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License Termination Plan

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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HUMBOLDT BAY DECOMMISSIONING PROCESS

LICENSE TERMINATION PLAN

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PUBLIC MEETING

+ + + + +

TUESDAY,

AUGUST 20, 2013

+ + + + +

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

PRESENT :

BILL BARLEY, PG&E

ROB EVANS, NRC

JOHN HICKMAN, NRC

TANYA OXENBERG, NRC

KAREN PINKSTON, NRC

LOREN SHARP, PG&E

BLAIR SPITZBERG, NRC

BRUCE WATSON, NRC

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

1
2 MR. WATSON: Well, good evening. And we
3 welcome you tonight. We have this room from six to nine.
4 We'd like to close down about 8:45 so we can get our
5 equipment out of here and be in compliance with the
6 contract for the building.

7 My name is Bruce Watson. I'm chief of the
8 reactor decommissioning branch in NRC in headquarters.
9 My branch is responsible for the licensing activities at
10 Humboldt Bay, and so we are basically the licensing
11 authority and regulator for the site.

12 In the back, there are some critique sheets.
13 There's also some index cards for people who want to ask
14 questions that would like to write it down rather than
15 use a microphone. We are having this meeting recorded,
16 so the actual meeting minutes will be available.

17 We are here to discuss the Humboldt Bay
18 License Termination Plan. The plan was submitted to the
19 NRC for approval. We have conducted what we call an
20 acceptance review. That typically takes a few months
21 for us to look at the broad look at the actual document.
22 Acceptance does not mean approval. We are required to
23 hold a public meeting to obtain comments from the public
24 when the -- after the LTP is submitted and accepted for
25 the detail review. And that's where we are right now.

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1 We will be starting our detailed review here now, right?

2 Okay. With me tonight are John Hickman.
3 He's the project manager for the Humboldt Bay site. We
4 have Blair Spitzberg, Dr. Blair Spitzberg, from our
5 regional office. He's the chief of the people who
6 inspect the -- conducting inspections at Humboldt Bay.
7 Also we have -- from the NRC, we have Dr. Tanya Oxenberg,
8 she is conducting the health physics review of the
9 licensed termination plan, and Dr. Karen Pinkston, and
10 she does the dose assessment and environmental
11 evaluation. And we have, also, Dr. Rob Evans. He's the
12 inspector for the site. He's from Region IV out of our
13 Arlington, Texas office.

14 From PG&E, we have Loren Sharp. He's the
15 PG&E director and nuclear plant manager. And we have
16 Bill Barley who's the Humboldt state closure manager for
17 PG&E.

18 Our agenda is pretty simple. First, I'm
19 going to make a couple of opening remarks. John Hickman
20 will discuss what's required to be in a License
21 Termination Plan. Loren and Bill will talk about the
22 actual license termination plan as submitted. And Blair
23 will talk about the inspection process for
24 decommissioning. Then we'll go to some Q&As, questions
25 and answers, hopefully; get your comments and solicit

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1 whatever feedback you can on the LTP at this point.

2 I would like for you to limit your questions
3 to maybe one or two so we have -- can give other people
4 the opportunity to talk since we do have a limited amount
5 of time.

6 Let me go to my slide here I've put together.

7 Our regulations for decommissioning have
8 been in place since 1997. We did have some other cleanup
9 regulations before that, but the current regulations
10 went into place in 1997. And as a result of that, we have
11 some significant experience in decommissioning, in
12 particular, reactor decommissioning.

13 We have terminated the licenses of eleven
14 reactors in the U.S., seven of those were under the
15 current regulations. And we've also terminated over 50
16 material licensees, complex material licensees, and 13
17 research reactors.

18 So the breadth of the experience is fairly
19 good. The inspection process is well established. If
20 you go to our website, you can find our inspection manual
21 chapter which Blair and his folks follow from the region
22 on conducting inspections, and we'll talk about that in
23 more detail.

24 As you already know, our oversight
25 continues once the plant stops operation and goes into

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1 decommissioning. It does not stop until we terminate
2 the license. And so we want you to assure you that we're
3 here to make sure that the decommissioning is conducted
4 safely and securely throughout the entire process until
5 all the material -- radioactive material is removed and
6 the license is terminated.

7 So with that, I was going to invite John
8 Hickman up and he's going to talk about the license
9 termination process.

10 MR. HICKMAN: This is an overview of the
11 decommissioning process for a reactor facility.

12 First step is where the licensee decides
13 that they're going to terminate operations in their
14 facility. In the case of Humboldt Bay, that occurred in
15 June of 1983.

16 Second step in the process for us is when
17 we actually amend the license to no longer allow
18 operations in the facility. The new regulations that
19 Bruce mentioned take care of that automatically. But in
20 the case of Humboldt Bay, they shut down before those
21 regulations were in place. So the license was amended
22 in July of '88 to no longer permit operation at the
23 facility.

24 After that, the licensee, in this case,
25 Humboldt, submitted a decommissioning plan describing

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1 basically how they're going to begin their
2 decommissioning process. You have to include the
3 planned decommission activities. In the case of
4 Humboldt, they went into safe store for about
5 approximately 30 years. They have to provide us a
6 schedule to the activities they want to do.

7 In their initial submittal, obviously, with
8 30 years of safe store, it didn't go into a lot of detail.
9 But they subsequently provided information when they
10 went began active decommissioning and the other actions
11 they've taken. They also have to provide a cite for the
12 cost estimate.

13 Additionally, they have to submit,
14 annually, financial reports on their expenditures and
15 status of the decommissioning trust fund. So we
16 maintain continual observation of their trust fund and
17 progress of decommissioning. And that's what the union
18 share when they send it in.

19 The next step in the process is the License
20 Termination Plan. When -- at least two years prior to
21 completion of the decommissioning, when they want to have
22 the license terminated, they need to submit a License
23 Termination Plan. We'll go into some more detail on
24 that. And that's the focus of that meeting as they have
25 now submitted that plan.

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1 After the License Termination Plan is
2 approved and they complete the decommissioning, they
3 will then begin a final set of surveys where they're going
4 to survey the site to determine if they have
5 decommissioned it if compliance with the plan and to the
6 levels we require. And after that is done, we would then
7 be terminating the license.

8 Our regulations are specific in certain
9 aspects of decommissioning, such that they cannot do any
10 activities that would not allow the release of the site
11 for unrestricted use, so they wouldn't be able to
12 terminate the site and release it completely, not result
13 in any environmental impacts that were not previously
14 considered. Environmental evaluations were performed
15 for licensing of the site and operation of the facility,
16 and they cannot do any actions through decommissioning
17 that would cause any impacts beyond what had previously
18 been evaluated.

19 They also cannot take any actions through
20 decommissioning that result in there not being
21 sufficient funds to complete the decommissioning. And
22 that's part of why we monitor the funding annually.

23 The focus during decommissioning is on
24 these primary areas, the removal of the facility from
25 service, the reduction of radioactive materials to the

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1 level that allows us to terminate the license, and
2 detailed radiological surveys of the site they conduct
3 and confirmatory surveys that we'll be conducting.

4 This is an outline of what the LTP needs to
5 include. Pacific Gas & Electric will go into more detail
6 on the content of the License Termination Plan, but I just
7 wanted to give a sort of overview of what the LTP is.
8 It's essentially a document that is an agreement with us
9 as to how they're going to cleanup the site to meet our
10 release criteria, how they're going to do the surveys to
11 prove that they've cleaned up the site sufficiently.

12 Our release criteria is dose based. The
13 regulations state that following decommissioning the
14 residual plant-generated radiological materials cannot
15 contribute more than 25 millirems per year dose to an
16 individual. To put that in context, the average person
17 in the United States is exposed to approximately 350
18 millirems per year from background radiation.

19 The 25 millirem per year is based on a dose
20 modeling that has to be done. They'll go into it -- the
21 licensee will go into it in a little more detail. But
22 the dose modeling process assumes that there's going to
23 be an individual, in this case, it's called a resident
24 farmer scenario, who, following the license termination,
25 would choose to establish his residence an farm on the

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1 site. They have to analyze all the pathways by which
2 that individual could be exposed to the residual
3 radioactive material, determine what level of radiation
4 can be left that would limit the dose of that person to
5 25 millirems per year, and then they would do the surveys
6 to confirm that the level that is actually left is less
7 than that analyzed level.

8 So it's fairly complicated, but it
9 basically models the dose so they can take a radiation
10 measurement of the site to the surveys and know that
11 there's little enough material left that the dose would
12 not exceed that 25 millirem per year.

13 This is basically the review process for the
14 License Termination Plan. As Bruce mentioned, we've
15 already completed our acceptance review. That's
16 basically just the look at the License Termination Plan
17 to insure they included all the required information and
18 it appears to have enough substance for a technical
19 review.

20 Second step is our technical review. We
21 have done that now. Typically, it takes about a year.
22 Frequently, it also requires some questions. I don't
23 believe we've ever had a License Termination Plan where
24 we didn't have some questions on it. So we would have
25 a request for additional information to be provided to

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1 get whatever additional information we needed.

2 We are required to have a public meeting.
3 That's why we're here today. We also have an opportunity
4 for comment from the public, and it's not just at this
5 meeting tonight. When we get to the end of my slides,
6 my e-mail address will be listed there. If anybody wants
7 more information on the License Termination Plan, if
8 anybody wants to provide comments on the License
9 Termination Plan, you can contact me at any time during
10 our review process. It's not -- it doesn't just have to
11 be tonight.

12 Assuming the License Termination Plan is
13 reviewed and determined to be acceptable, it is approved
14 by a license amendment. The reason for that is it then
15 becomes part of the facility's license. They have to
16 comply with the plan with exceptions that may be noted.
17 But it is not a -- it's a somewhat inflexible document.
18 They have certain aspects they have to comply with as they
19 completed the decommissioning. And NRC, during the
20 process, will also perform inspections of what's going
21 on and confer with the facility.

22 This is the latter part of the survey of the
23 process through the License Termination Plan. As they
24 get near the end of their termination process, they will
25 be submitting final status surveys. This is where they

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1 would go out, conduct radiological surveys of any kind
2 of structures if there were any structures left,
3 although, Humboldt is not planning on leaving any
4 standing; they will conduct surveys of the soil in areas
5 that are going to be released in the license, all with
6 the intent of showing that they've met the cleanup
7 criteria that was established in the plan.

8 The NRC would review and approve those final
9 status survey reports, confirming that they are meet our
10 expectations for detail and the data is the kind of
11 numbers we would need. We also have contractors from Oak
12 Ridge who would come in and do confirmatory surveys
13 because we want to have independent eyes come in and do
14 the same surveys to verify that their surveys were
15 actually performed adequately. And assuming both their
16 surveys and our surveys show that the site has been
17 decontaminated to the appropriate levels, the license
18 would then be terminated.

19 This is the contact information. Anybody,
20 if you want to jot down the e-mail address, if you want
21 to contact either myself or Blair at the regional office,
22 any questions either on the License Termination Plan or
23 any aspects of the decommissioning process, either now
24 or later, be happy to hear from you.

25 And the point at the bottom bullet there,

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1 we have an electronic meeting room available on the
2 Internet. You can access the License Termination Plan
3 there, if you want to. It is available in our ADAMS
4 system. If you have any trouble finding that, you can
5 ask me. And I think I even have about eight copies of
6 it on CD, so if somebody wants a copy tonight, I'll be
7 happy to give it to you.

8 MR. WATSON: Thank you, John.

9 Loren, you're next.

10 MR. SHARP: So we're going to give you a
11 little status of where we're starting the License
12 Termination Plan from, where we've achieved our actual
13 decommissioning to date, and we'll go ahead and provide
14 a little bit of the status of what we've accomplished so
15 far. And then Bill will give you a little bit more update
16 on exactly what we've done with the License Termination
17 Plan.

18 So the line in yellow outlines all the
19 property that is under the Part 50 license at Humboldt
20 Bay. So we will have to clean up and remediate all the
21 property inside of that line in order to get acceptable
22 relief and termination of the license from the NRC.

23 This slide shows a little bit of the
24 overview of the site. Again, this is where the Unit 3
25 structure is. This is where Units 1 and 2 used to be

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1 before we demolished those. And we'll finish
2 the -- based on those that were done with the lay down
3 the area.

4 This shows the infrastructure that we put
5 in place in the 2009 and '10 time frame. We put in
6 trailers for housing the office personnel. We put in a
7 road for access as well as the scales and truck portal.
8 And we also put in a radiological access building in 2010.

9 This photo shows exactly what our status is
10 right now at this point. This shows how it was
11 constructed, ground level being at this level plus 12.
12 This is roughly minus 66 below grade. This area shows
13 the actual reactor vessel, the reactor dry well, the
14 bio-shield wall and the outer caisson.

15 What's important to note about the reactor
16 vessel is everything inside of the reactor vessel has
17 been removed. We have removed all the reactor
18 internals; we have drained the reactor vessel; and we are
19 in the process right now of removing the control drive
20 mechanisms underneath the vessel. Once we've completed
21 with that, we'll go into the reactor vessel segmentation.

22 This shows some of the items that we have,
23 indeed, removed from the reactor vessel and as well as
24 the spent fuel pool. We took out the spent fuel pool
25 racks after we sent the dry cask storage up the hill with

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1 the fuel in them in 2008.

2 In the upper right, the control rod blades
3 were put into a shield cask and we then moved them over
4 into a pool. We actually shipped out -- there are two
5 shipments of control rod blades. The first one went out
6 yesterday, and the second shipment will go out next week
7 to Texas.

8 This is the main steam line we removed from
9 the reactor head space. And then this is the lower core
10 shroud that we cut up and removed. It's been shipped to
11 Texas in some of our B and C waste shipments.

12 The yellow diagram shows the location of
13 what we're going to install as a slurry wall. And we'll
14 show a few more details of that in a minute. We're going
15 to put a slurry wall down to minus 170 foot elevation so
16 we can protect the ocean from the site as we go after
17 removal of the structures down below grade.

18 This shows a little bit of how that slurry
19 wall will work. We essentially would end up putting down
20 a slurry wall down to the clay layer, which is minus 170.
21 And this portion, although not depicted accurately, this
22 is like minus 80. And we would remove the water down to
23 like minus 80.

24 And when we get to that point, then we can
25 start taking apart the infrastructure that's

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1 underground. And after we've got the slurry walls
2 installed by this type of machine, and then we would
3 remove the infrastructure. So that's kind of how the
4 slurry wall goes in to allow us to take this structure
5 out. It's commonly used in construction of plants near
6 water bodies to make sure they can construct them.

7 Now I'll turn it over to Bill.

8 MR. BARLEY: All right. Go into a little
9 bit about what is specifically in our License Termination
10 Plan. As John Hickman talked about, the process that we
11 have is -- and exactly where we are right now in the
12 process is up here. As you can see, we submitted our plan
13 on May 3rd. It has been through the NRC acceptance
14 review. And we have the public meeting tonight. And we
15 anticipate that the review will be completed sometime out
16 in next year.

17 I'll go through the different chapters that
18 we have. We have eight chapters in the LTP. The first
19 chapter is pretty much a summary of the history of the
20 site that defines the years that it operated, some of the
21 problems that we had over the years, just a running
22 scenario of that reactor operation that occurred back in
23 those days.

24 And also, it addresses a little bit of an
25 overview of what the rest of the chapters contain. So

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1 as a "pick it up and read it" document, this is one you
2 might want to look at and just get a feel for what's in
3 the overall document.

4 The second chapter is where we have
5 assembled all of the characterization data that was done
6 so that we could plan our decommissioning. By
7 assembling all the different radiological information
8 that we had, we could then go off and plan the details
9 that we'll see in the rest of this document. So this
10 chapter presents that summary in a very easy-to-read
11 format. For people who are familiar, they'll be able to
12 use that in their review as they look at the rest of our
13 document to assess whether or not our plans are adequate
14 for going forward with the rest of our decommissioning.

15 Chapter 3, then, looks at, where are we in
16 the decommissioning process, because we've been at this
17 for a few years already. What we've done, at a very high
18 level at this point because we're still working out some
19 of the minor details going forward. But at a high level,
20 we've laid out those activities that we still have to do,
21 like Loren talked about for installation of the slurry
22 wall, the removal of the caisson and large structures
23 like that that we have on-site, in addition to the final
24 status survey that was just done and other
25 end-of-the-document reports writing we have to do.

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1 Chapter 4, then, presents all the different
2 processes that we may be using in order to remediate the
3 site and get down to that release level that John talked
4 about. So we have to get down to the 25 millirem to that
5 individual in any one year. And this lays out all those
6 various processes that we have at our disposal that we
7 will be using throughout the decommissioning process.

8 Chapter 5, then, lays out our plans for
9 doing this final status survey. How will we do all of
10 these various surveys to accumulate the data that the NRC
11 is going to need to assess that, yes, we do meet that final
12 clearance criteria at the end when we want to terminate
13 the license. It lays out exactly how we're going to
14 survey the units, how we're going to assess the data that
15 we get back, how our data quality requirements form that
16 data. So a lot of detail in here that lays out
17 specifically how that program will work so they can
18 review that in detail and ensure themselves that, yes,
19 we've laid out a good plan to get forward to accumulate
20 the data that they're going to need to terminate the
21 license.

22 Chapter 6 is where we get into his
23 discussion about how did we come up with that clearance
24 criteria. So of all the chapters, this is the most
25 technical, challenging one to get through. We use

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1 various computer programs that are approved. We develop
2 site-specific criteria that we input to that program and,
3 through that, develop a level at which we must get to to
4 demonstrate compliance with that end state. And this
5 will probably be one that Karen will spend a lot of time
6 with looking at and getting back to us.

7 Chapter 7, then, goes into the funding
8 requirements for the site. So here we have laid out
9 exactly what we see as the required funding to complete
10 the rest of the decommissioning and what our plans are
11 for that, to assess that funding to get us to the end
12 state.

13 And again, the NRC will look at that and say,
14 does this look reasonable? So every step along the way,
15 they'll be reviewing this submittal that we give to them
16 to ensure that we haven't missed something, have them ask
17 us questions, and we'll be giving them additional
18 information in this area as more is developed.

19 And then, finally, Chapter 8. We talked
20 about -- John talked about the fact that we have to look
21 at, we're not going to do any environmental degradation
22 above the plans that we already had in place. So what
23 we've had to do is look at all the various things that
24 we're going to be doing the rest of the project and assess
25 them against the general criteria for decommissioning

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1 plants that's out there and to assure ourselves and the
2 NRC that it's within all of the expected environmental
3 problems that we would expect to see in another
4 decommissioning plant somewhere.

5 And I think, with that, I turn it over to
6 Blair next.

7 MR. SPITZBERG: Good evening.

8 My name is Blair Spitzberg. And I'm from
9 the Region IV office of the NRC. Most people think that
10 NRC being in Washington D.C. and our headquarters is near
11 Washington D.C. in Rockville, but we have four regional
12 offices.

13 And ours happens to be geographically the
14 largest, is the western half of the United States
15 basically. And we do all the inspections of licensees
16 that NRC licenses within all of those states. And we go
17 out as far as Hawaii and Alaska and American Samoa and
18 Guam and a couple of other small places out west. But
19 we do cover a large area.

20 And our office is in Arlington, Texas, which
21 most of you probably know is between Dallas and Fort
22 Worth, and we're very close to the airport. So we have
23 the ability to get on planes and come out to sites on short
24 notice. Fortunately, we don't have to do that often.
25 But one of our responsibilities is event response. If

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1 there was an event or an accident or something that we
2 needed to come out and look into fairly rapidly, we are
3 able to do that.

4 The way we regulate decommissioning
5 basically is fairly straightforward. I think most of
6 you would be able to come up with the same criteria that
7 we use to regulate. We establish and ensure adherence
8 to the requirements which are contained fundamentally in
9 the regulations. Title 10 of our regulations is where
10 most of our requirements are, but we also rely on
11 regulations from EPA and OSHA that we also have a role
12 in enforcing, Department of Transportation.

13 And then we also have a whole collection of
14 safety standards that we issue, ourselves. And some of
15 them are safety standards that we rely on other aspects
16 of the safety community to establish the standards that
17 we, then, commit our licensees to through the license.
18 And then the license is active until license termination.
19 And it contains license conditions and technical
20 specifications. And so those establish the criteria
21 that we inspect against.

22 What we're here tonight for is the License
23 Termination Plan which was just submitted recently. And
24 this is the second aspect of how we regulate safety, is
25 performing licensing reviews and safety evaluations. And

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1 that's what John is talking about, that this is going to
2 be a process by which they'll be performing the technical
3 review of the License Termination Plan. Once this
4 License Termination Plan is in place and approved, then
5 we will inspect against that License Termination Plan and
6 all the commitments that the licensee has made in that
7 plan.

8 And finally, the way that we ensure safety
9 is by performing inspections and taking enforcement when
10 necessary. And that's what the regional offices do, for
11 the most part. We send inspectors out to the sites on
12 a regular basis, and we do rather invasive inspections.
13 And most of our inspections are announced, but some of
14 them can be unannounced. We can carry a multitude of
15 inspectors who have different expertise in different
16 areas. I have a number of inspectors who are specialists
17 in the decommissioning arena, but if we need somebody
18 that is a specialist in another technical area, whether
19 it's health physics or environmental monitoring or in the
20 case of -- believe it or not, in some cases in
21 decommissioning, there's construction that takes place,
22 for example, the slurry wall that they're planning to put
23 in place here. We'll probably have to have some
24 inspectors with a different background and expertise
25 come out and look at the installation of the slurry wall.

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1 So just let me cover the types of
2 inspections that we do and have been doing for years since
3 Humboldt Bay shut down permanently. We do regular
4 decommissioning inspections out there. That's my staff
5 that does that. And we quite often will have folks from
6 our headquarters office accompany us on those
7 inspections.

8 And we generally try and schedule these
9 inspections during periods of activity that we consider
10 to have a higher risk associated with it. So if they're
11 removing a large component or if they're cutting a piece
12 of a facility that may have become highly activated
13 during the years of operation, or if they're moving some
14 spent fuel or some radioactive waste, something that may
15 be of a slightly higher risk than the normal routine
16 decommissioning activities, that's what we try to target
17 our inspections around and -- so that we can come out and
18 look at that activity and also look at the training and
19 the records and everything associated with that and doing
20 independent measurements. And we'll go through all
21 these inspection procedures, but I wanted to convey the
22 fact that we do try to -- because I have a limited staff,
23 to try and target our inspections for those higher-risk
24 activities.

25 The other inspection arena that we do out

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1 here is this acronym called ISFSI, independent spent fuel
2 storage installation. For those of you who don't know,
3 the majority of the fuel that was used at Humboldt Bay
4 is still on-site, but it has been removed from the spent
5 fuel pool and put in what we call dry casks. And they're
6 specifically licensed for the dry casks at this site.
7 And it will remain in the dry cask until the federal
8 government establishes a repository for this fuel to be
9 sent to.

10 And so the good news that this spent fuel
11 is all in dry casks; it's out of the pool so that they
12 can now dismantle their spent fuel pool. And I have
13 inspectors on my staff that do ISFSI routine inspections
14 and will continue to do this beyond when the Part 50, the
15 reactor license is terminated in few years.

16 And we also have physical security
17 inspections that are performed by a different group
18 within the region and they come out an perform specific
19 inspections on the security systems at the site.

20 So what is it we try and do during the
21 inspection? We try and verify whether there's -- when
22 the licensee is conducting their activities safely and
23 in compliance with the license. We try and verify
24 whether there's adequate licensee controls on their
25 processes, whether they have procedures in place for all

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1 of the processes that they're undertaking, whether they
2 have reviewed and approved the procedures and the
3 procedure changes that are required to effectively and
4 safely implement those activities. We ensure safety
5 problems and violations are promptly identified and
6 corrected and that effective corrective action is taken
7 to prevent recurrence. And then we also, for periods of
8 time, we examine trends in licensee safety and
9 performance.

10 This list, I'm not going to go through the
11 whole list, but this is a list of our core inspection
12 procedures that we utilize during the decommissioning
13 process. And if you look at this, it covers just about
14 everything. We get down into -- for example, they have
15 to have an organization that meets what they committed
16 to in their License Termination Plan or in their license.
17 So if they don't have the specific personnel staff in
18 positions that are important to safety, for example, like
19 whether they have operators or radiation safety folks,
20 health physics folks, environmental monitoring
21 specialists, they have to have those positions filled.
22 And so we look that those positions are filled by
23 qualified individuals.

24 And we look at the safety reviews, the
25 design changes and the modifications that they make to

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1 their facilities and their procedures. We look at their
2 self-assessments and their quantity assurance audits and
3 their corrective action program.

4 I mentioned that we do separate independent
5 spent fuel storage installation inspections, so we do
6 look at the safety of the fuel as it's being stored. We
7 look at the occupational radiation exposure, the final
8 status surveys. We do surveys throughout the
9 decommissioning process.

10 My inspectors are all health physicists,
11 and they're well-trained and they have a bevy of
12 instruments that we bring out to the site to do
13 independent surveys. And then we also have a contractors
14 laboratory in Oak Ridge that we also have come out at
15 various times during the decommissioning process to do
16 verification surveys.

17 At the end of this process when the
18 licensees tells us that they're ready, that they've met
19 the release criteria for the site, we'll do extensive
20 surveys at that time using our contractor laboratory to
21 verify that. But we do it in process as well.

22 We also look at radwaste treatment,
23 effluent monitoring and environmental monitoring. We
24 look at transportation when we move materials. We were
25 just looking at packaging of a waste package today, or

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1 yesterday when we arrived. We look at maintenance and
2 surveillance and, as I mentioned, physical security. And
3 also look at their contingency procedures and processes.

4 Okay. So what we do with these inspections
5 once we complete them? We're a public agency. We owe
6 the public the information that -- on how we regulate.
7 And we think we do a pretty good job of trying to
8 communicate that, this meeting being one example. But
9 we communicate with the public every day on our website,
10 nrc.gov.

11 And for the most part, with few exceptions,
12 all of our inspection reports are publicly available. The
13 only ones that are normally not publicly available are
14 the ones that speak to physical security issues that
15 we -- that our physical security inspectors look at.
16 Their reports are -- portions of them are public. But
17 any sensitive information having to do with the physical
18 security systems in place at the site would not be made
19 public for obvious reasons.

20 But our decommissioning inspection reports
21 are all made publicly available, and they're all
22 available on our website. And we hope that you would
23 take advantage and look at them from time to time to keep
24 an eye on how we're looking after activities at the site.

25 One of the things we also do is we coordinate

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1 with the program office, Bruce's office. He's got a group
2 of license reviewers and experts in Washington in the
3 decommissioning arena, and I have the inspectors, so we
4 talk all the time back and forth between our office in
5 Arlington and their office in Washington to help us
6 refine and determine how best to perform our inspections,
7 what activities to look at. And we coordinate quite
8 extensively with them.

9 We normally will send out an inspection
10 schedule with them at least a year in advance. We don't
11 always adhere to the dates on the schedule, but we do try
12 and conduct the number of inspections that we plan to
13 conduct. And as I mentioned, they quite often will come
14 out with us. And we'll adjust the schedule during the
15 year as needed and based upon licensee activities and
16 balancing our inspection schedule out here with our
17 inspections that are needed at some of the other plants
18 where there's maybe a higher-risk activity occurring at
19 the same time.

20 In order to plan and execute the inspection,
21 as I mentioned, they could be announced; they could be
22 unannounced. We find that usually there's merit in
23 announcing our inspections if we're looking at a specific
24 area. We want to make sure that the people are going to
25 be there that we need to talk with.

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1 But we're also able to do inspections, and
2 we do do inspections that are unannounced. And
3 sometimes we do an unannounced inspection for the benefit
4 of following up on, for example, on allegations,
5 something like that, where we need to talk to somebody
6 or somebody may have contacted us and we need to go out
7 and look after a concern that they have.

8 Breach inspection is an inspection plan
9 that's developed. And that comes to me for approval. And
10 we'll talk about what that particular inspection will
11 cover and come to an agreement on that. And we'll sign
12 off on the inspection plan before it's executed.

13 And then after the inspection, the
14 inspector will hold an exit meeting with the
15 licensee -- normally at the end of the week; it can be
16 done telephonically when they get back to the regional
17 office, but normally it's at the end of week -- where we
18 brief the licensees on our preliminary findings. And
19 this is where we would identify any potential violations
20 that are identified, whether the licensees is in
21 compliance, whether there's any follow-up issues.

22 Then when the inspector comes back to the
23 office, he will debrief before the management in the
24 Region IV office, and we'll quite often have the
25 headquarters folks come, and say what the findings are.

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1 And we'll make an agency determination of what the
2 findings are. And then based on that, the inspector will
3 go back and write his or her report and will issue that
4 report.

5 Down at the bottom of the slide, most of our
6 inspection reports are issued within 30 days. If we have
7 a team inspection, we're given a 45-day window to
8 complete the inspection report because it involves more
9 inspector input, and they're usually more lengthy
10 reports.

11 I put up there the location where you can
12 find our enforcement policy. If there are violations,
13 we have a very well-defined enforcement policy on how we
14 treat the violations. As you might expect, the
15 violations will be treated based upon their
16 significance, and so we have different categories.
17 Depending upon what category the violation is identified
18 in, whether it's in health physics or transportation or
19 management organization, quality assurance, whatever
20 the category it's in, we have a supplement to our
21 enforcement policy that defines what the significance of
22 the violation would be.

23 And then based upon that, we'll determine
24 whether or not we issue a notice of violation to the
25 licensee or whether we can document the violation in the

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1 report. For those cases where the violations are more
2 significant, we have other options available. We can
3 have enforcement conferences with the licensees; we can
4 issue monetary civil penalties; we can modify the
5 license; we can issue orders. There's a whole
6 assortment of enforcement tools available to us.

7 The good news is that we very seldom have
8 to implement that because, for the most part, the
9 licensees that we regulate are good, in compliant
10 licensees. And we don't often find significant
11 violations, but we do on occasion. And when we do, we
12 have the tools available to us to take the necessary
13 enforcement to prevent recurrence.

14 And then finally, at the end of the
15 inspection process, we also keep a list of things we need
16 to follow-up on in future inspections so that we will not
17 let issues drop that we need to come back and look at again
18 and again and again.

19 Okay. So I've already talked about what
20 happens after the inspection, so I think I've covered
21 what's on this slide.

22 I just want to mention where you can find
23 our inspection reports. If you go to the website here
24 in this slide at nrc.gov, the ADAMS webpage, you can look
25 up inspection reports by docket number. And I don't

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1 recall the docket number off the top of my head. But if
2 any of you want to ask that at the end -- oh, it's up there.
3 05000133 is the docket number. And if you look under
4 that, you'll be able to find all of our safety inspection
5 reports.

6 Okay. So how many inspections do we do?
7 Normally, right now we're doing about one a quarter. But
8 as I mentioned, as activity at the site dictate, you know,
9 we'll send inspectors out for the critical activities.
10 But we have been, for the last couple years, been doing
11 somewhere between four and six inspections a year, about
12 one a quarter.

13 Inspections typically last a full week that
14 we're onsite. And they can consist of one or more
15 inspectors. Quite often, they'll consist of at least
16 two inspectors. But this week, for example, we were
17 conducting an inspection. And Rob Evans out here in the
18 audience is one of my senior inspectors, and he's
19 conducting inspections this week.

20 Talked about enforcement. We have a
21 categorization of severity levels for the violations
22 that we identify. Anything that's Severity Level 3 or
23 above is considered escalated enforcement. There's
24 been one case of escalated enforcement in recent years
25 out here. It did involve a security matter that I can't

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1 talk about tonight. But it with a Severity Level 3, so
2 it was just in the category that we consider for escalated
3 enforcement, but it wasn't the highest category. And
4 that's been taken care of and resolved. Otherwise, we
5 have a good recent enforcement history with this licensee
6 going back to the start of the decommissioning work.

7 And then I put my coordinates up there. If
8 anybody would like to call me, I'd welcome you to call
9 me or to send me an e-mail. If you have any questions,
10 I'll be glad to get back with you. And also my division
11 director, Tony Vogel, his address is up there. And our
12 Region IV main switchboard number is up there as well.
13 So please avail yourself of those numbers if you'd like
14 to get in touch with the inspection office in Region IV,
15 we welcome that.

16 So with that, turn it back to Bruce.

17 MR. WATSON: It's question and answer time,
18 or question and comment time. Does anybody have any
19 comments? Or would you like to take a five-, ten-minute
20 break and then we'll start?

21 No?

22 Like I said, we do have complete sheets in
23 the back. We would like you to complete those. You can
24 just put those in the post to us, or you can leave them
25 with us. There's also some index cards back there that

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1 if you want to write a question down and pass them up,
2 we'll be happy to respond to those also.

3 Yes, sir?

4 MR. ENNIS: I'd like to make some comments.

5 MR. WATSON: Can you state your name for us,
6 please?

7 MR. ENNIS: Yes. My name is Michael Ennis.
8 I moved to Humboldt County in 1964, a couple years after
9 the power plant went into operation.

10 And I spent 31 years as an engineer, the last
11 at 21 at Humboldt State University in the Department of
12 Environmental Engineering. And I taught environmental
13 science, environmental issues, energy issues. And
14 consequently, I was very well-versed with not only the
15 nuclear power plant but also with fossil fuel units and
16 pretty much all the energy stuff we're doing here in the
17 county.

18 In 1987 when the final, I guess,
19 environmental impact statement was issued, I taught a
20 class at Humboldt State, I had 36 students, on
21 decommissioning nuclear power plants. And it was a real
22 eye-opener for me. I never worked harder in all my life
23 and learned so much in a short period of time. But I
24 learned a lot and met a lot of people. And I think my
25 qualifications as someone to speak about nuclear power

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1 are kind of there.

2 I retired from teaching in 2003. And since
3 1998, I've been on the Community Advisory Board and
4 working very closely with PG&E, and obviously aware of
5 why we're here today.

6 I just want to give you a little bit of
7 background about Humboldt County. We're a pretty unique
8 place. Aside from our notorious reputation, this is a
9 relatively small county that is made up of some very
10 unique, talented, wonderful, wonderful people. And we
11 take our environment very, very seriously. Everything
12 from, in the '60s, when Redwood National Park was formed,
13 everything from the infamous headwater forests that was,
14 again, nationwide news. If you step outside one your
15 way, you'll see a shell of one of the two pulp mills that
16 were basically shut down because they couldn't meet the
17 regulatory standards. We're active in toxic sprays on
18 our forests. I mean, the list goes on and on and on.

19 The variety of people here care about their
20 environment. And our most treasured and our most
21 precious piece of the environment is Humboldt Bay. And
22 we find that, not only is it an ecological treasure, we
23 have a national wildlife refuge; we have a variety of
24 state and local preserves, Arcata Marsh, if you have a
25 chance to go up there. We see the Bay as an important

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1 resource for commerce. And we hope to, at some point,
2 expand shipping through here, but we also have fisheries,
3 we have oyster fisheries.

4 And probably the most important thing that
5 we have is the recreation on Humboldt Bay. All kinds of
6 trails, all kinds of access, and you can go out anytime
7 of the week and you will find people basically using that.

8 So this brings us to the nuclear power
9 plant. For basically 50 years, the residents of
10 Humboldt County have lived with the -- whatever words we
11 want to use, the fear, the concern, the issue of safety
12 in terms of the power plant, earthquakes, tsunamis. If
13 you were here in June of 1992 we had three separate 7.0
14 earthquakes in a 24-hour period. Pretty wild.

15 The plant operated 14 years. Science
16 Magazine, in 1972, called it the dirtiest plant in the
17 nation. We remember that. The spent fuel has been in
18 a pool for a long, long time. And luckily enough it is
19 now in a secure -- I feel very confident. I worked with
20 PG&E in terms of getting this ISFSI up. And I feel that
21 it is the best possible solution in terms of earthquakes
22 an tsunamis. And I hope that it will last for a long time
23 because they may have to last a very long time. And yet
24 we still live with this fear and this concern that there
25 is spent fuel that's here and may be here for a long period

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1 of time.

2 The final thing, cleaning up the site. And
3 again, with the advisory committee, we spent a lot of time
4 talking about this, how clean is it, you know? How all
5 those acronyms, all those things that, you know, you deal
6 with on an everyday basis, it all boils down to us, the
7 residents of Humboldt County, looking out on this bay and
8 saying, "This is a treasure." And that site has to be
9 cleaned up to the utmost.

10 And I think that the plan that PG&E has come
11 up with, basically, meets that. And so therefore, I want
12 to ask you, I guess, want you to assure the public that
13 you, as the NRC, the final ruling on the decision, you
14 have the ultimate say that you basically give us the words
15 that we've lived with for so many years, that nuclear
16 power is clean, safe, and cheap. At least you can live
17 up to part of that mantra.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. WATSON: I guess I'll just add a couple
20 of comments, and thank you for your comments.

21 Our limitation is, our criteria are this 25
22 millirem per year. And it also includes the concept of
23 ALARA. And like I said, we have terminated the licenses
24 at eleven reactors so far. Seven of those have been
25 under our current regulations. And with each one of

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1 those, those terminations were conducted and completed
2 with rigorous inspections, rigorous blind sampling,
3 split sampling, confirmatory surveys.

4 And the results of those terminations were
5 that, in reality, the actual criteria were well-met and
6 were only a few fractions -- a small fraction, I should
7 say, of the 25 millirems when the licensee completed the
8 termination of the license. And like I said before, we
9 will not terminate any license until the licensee
10 demonstrates to us that they have complied with the
11 license termination criteria. And we're there to verify
12 it all the way to the end.

13 Any other questions? Comments?

14 State your name please.

15 MR. BOHN: I'm Rex Bohn. I've lived here
16 since the '50s. I haven't lived here in quite as much
17 fear, but I've lived within two or three miles as the crow
18 flies, since I was a pup.

19 I'm the first district supervisor of
20 Humboldt County and vice-chair. And we submitted a
21 letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and on
22 behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, we
23 support the Humboldt Bay Power Plant License Termination
24 Plan that was recently submitted for your consideration
25 by Pacific Gas & Electric.

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1 The plan submitted is a well-thought-out
2 approach to addressing the challenges of decommissioning
3 the former nuclear power generation station in a manner
4 that is safe for the local community and the environment.

5 It goes on to say that we have full faith
6 in the plan that has been brought forth. I think the
7 citizens -- I'm also on the Citizens Advisory Committee.
8 I'm newer on the Citizens Advisory Committee, but I think
9 the plan that PG&E has brought forth, the transparency,
10 and especially what they've done to the community to
11 relieve the fears, and maybe that's why I haven't had
12 these fears. And it may be just lack of education, or
13 it may be I've got bigger things to worry about, and I
14 don't know what they are right now.

15 But I'm saying, as we move forward, I would
16 love to give full trust and full power to the powers that
17 be, you guys, to let this proceed. Loren and his team,
18 I don't know how many community meetings we had. And I
19 think -- I was up there today, and they're doing water
20 sampling on the channels at the request of the citizens
21 and working with the citizens on that. So I compliment
22 PG&E.

23 The Board of Supervisors ratify in this
24 letter that you got on a 5-0 vote. They have appeared
25 in front of the Board many times to explain what they are

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1 doing. And at the drop of a hat, they will do it at any
2 other time. So again, the Board of Supervisors
3 appreciates Humboldt County. And I appreciate the job
4 they're doing for our citizens.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. WATSON: Thank you for the comments.
7 Appreciate that.

8 I think one of processes that the NRC
9 promotes is having the community involved in the
10 decommissioning process. We entrusted the utility to
11 operate the plant for the number of years that they chose
12 to operate it, and we expect them to also safely
13 decommission the plant. And part of that is getting the
14 community involved so they understand what is going on
15 and what activities are going to be conducted at the site
16 so that they can convey to everybody in the community how
17 those things are done and how it's important that they
18 are done safely.

19 Do we have any other comments, questions?

20 Come on up. Can you state your name,
21 please?

22 MS. HALL: Jessica Hall, I'm a Humboldt
23 Baykeeper. So I understand that you can't talk about the
24 specifics of the violation that you described, or one of
25 you described, but I'm curious to know what the reasons

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1 were that you couldn't share the details of that.

2 And you talk about the recent history of the
3 decommissioning process being -- going on very safely.
4 If you have any reflections on what happened prior to
5 that, I would also love to hear that.

6 MR. HICKMAN: Let me speak first to the
7 security violations. One of the aspects of nuclear
8 safety that we're responsible for ensuring is the
9 security of nuclear materials. And that includes
10 nuclear materials that are possessed or generated by
11 nuclear power plants, of which Humboldt Bay is one and
12 they have nuclear materials. They have to have a
13 physical security plan that we approve to safeguard the
14 nuclear materials in their possession. And we perform
15 inspections of the physical security plans.

16 Some of the requirements of the physical
17 security plans are that when a licensee violates any
18 aspect of that physical security plan, depending upon
19 what the violation is, they have to notify us. I don't
20 remember exactly the time frame. This was a couple years
21 ago. They notified us that they had violated an aspect
22 of a physical security plan.

23 And that's about as much as I can say about
24 what the violation was. But I just wanted to explain the
25 context of how we regulate the physical security

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1 activities at the site and what they pertain to.

2 The second question was, I think, the
3 inspection record going back over time. You're racking
4 my brain now. We did have -- there was another case of
5 escalated enforcement back around ten years ago. And
6 that was something that we held public meetings out here
7 on, and we interacted with the public when they
8 were -- when Humboldt Bay was doing a full assessment of
9 all the fuel and the forms of the fuel that they had in
10 their spent fuel pool.

11 And they had a discrepancy in their records
12 that indicated that a small portion of a their fuel -- of
13 a fuel rod was unaccounted for. So as a result of that,
14 the licensee went into an exhaustive search where they
15 went through every little piece of everything that was
16 in there spent fuel pool; they examined all over the
17 plant; they looked at all their historical records of
18 what may or may not have been shipped off as waste and
19 so forth.

20 And they came out with a set of scenarios
21 that explained what the potential pathways for this were.
22 And we agreed with that, in effect; but as a result of
23 that, even though they went through this exhaustive
24 investigation, we concluded that they had lost
25 accountability for this small amount of spent fuel rod.

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1 And as a result of that, there was a civil penalty that
2 was about --

3 I don't remember, Dave, do you remember?
4 It was about ten years ago. Yeah. Since that time, you
5 know, as far as the decommissioning activities at the
6 site, we've not identified any significant violations
7 that had risen to the point of us taking escalated
8 measures.

9 Did that answer your question?

10 MS. HALL: Yes. Thank you.

11 MR. WATSON: Additional questions?
12 Please feel free.

13 PARTICIPANT: Maybe I can get just, like,
14 a show of hands, I'd like to see how many people are here
15 from the public, and not the NRC and PG&E.

16 So public people? We're overwhelmed.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. WATSON: Well, hearing no other
19 questions, I just thought I'd make a couple closing
20 remarks. And I'll go back up to the podium for that.

21 Again, let me thank you for attending and
22 providing your comments. In closing, I want to
23 emphasize three points.

24 The NRC will be here to ensure that Humboldt
25 Bay completes the decommissioning safely and securely.

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1 We will only terminate the license when they demonstrate
2 to us that they have met all the site criteria and the
3 site regulations for ensuring that the site meets our
4 criteria for terminating the license. We will continue
5 our inspections of Humboldt Bay all the way to the end,
6 and actually, inspections will continue with the ISFSI
7 afterwards.

8 We have begun our initial review of the
9 license termination plan. We expect that this detailed
10 technical review will take approximately a year. So
11 again, we would ask you if you have any comments, you can
12 go to our website, you can e-mail John or Blair or myself
13 with any comments you have on the LTP. And we look
14 forward to hearing any additional comments you may have
15 that if you do take the time to look at the LTP, it is
16 fairly extensive as it's intended to be. It's fairly
17 technical. And we look forward to any comments that you
18 may have. So I appreciate you coming tonight. And
19 thank you very much.

20 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
21 concluded at 7:05 p.m.)
22
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24
25

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