

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Braidwood LRA Public Scoping Meeting
Afternoon Session

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Location: Braidwood, Illinois

Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2013

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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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3 BEFORE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

4 + + + + +

5 NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY

6 BRAIDWOOD LRA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

7 + + + + +

8 Regarding the License Renewal Application

9 NEPA Required Scoping Meeting

10 + + + + +

11 WEDNESDAY

12 AUGUST 21, 2013

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14 386 W. KENNEDY ROAD

15 BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS

16 + + + + +

17 The above-entitled matter commenced
18 pursuant to Notice before Sheila Ray and Cheryl
19 Hausman, Facilitators

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1
2 PRESENT:
3 NRC STAFF:
4 Yoria Diaz
5 Tam Tran
6 Alex Garmo [e]
7 Stuart Sheldon
8 Anita Ghosh
9 Prema Chandrathil
10 Elizabeth Pool
11 Jacob Steff [e] s
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(2:00 P.M.)

MS. RAY: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attendance. We are going to begin this Braidwood license renewal environmental scoping meeting. My name is Sheila Ray and I'm one of the co-facilitators for this meeting. Cheryl Hausman is the other facilitator. And we are here to help the meeting run smoothly, to insure the meeting stays on time, and also to insure that everyone that would like to make a public comment has that opportunity.

Before we get started, I did want to mention that this meeting is being transcribed and this will help the NRC have an accurate record of this meeting. And I'd ask that you keep any background noise to a minimum. And if you have any sidebar conversations, please take them outside. I would also ask that you silence all of your electronic devices so it'll help to insure an accurate transcription.

I'd ask that everyone please be respectful of others and we can insure that everyone has an opportunity to speak. I'd like to note that the restrooms are out these doors to the left, and there are exits on either side of this hallway. And

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1 also Security is at this meeting in case you have an
2 emergency. Officer Reed.

3 The purpose of today's meeting is to
4 discuss the license renewal process and to identify
5 significant issues related to the proposed license
6 renewal activity for the Braidwood Station, Units 1
7 and 2. We're also here to determine the scope of the
8 issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact
9 Statement.

10 The agenda for this meeting will be
11 starting with a brief presentation by the NRC,
12 followed by Q and A session to have any audience
13 members ask any questions regarding the presentation
14 itself, followed by a public comment period for the
15 remainder of the time. And for the public comment
16 period, for those of you who have registered, we
17 appreciate that. If you have not signed a yellow
18 card and would like to speak at this meeting, please
19 sign a yellow card. They are located outside.

20 I'd like to start with introductions. My
21 name is, again, Sheila Ray. I work for the NRC. I'd
22 like to start with Yoira.

23 MS. DIAZ: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm
24 Yoira Diaz. I'm the supervisor or branch chief for
25 the Safety Projects Branch, and basically my staff is

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1 the one that is in charge of reviewing the license
2 renewal application for the safety site. I'm
3 actually the federal official for this meeting.

4 MS. RAY: Alex?

5 MR. GARMO[E]: Good afternoon, I'm Alex
6 Garmo[e], the acting Senior Resident Inspector at
7 Braidwood, so I'm one of the two people responsible
8 for inspections on a day-to-day basis at the
9 Braidwood Station.

10 MS. RAY: Jacob?

11 MR. STEFF[E]S: Good afternoon. I'm
12 Jacob Steff[e]s. I'm the other member of the team
13 that makes up our inspection process at Braidwood and
14 we report daily and also do emergency response.

15 MS. RAY: Tam?

16 MR. TRAN: Thank you. My name is Tam
17 Tran. I'm the Environmental Project Manager for the
18 license renewal review of the Braidwood applications.

19 MS. RAY: Anita?

20 MS. GHOSH: Good afternoon. My name is
21 Anita Ghosh and I'm with the Office of the General
22 Counsel.

23 MS. RAY: And Prema.

24 MS. CHANDRATHIL: Hi, everyone. My name
25 is Prema Chandrathil. I'm the Public Affairs Officer

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1 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and I'm based
2 here out in Lisle. Thanks for coming.

3 MS. RAY: At this time I'd like to have
4 representatives from other federal agencies introduce
5 themselves. Elizabeth?

6 MS. POOL: Hi, My name is Elizabeth Pool
7 from the U.S. EPA, Region 5 in the Chicago office.
8 I'm in the NEPA Compliance Division and I'm the
9 leader for the EPA's review of the document.

10 MS. RAY: Thank you. At this time we'd
11 like to move into the presentation by the NRC. I'd
12 like to introduce Tam Tran. Also, if you could hold
13 your questions until the end. We'll have a brief Q
14 and A session for any clarifications on the
15 presentation.

16 MR. TRAN: Thank you, Sheila. Good
17 afternoon. My name is Tam Tran. I'm one of the two
18 project managers for the NRC Division of License
19 Renewal associated with the Braidwood Station License
20 and Review. I'm the Environmental Project manager.
21 The Safety Project manager is John Daily. John's not
22 here today.

23 Thank you for taking the time to come out
24 to help us with this public meeting to provide your
25 comments, and we value your comments. Today I will

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1 provide an overview of the license renewal review
2 process, which includes both a safety review and an
3 environmental review. I will describe in more detail
4 the environmental review process associated with the
5 license renewal for the Braidwood Station.

6 But the most important part of today's
7 meeting is to receive any comment that you may have
8 on the scoping of the environmental review. And we
9 also provide information about how comments can be
10 submitted outside of this meeting. I hope the
11 information will help you to understand the license
12 renewal review process and the role that you can play
13 in helping us to make sure that the NRC Environmental
14 Review considers the relevant information that it
15 should.

16 Before I get into a discussion of license
17 renewal review process, I would like to briefly talk
18 about the NRC in terms of what we do and our
19 missions. The NRC is a federal agency established by
20 the Energy Reorganization Act that regulates the
21 civilian use of nuclear material in the commercial
22 sense.

23 The Atomic Energy Act authorizes the NRC
24 to grant 40 year operating license for nuclear power
25 reactors. [40 year] was made primarily on economic

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1 considerations and anti-trust factors, not on safety
2 or technical limitations.

3 The Atomic Energy Act also allows for
4 license renewal. The National Environmental Policy
5 Act established the national policy for considering
6 the impacts of federal decisions on human
7 environment. As a matter of policy, the Commission
8 determined that reactor license renewal constitutes a
9 major federal action for which an environment impact
10 statement is warranted.

11 In exercising its regulatory authority,
12 the NRC mission is three-fold; to insure adequate
13 protection of the public health and safety, to
14 promote the common defense and security of the
15 nation, and to protect the environment. The NRC
16 accomplishes its mission through a combination of
17 regulatory programs and processes such as
18 establishing rules and regulations, conducting
19 inspections, issuing enforcement actions, assessing
20 licensee performance, evaluating operating experience
21 from nuclear plants across this country and
22 internationally.

23 The NRC has resident inspect[ors] [at]
24 all operating nuclear power plants. Inspectors [are]
25 considered the eyes and ears for the Agency, they

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1 carry out our safety mission on a daily basis, and
2 [are] on the front lines of [e]nsuring acceptable
3 safety performance and compliance with regulatory
4 requirements for the plant.

5 Now, turning to the Braidwood Station,
6 Exelon Generation Company filed an application dated
7 May 29th seeking to renew the operating licenses of
8 the Byron and Braidwood plants for an additional 20
9 years of operations. The current operating licenses
10 for the Braidwood expire on October 17th, 2026 for
11 Unit 1 and December 18th, 2027 for Unit 2.

12 Exelon, in submitting a single
13 applications cover both Byron and Braidwood plants
14 cited extensive similarity into the system,
15 construction, and component of each that are analyzed
16 in the license renewal review. The NRC will conduct
17 a separate environmental review for Braidwood because
18 of differences in environmental and cultural
19 resources surrounding the Braidwood Station in
20 comparison to Byron.

21 A license renewal application is required
22 to contain certain set of information. General
23 information such as applicant's name, address,
24 business and administrative information and technical
25 information which pertain to aging management. This

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1 information is the focus of the safety review.

2 The application also includes a[n]
3 environment report, which is the applicant assessment
4 of the environment impact of continued operations.
5 This information serves as a starting point for the
6 staff to review the environmental aspect of the
7 license renewal of the Braidwood Station.

8 This diagram illustrates the safety and
9 environment review process[e]s. It also features two
10 other considerations in the Commission's decision of
11 whether or not to renew the [operating] license. One
12 of these considerations is the independent review
13 performed by the Advisory Committee on reactor
14 safeguards.

15 The so-called ACRS is a group of
16 scientists and nuclear safety experts who serve as a
17 consulting body to the Commission. The ACRS report
18 [its] finding [and] recommendation directly to the
19 Commission. The ACRS review would also include a
20 public meeting.

21 Hearings may also be conducted[.] before
22 September 23, 2013[,] Braidwood interest stakeholders
23 may submit concerns or contention and request a
24 hearing. A panel from the Atomic Safety Licensing
25 Board will be established to review the contentions

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1 for admissibility.

2 If hearing is approved, the Commission
3 will consider the outcome of the hearing process in
4 this decision of whether or not to issue a renewal
5 operating license.

6 License renewal involves two parallel
7 reviews; the safety review and the environmental
8 review. The safety review focuses on the aging
9 effects of passive and long lived components and
10 structures that the NRC deems important to plant
11 safety. The staff main objective in this review is
12 to determine whether the effects of aging will be
13 adequately managed by the applicant.

14 The review also considers generic and
15 site specific operating experience relating to the
16 effect of aging. The result of the safety reviews
17 are documented in the safety evaluation report or
18 sometimes we may refer to it as an SER.

19 For an environmental review, the staff
20 considers, evaluates, and discloses the environmental
21 impact of continued plant operation for an additional
22 20 years. The staff also evaluates the environmental
23 impacts of alternatives to license renewal.

24 The objective of the review is to
25 determine if the environmental impact of license

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1 renewal are so great that license renewal would not
2 be a reasonable option. Or more plainly, is license
3 renewal acceptable from an environmental standpoint?

4 The staff prepares an environmental impact statement
5 to document its review. And you may hear us refer to
6 that as the EIS.

7 Before I go to more depth about the
8 safety and environmental reviews, I want to mention a
9 few areas that are very important [and] parts of the
10 NRC [oversight] process. These are emergency
11 planning, security, and current safety performance.

12 The NRC addresses this area of
13 performance every day as part of the ongoing
14 regulatory oversight provided for all currently
15 operating reactors. Current license issues [are]
16 addressed on an ongoing basis under the current
17 operating licensing term. License renewal issues
18 [are] addressed separately [a]s a part of the license
19 renewal review.

20 Now, I will cover a little bit more
21 detail about the safety review. The regulation
22 governing license renewal for the safety review has
23 two guiding princip[le]s. The first princip[le] is
24 that the current regulatory process is adequate to
25 [e]nsure the licensing basis of all operating plants,

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1 and it provides acceptable level of safety.

2 The second principal is that the current
3 plant's specific licensing basis must be maintained
4 during the license renewal in the same manner and to
5 the same extent as during the original licensing
6 term. In other words, the same rules that [apply]
7 under the current license will continue to apply in
8 the renewal term for the additional 20 years of
9 operations.

10 In addition, a renewed license will
11 include condition that must be met to [e]nsure aging
12 of structure and components [important] to safety
13 [are] adequately managed so that the plant's current
14 licensing basis is maintained during the period of
15 extended operations. For safety, the staff
16 performs [multi] level reviews. First, the staff
17 reviews the license renewal application and
18 supporting documentation. This review includes an
19 evaluation of new and exist[ing] programs and
20 surveillance activity to determine with reasonable
21 assurance that effective aging of certain plant's
22 structure and components will be adequately managed
23 or monitored.

24 Second, the staff performs site audits to
25 verify the technical basis of the license renewal

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1 application and to confirm that the applicant aging
2 management program and activities conform with how
3 they are described in the applications.

4 The staff documents the basis and
5 conclusion of its review in the safety evaluation
6 report, which is publicly available. In addition, a
7 team of specialized inspector from NRC Region III
8 will travel to reactor site to verify that aging
9 management programs are being implemented, modified,
10 or planned consistent with the license renewal
11 applications.

12 Finally, as I have mentioned, the
13 environmental and reactor safeguards perform an
14 independent review of the license renewal
15 applications and [the] staff safety evaluation
16 report, and makes a recommendation to the commission
17 regarding the proposed action to issue a renewal
18 operating license.

19 For the environmental review, the staff
20 will perform an environment review in accordance with
21 the National Environmental Policy Act, or so-called
22 NEPA. NEPA provides the basis architecture for the
23 federal environmental review requirements. It
24 requires that all federal agencies follow a
25 systematic approach in evaluating potential impacts

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1 associated with major federal actions and
2 alternative[s] to those actions. The NEPA process
3 involves public participation and public involvement
4 as well as public disclosure.

5 The NRC environmental regulations
6 contained in 10CFR Par 51 are largely based on other
7 environmental regulations for NEPA. NRC
8 environmental review considers impact associated with
9 the licensing renewal and any mitigation for those
10 impacts we consider to be significant. We also
11 consider the impact of alternatives [to] license
12 renewal, including the impact of not issuing a
13 renewal license.

14 In conducting the review, the NRC staff
15 will look at various impacts to the [a]ffect[ed]
16 environments. This review involves a wide range of
17 expertise illustrated on this slide. The expert[s]
18 will examine environmental justice, ecology, land
19 use, regulatory compliance, climate change and so on
20 to develop the environmental impact statement.

21 As illustrated on this slide, some of the
22 agencies that we work with include U.S. Fish and
23 Wildlife Services, Environmental Protection Agency,
24 State's Historical Preservation Offices as well as
25 many local and state agencies and any effected Indian

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1 tribes.

2 The NRC staff, we also review
3 accumulative impacts associated with the continual
4 operation of the Braidwood Station. For cumulative
5 impacts, the staff will look at the effects on the
6 environment from the past, present and reasonably
7 foreseeable future human actions.

8 The cumulative impacts include both from
9 the Braidwood Station operations and other activities
10 near Braidwood. In other words, the cumulative
11 impact analysis considers potential impacts through
12 the end of the 20 year renewal term.

13 For the term beyond the 20-year period of
14 extended operations, the NRC waste confidence
15 addresses the environmental impact of the management
16 of the [used] fuel after the license's life,
17 including renewal. Previous license renewal EIS
18 noted that environmental impacts of temporary storage
19 of spent nuclear fuel for the period following the
20 reactor operating license term were addressed by NRC
21 Waste Confidence Rule. The waste confidence
22 environment impact statement is expected to be issued
23 in 2014.

24 In August 2012, the Commission decided
25 that the agency will not issue a final licensing

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1 decision for reactors, including license renewal.
2 Until the waste confidence regulatory activities are
3 completed, at that time any license renewal related
4 site specific issues at Braidwood Station remain
5 unresolved, they will be addressed separately.

6 The environmental review begins with the
7 scoping process, which is where we are today. The
8 purpose of the scoping process is to identify
9 significant issues that should be considered in the
10 environmental review. We are now gathering
11 information that we will use to prepare the EIS for
12 the Braidwood Station license renewal, that is the
13 environmental impacts that are local to this area and
14 that are important to the staff to consider.

15 The staff has developed a generic
16 environmental impact statement that addresses a
17 number of issues common to all nuclear power plants.

18 The staff is supplementing that generic EIS with a
19 site specific supplemental EIS for the Braidwood
20 Station. The staff will also re-examine the
21 conclusions reached in the generic EIS to determine
22 if there are any new and significant information that
23 would change the conclusions in the generic EIS. The
24 scoping period starts on July 31st and we will
25 continue to take comments until September 27th.

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1 In general, we are looking for
2 information about environment impacts from
3 continu[ed] operations of the Braidwood Station
4 during the extended period of operations. You can
5 assist us in that process by telling us, for example,
6 what aspect of your local community we should focus
7 on; what local environmental social and economic
8 issue that the NRC should examine; and what
9 reasonable alternatives are most appropriate for this
10 region.

11 This slide illustrates the NRC various
12 considerations for deciding if a renewal operating
13 license will be issued. It's a rigorous review
14 involving the EIS, the safety evaluation report,
15 regional inspection, and so on. But what's important
16 to point out here is that the public comments are an
17 important part of the license renewal process. We
18 consider all comments that we receive today and
19 throughout the scoping period. And the comments help
20 us to inform and to shape the supplemental
21 environmental impact statement.

22 In addition to providing comments at
23 today's meeting, there are other ways that you can
24 submit comments on the environmental review. You can
25 provide written comments by mail to the NRC Chief of

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1 Rules [and] Direct[ive] at the address provided on
2 this slide. And there are copies of this slide for
3 your use. Or you can send your comment
4 electr[oni]cally by going to regulation.gov website.

5 You can also make your comments in person
6 if you happen to be in Rock[ville], Maryland. We ask
7 that you get in touch with the NRC project manager[s]
8 beforehand so that we can set up appropriate
9 arrangements. Again, the comments should be
10 submitted by September 27th.

11 This slide shows some important
12 milestones for environmental review process. The
13 petition to request for a hearing [dues on September
14 23rd, 2013. We plan to issue the draft of the
15 environmental impact statement in 2014. Once the
16 draft is issued, there will be a comment period where
17 again there will be an opportunity for the public to
18 read through the draft EIS and to comment on the
19 draft.

20 The contact information for licensing
21 renewal and environmental review for Braidwood
22 Station is myself, Tam Tran; John Daly is the contact
23 for safety review; and John's contact information is
24 listed on this meeting handouts.

25 The Fossil Ridge Library has agreed to

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1 make the licensing renewal applications available for
2 public review. And when it is published for comment,
3 the draft supplemental environmental impact statement
4 will also be available at the library. In addition,
5 these documents will be on the NRC website listed on
6 the slide.

7 As you came in, you were asked to fill
8 out a registration card at our reception desk. If
9 you have included your address on that card and
10 indicated you would like to be on the distribution
11 list, we will send you a copy of that draft and the
12 final EIS for your information.

13 If you didn't have an opportunity to fill
14 out that card, please feel free before you leave to
15 fill out a card and add your address to it.

16 This concludes my presentation. I will
17 turn it over to Sheila.

18 MS. RAY: Thank you, Tam. At this time,
19 we'd like to have a Q and A session if there are any
20 questions regarding the presentation or if you'd like
21 any clarifications on that presentation. Any
22 questions?

23 I'd actually ask you to come to the
24 microphone and please introduce yourself.

25 MR. VICKERS: My name is Justin Vickers.

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1 I'm an attorney with the Environmental Law Associate
2 Center. I just wanted to know whether there would be
3 the need for power analysis under the AIS, for the
4 renewal, license renewal?

5 MR. TRAN: I'm sorry?

6 MR. VICKERS: About whether there's going
7 to be a need for a power analysis for the license
8 renewal under NEPA?

9 MR. TRAN: No.

10 MR. VICKERS: No, okay.

11 MR. TRAN: Yes, this is Tam Tran. I'm
12 project manager for environmental review. The
13 answer is, no. Our standard review plans do not
14 include that.

15 MS. RAY: Thank you. In order to have an
16 accurate transcription, we'd like everyone to
17 introduce themselves. Are there any other questions
18 on the presentation? Yes, sir, if you could come to
19 the microphone and please introduce yourself.

20 MR. BAWCUM: Dwayne Bawcum. I'm local.
21 I wonder what would be the harm in asking Exelon to
22 wait another ten years for a renewal request. Their
23 license doesn't end for 13 years. I understand it
24 takes two years for the process, renewal process.
25 So, if judging by their last 10 years or 15 years

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1 that they've been in operation, and the mistakes that
2 have been made, the impact that has happened to the
3 area, and what is done to us residences, would it
4 harm Exelon to wait another ten years, three before
5 the license expires. And then say, hey, look at what
6 I've done in the last ten years. Look at my
7 improvement. Look at my record.

8 I don't know what they're going to do in
9 the next ten years. I don't know if I'll be here.
10 My wife isn't since we've moved here. Neither is my
11 father-in-law. Various canines that didn't make it.

12 I've got four fused disks now. I don't know if I'll
13 be here in ten years. Maybe their request for
14 renewal will go through quicker with less people
15 around.

16 Anyway, that was my request, that Exelon
17 look back and say, I'll wait for ten years. Thank
18 you.

19 MS. RAY: Thank you. Were there any
20 other questions regarding the presentation? Yes,
21 ma'am, if you could please come to the microphone.

22 MS. LEWISEN: Yes, Linda Lewisen. I'm a
23 Sierra Club member and a member of Nuclear Energy
24 Information Service. I would like to ask two
25 questions. One, given all of the history that has,

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1 the episodes that have happened with the tritium
2 releases in the past, is Exelon going to address the
3 environmental impact now and talk about how that is
4 going to impact in the future in terms of the
5 environment in your new environmental impact
6 statement? And, well, I'll just stop there for now.

7 MS. RAY: Thank you. This is a meeting
8 for the environmental impact statement and any
9 questions you have for Exelon, I would refer you to
10 Exelon representatives. There are communication
11 representatives here that you may talk to after the
12 meeting.

13 Are there any other questions on the
14 presentation itself? Seeing none, we will move into
15 the public comment period. Just to remind everyone,
16 if you would like to speak, please fill out a yellow
17 card and this will help the transcription to be
18 accurate. And the yellow cards are located outside.

19 And, again, once you get invited to the podium,
20 please introduce yourself.

21 And at this time, I'd like to start with
22 the first public comment from Bill Rulien, the mayor
23 of Braidwood.

24 MR. RULIEN: Bill Rulien, the mayor of
25 Braidwood, as she said. I was about ten years old, I

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1 used to get my dad's newspaper and read it. And I
2 started to learn about the first commercial nuclear
3 power plant in the whole country that started
4 producing power. And it was just an amazing thing to
5 me with no fuel and no pollution. And that plant was
6 started by Commonwealth Edison. That's our little
7 Dresden plant over there. They were on the cutting
8 edge of this technology.

9 Now, when I was about 20, I built my
10 first solar collector. And I also decided to build
11 and experimented with some wind generators. Didn't
12 take me too long to figure out when the wind don't
13 blow, it would make great supplemental power, but
14 could never be reliable as a source of power.

15 In the 43 years since then, almost
16 nothing has changed. If you want reliable, safe,
17 massed produced pollution free power, you're going to
18 get it from a nuclear power plant. So, as far as we
19 can see in the future, that's what our future holds
20 for us.

21 Now, not too long, probably about 1980, I
22 was doing a little bit of construction in the Goose
23 Lake area, which is near the Dresden power plant. I
24 was working for a construction company. And I
25 noticed that people were building houses nearby. And

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1 I wondered about that, how that would work out.

2 Well, all I can tell you is for 25 years,
3 we have lived side by side with nuclear power plants
4 in Braidwood now that are operated. A benefit from
5 that is good jobs. They contribute to our tax base
6 for our library, our schools, and our fire
7 department. It's been really good for our economy
8 from that point of view.

9 They've been generous to our communities.
10 And Godley, they've spent millions of dollars to
11 build a water system for the people at Godley. And
12 Braceville, they've spent millions of dollars that
13 subsidize that city. Our food pantry, they
14 contribute thousands of dollars of help to our food
15 pantry and many other projects in our communities.
16 Last year they helped out our city with \$15,000 to
17 buy an electronic sign and to help out with our
18 little tourist attraction we're trying to build for
19 Route 66 to improve our economy here in Braidwood.

20 So, we believe here that license renewal
21 is in the best interest of our city. And I thank you
22 for that comment.

23 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
24 Larry Walsh of the Will County Executive.

25 MR. WALSH: Thank you very much. Good

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1 afternoon, everyone. I am Larry Walsh and I am a
2 Will County executive, Chief Executive Officer of
3 County Government.

4 I'm here to stand in strong support of
5 supporting Braidwood Nuclear Generation Station's
6 renewal policy. As the Mayor has said, Braidwood
7 Nuclear Generation Station has been a good neighbor.

8 We've had our ups and downs and we've had our bumps
9 in the road. And issues like tritium that we never
10 maybe even knew of ten years ago became a part of our
11 vocabulary.

12 But with that came the willingness when
13 we brought this issue forward to the station,
14 Braidwood, their willingness to work with us, to work
15 with the community. It opened the door of
16 transparency that wasn't there before, that opened
17 the door of communications that wasn't there before,
18 meaningful communications, meaningful transparency.

19 And as the Mayor said, a nuclear power
20 plant located here in the southwest portion of Will
21 County in Braidwood, 800 to 900 good paying jobs.
22 Jobs that can support a family. Jobs that can
23 support a community. Jobs that can support the other
24 governmental entities such as schools, fire
25 protection district, police departments; all of those

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1 are beneficiary of having a neighbor like the
2 Braidwood Generation Station.

3 So, I think that their record, even
4 though not one hundred percent, has been more than
5 satisfactory. We continue to work. We continue to
6 work together in a partnership that only makes it
7 better for all concerned, for the plant and for our
8 communities. But I strongly support, strongly
9 support the re-licensing of the Braidwood Nuclear
10 Generation Station.

11 And the speaker of the Accounting Board
12 will be up here to speak in a few minutes. But I do
13 have the resolution, Resolution No. 13187 that was
14 past on July the 24th, just last month, in regards to
15 a unanimous support from the county board on
16 supporting the re-licensing. So, thank you.

17 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
18 Herbert Brooks, Jr., the Speaker of the Will County
19 Board.

20 MR. BROOKS: Thank you, Sheila. Good
21 afternoon, everyone. My name is Hebert Brooks, Jr.
22 and as Sheila said, I am the Speaker of the Will
23 County Board. And what I do, I am the leader of the
24 legislative body by Will County Board as Larry, the
25 Executive.

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1 But I'm here today just to let you know
2 that the Will County Board totally supports the re-
3 licensing of the Braidwood Nuclear Plant. And this
4 plant supports many jobs, not only locally here in
5 Braidwood but all over Will County and even outside
6 of Will County, and of that we're very proud.

7 This plant provides consistent and cost
8 effective energy that is reliable for Will County and
9 the entire region. Without this facility, the plant,
10 we would be hard pressed to find a reliable energy
11 source without the Braidwood Nuclear Station. Will
12 County has a good working relationship with this
13 facility and the plant, and our communication with
14 this plant and the County Board has greatly improved.
15 And we're working on further improvement.

16 And ladies and gentlemen, we are in total
17 support of the re-licensing of the nuclear plant here
18 in Braidwood. Thank you so much, Sheila.

19 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
20 Seth Jansen of Congressman Kinzinger's office.

21 MR. JANSEN: Hi, my name's Seth Jansen.
22 I'm a field representative for Congressman Kinzinger,
23 and I have a letter that the Congressman is
24 submitting.

25 I write to express my full support for

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1 the renewal of the operating license of the nuclear
2 generating station at Braidwood, Illinois. This
3 facility provides lower energy costs for residents
4 and businesses and supports hundreds of high-paying
5 jobs in Illinois, while helping to ensure state
6 compliance with federal Clean Air Act regulations.
7 It will undoubtedly play an important role in meeting
8 the energy needs of Illinoisans well into the future.

9 Nuclear energy production plays a
10 critical role in Illinois, where nuclear energy
11 generates 48 percent of the state's electricity and
12 employs nearly 5,000 skilled workers. I can attest
13 to the value of the Braidwood generating facility has
14 to its local residents and communities, which
15 benefits through reduced energy costs, high-quality
16 jobs and significant tax revenue.

17 While many areas of Illinois struggle to
18 meet clean air standards, the generating station at
19 Braidwood offers affordable, abundant energy with a
20 fraction of the greenhouse gas emissions as other
21 conventional energy sources.

22 As Americans' and Illinoisans' demand for
23 energy rises, nuclear generating stations like
24 Braidwood will be vital to meeting the energy needs
25 of our citizens. I fully support the operating

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1 license renewal for this generating station and
2 believe it will play a critical role in making
3 America and the State of Illinois more energy secure.

4 Sincerely, Adam Kinzinger.

5 MS. RAY: At this time, I'd like to
6 invite Chief Rich Girof of the City of Braidwood.

7 MR. GIROF: I didn't know. I just handed
8 her a card and she called on me. That's pretty
9 quick.

10 I'm Chief Rich Girof. I've lived in
11 Braidwood for about 25 years. I'm also a former
12 mayor of the City of Braidwood and I've had good
13 dealings with Exelon back in the '90's. We
14 communicate all the time, especially with Mr. Miller
15 back there. We e-mail each other a lot. We have
16 breakfast a lot. I get notifications of anything
17 that goes on in the plant.

18 Since I've lived here, any problems
19 always come up first. They take care of it and I'm
20 glad I'm living here. I see the plant from my
21 backyard, so no problems.

22 It does supply a lot of jobs, helps the
23 school a whole lot in the taxing bodies. I know
24 there's been some issues in the past. But we still
25 have people moving in. It's a great place to live.

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1 Anything that I can do to help people through Exelon
2 is, like I said, we talk back and forth all the time.
3 They invite you out for lunch, dinner, whatever.

4 But, all I want to say it's a great place
5 and the jobs, the support, the family that lives here
6 that are supported. And everybody said everything
7 there is to say, you know? And I appreciate their
8 help.

9 They have donated in the past. They
10 bought two canine dogs for the City of Braidwood.
11 They donated money for equipment for the squad cars.

12 They also donated a lot of ammunition for us. They
13 go out and shoot up. That's hard to get anymore.
14 So, I mean, they're always there as a neighbor. They
15 help us all the time. And even now they have an
16 outage coming up, police department, Exelon, we work
17 together hand in hand for safety reasons.

18 But I believe in Exelon and I hope them
19 the bet for another 27 years, which I won't be living
20 here in 27 years, but I think they'll do good for the
21 community. So, that's all I have to say. Thanks.

22 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
23 Mark Kanavos, the Site Vice President of the
24 Braidwood Station.

25 MR. KANAVOS: Good afternoon. I'm Mark

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1 Kanavos and I'm the Site Vice President at the
2 Braidwood generating station. I have the overall
3 responsibility for the safe and reliable operation of
4 the facility, including the coordination and the
5 management of personnel and overall station
6 performance.

7 A little bit about my background. I have
8 over 32 years of progressive nuclear plant
9 experience. Before taking on my current role as site
10 vice president, I was the plant manager at Braidwood
11 for over two years. I've been the plant manager at
12 the Clinton station in Clinton, Illinois for over
13 three years, and the Comanche Peak Nuclear Station in
14 Glenrose, Texas. I've also worked in maintenance,
15 project management and engineering.

16 Operating the station safely and reliably
17 is a key responsibility of all the employees at the
18 Braidwood generating station. The ones that we take
19 very, very seriously and our commitment to ourselves
20 and our commitment to our community and to our
21 industry.

22 I'm proud to say that we've been a key
23 part of this community for over 25 years. Braidwood
24 generating station operates in a manner that
25 preserves the environment. We maintain a

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1 comprehensive radiological monitoring program that
2 extensively monitors the air and the water and the
3 food products around the facility that ensures that
4 we are not adversely impacting the environment.

5 We also have a comprehensive on-site
6 environmental ground water protection program that
7 can monitor and detect the presence of radioactivity
8 in ground water before it has a chance to migrate
9 off-site. This program includes 19 on-site wells
10 designed to detect and alert us of any unusual level
11 of radiation in the ground water so that we can
12 address any changes that we see quickly. We have
13 detailed procedures which outline how we test all
14 water leaving our station.

15 Radiation monitors are staged in over 40
16 locations within a ten mile radius of our station to
17 monitor any radiation of those levels and ensure the
18 safety of the community.

19 We've also had great success in our
20 tritium re-mediation efforts. In the last seven
21 years, Braidwood has made significant progress.
22 Hydro geologists have confirmed that re-mediation is
23 having the intended effect. As of today, the square
24 footage of land effective by tritium has been reduced
25 by 97 percent. And the highest concentrations of

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1 tritium in the ground have been reduced by 99
2 percent. We will continue to monitor and we still
3 retain the ability to re-mediate via pumping should
4 it become necessary.

5 Braidwood's environmental management
6 systems are certified under the strictest criteria of
7 the International Organization of Standardization or
8 ISO. Specifically, we receive the ISO 14001 re-
9 certification which is an industry recognition of our
10 environmental efforts.

11 This is an internationally recognized
12 benchmark for environmental management. The ISO
13 14001 certification requires a commitment to
14 excellence in meeting our regulatory requirements in
15 the prevention of pollution and continuous
16 improvement of our environmental systems.

17 Last year, the Wildlife Habitat Council
18 recognized Braidwood generating station's commitment
19 to the environmental stewardship by awarding us the
20 Wildlife at Work certification. This distinction was
21 awarded for our commitment to ensuring the
22 continuance of healthy wildlife in and around our
23 plant, and our fish habitat restoration project. The
24 project places artificial habitats in the Braidwood
25 lake the greatly benefit the fish throughout their

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1 life. It has greatly enhanced the fishery.

2 To ensure Braidwood continues to operate
3 for years to come, Exelon continues to invest in
4 Braidwood. We spend millions of dollars each year to
5 improve and modernize our equipment and enhance plant
6 operations and safety systems. Our investment in the
7 future doesn't stop with investment equipment. We've
8 hired 152 new employees in the last two years, and we
9 maintain a workforce of approximately 850 employees.

10 During our annual maintenance and
11 refueling outages, that population grows temporarily
12 to between 1,500 and 2,000 additional workers to the
13 area which brings a significant boost to the economy.

14 We also take pride in our investments in
15 our community. Last year, our employees contributed
16 over \$240,000 to the United Way Crusade of Mercy. In
17 our signature event, the Fishing for a Cure at the
18 Braidwood Lake has raised over \$300,000 for charity.

19 We also support the Braidwood Summerfest,
20 the Braidwood Shoot Out and other numerous community
21 events. Our employees host blood drives, toy drives,
22 fund drives for various groups and agencies. They
23 also volunteer and in short, we try to become the
24 very best neighbor we can.

25 Over the past 25 years, Braidwood has

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1 performed reliably and safely and has set numerous
2 benchmarks in the nuclear power industry. We look
3 forward to our license renewal and work hard on it
4 every day through dedication and to continuous
5 improvement.

6 In conclusion, we look forward to working
7 with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the review
8 of our license application. Thank you for this
9 opportunity to address the public.

10 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
11 Mike Gallagher, the Vice President of License Renewal
12 at Exelon.

13 MR. GALLAGHER: Good afternoon, everyone.
14 My name is Mike Gallagher, and I'm Vice President of
15 License Renewal for Exelon. I have overall
16 responsibility for the Braidwood generating station's
17 license renewal application.

18 First of all, I'd like to thank the NRC
19 for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Exelon
20 because this project is very, very important to us.
21 And I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

22 Exelon has a great deal of experience
23 with license renewal as we have already obtained the
24 renewed licenses for Dresden and Quad Cities plant
25 right here in Illinois and we have three of our other

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1 facilities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, we have
2 renewed licenses also. We've also, an application
3 pending with, under NRC review now, but for our
4 Limerick power plant in Pennsylvania.

5 So, just briefly about myself. I've been
6 working in the nuclear power industry for 32 years.
7 I was a license senior reactor operator and plant
8 manager of the Limerick generating station in
9 Pennsylvania, and I've worked at two of our other
10 nuclear plants and our corporate office.

11 Mr. Kanavos, the Site Vice President for
12 Braidwood, spoke to you about how rigorously we
13 safely operate the plant and about the reasons for
14 renewing the license. I'd like to speak to you about
15 the process for preparing this license renewal
16 application and the amount of work and engineering
17 analysis that was put into preparing the application.

18 Because the Braidwood station can operate
19 safely and reliably, Exelon decided to pursue license
20 renewal. Braidwood's safe, efficient operation
21 promotes a critical supply of carbon-free electricity
22 for Illinois and beyond. Braidwood produces enough
23 power, clean power for more than two million homes.

24 So, in 2011, we announced our intention
25 to seek license renewal for Braidwood and a similar

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1 plant, Byron, the generating station that's up in
2 Ogle County. So, later that year we started the work
3 necessary to prepare the application. After over two
4 years of work, we submitted the application to the
5 Nuclear Regulatory Commission on May 29th, 2013.

6 Safe and reliable operations has been a
7 hallmark of Braidwood station since it came on line
8 and our goal during the license renewal process is to
9 demonstrate to the NRC and to our neighbors that
10 we'll continue this legacy during the additional 20
11 year operating period.

12 The application, you know, when you print
13 it out, it's very large. It's about 3,500 pages.
14 And when you put it in a binder, it's about four
15 large binders about this thick. It's a huge amount
16 of information. But that only represents a small
17 part of the work that was done for the engineering
18 analysis to prepare the application. The total
19 amount of this engineering analysis, if we printed it
20 all out, would be about 400 binders of that
21 information. We invested over 90,000 engineering
22 man-hours to complete this work. And once we
23 completed our engineering work to prepare the
24 application, we brought in experts from outside of
25 Exelon to review the application to ensure that it as

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1 complete, thorough and accurate.

2 Our total cost to prepare and get our
3 application reviewed by the Nuclear Regulatory
4 Commission for both Braidwood and Byron stations will
5 be approximately \$45 million. There are two
6 different parts to this application, the safety
7 review and the environmental review.

8 For the safety review, we took an in-
9 depth look at the history and condition of the safety
10 equipment in the plant. We did that to determine
11 whether the necessary maintenance was being performed
12 on that equipment and to make sure the equipment will
13 be able to operate safely for an additional 20 years.

14 So, when you look back at Braidwood when
15 it was built, all the equipment was brand new. It
16 was thoroughly tested to make it would perform
17 properly. But like anything else, equipment does age
18 and therefore we need to do certain activities on
19 that equipment.

20 Preventative maintenance is performed,
21 sometimes equipment is refurbished. Some equipment
22 may be replaced. There may be modifications done to
23 the plant to upgrade the equipment. In fact, Exelon
24 has invested over \$230 million in the last four years
25 alone at Braidwood to improve and modernize equipment

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1 and enhance plant operations and safety.

2 We also reviewed the calculations that
3 were performed as part of the design of the plant
4 that were done to ensure the plant could operate for
5 the initial 40 year license. We analyze those
6 calculations, and we're able to confirm that the plant
7 would be able to operate safely for 60 years.
8 Overall, our conclusion from our engineering view was
9 that Braidwood could operate safely for 60 years.

10 We also took a look at the environmental
11 aspects and impacts of continuing to operate
12 Braidwood. We looked at all aspects of continuing
13 impacts of the plant on the environment. And our
14 conclusion is that the impacts on the environment are
15 small. And I use the term small in the sense of the
16 regulation. The regulations define small as the
17 environmental effects are not detectable or are
18 minor.

19 We also reviewed the alternatives if
20 Braidwood would not have its license renewed and
21 another source of electric generation would have to
22 be installed either here on site or someplace else to
23 generate that replacement electricity. We concluded
24 that any other means of generating the replacement
25 electricity would have more have an impact on the

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1 environment than the continued operation of
2 Braidwood.

3 In conclusion, we operate Braidwood
4 safely and we can continue to operate the plant
5 safely for an additional 20 years. Braidwood will
6 provide approximately 2340 megawatts of Basalo
7 generation that's not only safe but it's clean, it's
8 reliable and it's economical. Continued operation of
9 Braidwood will benefit this community, the state and
10 our nation. Thanks for this opportunity.

11 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
12 John Grueling of the Will County Center for Economic
13 Development.

14 MR. GRUELING: Thank you. Good
15 afternoon. My name is John Grueling and I'm with the
16 Will County Center for Economic Development. The
17 Will County Center for Economic Development is a
18 private non-profit economic development corporation
19 which has served the citizens and business of Will
20 County for 32 years. Our membership includes the
21 major employers throughout the region, most of which
22 are based here in Will County.

23 Our primary mission is to assist the
24 retention, the expansion and the recruitment of new
25 business into Will County, certainly focusing on

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1 keeping the businesses that are already here making
2 payroll, keep them here and growing.

3 Additionally, we support critical
4 infrastructure, investments and re-investments such
5 as what's been going on at the nuclear plant to make
6 sure that we can support our rapidly growing area in
7 the southern part of Will County.

8 Since 1990, Will County had more than
9 doubled its population to just under 700,000 people.

10 And we have become one of the fastest growing
11 employment centers in the Chicago metropolitan area.

12 Will County is also home to the largest inland
13 container port in North America, supporting global
14 freight movement.

15 The Will County Center for Economic
16 Development is here today to support, in support of
17 Braidwood generating station's license renewal
18 application submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
19 Commission on May 29th, 2013. Since 1993, the
20 Braidwood facility has been producing emission free
21 energy to northeastern Illinois, which is a good
22 thing, The CED believes by granting this renewal,
23 the NRC will allow Exelon Generation to continue to
24 provide over 3,360 megawatts of clean energy to the
25 tens of thousands of businesses in the region.

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1 Adequate, reliable, and affordable energy
2 supply has become one of the most important factors
3 when businesses are considering an explanation or
4 location or relocation. Without it, we cannot here in
5 Will County, successfully compete for good jobs for
6 our residents.

7 The Braidwood facility itself is an
8 economic engine for the region. With over 850 good
9 paying jobs and an annual payroll of \$82 million,
10 Braidwood is one of the largest employers in Will
11 County. In addition, the facility made \$20.7 million
12 in tax payments in 2012, local tax payments. The
13 significant contributions that Exelon Generation and
14 its employees make to the local community cannot be
15 overstated.

16 Support for the United Way, Fishing for a
17 Cure, local business and specific associations and
18 other very important events are critical to the
19 fabric of the community here.

20 The CED recognizes that a good
21 environmental steward Exelon is at their Braidwood
22 facility. The radiological monitoring and the ground
23 water protection programs in place today give the
24 community a sense of safety and environmental
25 protection that we expect from a world-class facility

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1 like Braidwood.

2 To reiterate, the Center for Economic
3 Development supports the renewal application for the
4 Braidwood generating station. Thank you.

5 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
6 Tom Wolf from the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

7 MR. WOLF: I'm a short guy, there we go.
8 Good afternoon, I'm Tom Wolf, Executive Director of
9 the Energy Council at the Illinois Chamber of
10 Commerce, and I'm here today speaking on behalf of
11 the chamber and its members from across the state
12 from every corner of the state, big and small, to ask
13 you to approve the renewal of the Braidwood
14 generation facility operating license because we need
15 to support the continued operation of this vital
16 component of our energy infrastructure.

17 It's no secret that Illinois continues to
18 face significant challenges to creating and
19 attracting and retaining jobs. But in amid
20 discussions of tax rates, regulation, pension reform
21 and infrastructure improvement, there is one
22 relatively constant asset that helps keep Illinois
23 competitive in the global marketplace; a reliable,
24 abundant, and cost competitive supply of electricity.

25 To maintain an abundant and diverse

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1 electricity supply and to be able to provide that
2 supply at competitive rates, Illinois relies heavily
3 on its fleet of nuclear generation stations.
4 Illinois has more nuclear power generation than any
5 state in the country. Nearly 45 percent of Illinois'
6 electricity is produced from nuclear power and 90
7 percent of Illinois' carbon-free electricity is
8 produced from nuclear power. If you want to impress
9 your friends at a cocktail party, test that trivia on
10 the number one state for nuclear. They very rarely
11 guess Illinois.

12 Whether or not you agree with President
13 Obama's recent push on making America a leader in
14 reducing carbon emissions, every kind of energy
15 generation is looking to improve its cost,
16 efficiency, reliability, and yes, its carbon
17 footprint. While coal and gas remain viable, an
18 important source of electricity and our renewable
19 sector continues to grow, Illinois' nuclear industry
20 combines capacity, reliability, and efficiency
21 without carbon emissions.

22 At the same time, nuclear generation
23 employs thousands of Illinoisans and ejects billions
24 of dollars into our state's economy every year. In
25 today's political world, it's hard to get any kind of

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1 serious energy policy going and it's hard to predict
2 how new technologies will affect future electricity
3 generation opportunities, but it doesn't take a
4 nuclear physicist, and I'm not a nuclear physicist,
5 but it doesn't take one to figure out that a diverse
6 reliable supply of electricity will create cost
7 competitive power that our economy and our businesses
8 need to thrive.

9 So, in that light, because Braidwood has
10 been a key part of Illinois' nuclear fleet, which has
11 in turn been a critical part of Illinois' electricity
12 infrastructure, because Exelon has shown itself to be
13 an excellent, responsible owner and operator of the
14 Braidwood generation facility and its other nuclear
15 plants in Illinois and across the country, and
16 because Braidwood is such a benefit for the community
17 in terms of employment, tax revenue, direct and
18 indirect spending and community involvement, for all
19 those reasons and more, the Illinois Chamber of
20 Commerce strongly supports this application and hopes
21 you see fit to grant Exelon the license renewal.

22 I want to end in a personal note that I
23 took my fifth nuclear plant tour this week in LaSalle
24 County. I've taken a tour of the Braidwood facility
25 and I wish every American had a chance to walk

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1 through that facility. There are two reasons that
2 doesn't happen. One is they don't care that much,
3 they just want their lights to turn on. And two, the
4 security guards at Exelon's head would explode if I
5 said all Americans were coming to the plant.

6 But it's too bad that kind of line
7 doesn't happen because if people saw the plant up
8 close and personal, they'd see what the people, what
9 I've seen and what other people that are brought to
10 the plant have seen, professional staff working hard
11 to create electricity in a safe environment and they
12 would even see the NRC working hard as an oversight
13 committee to make sure it's done safely. So, thank
14 you very much.

15 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
16 Don Moran representing a number of entities.

17 MR. MORAN: Good afternoon. From 1985 to
18 1987, I worked at the Braidwood Station as a young
19 construction worker, an apprentice sheet metal
20 worker. Today, I'm employed as a business
21 representative for sheet metal workers and I'll speak
22 not only on behalf of my own local union, but also on
23 behalf of the Will and Grundy building construction
24 trades.

25 Beginning in the fall of 2007, a full

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1 year before the rest of the country's economy was
2 affected, the construction industry was decimated by
3 the worst case of unemployment it had seen since the
4 Great Depression. Literally thousands of our members
5 lost their jobs, their homes, their families during
6 the next five and-a-half years of economic plight.

7 One bright spot during all of those years
8 has been the construction jobs provided during
9 refueling and upgrading of Braidwood Station. Having
10 been involved in the building and maintenance of the
11 station over the past 30 years, I'm very confident in
12 the continued safe operation of the plant into the
13 future, and I'm thankful for their commitment to the
14 local trades by providing good jobs and benefits to
15 local people.

16 My frustration with high unemployment led
17 me to run for office. And I was elected to the Will
18 County Board last November. Will County Board
19 recently passed a resolution supporting the license
20 renewal for Braidwood Station as well, and I voted
21 for that resolution.

22 As Illinois struggles in today's
23 competitive business market, we cannot afford to
24 ignore any of the things that help us put us on
25 better footing. One of the building blocks to

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1 economic development is affordable and reliable
2 electricity. The Illinois's diverse network of
3 electricity generation coming from coal, wind, and
4 nuclear gives us an advantage in enticing new and
5 retaining existing businesses to the area.

6 Unlike the rolling blackouts experienced
7 in California during 2000 and 2001, our local
8 electrical generation and transmission systems have
9 provided consistent reliable electricity and have
10 done so with diminishing cost to consumers as
11 compared to the CPI.

12 I remember cooling my first home, a tiny
13 900 square foot house with summer monthly electric
14 bills of over \$200 in the mid-80s. Today, I live in
15 a modest town home about three times that large and
16 pay about \$150 in summer months to cool it. Quite
17 the bargain compared to nearly 30 years ago,
18 especially when considered next to the cost
19 associated with fueling your car or paying for health
20 care.

21 As the president of the Illinois State
22 Rifle Association, I represent the interest of many
23 outdoors people including fishermen and water foul
24 hunters, many of whom have benefitted greatly from
25 the public access to the Braidwood station's cooling

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1 lake.

2 In addition of being a source of reliable
3 electricity generation, Braidwood Station has been a
4 benefit to local school districts, fire protection
5 and other taxing bodies and community, not to mention
6 its commitment to local charities and community
7 events. They've been good stewards to our
8 communities and I'd ask that the NRC renew the
9 license for Braidwood Station. Thank you.

10 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
11 James King, the Director of Operations at Custer
12 CUSD.

13 MR. KING: Hi, I'm James King, Director
14 of Operations for the school district. I'm probably
15 the only one that can say that I am a lifelong member
16 of this community. I grew up, I was born eight miles
17 from here and accept for a few years for college and
18 a couple of years working out of state, I've been
19 here ever since.

20 In 1978, I built a house in Custer Park,
21 which is six miles from here. I grew up in Essex, so
22 that's only about eight miles from here. I've been a
23 former member of the Re-Custer Board of Education for
24 16 years. I spent 32 years at Joliet Junior College
25 and the last eight years I've spent as our business

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1 manager at the school district.

2 I'd like to address what a lot of people
3 refer to, and that is that the school district
4 benefitted from Exelon's presence. Our school
5 district has educated approximately 2,000 three year
6 olds through 18 year olds every year and I calculated
7 approximately 60,000 students since Unit 1 went on
8 board, went on-line.

9 We employ about 300 folks in various
10 capacities, everything from bus drivers and
11 custodians through teachers and administrators. Our
12 current budget is just approaching \$25 million a year
13 and 77 cents of every dollar comes from Exelon. At
14 one time, that was closer to 96 cents on the dollar.

15 Our district could not exist without
16 Exelon's presence. Exelon provides our source of
17 funding, the revenue that we need to educate these
18 kids, and a lot of these children have grown up and
19 they are now working at the nuclear plant. I know
20 because I educated them at Joliet Junior College and
21 they're maintenance and IM mechanics at Exelon.

22 In addition to those benefits to our
23 school district, Exelon has also provided a lot of
24 other ancillary benefits, such as providing grants
25 for Gabby Green, environmental grants where our

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1 students get an opportunity to try to create
2 something that is environmentally sound and gets
3 funded from Exelon, some awards given for that.

4 School supplies that they've purchased
5 over the years, the Bass Fishing Club that we have is
6 a non-profit club that we do not fund in anyway.
7 Exelon has assisted with that. They've provided the
8 cooling lake, they provide whatever assistance. We
9 have a good working relationship between the Bass
10 Club and Exelon.

11 They've also sponsored proms and
12 homecoming dances and a lot of various activities for
13 the school. And I'm forgetting one that was already
14 mentioned earlier, but I don't recall what it was
15 right now but they have just been a great asset to
16 our school district and the students of our
17 community.

18 So, I don't think it's quite surprising
19 if I tell you that we support the license renewal a
20 hundred percent. And I also would like to say on a
21 personal note that the reason I mentioned that I grew
22 up and was born eight miles from here is because I
23 used to play on the spoils for the coal mining that
24 was done there. It's probably illegally but back
25 then nobody said anything about it. We played in

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1 those lakes, we played on those spoils. And when I
2 go back there to this day and visit my relatives, and
3 I see all of the red lights flashing from all of the
4 windmills, it kind of makes me sick to my stomach to
5 see what has happened to some of the environmental,
6 you talk about environmental impact, that to me, when
7 you drive south of DeWitt and you see all of those
8 windmills, and then you realize that the generation
9 from those windmills is slight in comparison to the
10 small footprint of this plant.

11 So, we are in support. Thank you for the
12 opportunity.

13 MS. RAY: Thank you. I would like to
14 invite Doug O'Brien of the Illinois Clean Energy
15 Coalition.

16 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you. I appreciate
17 the opportunity to be here today. I'm Doug O'Brien,
18 the Executive Director of the Illinois Clean Energy
19 Coalition.

20 Are group is supported by business, labor, and policy
21 leaders across the state and we promote the
22 development and use of clean energy in a competitive
23 market that benefits both the environment and our
24 economy.

25 And we've heard a lot today about the

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1 positive impacts that Braidwood has on the
2 surrounding communities, the jobs, the economic
3 activity, the millions of dollars that it pumps into
4 the local economy. But the positive impacts reach
5 much further than the areas that benefit directly
6 from the plant operations.

7 Nuclear also brings broad benefits to
8 Illinois by helping maintain a competitive
9 marketplace for consumers. While there are many,
10 many factors that play into the rates that are paid
11 by residential and commercial consumers, the
12 existence of a reliable and abundant base-line energy
13 supply is a significant factor to Illinois' lower
14 energy rates. More than 10 percent lower than the
15 national average, 25 percent lower than Michigan and
16 over 40 percent lower than in the State of New York,
17 according to the U.S. Energy Information
18 Administration.

19 And the benefits derived from Braidwood
20 and the other nuclear plants in Illinois are not
21 limited to the economy. It's an enormous benefit
22 that the generation of 18 million megawatts of
23 electricity at Braidwood last year produced no carbon
24 air admissions.

25 Earlier this year, NASA's Goddard

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1 Institute sought to quantify the real impact of
2 nuclear power's carbon emissions free operations.
3 The Goddard study found that replacing nuclear power
4 with fossil fuel generation would lead to an
5 estimated 76,000 deaths per year globally, primarily
6 as a result of increased cardio and pulmonary
7 disease.

8 And this is even more important here in
9 Illinois. The Chicago metropolitan area is
10 designated a non-attainment area by the EPA due to
11 air pollution. And this situation would be greatly
12 acerbated without the existence of the Braidwood
13 generating station which produces enough electricity
14 to power two million homes without adding to this
15 environmental problem.

16 And I think it's also important to note
17 we're talking a great deal about two parts of our
18 environment. We're talking about ecosystem and the
19 impacts that we traditionally think of as
20 environmental. We talk about emissions and we talk
21 about impacts on the air and the water.

22 But as was noted earlier in the
23 discussion of the EIS process, a big part of our
24 environment is also our quality of life. So when it
25 comes to jobs that are created, when it comes to

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1 benefits to the community, when it comes to tax
2 revenues that are generated, those are very, very
3 important parts of the assessment of environment
4 impacts. It does not just go to impacts on eco
5 systems. It's a comprehensive look and that's why
6 everybody's voice here is relevant.

7 And for all these reasons, the Illinois
8 Clean Energy Coalition urges the renewal of the
9 operating license to the Braidwood generating
10 station. Thank you.

11 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
12 Irfan Khan of Exelon.

13 MR. KHAN: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Irfan Khan. I'm an engineer at the Braidwood
15 generating station. I work in the Design Engineering
16 Organization where we're responsible for making
17 design changes to the plant and other plant
18 activities. And our job number one in our
19 organization, our organization at Braidwood is
20 safety. So, every task we perform, we perform it
21 safely and we ensure that it is safely performed.

22 I'm also part of the North American Young
23 Generation in Nuclear, which is an organization that
24 fosters professional development for employees under
25 30. And we also have many activities for community

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1 outreach and for volunteering. And I just wanted to
2 convey my support for the continued operation of the
3 Braidwood Station. Thank you.

4 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
5 Dee deGroh, our resident at Braidwood and also a
6 member of the Community Advisory Board.

7 MS. DEGROH: Thank you, Sheila, and thank
8 you everybody. My name is Dee deGroh. And I moved
9 to this community full time about eight years ago and
10 moved into my grandparents' home. And my parents and
11 grandparents and great-grandparents all grew up in
12 Essex, Braidwood area. So I've, of course, known it
13 all my life.

14 I remember back in about 1976 when they
15 first started construction of the plant. There were
16 committees formed at that time to meet with
17 representatives because no one knew much of anything
18 about the plant, the nuclear power. It was just new
19 to everybody. And no one knew how to even react to
20 it.

21 In '88 when they had their open house for
22 the community, various dates, I was fortunate enough
23 to be able to go through the plant at that time.
24 Currently, I am on many committees in town. I'm on
25 the Library Board. I'm a member of the Community

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1 Advisory Panel for Exelon; president of the
2 Historical Society in town; and Chamber of Commerce
3 and many other community church groups and even on
4 the school, what is that called? Citizens, no,
5 Community, CIC. What is that called? Community
6 Involvement Committee, that's what CIC is. Anyway, I
7 am very much involved in the community and hope to
8 continue to be.

9 But as a member of Community Advisory
10 Panel, we were allowed to tour the plant a couple of
11 years ago. And we were all amazed at how immense the
12 plant is and all the security. My goodness. I
13 realize it was increased after 9/11, but it's truly
14 amazing and we were all just very impressed with
15 everything we saw.

16 And some of you may have read the
17 Braidwood Journal last week and Tana McKillop wrote
18 an article about her experience having toured the
19 plant a few weeks ago. And it's something that those
20 who live in this area should experience at some time
21 or another because it's absolutely amazing.

22 But to tell you little more about the
23 Community Advisory Panel, there are, I don't know,
24 maybe 15 of us on the committee. And we meet
25 quarterly and we bring questions to Exelon that we

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1 have ourselves about the plant and nuclear power, as
2 well as questions that other people have stated to us
3 after our experiences.

4 And all of those questions are answered
5 either immediately at those meetings or someone comes
6 and makes a presentation to us at their next meeting.

7 So, we always get an explanation of what has
8 happened, and an answer to our questions.

9 I know one of the things that was
10 interesting to me and shocking to me was that NRC has
11 24/7 office right on the premises at the power
12 station plant. I mean, their offices are right
13 there. They shut the computers and the input and the
14 output and the buttons and all the gadgets on a
15 regular basis. And it was just comforting, I think,
16 to me to know that.

17 Also, the plant, Exelon, has been a
18 really good neighbor to our communities. Many people
19 have told you about schools and the different
20 organizations and they help keep our towns vibrant
21 and workable for all of us.

22 According to the meeting I attended
23 August 8th, the NRC held at the city hall, the
24 Braidwood Station had met and maybe exceeded the
25 expected safety and security performances. And we

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1 welcome a license renewal by the NRC of our Braidwood
2 Station because they really have been a good
3 neighbor. And I thank all of you.

4 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
5 Angie Hutton of the Braidwood Chamber.

6 MS. HUTTON: Hi, I'm Angie Hutton,
7 President of the Braidwood Chamber and I too am a
8 member of the CAP group.

9 Exelon has been here a long time and
10 they've been a good neighbor. And with the exception
11 of the tritium leak, they did take care of it, maybe
12 not like some people want it, but it has been taken
13 care of. It did open the communication up a lot.

14 With that, everyone has said how they've
15 helped with the schools, all the events. They do the
16 Fishing for the Cure. They've helped with the Red
17 Carpet Corridor event. More than they know, they've
18 helped with that.

19 With that being said, helping with all
20 the events, it has had to open the communication
21 because you can't go to an event or talk to them
22 without something coming up about the plant. So,
23 they do have to answer everyone here in town
24 frequently. They definitely made a big difference
25 here in town.

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I had not been, as the Chamber President,
and I also have, you know, with what I do for work,
with people I meet, I have not had anyone say to me
that they should not have their license renewed. So,
with that, the Chamber would like to see the
Braidwood Station's license renewed.

MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
Chris Rosso of Exelon.

MR. ROSSO: Thank you. I am a former
member of the NYGN, Nuclear Young Generation of
Nuclear with Exelon and I work at the plants now
about three-and-a-half years, so still a baby
compared to everybody else on site. I work in the
Project Management Department. And there's been a
lot of statistics that have been thrown out, a lot of
impressive statistics. Some of them I didn't know.
Again, I'm relatively new to the industry.

But something that I've noticed being a
new member of nuclear society is that it's really the
behaviors and the culture behind nuclear that's
pretty striking. As a project manager, I see a lot
of new workers come on site, as my projects begin
flourish and then kind of dwindle back again and we
lay people off, primarily labor workers.

But really the major piece is the shock

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1 that you see when folks come from the outside of the
2 nuclear world and they come in and they work with us.

3 And it's really a process of us bringing them up to
4 speed to our culture. And it's the most self-
5 critical culture that I've ever been a part of.

6 I went to school for construction
7 engineering and most of the peers that I had, I
8 talked to them about their jobs and the different
9 issues that they have. And almost all of them are
10 stories of other agencies coming in and criticizing
11 them, finding all these issues. And my experience
12 with many different aspects of nuclear is that the
13 majority of our issues, since I've been at Braidwood,
14 are self-identified. And it's really incredible how
15 self-critical we are.

16 So, part of being a part of a nuclear and
17 environmental safety orientated culture, it really
18 starts with a safe work environment. One of the
19 other roles I have the opportunity to be a part of on
20 site is I'm involved with the Safety Committee as
21 well as the VPP Star Re-certification Committee. So
22 for those of you who don't know, OSHA runs a
23 voluntary protection program to which members of the
24 industry can join, be a part of really to go above
25 and beyond the basic OSHA rules. And it's something

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1 that, as a Star member, is the highest possible
2 certification that OSHA can offer.

3 And where that came from was not
4 necessarily management. It was the workers at the
5 plant drove that process through, brought OSHA on
6 site. Again, we're extremely self-critical, analyzed
7 everything that was going on from primarily and
8 industrial safety aspect and convinced OSHA to give
9 us the certification four years ago, and this year
10 we've just re-certified it.

11 So, it's an industrial safety aspect that
12 really bleeds over into every aspect through --
13 engineering department into the environmental side
14 and really beyond. So, as a new member in nuclear,
15 I'm extremely compressed, excuse me, impressed at the
16 culture that's at Braidwood and it's something that
17 even if I move on in nuclear, I'll always take with
18 me. So, thank you.

19 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to invite
20 David Kraft of NEIS in Chicago.

21 MR. KRAFT: Thank you for the opportunity
22 to speak today. Good afternoon.

23 My name is Dave Kraft, K-r-a-f-t, and I
24 direct a group called Nuclear Energy Information
25 Service. We're a 32 year old nuclear watch dog group

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1 based in Chicago. So we've had considerable
2 experience with formally Com Ed, formerly Unicon, and
3 now Exelon as well.

4 I was at the Byron meeting last night and
5 came today because the environmental portion of the
6 license application's going to be split for the two
7 facilities. So some of the remarks I had given
8 yesterday will apply to the plant today.

9 But the two main pieces I want to get
10 across are first of all, you know, we're not here to
11 say for or against. We're here to find out
12 information and to be a part of the licensing process
13 and examine it. So, our first comment actually goes
14 towards the Nuclear Regulatory Commission itself.

15 And what we urge the Commission to do in
16 the process of re-licensing this and other plants is
17 to take a qualitatively different attitude towards
18 their safety culture, which they are aggressively
19 promotion amongst those of you who work in the
20 nuclear industry.

21 I was at a meeting last December at the
22 Palisades plant in Michigan where then Region III
23 Director Chuck Castro made some remarks about NRC
24 safety culture. And he put up some view graphs and
25 today I brought them with me. I didn't have them

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1 with my yesterday.

2 I just want to read it to you. The NRC
3 believes that the definition of a nuclear safety
4 culture is the core values and behaviors resulting
5 from a collective commitment by leaders and
6 individuals to emphasize safety over competing goals
7 to ensure the protection of people and the
8 environment. And that sounds great, but it's
9 important to dig a little deeper into what that means
10 so not only I but other people in the audience in
11 Michigan were asking Mr. Castro what would be some of
12 these competing goals? What does this actually mean
13 with the rubber hits the road?

14 And what he ended up saying actually, I'm
15 quoting him here is, we're trying to go beyond what's
16 required. And that is the message I really want to
17 leave with the NRC, is that these exercises in re-
18 licensing need to be more than just a check box
19 exercise of got them, got them, don't got them.

20 It has to be an attitude that goes beyond
21 what is merely required. Requirements have to be the
22 floor, not the ceiling, of what goes on these
23 processes. And our organization will be
24 participating in the licensing process with that
25 attitude in mind; that, yes, certain things may meet

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1 certain very legalistic requirements but in the
2 broader scheme of things, will they actually afford
3 safety over the 20 year extended operating period.

4 So, we urge NRC to take its own advice
5 and approach the licensing process with that kind of
6 attitude towards the safety culture in mind.

7 The second item surprised me last night.
8 It doesn't surprise me today anymore. It's not
9 surprising and it's certainly totally consistent with
10 human nature that people will respond to the positive
11 things we're given and sometimes forget that there
12 are rainy days. And I've heard last night at the
13 Byron meeting and I'm hearing it today. So I wanted
14 to bring this up because I guess since you consider
15 community inputs and some of the impacts of the local
16 community as part of this process.

17 You need to not just look at the benefits
18 of having a nuclear power plant in your neighbor.
19 But perhaps the re-licensing should remind you that
20 it is inevitable that this facility will close some
21 day. Now, I know you're all hoping that that someday
22 will be 60 years in the future and everything's going
23 to fine with the plant and you'll never lose six
24 million gallons of tritium again. But reality
25 doesn't always cooperate.

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1 You know, there are unforeseen incidents
2 that came up. I guess you could ask the Japanese
3 about that and you can probably even ask some of your
4 own people in terms of the tritium issue. That was
5 not a planned release. You know, we could run the
6 laundry list of disasters. You know, everything from
7 Challenger and Columbia down to Chernobyl, Fukushima,
8 Windscale, Fermi 1, Santa Susana, and on and on and
9 on.

10 The point is, the world doesn't always
11 cooperate and at some point in the future, if this
12 plant is closed on an emergency basis, all of those
13 benefits you described will cease with the tax base
14 goes away. So, the message I left with the people in
15 the Rockford and the Byron area yesterday was this
16 may be an opportunity for you to sit down, you the
17 financial planners, you the elected officials, to sit
18 down with Exelon and start examining what closure is
19 going to look like.

20 We didn't have an exit plan for Iraq and
21 it really didn't serve us well. I think now is the
22 time is to begin looking at an exit plan for when a
23 nuclear facility has to close. As I said, our
24 organization, I'm sure everybody in this room wants
25 it to be quietly, peacefully after a long life of

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1 production. But, again, reality doesn't always work
2 out that way.

3 And I brought two examples last night
4 that I think you need to pay attention to and perhaps
5 those of you who are CFO's and elected officials here
6 should talk to the officials in Lake County and down
7 by the Clinton site in central Illinois because in
8 1997 when Exelon, excuse me, when Commonwealth Edison
9 made the executive decision to close the Zion nuclear
10 plant, that community lost \$5 million of its tax base
11 overnight.

12 So, I ask you, what will you do when you
13 come in on Wednesday morning and 70 percent of your
14 school budget is gone? Unless there's a plan in place
15 that softens the economic blow of the eventual
16 closure of the nuclear facility, you leave your
17 community open to the pitfalls of the company town.
18 When they pull out, all the benefits go with them.
19 If you don't plan today, it will be devastating for
20 the community of the future. So, now is the time to
21 really start making those plans.

22 And it kind of reminded me of the old
23 Aesop's fable of the grasshoppers and the ants. As
24 long as it's summertime and things are great, the
25 grasshoppers are having a great time. But the ants

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1 are sweating it out and doing a little bit of drudge
2 work in the advance knowing that things aren't always
3 so great and winter comes along.

4 So, I would like for you in the community
5 to consider making that part of your process of
6 examination of whether this license should be renewed
7 or not. And, you know, that's something you're going
8 to have to sit down and talk to the Exelon people
9 about.

10 Back in 1997, I mentioned to the then
11 state public official, Adeline G. O'Karus in the Zion
12 community that perhaps an escrow fund needs to be set
13 up now for over a period of time some money is put
14 into it. It's kept intact out of general revenues so
15 that when the plant has to close, whether it's from
16 an emergency of some kind, whether it's from
17 government decree in Washington or whether it's
18 normal closure, you have some sort of a fund that the
19 communities can draw on to soften the economic blow.

20 So, that's something I would leave you
21 with to consider and eventually we'll write this up
22 and make part of the official docket as well. So,
23 thank you for listening. Enjoy the day.

24 MS. RAY: Thank you. I'd like to check,
25 is Denise Forrest in the audience? At this time, I

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1 would like to ask, are there any other comments from
2 members of the audience? We have extra time, so if
3 you'd like to make other comments, please feel
4 welcomed.

5 Okay, at this time I'd like to thank
6 everyone for coming and for their participation. The
7 comments provided here will be addressed in the
8 scoping summary report and for openness and
9 transparency, the scoping summary report will be
10 publicly available on the NRC license renewal website
11 and also the address is on the handouts provided.
12 And if there are any further comments you'd like to
13 make, you can provide them electronically or in
14 writing or in person. And that contact information
15 is provided in the handouts on this table.

16 In addition, on this table there are
17 public meeting feedback forms. The NRC is always
18 looking to improve their public meetings. So, if
19 you'd like to provide feedback, the forms are
20 provided on the table and the postage is paid.

21 Any other comments? At this time I'd
22 like to adjourn the meeting. Thank you for your
23 comments and for your participation.

24 (Whereupon at 3:34 p.m. the meeting was
25 adjourned.)

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