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 Evening Session

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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BEFORE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY

BRAIDWOOD LRA PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

+ + + + +

Regarding the License Renewal Application

NEPA Required Scoping Meeting

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 21, 2013

+ + + + +

386 W. KENNEDY ROAD

BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS

+ + + + +

7:00 p.m.

+ + + + +

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

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PRESENT:

NRC STAFF:

Yaira Diaz

Tam Tran

Alex Garmo[e]

Stuart Sheldon

Anita Ghosh

Prema Chandrathil

Elizabeth Pool

Jacob Steff[e]s

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(7:01 P.M.)

1
2
3 MS. HAUSMAN: My name is Cheryl and I'm
4 going to be the facilitator for this evening's
5 meeting, and my role as a facilitator is to help make
6 sure that the meeting runs smoothly, that everybody
7 who wishes to speak gets a chance a chance to speak,
8 and to kind of keep us on time. Before we get
9 started this evening I just want to let everybody
10 know that this meeting is being transcribed, so we'll
11 try and keep the background noise and any sidebar
12 conversations to a minimum so the transcriptionist
13 can get an accurate record of this evening's meeting.

14 Just a couple ground rules. If you have
15 any electronic devices, please put them on vibrate or
16 mute for this evening's meeting. And, while other
17 people are speaking, just please be respectful of the
18 comments. The restrooms are outside to the left if
19 anybody doesn't know. There's two exits to the room,
20 one over here on the side and then in the back
21 corner. And we also have Officer Vern Reid here this
22 evening from the Braidwood Police Department, just in
23 case of an emergency.

24 The purpose of today's meeting is to
25 discuss the licensing renewal process to identify

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1 significant issues related to the proposed license
2 renewal activity for Braidwood, Units 1 and 2, and to
3 determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the
4 environmental impact statement.

5 The agenda for this evening's meeting
6 will be a presentation by the NRC staff to discuss
7 the license renewal process, and when the
8 presentation concludes we'll have a brief 10 or 15
9 minute question and answer period about the
10 presentation, if there's any questions you have about
11 the presentation or anything you've seen on the
12 slides. And then we'll open it up into the public
13 comment period. And we're going to discuss the
14 public comment period a little bit later on in the
15 meeting, but just you know, if you have a comment, if
16 you have not filled out one of the yellow cards,
17 there's some on the tables out front. If you would
18 like to make a comment, just please fill out the card
19 and give it to me or Sheila and we'll add you to the
20 list of people to be speaking.

21 And I'm going to introduce a few of the
22 NRC staff that are here tonight. First Yoira.

23 MS. DIAZ: Good evening. I'm Yoira Diaz,
24 I'm the Supervisor, Branch Chief in headquarters. My
25 staff is in charge of the safety review of the

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1 License Renewal Application for Braidwood.

2 MS. HAUSMAN: Tam?

3 MR. TRAN: My name is Tam Tran, I'm the
4 Project Manager for the Environmental Review of the
5 License Renewal Application for Braidwood Stations.
6 I will be one of the speakers today.

7 MS. HAUSMAN: Alex?

8 MR. GARMO[E]: My name is Alex Garmo[e],
9 I'm the Acting Senior Resident Inspector at
10 Braidwood, so I'm one of the two inspectors that
11 reports there on a daily basis for inspections.

12 MR. SHELDON: Good evening. My name's
13 Stuart Sheldon, I'm a Senior Inspector out of our,
14 the NRC Regional Office up in Lisle, Illinois. I
15 will be leading the regional inspections associated
16 with the safety review for the license application.

17 MS. GHOSH: Good evening. My name is
18 Anita Ghosh and I'm with the Office of the General
19 Counsel.

20 MS. CHANDRATHIL: Good evening everyone.
21 My name is Prema Chandrathil, I'm the Public Affairs
22 Officer for the NRC, the Regional Office, located in
23 Lisle, Illinois. I deal mainly with members of the
24 public and reporters who have inquiries about NRC
25 activities. Thanks.

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1 MS. HAUSMAN: And, is there anybody else
2 from any other federal agencies?

3 MS. POOL: Hi, I'm Elizabeth Pool, I'm
4 from USEPA in the Chicago Office, Region 5. I'm in
5 the NEPA Compliance Division and I'm going to head up
6 the EPA's review of the document.

7 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Okay, we're
8 going to start this evening's presentations. Tam
9 Tran. And if you have any questions about the
10 presentation please hold them until the end. Thank
11 you.

12 MR. TRAN: My name is Tam Tran. I'm one
13 of the two project managers for the NRC Division of
14 License Renewal, associates with the Braidwood
15 Station, License Renewal Review. I am the
16 Environmental Project Manager. The Safety Manager is
17 John [D]ailey. John's not here today. And thank you
18 for taking the time to come out to help us with this
19 public meeting, to provide your comments. We value
20 your comments. Thank [you].

21 Today I will provide an overview of the
22 license renewal review process, which include[s] both
23 a safety review and environmental review. I will
24 describe in more detail the environmental review
25 process for the Braidwood Station, but the most

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1 important part of today's meeting is to receive any
2 comments that you may have on the scoping of the
3 environmental review. I will also provide
4 information about how comments can be submitted
5 outside of this meeting.

6 I hope the information that we provide to
7 you will help you to better understand the license
8 renewal review process, and the role that you can
9 play in helping us to make sure that NRC
10 Environmental Review considers the relevant
11 information that it should.

12 Before I get into the discussion of
13 license renewal review process, I would like to
14 briefly talk about NRC in terms of what we do and our
15 missions. The NRC is a federal agency established by
16 the Energy Reorganization Act that regulates the
17 civilian use of nuclear material in the commercial
18 sense. The Atomic Energy Act authorized the NRC to
19 grant a 40-year operating license for nuclear power
20 reactors. This 40-year term was based primarily on
21 economic considerations, and anti-trust factors, not
22 on safety or technical limitations.

23 The Atomic Energy Act also allows for a
24 license renewal. The National Environmental Policy
25 Act established the national policy for considering

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1 the impact of federal decisions on the human
2 environment. As a matter of policy, the Commission
3 determined that reactor license renewal constitutes a
4 major federal action for which an environmental
5 impact statement is warranted.

6 And exercise as regulatory authority, the
7 NRC mission is three-fold; to ensure adequate
8 protection of the public health and safety, to
9 promote the common defense and security of the
10 nations, and to protect the environment. The NRC
11 accomplished [its] mission [through] a combination of
12 regulatory programs and processes, such as
13 establishing rules and regulations, conducting
14 inspections, issuing enforcement actions, assessing
15 licensee performance, and evaluating operating
16 experience from nuclear plants across the country and
17 internationally.

18 The NRC has resident inspectors at all
19 operating nuclear power plants. These inspectors are
20 considered the eyes and ears for the agency. They
21 carry out safety missions on a daily basis and are on
22 the front lines of ensuring acceptable safety
23 performance and compliance with the regulatory
24 requirement for the plant.

25 Now turning to the Braidwood Station,

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1 Exelon Generation Company filed an application dated
2 May 29th seeking to renew the operating licenses of
3 the Byron and Braidwood plants for an additional 20
4 years of operations. The current operating license
5 for Braidwood expires on October 17, 2026 for unit
6 one, and December 18, 2027 for unit two.

7 Exelon, in submitting a single
8 application to cover both Byron and Braidwood plants,
9 cited extensive similarity in the system structures
10 and components that are analyzed in the license
11 renewal review. The NRC will conduct a separate
12 environmental review for Braidwood because of the
13 differences and the environmental and cultural
14 resources surrounding the Braidwood Station in
15 comparison to the Byron.

16 A license renewal application is required
17 to contain certain sets of information. General
18 information such as the applicant's name, address,
19 business and administrative information, and
20 technical information which pertain to aging
21 managements. This information is the focus of the
22 safety review. The application also includes an
23 environment report, which is the applicant assessment
24 of the environmental impact of continued operations.
25 This information serves as a starting point for the

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1 staff to review the environmental aspect of the
2 license renewal for the Braidwood stations.

3 This diagram illustrates the safety and
4 environment review processes. It's also featured
5 t[w]o other consideration and the Commission decision
6 of whether or not to renew an operating license. One
7 of these considerations is the independent review
8 performed by the Advisory Committee on Reactor
9 Safeguards. The so-called ACRS is a group of
10 scientists and nuclear safety experts who serve as a
11 consulting body to the Commissions. The ACRS reports
12 its findings and recommendations directly to the
13 Commissions. The ACRS review would also include a
14 public meeting.

15 Hearings may also be conducted. Before
16 September 23, 2013 Braidwood interested stakeholders
17 may submit concerns or contentions and request a
18 hearing. A panel of the Atomic Safety Licensing
19 Board will be established to review the contentions
20 for the admissibility. If hearing is approved, the
21 Commission will consider the outcome of the hearing
22 process, and its decision of whether or not to issue
23 a renewal of operating license.

24 License renewal involves two parallel
25 reviews; the safety review and the environmental

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1 review. The safety review focuses on the aging
2 effects of passive and long-lived components and
3 structures that the NRC deems important to plant
4 safety. The staff's main objective in this review is
5 to determine whether effects of aging will be
6 adequately managed by the applicant. The review also
7 considered generic and site-specific operating
8 experience related to the effects of aging. The
9 results of the safety review are documented in the
10 Safety Evaluation Report, and sometimes we may refer
11 to that document as the SER.

12 For the environment review, the staff
13 considers, evaluates and discloses the environmental
14 impacts of continued plant operation for an
15 additional 20 years. The staff also evaluates
16 environmental impacts of alternatives to license
17 renewal. The objective of the review is to determine
18 of the environmental impact of license renewal is so
19 great that license renewal would not be a reasonable
20 option. Or more plainly, it is, whether or not[,] is
21 license renewal acceptable from an environmental
22 standpoint. The staff prepared an environmental
23 impact statement to document its review, and you may
24 hear us to refer to that document as EIS.

25 Before I go into more depth about the

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1 safety environmental reviews, I want to mention a few
2 areas that are very important and part of the NRC
3 oversight process. These are emergency planning,
4 security and current safety performance. NRC
5 addresses this area of performance every day as
6 part[s] of the ongoing regulatory oversight provided
7 for all currently operating power reactors.

8 Current license issues [are] addressed on
9 an ongoing basis under the current operating
10 licensing term. License renewal issues are addressed
11 separately as a part of the license renewal review.

12 Now we will cover a little bit more
13 detail about the safety review. The regulation
14 governing license renewals for the safety review has
15 two guiding princip[le]s. The first princip[le] is
16 that the current regulatory process is adequate to
17 ensure the licensing basis of all our operating
18 plants, and it provide[s] an acceptable level of
19 safety.

20 The second princip[le] is that the
21 current plan's specific licensing basis must be
22 maintained during the license renewal in the same
23 manner and to the same extent as during the original
24 license term. In other words, the same rules that
25 apply under the current license will continue to

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1 apply during the new term, or the additional 20 years
2 of operations.

3 In addition, a renewal license will
4 include conditions that must be met to ensure aging
5 [of] components, important safety adequately managed
6 so that the plant's current licensing basis is
7 maintained during the period of extended operations.

8 For safety, the staff will perform
9 [multi] levels review. First, the staff reviews the
10 license renewal application and supporting
11 documentations. This review includes an evaluation
12 of new and existing programs and surveillance
13 activity to determine with reasonable assurance that
14 effect of aging of certain plant structure and
15 component [will be] adequately manage[d] or
16 monitor[ed].

17 Second, the staff will perform site
18 audits to verify the technical basis of the license
19 renewal application, and to confirm that the
20 applicant's aging management programs and activities
21 conform with how they are described in the
22 applications. The staff documents the basis and
23 conclusion of its review in the safety [evaluation]
24 report, which is publicly available.

25 In addition, a team of specialized

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1 inspectors from the NRC Region III travel[s] to the
2 reactor site to verify that aging management programs
3 are being implemented, modified or planned consistent
4 with the license renewal applications.

5 Finally, as I have mentioned, the
6 advisory committee on reactor safeguards will
7 [per]form an independent review of the license
8 renewal application, and the staff safety
9 [evaluation] report, and makes a recommendation to
10 the Commission regarding the proposed action
11 iss[uance] of a renewal of operating license.

12 For the environmental review, the staff
13 [will] perform an environmental review in accordance
14 with the National Environmental Policy Act or so-
15 called NEPA. NEPA provides the basic architectures
16 for the federal environmental review requirements.
17 It requires that all federal agenc[ies] [to] follow a
18 systematic approach in evaluating potential impacts
19 associated with the major federal actions, and
20 alternative to those actions[.]

21 The NEPA process involves public
22 participations and public involvement, as well as
23 public disclosure. The NRC environmental regulations
24 contained in 10CFR, part 51, are largely based on
25 implementing regulations for NEPA. NRC environmental

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1 review considered the impact associated with the
2 license renewal, and any mitigation for those impacts
3 we consider to be significant. We also considered
4 the impacts of alternatives to license renewal,
5 including the impact of not issuing a renewal
6 license.

7 In conducting the review, the NRC staff
8 will look at various impacts to the affected
9 environment. This review involves a wide range of
10 [expertise]-- illustrated on this slide. The expert
11 [will] examine environment justice, ecology, land
12 use, regulatory compliance, climate change, et cetera
13 for the EIS. As illustrated on this slide, some of
14 the agencies that we work with will include U.S. Fish
15 and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection
16 Agency, state's Historical Preservation Offices as
17 well as many local and state agencies, and any
18 affected Indian tribes.

19 The NRC staff, we also review cumulative
20 impacts associated with the continued operation of
21 the Braidwood Station. For cumulative impacts, the
22 staff will look at the [e]ffects on the environment
23 from past, present and reasonably foreseeable future
24 [human] actions. The cumulative impacts will include
25 both from the Braidwood Station operations and other

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1 activities near Braidwood. In other words, the
2 cumulative impacts analysis consider[s] potential
3 impacts through the end of the 20 year renewal term.
4

5 For the term beyond the 20 year period of
6 extended operations, the NRC Waste Confidence
7 addresses the environmental impact of the management
8 of the spent nuclear fuel after the license life,
9 including renewal. Previous license renewal EIS
10 noted that environmental impacts of temporary storage
11 of spent nuclear fuel for the period following the
12 reactor operating license term were addressed by the
13 NRC Waste Confidence Rule.

14 The Waste Confidence environmental impact
15 statement is expected to be issued in 2014. In
16 August, 2012 the Commission decided that the agency
17 will not issue a final licensing decision for
18 reactors, including license renewal, until the Waste
19 Confidence regulatory activities are completed. If
20 at that time any license renewal related site-
21 specific issue[s] at Braidwood station remain
22 unresolved, they will be addressed separately.

23 The environmental review begins with the
24 scoping process, which is where we are today. The
25 purpose of the scoping process is to identify

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1 significant issues that should be considered in the
2 environmental review. We are now gathering
3 information that we will use to prepare an
4 environmental impact statement for the Braidwood
5 Station license renewal, that is, the environmental
6 impact[s] that are loca[l] to this area, and that are
7 important to the staff to consider.

8 The staff has developed a generic
9 environmental impact statement that addresses a
10 number of issues common to all nuclear power plants.

11 The staff is supplementing that generic EIS with a
12 site-specific supplemental EIS for the Braidwood
13 Stations. The staff [will] also reexamined the
14 conclusion reached in that generic EIS to determine
15 if there are any new and significant information that
16 would change the conclusion and the generic EIS. The
17 scoping period started on July 31st and we will
18 continue to take comments until September 27th.

19 In general, we are looking for
20 information about environmental impacts from
21 continued operation of the Braidwood Station during
22 the extended period of operation. You can assist us
23 in that process by telling us, for example, what
24 aspect of your local community we should focus on,
25 what local environmental social and economic issue

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1 that NRC should examine, and what reasonable
2 alternatives are most appropriate for this region.

3 This slide illustrates the NRC various
4 considerations for deciding if a renewed operating
5 license will be issued. It's a rigorous review
6 involving the EIS, safety [evaluation] report,
7 regional inspections, and so on. But, what's
8 important to point out here is that the public
9 comments are an important part of the license renewal
10 process. We consider all comments that we receive
11 today and throughout the scoping period, and the
12 comments will help us to inform and to shape the
13 supplemental environmental impact statement.

14 In addition to providing comments at
15 today's meeting, there are other ways that you can
16 submit comments on the environmental review. You can
17 provide written comments by mail to the NRC Chief of
18 Rules at direct[ive] branch at the address provided
19 on this slide, and there [are] copies of this slide
20 for you to use. Or you can send your comment
21 electronically by going to regulation.gov. You can
22 also make your comment in person if you happen to be
23 in Rockville, Maryland. We ask that you get in touch
24 with one of the NRC project managers beforehand so
25 that we can set up appropriate arrangements. The

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1 comments should be submitted by September 27th.

2 This slide shows some important
3 milestones for the environmental review process. The
4 petition to request for hearing [dues] on September
5 23rd, 2013. We plan to issue the draft environmental
6 impact statement in 2014. Once the draft is issued,
7 there will be a comment period where again there will
8 be an opportunity for the public to read through the
9 draft EIS and to comment on the draft.

10 The contact for the NRC environmental
11 review is myself. John Daly is the contact for the
12 safety review, and John's contact information is on
13 the meeting handout. The Fossil Ridge Library has
14 agreed to make the license renewal application
15 available for public review, and when it's published
16 for comment, the draft supplemental EIS will also be
17 available at the library. In addition, these
18 documents will be on the NRC website listed on this
19 slide. As you came in, you were asked to fill out a
20 reservation card at our reception desk. If you have
21 included your address on that card and indicated you
22 would like to be on the distribution list, we will
23 send you a copy of the draft and the final EIS for
24 your information. If you didn't have an opportunity
25 to fill out that card, please feel free to do [so]

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1 before you leave[;] to fill out a card, and then add
2 your address to it.

3 And that concludes my presentation.

4 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you, Tam. Before we
5 move into the public comment period, the NRC staff
6 would like to offer the opportunity to answer any
7 questions about the presentation you've just seen.
8 Does anybody have any questions about the
9 presentation or the material that was presented?

10 Okay. Then we'll go into the public
11 comment period, and I'll be calling everybody up one
12 at a time. When you get to the microphone, the
13 podium, please state your name and spell your last
14 name so the court reporter can get the correct
15 spelling of your name for the transcript. First I
16 would like to invite Sue Rezin, State Senator.

17 MS. REZIN: Thank you. Rezin, R-e-z-i-n.

18 Since I won't be near Rockville, Maryland anytime
19 soon, thank you for the opportunity to make the
20 comments here tonight. It's much more convenient.
21 Just briefly I'd like to say, my senate district is a
22 high energy producing district, and with it we have
23 three nuclear power plants in here. Exelon has been
24 an excellent company for our communities in terms of,
25 you know, reaching out to the communities, but also

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1 providing good paying jobs in the area as well. So,
2 we appreciate them. We also appreciate you being
3 here as they're going through the re-licensing, and
4 anytime that we've had any questions with them,
5 they're very responsive to us and we appreciate that
6 as well. Thank you.

7 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I would
8 like to invite Greg Ridenour from Representative
9 Kissinger's office.

10 MR. RIDENOUR: It's R-i-d-e-n-o-u-r. The
11 congressman couldn't make it here tonight, but he
12 gave me a statement he would like me to read for him.

13 It's addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
14 Commission. I write to express my full support for
15 the renewal of the operating license of the nuclear
16 generating station at Braidwood, Illinois. This
17 facility provides lower energy costs for residents
18 and businesses, and supports hundreds of high paying
19 jobs in Illinois, while helping to ensure state
20 compliance with federal clean air act regulations.
21 It will undoubtedly play an important role in meeting
22 the energy needs of Illinoisans well into the future.

23
24 Nuclear energy production plays a
25 critical role in Illinois where nuclear energy

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1 generates 48 percent of the state's electricity and
2 employs nearly 5,000 skilled workers. Having visited
3 the Braidwood Generating Facility, I can attest to
4 the value it has to local residents and communities,
5 which benefit through reduced energy costs, high
6 quality jobs, and significant tax revenue.

7 While many areas of Illinois struggle to
8 meet clear air standards, the generating station at
9 Braidwood offers affordable, abundant energy with a
10 fraction of the greenhouse gas admissions as other
11 conventional energy sources. As Americans and
12 Illinoisans' demand for energy rises, nuclear
13 generating stations like Braidwood will be vital to
14 meeting the energy needs for our citizens.

15 I fully support the operating license
16 renewal for this generating station, and believe it
17 will play a critical role in making America and the
18 state of Illinois more energy secure. Signed, Adam
19 Kissinger, member of Congress.

20 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I'd like to
21 invite Bill Rulien, Mayor of Braidwood.

22 MR. RULIEN: When I was about 10 years
23 old I used to read my dad's newspaper, and the first
24 commercial nuclear power plant in about 1960 came
25 online, and it was an amazing thing to me. It

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1 produced power with almost no fuel, no pollution.
2 Commonwealth Edison, the parent company of Exelon,
3 was the cutting edge of technology, the company that
4 brought that to us.

5 When I was about 20, I built a solar
6 collector, and I also experimented with a wind
7 generator. It didn't take too long to realize when
8 the breeze quit that it was great supplemental power
9 but it wasn't something you could really rely on as a
10 source of power. In the 43 years since then, there
11 hasn't been anything much that's changed. If you
12 want reliable, mass produced pollution free electric
13 power, nuclear power is the proven technology and the
14 way to go for now, and as far as we can see into the
15 future.

16 In about 1980 I was doing a little
17 construction work out by Goose Lake, and it seemed
18 that folks were starting to build houses out by
19 nuclear power plants, and I thought that was a pretty
20 remarkable thing. Well, for 25 years we in the
21 Braidwood area now have lived side by side with
22 working nuclear power plant, and it's brought many
23 benefits to our area. They include good jobs,
24 contribution to our tax base has been enormous, for
25 our library, our schools and our fire district.

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1 They've been generous to our community.
2 Kindly they've given millions of dollars to create a
3 water system there in Braceville, millions of dollars
4 in subsidy, food pantry, thousands of dollars in help
5 to our food pantry, help our needy, and many other
6 projects too numerous to mention. Last year they
7 helped out the city when I asked them to help us buy
8 the electronic sign outside of city hall, and to help
9 us create a tourism spot that we hope will help us
10 create tourism energy and economic benefit on Route
11 66.

12 So, they've been a really good neighbor,
13 and I just wanted to say that a guy here earlier
14 today, he mentioned that, you know, his whole thing
15 was what's going to happen if the power plant was to
16 close down. Well, you know, we think about those
17 things, and my administration's planned on those
18 things, and we're planning to use the money we get in
19 this area from our nuclear power plant and the good
20 jobs and everything to help prepare us for that
21 future. We've set aside acreage for industry and
22 things like that, and we intend to be ready for that
23 date.

24 But I also, personally, believe that the
25 infrastructure that's there on that power plant site

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1 now, they will develop a way to use that, because
2 they're going to have a major investment in that
3 site, and they might build Braidwood three and four
4 there, I don't know, it'll probably be after I'm long
5 gone, but I look forward to that, and we look forward
6 to you giving them a license to continue operations
7 into the future. Thank you.

8 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I'd like to
9 invite Mark Kavanos, site VP for Braidwood.

10 MR. KANAVOS: Kanavos, K-a-n-a-v-o-s.
11 Good evening, I'm Mark Kanavos, I'm the Site Vice
12 President at Braidwood Generating Station. I have
13 the overall responsibility for the safe and reliable
14 operation of the facility, and the coordination and
15 management of personnel, and overall station
16 performance.

17 A little bit about my background. I have
18 over 32 years of progressive nuclear power plant
19 experience. Before I took my current role as Site
20 Vice President, I was the Plant Manager at Braidwood.

21 Prior to that I was the Plant Manager at Clinton
22 Nuclear Station in Clinton, Illinois, and at Comanche
23 Peak Nuclear Station in Glen Rose, Texas. I've had
24 experience in project management, maintenance and
25 engineering.

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1 Operating the station safely and reliably
2 is a key responsibility of all of the employees at
3 the Braidwood Generating Station, one that we take
4 very seriously and as a personal commitment to
5 ourselves, to the community and to our industry.
6 Proud to say that we've been a key part of this
7 community for over 25 years.

8 Braidwood Generating Station operates
9 under the manner that preserves the environment. We
10 maintain a comprehensive, radiological monitoring
11 program that extensively monitors the air, water and
12 food products around the facility to ensure that we
13 did not adversely impact the environment.

14 We have a comprehensive on-site
15 environmental groundwater protection program for
16 monitoring and detecting the presence of
17 radioactivity in the ground water before it has a
18 chance to migrate off of our property. This program
19 includes 19 on-site monitoring wells designed to
20 protect, detect and alert us of any unusual events,
21 levels of radiation in the groundwater, so that we
22 can assess and address any changes quickly.

23 We have detailed procedures that outline
24 how we test all the water leaving our station.
25 Radiation monitors are staged at 40 locations within

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1 a ten mile radius around the planet to monitor any
2 radiation levels and dose to ensure the safety of the
3 community.

4 We also have had great success in our
5 tritium remediation efforts. In the last seven years
6 Braidwood has made significant progress.
7 Hydrogeologists have confirmed that remediation is
8 having the intended effect. As of today the square
9 footage of land affected by tritium has been reduced
10 by 96 percent, and the highest concentrations of
11 tritium in the groundwater have been reduced by 99
12 percent. We'll continue to monitor and retain the
13 ability to remediate via pumping, should that become
14 necessary.

15 Braidwood's environmental management
16 systems are certified under the strictest criteria,
17 the International Organization of Standardization, or
18 ISO, specifically we have received the ISO 14001
19 certification, an industry standard recognition.
20 This is an internationally recognized benchmark for
21 environmental management. The ISO 14000
22 certification requires a commitment to excellence in
23 meeting our regulatory requirements, and the
24 prevention of pollution and continuous improvement in
25 our environmental programs and systems.

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1 Last year the Wildlife Habitat Counsel
2 recognized Braidwood Generating Station's commitment
3 to the environmental stewardship by awarding us the
4 Wildlife award certification. This distinction was
5 awarded to our commitment for ensuring that the
6 continuance of the healthy wildlife around our
7 planet, through our fish habitat restoration project.

8 This project places artificial habitats in the
9 Braidwood Lake, and that greatly benefits the fish
10 throughout their life, and greatly enhances the
11 fishery.

12 To ensure that Braidwood continues to
13 operate safely for years to come, Exelon continues to
14 invest in Braidwood. We've spent millions of dollars
15 each year to improve and modernize our equipment and
16 enhance our plan operations and safety systems. Our
17 investment in the future doesn't stop with the
18 equipment. We've hired 152 new employees in the last
19 two years, and we maintain a workforce of
20 approximately 850 employees.

21 During our annual maintenance and
22 refueling outage, that population grows by another
23 1,500 to 2,000 employees, bringing a boost to the
24 local economy. We also take pride in our investments
25 in the community. Last year employees contributed

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1 over 240,000 to the United Way Crusade of Mercy, and
2 our signature annual event, Fishing for a Cure, has
3 generated over \$300,000 to charity over the years.
4 We also support the Braidwood Summer Fest, the
5 Braidwood Shootout, and numerous other community
6 activities.

7 Our employees host blood drives, toy
8 drives and fund drives for various community groups
9 and agencies. They also volunteer, and in short, we
10 do our very best to be a good neighbor.

11 For over 25 years Braidwood has performed
12 reliably and safely, and has set numerous benchmarks
13 in the nuclear power industry. We work towards
14 license renewal every day through dedication to
15 continuous improvement.

16 In conclusion, we look forward to working
17 with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the review
18 of our license renewal application. Thank you for
19 this opportunity to address the public.

20 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to
21 invite Mike Gallagher, the VP for License Renewal,
22 Exelon.

23 MR. GALLAGHER: Okay, good evening. My
24 name is Mike Gallagher, and that's G-a-l-l-a-g-h-e-r,
25 and I'm the Vice President of License Renewal for

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1 Exelon. I have overall responsibility for the
2 Braidwood Generating Station license renewal
3 application.

4 First of all I'd like to thank the NRC
5 for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Exelon for
6 this very important project for us. Exelon has a
7 great deal of experience with license renewal, as we
8 have already obtained the renewed licenses for our
9 Dresden and Quad Cities plants here in Illinois, and
10 for three of our other facilities in Pennsylvania and
11 New Jersey. We've also, an application for our
12 Limerick Plant in Pennsylvania under NRC review.

13 Just a little, briefly, about myself.
14 I've been working in the nuclear industry for 32
15 years. I was a licensed senior reactor operator and
16 plant manager at our Limerick Generating Station
17 facility in Pennsylvania, and I worked at two other
18 nuclear power plants and our corporate office.

19 Mr. Kanavos, the Site Vice-President for
20 Braidwood spoke to us all here about how rigorously
21 we safely operate Braidwood, and about the reasons
22 for renewing the license. I'd like to speak briefly
23 about the process for preparing this license renewal
24 application, and the amount of the work and
25 engineering analysis that was put into preparing the

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1 application.

2 Because the Braidwood Station can operate
3 safely and reliably, Exelon decided to pursue license
4 renewal. Braidwood's safe, efficient operation
5 promotes a critical supply of carbon free electricity
6 for Illinois and beyond. Braidwood produces enough
7 clean power to supply more than two million homes.

8 So in 2011 we announced our intention to
9 seek license renewal for Braidwood and a similar
10 plant, or Byron Generating Station up in Ogle County.

11 Later that year we started the work necessary to
12 prepare the application, and after over two years of
13 work we submitted the application to the Nuclear
14 Regulatory Commission on May 29th, 2013.

15 So safe and reliable operations has been
16 hallmark at Braidwood Station since it came online,
17 and our goal during the license renewal process is to
18 demonstrate to the NRC and to our neighbors that we
19 will continue that legacy throughout the 20 year
20 extended operating period.

21 The application is a very large
22 application. When you print it out it's about 3,500
23 pages, and when you put it in binders, it's in four
24 large binders about this thick. It's a huge amount
25 of information. But that only represents a small

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1 part of the work that was done for the engineering
2 analysis. The total amount of engineering analysis
3 if we printed it all out would be about 400 binders
4 of information. We invested over 90,000 man hours of
5 engineering work. Once we completed the engineering
6 work to prepare the application, we brought in
7 experts from outside Exelon to review the
8 application, to ensure that it was complete, thorough
9 and accurate. Our total cost to prepare this
10 application and to get it reviewed by the Nuclear
11 Regulatory Commission for both Byron and Braidwood
12 will be approximately \$45 million.

13 There are two different parts of the
14 application, the safety review and the environmental
15 review. For the safety review we took an in-depth
16 look at the history and the condition of the safety
17 equipment in the plant. We did that to determine
18 whether the necessary maintenance was being performed
19 on that equipment, to make sure that the equipment
20 will be able to operate when it's needed, not only
21 for today, but for the additional 20 year period.

22 When you look back at Braidwood, when it
23 was built, it was brand new, it was all thoroughly
24 tested to make sure it would work properly, but like
25 anything else the equipment does age, and therefore

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1 we have to do certain activities to it. Preventative
2 maintenance is performed, sometimes equipment is
3 refurbished, some equipment may be replaced, there
4 may be modifications done to the plant to upgrade
5 equipment. In fact, Exelon has invested over \$230
6 million in the last four years alone at Braidwood, to
7 improve and modernize the equipment, to enhance plant
8 operations and safety.

9 We also reviewed the calculations that
10 were performed as part of the design of the plant,
11 that were originally done to, for the plant to
12 operate for the original 40 year period. We analyzed
13 all those calculations and were able to confirm that
14 the plant was able to operate safely for an
15 additional 20 years, up to 60 years. So overall our
16 conclusion from an engineering review was that
17 Braidwood could operate safely for 60 years.

18 We also took a look at the environmental
19 aspects, and the impacts to continue to operate
20 Braidwood. We looked at all the aspects of the,
21 well, the impact of the plant on the environment, and
22 our conclusion is that these impacts on the
23 environment are small, and I use the term small in
24 the sense of the regulation. The regulation defines
25 small as the environmental effects are not detectable

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1 or minor.

2 We've also reviewed the alternatives if
3 Braidwood would not have its license renewed and
4 another source of electric generation would have to
5 be installed, either here on site or someplace else
6 to generate the replacement electricity. We
7 concluded that any other means of generating the
8 replacement electricity would have more an impact to
9 the environment than the continued operation of
10 Braidwood.

11 So in conclusion, we operate Braidwood
12 safely, and we can continue to operate safely for an
13 additional 20 years. Braidwood will provide
14 approximately 2,340 megawatts of baseload generation
15 that's not only safe, but it's clean, it's reliable,
16 and it's economical. Continued operation of
17 Braidwood will benefit this community, the state of
18 Illinois and our nation. Thanks again for the
19 opportunity to make my statement.

20 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I would
21 like to invite John Greuling, Will County Center for
22 Economic Development.

23 MR. GREULING: Thank you, and that's
24 Greuling, G-r-e-u-l-i-n-g. The Will County Center
25 for Economic Development is a private, not for profit

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1 economic development corporation that's served Will
2 County for 32 years. Our membership includes
3 representatives from the largest corporations in Will
4 County, along with other private sector leaders as
5 well as governmental leaders. Our mission is to
6 assist in the retention, the expansion and the
7 recruitment of business to Will County.

8 We support critical infrastructure
9 investments as well, such as energy infrastructure,
10 to make sure that the investments and reinvestments
11 are being made appropriately to serve our rapidly
12 growing area. Since 1990 Will County has more than
13 doubled in population to where today we're just under
14 700,000 people, and we've become one of the fastest
15 growing job generators in the metro Chicago area.
16 We're also home to the largest Inland Container Port
17 in North America, supporting global freight movement.

18
19 The Will County Center for Economic
20 Development is here today in support of Braidwood
21 Generating Station's license renewal application
22 submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
23 on May 29th of this year. Since 1987 the Braidwood
24 facility has been producing emissions-free energies
25 in Northeastern Illinois. The Center for Economic

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1 Development believes by granting this renewal the NRC
2 will allow Exelon Generation to continue to provide
3 thousands of megawatts of clean energy to the tens of
4 thousands of businesses in the region. Adequate,
5 reliable and affordable energy supply has become one
6 of the most important factors when businesses are
7 considering an expansion or relocation today.
8 Without it we cannot successfully compete for good
9 jobs for our residents.

10 The Braidwood facility itself is an
11 economic engine for the region. With over 850 good
12 paying jobs and an annual payroll of \$82 million,
13 Braidwood is one of the largest employers in Will
14 County, and certainly one of its most significant.
15 In addition, the facility made \$20.7 million in tax
16 payments in 2012. The significant contributions that
17 Exelon generation and its employees made to the local
18 economy cannot be overstated. Support for groups
19 like the United Way, Fishing for a Cure, and other
20 local and business, local business and civic
21 associations are critical to the fabric of our
22 community in this part of Will County.

23 The CED recognizes what a good
24 environmental steward Exelon has been and will
25 continue to be at their Braidwood facility. The

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1 radiological monitoring and the groundwater
2 protection programs in place today give the community
3 a sense of safety and environmental protection we
4 expect from a world class facility like Braidwood.

5 To close, the CED again supports the
6 renewal application for the Braidwood Generating
7 Station, and I thank you for your time.

8 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to
9 next invite Don Moran.

10 MR. MORAN: Good evening. Don Moran, M-
11 o-r-a-n. From 1984 until 1987 I worked at the
12 Braidwood Station as a young construction worker, or
13 sheet metal worker. Today I'm employed as a business
14 representative for sheet metal workers, but I'll
15 speak on behalf of not only my own local union, but
16 the Will and Grundy building and construction trades
17 as well.

18 Beginning in the fall of 2007, a full
19 year before the rest of the country's economy was
20 effected, the construction industry was decimated by
21 the worse case of unemployment it had seen since the
22 great depression. Literally thousands of our members
23 lost their jobs, their homes, their families, during
24 the next five and a half years of economic blight.

25 One bright spot during all those years

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1 has been the construction jobs provided during the
2 refueling and upgrading of the Braidwood Station.
3 Having been involved in the building and maintenance
4 of the station over the past 30 years, I'm very
5 confident in the continued safe operation of this
6 plant into the future, and I'm thankful for their
7 commitment to local trades by providing good jobs and
8 benefits to people.

9 My frustration with the high unemployment
10 led me to run for office. Earlier today the Will
11 County Executive, Larry Walsh, and the Will County
12 Board Speaker were both here, and spoke on behalf of
13 our county board, where we passed a unanimous
14 resolution supporting the re-licensing at our July
15 board meeting. I voted in favor of that resolution.

16 As Illinois struggles in today's
17 competitive business market, we cannot afford to
18 ignore any of the things that helped put us on a
19 better footing. One of the building blocks to
20 economic development is affordable and reliable
21 electricity. Illinois' diverse network of
22 electricity generation coming from coal, wind and
23 nuclear gives us an advantage in enticing new and
24 retaining existing businesses to the area.

25 Unlike the rolling blackouts experienced

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1 in California during 2000 and 2001, our local
2 electric generation and transmission systems have
3 provided consistent, reliable electricity and have
4 done so with a diminishing cost to consumers, as
5 compared to the CPI.

6 I remember cooling my first home, a tiny,
7 900 square foot house, with summer monthly electric
8 bills of over \$200 in the mid 80's. Today I live in
9 a modest town home about three times that large and I
10 pay about \$150 in the summer months to cool it, quite
11 the bargain compared to nearly 30 years ago,
12 especially if considered next to the costs associated
13 with fuel in your car or paying for healthcare.

14 As President of the Illinois State Rifle
15 Association, I represent the interest of many
16 outdoors people, including fisherman and water fowl
17 hunters, many of whom have benefitted greatly from
18 the public access to Braidwood Station's cooling
19 lake. In addition to being a source of reliable
20 electricity generation, Braidwood Station has been a
21 benefit to local school districts, fire protection
22 and other taxing bodies in the community, not to
23 mention its commitment to local charities and
24 community events. They've been a good steward to our
25 communities, and I'd ask that the NRC renew the

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1 license for Braidwood Station. Thank you.

2 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I would
3 like to invite Dee deGroh, who's a member of the
4 Community Advisory Board.

5 MS. DEGROH: Good evening, and thank you,
6 Sheila. My name is Dee deGroh, and that is spelled
7 d-e-G-r-o-h. I, my family's from the Braidwood/Essex
8 area, my parents and my grandparents and my great
9 grandparents were from Essex and Braidwood. I moved
10 here about eight years ago, and was just concerned
11 that I wanted to be involved in the community, so I
12 became quite involved, as a matter of fact I'm
13 President of the Historical Society, Secretary of the
14 Library Board, a member of CAP, the Community Advisor
15 Panel, and the Chamber of Commerce. School district
16 has a group called the Community Involvement
17 Committee, to get the students involved in our
18 communities and vice versa, and of course I'm
19 involved in church groups. So, I'm an involved
20 person.

21 I recall there was excitement when it was
22 announced that there was going to be a power plant
23 built in the Braidwood area in 1976. They started
24 construction then, and my mother and my sister and
25 many others were on committees to talk to

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1 Commonwealth Edison at the time about how is this
2 going to effect us, what is it? People didn't even
3 know what it was and how it was going to effect our
4 community. And they did form various committees to
5 talk to ComEd, and they felt somewhat, I'm sure, very
6 relieved, because not only was it going to improve
7 the economics of the area, but they were also taking
8 over some of the spoiled lands left by the coal
9 companies, and it was considered spoiled land at that
10 time. Now they're wonderful recreation clubs for
11 many people, but at that time there weren't a lot.

12 At any rate, the concerns about the
13 safety and health issues were alleviated during
14 those, that time, and it took 12 years to build the
15 plant and open it, it opened in '88, and at that time
16 the community was allowed to go in and see the plant.

17 I was fortunate enough to be one of them, and very,
18 very impressed with all of the security concerns and
19 health issues and just getting in and out at that
20 time.

21 And then I joined this Community Advisory
22 Panel a few years ago when it was started, and we got
23 to tour the plant, and with the changes and additions
24 due to 911, it's unbelievable what security one goes
25 through, on a daily basis if you're an employee and

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1 have to get into the plant everyday. It took us,
2 well of course there was about 15 of us, 12 of us
3 maybe going on that tour, but it took us a good 20
4 minutes or more. You may have read in the Braidwood
5 Journal last week the reporter had just taken a tour
6 and she was just in awe of what she saw and all the
7 security she went through.

8 At any rate, this advisory panel helps
9 the community because anyone who asks us a question
10 about an issue that they're concerned with, we can
11 take that concern to the CAP meeting, and Exelon
12 either addresses it right then and there or our next
13 meeting they'll have someone who is knowledgeable
14 about that issue, such as tritium, and bring it to
15 the committee, and we'll spend the entire evening
16 maybe discussing that issue. It's wonderful that
17 they're so concerned about our safety and acceptance
18 of Exelon.

19 We're all interested in public health and
20 safety. We all want it. I know I want it for
21 myself. I would not have moved here if I didn't feel
22 comfortable doing so eight years ago, and I have
23 never felt uncomfortable being in the area. The
24 station, the Braidwood Station has been really a
25 wonderful neighbor, because they're not only

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1 employing people in the area and helping to feed tax
2 money into our schools and fire department and police
3 and library, et cetera. They are interested in
4 community organizations and help all of us, including
5 the Historical Society and the Lions Club and Park
6 District and many such groups, Chamber of Commerce
7 and so on. So, they're really wonderful neighbors
8 and they support all of these groups, and when they
9 do that it makes our town more viable, more lively,
10 more full of life because they're helping us to
11 continue in day to day issues.

12 And, I went to the presentation August
13 8th at City Hall by NRC, and at that meeting they
14 made it very clear that Exelon has met, if not
15 exceeded, all their expectations regarding safety.
16 And because of that, I just welcome the approval of
17 the renewal license for our good neighbor, Exelon.
18 Thank you very much.

19 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to
20 invite Doug O'Brien from the Illinois Clean Energy
21 Coalition.

22 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you very much, it's
23 O-B-r-i-e-n. And I'm the Executive Director of the
24 Illinois Clean Energy Coalition. Our group that is
25 supported by business, labor and policy leaders

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1 across the state promotes the development and use of
2 clean energy in a competitive market that benefits
3 both the environment and our economy. And regardless
4 of where people are individually on what various
5 policy courses they favor, I think everybody across
6 the country wants to see our country move towards
7 cleaner, a cleaner environment, and the cleaner
8 generation of energy.

9 Now, we've heard a lot about the positive
10 impacts that Braidwood has on the surrounding
11 communities, the jobs, the economic impact, the
12 millions of dollars that are invested in the
13 community, but the positive impacts reach much
14 further than the areas that benefit directly from the
15 plant operations. Nuclear has also brought a broad
16 benefit to the energy market in Illinois. It has
17 impacted, had a positive impact on rates, and
18 certainly on reliability, and as we've heard that is
19 oftentimes a key factor in attracting and retaining
20 good jobs.

21 And the benefits derived at Braidwood and
22 other nuclear plants are not limited to the economy.

23 It's an enormous benefit that the generation of 18
24 million megawatts of electricity at Braidwood last
25 year produced no carbon air emissions. And that's an

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1 objective, that's a goal we all want to strive to in
2 our country.

3 Earlier this year NASA's
4 Goddard Institute, which is a leading research
5 organization studying the impacts of climate change,
6 sought to quantify the impact of nuclear power's
7 carbon free emissions. Goddard's study found that
8 replacing nuclear power with fossil fuel generation,
9 would lead to approximately 76,000 deaths globally
10 every year, primarily as a result of increased cardio
11 and pulmonary disease.

12 This is even more important here in
13 Illinois, as we all know the Chicago metropolitan
14 area is designated as a non-attainment area by the
15 EPA due to air pollution, and this situation would be
16 greatly exacerbated without the existence of the
17 Braidwood Generating Station, which produces energy
18 to power up to two million homes, without adding to
19 our existing environmental problems.

20 And I think it's also important to note
21 that while we care tremendously about the local
22 impacts, the environmental impact statement that
23 we're talking about primarily here looks at a broad
24 range of issues. In addition to local environmental
25 issues, it looks at quality of life issues, revenues

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1 that are created, job creation and economic impact
2 are all part of the environmental impacts of the
3 Braidwood Generating Station.

4 And for these reasons the Illinois Clean
5 Energy Coalition strongly urges the renewal of the
6 operating license for the Braidwood station. Thank
7 you.

8 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to
9 invite Angie Hutton from the Braidwood Chamber.

10 MS. HUTTON: It's Angie Hutton, H-u-t-t-
11 o-n, and on behalf of the Chamber, and I sent a blast
12 e-mail out before I left the house, I got nothing
13 derogatory from any of them again, Exelon supports
14 our schools, all of our businesses, and not only with
15 what they do for us but the people that work there,
16 which is, definitely helps our businesses in town,
17 and our schools couldn't do without them. I mean,
18 they're just, they've been wonderful. Anything we've
19 asked for, they've helped us as the chamber, and for
20 that we say thank you.

21 And there was an issue with the tritium,
22 and as being a good neighbor, which they promised
23 when they started, they did remediate the area, they
24 bought the property that was impacted, and with that
25 they took aggressive action so that it doesn't happen

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1 again. And with that they also opened up great
2 communications.

3 And as Dee said, the CAP, we go in there
4 and they have no idea what questions we're bringing.

5 Anything that the public wants to know, anything
6 that we want to know, and they do answer it right
7 away, and if not, it's at the next meeting, but they
8 have no idea. And with all that they do for support,
9 they're meeting people everyday with no idea what
10 people on the street are going to ask, and they do
11 answer it. And that, in this day and age, is a big
12 deal, there's no, well, I'll get back to you or let
13 me see what I can find out, they do answer it.

14 So, with that and the support that
15 they've given us, and Exelon will be speaking at our
16 next chamber meeting, so, and they'll have no idea
17 what those people are going to ask that morning.
18 With that, we would like the license for the station
19 to be renewed.

20 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to
21 invite K. Denise Forrest from the community and
22 Exelon.

23 MS. FORREST: Hello. Last name's
24 Forrest, F-o-r-r-e-s-t. So first I'll talk to you as
25 a community member. So my dad grew up in Braidwood

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1 and attended the one-room schoolhouse on Center
2 Street, and I didn't venture far from home because I
3 bought a house in Braidwood five years ago. My
4 future son-in-law just bought a house in Braidwood in
5 January. We're both employees of Braidwood Station
6 and grateful to be employees of Braidwood Station.

7 We do all of our shopping in Braidwood,
8 we see the physicians in Braidwood, even the people
9 who don't live in Braidwood still use all the
10 services that Braidwood offers. When I hear the
11 truck go by spraying for mosquitoes at night I think,
12 Braidwood may have impacted that by their tax money,
13 so.

14 How, the impact, so I live on Bodeen
15 Drive. My neighbors on both sides of my house are
16 directly impacted by Braidwood Station, either as a
17 contractor or as an employee. My neighbor on the
18 back side of me is an operator. A block away from
19 me, two employees from Braidwood Station. My son-in-
20 law lives on Third Street, his neighbor is a
21 contractor. So Exelon and Braidwood Station has a
22 direct impact on the economy, just from a personal
23 perspective.

24 Whenever I go to the grocery store or I'm
25 at the mine, I'm always running into people that I

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1 work with, even the people who don't live locally,
2 just out of convenience they'll stop at the grocery
3 store, our gas is cheaper here, we gas our cars here.

4 Our taxes are cheaper here, so purchases are
5 sometimes cheaper.

6 So, not only for the Exelon employees but
7 also family-owned contractors. We support a lot of
8 contractors by bidding out business at the plant, so
9 a lot of them are also impacted directly.

10 As an employee, I'm a maintenance analyst
11 at Braidwood. I'm proud to say that I was part of
12 the start-up team from the 1980's, so I've been there
13 quite a while. Not only is the equipment updated,
14 but the people are updated as well, we are developed,
15 so thank you to Exelon, they've developed me as well.

16 As I get new employees into the site, I'm
17 so proud of our plant and the way that it looks and
18 the perception when you see it, that I take my people
19 for tours out in the plant so that they can talk to
20 their neighbors and say, wow, that is just a great
21 operation. It's not scary when you actually see it.

22 It's all the talk behind the scenes, when you don't
23 actually get to witness it and see how clean and how
24 professional it is.

25 Safety, so I am a community, I am

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1 community, Mark knows I say that all the time. So
2 when we tied into the septic, or the sewer, selfishly
3 I was worried about how that would, how my toilet
4 would handle that at home. Pleased to announce no
5 problems at all. So I'm always worried about the
6 community aspect.

7 They are an excellent neighbor. The
8 plant doesn't stink, it's not loud. When we do night
9 activities we notify the community. It's just a
10 respectful company to work for.

11 Lastly, industrial safety, radiation
12 safety, I have no fears at all being, living in the
13 community and living my entire life in the community.

14 We have so many systems, so many controls and so
15 many monitors in place, and even with all that, you
16 still, you have to have a culture. If you have the
17 people and the equipment in place but you have a
18 culture that doesn't support that questioning
19 attitude of being your brother's keeper and looking
20 out for everything, then you're not going to have a,
21 you're not going to succeed in this business.

22 The expectation at Braidwood, and at any
23 Exelon plant, is that if you see something that
24 doesn't look right, you bring it up. We don't hide
25 anything, we put it out there in the open and then we

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1 address it. And that's everybody's, everybody's
2 responsibility, it's not just for Mark, it's not just
3 for the manager, it's for the clerical person all the
4 way up, the contractor, anybody to bring it up.

5 So knowing that culture, and that is the
6 expectation, I'm grateful to be at Braidwood and I
7 would like to be extended as well.

8 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. I would like to
9 invite Philip O'Connor from Proactive Strategies,
10 Inc.

11 MR. O'CONNOR: My name is Philip R.
12 O'Connor, that's O-'-C-o-n-n-o-r. And first of all,
13 thank you to the NRC for holding this meeting. In
14 the early 1980's, during the peak construction period
15 at both Braidwood and Byron, I was serving as
16 Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission, which
17 is the utility regulatory body for our state. At
18 that time I was also serving as the representative of
19 all of the other state utility regulators on the
20 board of, the Advisory Board of the Institute for
21 Nuclear Power Operations. And one of the things that
22 we came to an appreciation of during that period, and
23 even more so since, is the connection between the
24 safe practices in a nuclear plant and economic
25 performance.

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1 That peak period of construction in the
2 early 80's was one of substantial controversy about
3 both the economics of the projects and the long run
4 impact on electricity prices in northern Illinois, I
5 know, because my home used to be regularly picketed,
6 and I would be yelled at on the bus.

7 But let me tell you, and we all know it,
8 things have worked out extraordinarily well, far
9 better than most expected. Just three quick points.

10 First, both Braidwood and Byron have proven to be
11 stellar performers with capacity factors well over 90
12 percent. Second, in an era in which there's been
13 both great uncertainty about the economics as well as
14 the environmental aspects of fossil fuels, these two
15 stations have had the advantage of a low cost, non-
16 fossil fuel supply and all of the intended
17 consequences of that.

18 Third, and this is particularly dear to
19 my heart, Illinois was a pioneer in moving away from
20 traditional electricity price regulation and toward
21 customer choice and competition in the generation and
22 supply sectors. The high performance and the low
23 production costs at both Braidwood and Byron have
24 been important factors in a successful transition
25 from traditional regulation and competition.

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1 Let me just illustrate this. In the
2 decade prior to Illinois' 1997 restructuring law, the
3 average Illinois electricity price was consistently
4 about 10 percent above the national average. In the
5 more than a decade since the full implementation of
6 choice, average Illinois electricity prices have been
7 seven to eight percent below the national average.
8 That 18 point swing has been worth about 35 billion
9 dollars so far, and is growing every day.

10 As of the end of May, Illinois had the
11 11th lowest electricity prices in the United States.

12 I mean, the only ones who have lower prices are
13 those with, in the west, with a lot of hydroelectric
14 power and so forth. And I think that just, you know,
15 Mr. Moran's comment about his bill now compared to
16 what it was, I think helps to illustrate the point.

17 So Byron and Braidwood are no longer
18 owned by a utility, it's true they're affiliated with
19 ComEd, but they are not part of the utility rate
20 base, and they have been operating successfully as
21 fully competitive assets in a highly competitive
22 generation market. So the bottom line here is that
23 Braidwood and Byron, if they are allowed to operate
24 well into the future by being re-licensed, are likely
25 to continue to play a positive role in maintaining

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1 Illinois' advantageous electricity price position,
2 and that, of course, is a big plus for job creation
3 and prosperity in Illinois.

4 So let me end where I began, and that is
5 simply noting that Exelon's ongoing adherence to best
6 practices for nuclear safety will be an important
7 underpinning of ongoing strong economic performance
8 of both those plants and of the Illinois electricity
9 market. Thank you.

10 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Next I would
11 like to invite Steve Quigley from the Will County
12 Governmental League.

13 MR. QUIGLEY: Quigley, Q-u-i-g-l-e-y.
14 Hi, I'm Steve Quigley, Will County Governmental
15 League on behalf of the 32 communities that the Will
16 County Governmental League represents. We would
17 endorse the licensor to be renewed. On a personal
18 note, in 1992 I became the Public Information
19 Director for the Illinois Emergency Management
20 Office, and, or agency actually, and as a public
21 information director I had the opportunity and chance
22 to view all the nuclear power stations in Illinois,
23 and I learned a lot.

24 Number one, I didn't know that we had
25 more active nuclear sites, or reactors in Illinois

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1 than any other state in the nation. Upon doing that,
2 that was back in the ComEd days, I saw how safety was
3 an important aspect to what goes on in any nuclear
4 power station, and I also learned subsequently when I
5 took this position how the Exelon/ComEd, it was ComEd
6 when I started, now Exelon, took their community
7 outreach. Community outreach to
8 individuals in the communities I represent is
9 paramount to having a utility such as a nuclear
10 safety or nuclear production site like this, to what
11 the mayors that I represent, they want to know, they
12 want information, it's not just Braidwood, it's the
13 communities throughout Will County. And one of the
14 things, Mr. Greuling took about half my speech so I
15 just left my notes on the thing, but we do represent
16 almost 700,000 residents. Economic
17 development is a very important aspect of what mayors
18 do in their communities. John does it in a bigger
19 picture, our mayor's do it, you know, for their own
20 communities. Having clean, efficient service and
21 reliability is a great economic benefit when mayors
22 are going out and trying to do outreach to bring
23 businesses into their communities, and the Will
24 County community as a whole.

25 But I cannot commend the staff at this

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1 local station more for the outreach. They get in
2 touch with me two or three times a year, ask if
3 there's any meetings that they can attend, we have
4 monthly meetings with our mayors and our city
5 administrators, are there things they can come, is
6 there anything they can do on the behalf to
7 enlighten. They offer opportunities for the
8 community leaders to come and tour the plant. I had
9 the privilege of going right before they did the last
10 generator turnover, which I think was a couple years
11 ago.

12 I've had the opportunity to go since then
13 but they were gearing up and the safety on the inside
14 of the plant and the security on the outside of the
15 plant in my humble opinion, as somebody who's seen
16 this over the last 15 years, can't be matched. And
17 we would endorse fully the NRC's extension for the
18 next 20 years of this licensor. Thank you.

19 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Frank Antos
20 from the Community Advisory Panel.

21 MR. ANTOS: That's A-n-t-o-s. As a long
22 time resident of the area, I don't see any problem
23 with them getting renewed on their license. They've
24 been excellent, good neighbors. All I can tell you,
25 that's, go for it.

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1 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Nancy Ammer
2 from the Grundy Economic Development.

3 MS. AMMER: Good evening, last name
4 Ammer, A-m-m-e-r. Like Mr. Quigley I'm tempted to
5 say ditto and sit back down as I know you're all
6 anxious to get home, but I just want to make a few
7 quick comments. I'm with the Grundy Economic
8 Development Counsel in Grundy County, the adjacent
9 County over. And so we find ourselves really in an
10 enviable position in that we are sandwiched by
11 nuclear stations with LaSalle Station on our western
12 border in the next county over, Braidwood here in
13 Will County and then we're home to Dresden Station,
14 all operated by Exelon and all excellently operated.

15 I also have the opportunity then from
16 looking at them as existing businesses in our area,
17 but then also what they bring to the table as we're
18 trying to track new business to Illinois and to
19 Grundy County. The robust energy market has been
20 good for consumers, and it has also been good for
21 existing businesses as well as in the attraction
22 efforts of new businesses, especially as we're seeing
23 some reemergence of manufacturing in our area, that
24 have very energy-intensive types of businesses so
25 that we are now, have statistically, the employment,

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1 the lowest in the country. It just gives more
2 validation to what we've been working on.

3 The quality jobs that we see at
4 Braidwood, that we see at Dresden, that we see at
5 Exelon cannot be understated, especially in this
6 environment of high unemployment. When you take
7 those 800 plus jobs with excellent payroll, excellent
8 benefits, multiple it by three, by all three of the
9 stations, and all of a sudden you start to see
10 significant impacts of payrolls in excess of \$80
11 million here, multiply that by three with the three
12 stations, employment of over 2,500.

13 And then also to not forget the
14 multipliers that we see when there are the refueling
15 outages. I can assure you as an economic development
16 person, I can't speak on behalf of Mr. Greuling, but
17 there's not a lot of people knocking on our doors to
18 bring in \$80 million payroll to our community. We
19 are thankful that they are here, we are thankful the
20 commitment that they make to our taxing bodies, and
21 on behalf of the Grundy Economic Development Counsel
22 I would encourage the renewal of the license. Thank
23 you.

24 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you everyone for your
25 comments. I'd like to open it up to the floor, and

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1 if there's anybody who has not made a comment yet
2 that would like to speak, please step up to the
3 podium. Everybody wants to go home.

4 Okay, and I've got a few closing comments
5 here. Thank you everyone again for your
6 participation, for the comments, for attending the
7 meeting this evening. And the comments provided will
8 be addressed in the Scoping Summary Report for
9 openness and transparency the Scoping Summary Report
10 will be available publicly on the NRC license renewal
11 website, and the address is in the handout.

12 And if there are any further comments you
13 can provide them either in writing or electronically.

14 Please do so by September 27th. And the NRC is
15 always looking for ways to improve our public meeting
16 process, so there are feedback forms on the table, if
17 you would like to fill one of those out. They're
18 postage paid and you can send them in, and any
19 improvements would be welcome.

20 Does anybody have any comments before we
21 close the meeting? Then this meeting is adjourned.
22 Thank you very much.

23 (Whereupon at 8:20 p.m. the meeting was
24 adjourned.)
25

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