAMARA: We do have Bella Berlly.
3 You line is open.

4 MS. FEHST: Okay. Caller, when you make
5 your comment, could you please identify yourself by
6 name, spell your last name, first and last name for
7 the reporter, and also if you're representing any
8 organization, please identify that. Thanks. Go
9 ahead.

10 MS. BERLLY: Thank you. My name is Bella,
11 spelled B-E-L-L-A (Telephonic interference).

12 MS. FEHST: Okay. Excuse me, caller.
13 We're having a little trouble. You're kind of
14 breaking up, and I think the reporter is having a
15 little trouble getting the spelling. Could you
16 perhaps slow down a little bit just to see if that
17 would help with the transcription, and maybe we'll
18 remedy what the problem is? If you --

19 MS. BERLLY: Well, like many of the other
20 callers have mentioned, I am also having technical
21 problems. I hear feedback and several voices echoing.
22 My last name is spelled B-E-R-L-L-Y. Did you hear
23 that?

24 MS. FEHST: Yes. Yes, we can. Thank you.
25 Yes, we can. Thank you.

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1 MS. BERLLY: Thank you. I am a private
2 citizen in (Telephonic interference). Before rubber
3 stamping the renewal, I strongly urge the NRC to hold
4 public hearings (Telephonic interference) Fukushima
5 type event at the Hanford plant.

6 An investigation by the Associated Press
7 has found that federal regulators have been repeatedly
8 weakening safety standards so that the nuclear power
9 industry can keep the nation's aging reactors
10 operating (Telephonic interference) when simply
11 failing to enforce the safety standards. Energy
12 Northwest, which runs the region's only commercial
13 nuclear reactor located at Hanford, has been secretly
14 planning to use the savings from plutonium fuel as was
15 used in Fukushima in Reactor 3, which has a great risk
16 of radiation leakage, as we all know.

17 Energy Northwest (Telephonic interference)
18 representing our local utilities were not required to
19 submit documents admitting that offsite radiation
20 doses would be higher from plutonium fuel and the
21 likelihood of an accident will increase. (Telephonic
22 interference) use contaminated buildings in Hanford's
23 300 area to fabricate plutonium fuel and create even
24 more waste instead of cleaning up the contaminated
25 area along the Columbia River.

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1 The Environmental Impact Statement on
2 relicensing the plant to run until 2043 ignored that.
3 I'd like to insist that the risks of using this fuel
4 be disclosed in the EIS (Telephonic interference)
5 needs to one, disclose and consider the impact
6 (Telephonic interference) as of September 2011,
7 including how it's even possible Energy Northwest will
8 ensure that (Telephonic interference) of the next 50
9 years.

10 Two, stop licensing until we learn what
11 was damaged and why at the Fukushima reactor, and that
12 NRC incorporates new -- and until the NRC incorporates
13 new safety requirements. Three, think about the
14 unique location of the reactor at Hanford nuclear
15 reservation. The NRC should require this on the EIS
16 portion and consider the impact if there is an
17 explosion, fire, or earthquake releasing radiation
18 from Hanford facilities preventing operation of the
19 CGS reactor, or recovery from (Telephonic
20 interference).

21 Hanford's high-level waste tanks and
22 highly contaminated buildings (Telephonic
23 interference) the Energy Northwest proposal to use the
24 plutonium fuel (Telephonic interference) possible.
25 Four, much of Energy Northwest's spent fuel remains in

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1 a swimming pool above the reactor vessel, the same
2 design that proved so dangerous at Fukushima. We urge
3 removal to hardened concrete casks. Number five, the
4 low-level waste from this reactor goes to the
5 commercial radioactive waste landfill in the center of
6 Hanford. The chemical and radioactive leak has
7 already been projected to be high enough to cause 5
8 percent (Telephonic interference).

9 Thank you for taking my comments.

10 MS. FEHST: Well, thank you for providing
11 them. We appreciate it.

12 Are there any other callers on the line
13 who would like to make a comment?

14 MODERATOR TAMARA: Next, Hafiz Heartsun.
15 Your line is open.

16 MR. HEARTSUN: Hello.

17 MS. FEHST: All right. Yes, we can hear
18 you caller, which is good. And I would just like to
19 remind you to state your first and last name, and
20 spell the last name please for the record. And if
21 you're speaking on behalf of an organization, please
22 identify that organization. Thanks. Go ahead.

23 MR. HEARTSUN: Okay. My name is Hafiz
24 Heartsun, that's H-E-A-R-T-S-U-N, and I'm speaking as
25 an individual.

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1 MS. FEHST: Could you spell your first
2 name, please?

3 MR. HEARTSUN: H-A-F-I-Z.

4 MS. FEHST: Okay, thank you. Go ahead.

5 MR. HEARTSUN: Okay. I've been to a
6 meeting at Hood River about Hanford, and I'm
7 disappointed that it's not being held there, and we
8 have to go through this conference call. And I got
9 dropped from the line; I was not able to hear the
10 presentation at the beginning. I did hear one man
11 comment at the end that he was involved in the
12 construction of the plant, and he feels confident that
13 it's built really well.

14 I encourage that remark, but I also want
15 to point out that this confidence does not override
16 the laws of physics, the inevitability of human error,
17 or extreme natural events. Similarly confident
18 individuals built Fukushima, Chernobyl, Three Mile
19 Island, as well as the Challenger Space Shuttle,
20 Apollo 13, the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, and the people
21 who set up this conference call. There have been any
22 number of failed engineering endeavors, and they will
23 continue to happen. It is hopeful to strive to
24 overcome failure but it's foolish to believe that it
25 can be entirely eliminated. It will continue to

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1 happen, and no one can predict how or when, or what
2 exactly they will be. There will continue to be
3 deaths and (Telephonic interference). However, this
4 inevitability is not an excuse for government or
5 corporate denial of their responsibility.

6 Radioactivity poses a unique challenge
7 that it creates power plants which explode and
8 distribute toxic materials over vast areas and can
9 create dead zones, such as around Chernobyl and
10 Fukushima.

11 My comment is that it's obvious to me that
12 the danger of failure in this case far outweighs the
13 advantages of nuclear power. I also take issue with
14 the notion that nuclear power is economical. This
15 view does not take into account decommissioning costs
16 of all of these plants. The cleanup of catastrophic
17 disasters which have happened and will happen in the
18 future. Still unresolved waste disposal issue shows
19 no sign of being resolved at all.

20 I also take issue with the idea that
21 nuclear power is green. It is carbon free, it's also
22 calorie free. This superficial green-ness masks the
23 blackness, high-level radioactive waste. Part of the
24 designed fuel cycle and the possibility of accidental
25 or catastrophic releases. Nuclear power can be

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1 construed to be superior to coal, or wind, or solar by
2 comparing certain statistics, but does not make
3 nuclear clean. The advantage nuclear power does have
4 is a powerful political lobby and a corporate call to
5 the media and legislation (Telephonic interference)
6 continued profit.

7 Other technologies are lagging behind
8 nuclear in their ability to provide adequate
9 electricity because research and development funds
10 were slashed when Reagan took the solar panels off the
11 White House in 1980, so we need to catch up and phase
12 over to less toxic, dangerous forms of power
13 generation and not put our eggs in a nuclear basket
14 and arrogantly believe that a Fukushima, Chernobyl
15 cannot happen.

16 I'm also concerned like the previous
17 caller about the report that I heard of NRC's safety
18 standards in order to so-call safely relicense nuclear
19 power plants. This making nuclear power less
20 expensive short-term, and an increased likelihood of
21 accidents short-term.

22 Comment on the local Richland citizens
23 which have commented in favor of Hanford's nuclear
24 power generation. I fully agree with what you're
25 saying. It's wonderful that it's providing employment

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1 for the community, and that they have been very safe
2 up to this point and very kind to the community with
3 apparently minimal radioactive releases that have not
4 created a notable spike, although I do know of
5 individuals who do have thyroid cancer from living in
6 the area.

7 Regardless, the past experience of them
8 being safe does not ensure safety in the future, and I
9 urge you to consider that there is a toxic bomb,
10 really. It is a controlled nuclear explosion
11 happening that if gotten out of control will
12 contaminate your home, like has happened at Fukushima
13 and Chernobyl, and there is no way a human can
14 guarantee that will not happen. So, you know,
15 mistakes can happen, and it would be much better if
16 there was a dam in the river there getting hydro
17 electricity, much safer. When a hydro electric plant
18 fails, the place is not contaminated for centuries.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. FEHST: Okay. Thank you, caller. I
21 think I'll turn back to the floor to see if we have
22 any audience members who have not submitted cards
23 whose names I don't have yet. Is there anyone here in
24 the room who has a comment they'd like to make this
25 afternoon? Okay. It looks like we're finished here

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1 in the main room. But let me turn back to the callers
2 and just see if there's anyone on the line who hasn't
3 had a chance to give their comment this afternoon. Is
4 there anyone who would still like to make a comment?

5 MODERATOR TAMARA: Karen Axell, your line
6 is open.

7 MS. FEHST: Okay. Caller, if you could
8 repeat your name again, and if you are with an
9 organization, identify that organization. And when
10 you give your name, please spell the first and last
11 name. The first time you came on, the call was kind
12 of breaking up, so whatever you could do to make the
13 call come through better.

14 MS. AXELL: Sure, can you hear me?

15 MS. FEHST: Yes, that's great.

16 MS. AXELL: Very good. My name is Karen
17 Axell, that's A-X-E-L-L, and I live in Vancouver,
18 Washington. And I want to echo the previous comment
19 on the weakening safety standards for the NRC and the
20 proposed EIS should make an analysis of all the
21 dangers and impact of proposals and implications
22 available to the public for public comment, especially
23 in regard to plutonium.

24 It should disclose all unresolved safety
25 issues. You should stop the relicensing process until

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1 the Fukushima accident is analyzed as to exactly what
2 was damaged there and why. You must take into account
3 the location of Hanford in regard to possible fire,
4 earthquake, explosion hazard, dangers to the region,
5 land and groundwater.

6 I urge the removal of the spent fuel to
7 hardened concrete casks. You must address the
8 disposal of the radioactive waste from the site. And
9 I echo everyone who has said that you should be
10 holding these hearings in other places in the region,
11 especially where the public utilities are holding
12 partial ownership of the reactor. Thank you very
13 much.

14 MS. FEHST: Okay. Thank you for your
15 comment. Are there any other callers on the line?

16 MODERATOR TAMARA: We do have Colm Brennan.
17 Your line is open.

18 MR. BRENNAN: Yes. My name is Colm
19 Brennan, C-O-L-M B-R-E-N-N-A-N. I live in Beaverton,
20 Oregon. I'm with the Alliance for Democracy, Oregon
21 Chapter. I believe that the power plant should not be
22 relicensed like all the other callers have said until
23 we resolve these safety problems that have been
24 formally identified by the NRC Staff.

25 And, also, to address the issue of

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1 plutonium fuel, which if the Fukushima plant had been
2 fully loaded with plutonium fuel, 40 percent greater
3 radiation would have possibly leaked into the
4 atmosphere. And I believe also that when we're
5 dealing with situations as dangerous as we have, that
6 the public should be made aware of what is going on,
7 and there should be more public meetings and
8 information for people to comment and make their
9 voices well known on this issue. And that's all I
10 have to say on behalf of the Alliance for Democracy.
11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. FEHST: Thank you for your comment.
13 Are there any other callers who would like to make a
14 comment this afternoon?

15 MODERATOR TAMARA: We show no more comments
16 or questions.

17 MS. FEHST: Okay. It appears that we have
18 finished with the comment period. There will be
19 another meeting this evening, open house from 6:00 to
20 7:00, and the meeting will officially begin at 7:00.

21 On behalf of the NRC, we'd like to thank
22 you all for coming, for your attention, for your
23 respectful attention to everybody's remarks, and also
24 for some very well thought out comments. We
25 appreciate that.

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1 This is not your only opportunity to
2 provide your comments. You can do so online and by
3 U.S. mail. And, of course, all the contact
4 information is up on the slide up on the screen. And
5 we look forward to hearing from you by November 16th.
6 November 16th is the filing deadline for comments.

7 We will -- the NRC will review all the
8 comments that have come in today, and provide a
9 response to all substantive comments in the Final
10 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, the SEIS,
11 and immediately following this meeting, NRC Staff will
12 be available for a little while if any of you who are
13 here would like to talk one-on-one with some of the
14 people from the NRC who are here.

15 And I want to thank you again for your
16 comments, and for taking your time, and also for
17 adhering to the time frame. And, most of all, for
18 such a respectful audience with regard to your fellow
19 audience members. Thank you.

20 (Whereupon, the proceedings went off the
21 record at 3:58 p.m.)

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