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Monthly Status Update

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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WASTE CONFIDENCE DIRECTORS

MONTHLY STATUS UPDATE

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WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 30, 2013

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The status update was held via teleconference at
1:30 p.m., Sarah Lopas, facilitator, presiding.

NRC STAFF PRESENT:

LISA LONDON, OGC

SARAH LOPAS, NMSS/WCD

CARRIE SAFFORD, NMSS/WCD

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

1:33 p.m.

1
2
3 MODERATOR LOPAS: Hi, everybody. Welcome
4 to the Waste Confidence Directorate Monthly Status
5 Teleconference.

6 My name is Sarah Lopas and I'm the NEPA
7 Communications project manager for the Directorate.
8 I'll be facilitating today's call.

9 You might want to have a pen and paper on
10 hand because we will be providing some information that
11 you may want to jot down.

12 In the room with me here at the NRC is Carrie
13 Safford, who's the deputy director of the Waste
14 Confidence Directorate, and Lisa London from our Office
15 of General Counsel. Most of our team is up in Tarrytown,
16 New York, for our public meeting there tonight.

17 Our operator today is Audra. And Audra
18 will be unmuting our individual call lines when we get
19 to the question and answer period. Note that unless
20 you're asking a question all the call lines will be muted.

21 We'll start by going over the format of
22 today's call and some basic ground rules. There aren't
23 any slides or meeting materials associated with today's
24 call; however, we will adhere to this short agenda.

25 Carrie Safford will provide some

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1 information on our upcoming public meetings and the
2 extended public comment period and then we'll open the
3 phone lines for questions.

4 When we get to the question and answer
5 period, to ask a question you'll just press Star 1 on your
6 phone and that will indicate to Audra that you'll need
7 your line unmuted.

8 Today's call is scheduled to end promptly
9 at 2:30 Eastern Time and we're obligated to keep that
10 schedule, so please try to limit yourself to one
11 question. And if we get to everybody once, we'll go back
12 for additional questions.

13 If we run out of time and you didn't get to
14 ask your question, please feel free to call me. My name
15 is Sarah Lopas and my office phone number is
16 301-287-0675.

17 Today's teleconference is being
18 transcribed by a court reporter. And this is so that
19 folks that weren't on the call can review the transcript
20 and see what was discussed.

21 When your phone line is opened to ask a
22 question, please start by introducing yourself and
23 stating your affiliation, if you have one. And please
24 speak clearly so that the court reporter can get an
25 accurate and clean transcript of what was said today.

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1 Please note that although this call is being
2 transcribed, any comments or statements you make today
3 are not considered as formal comments on the Waste
4 Confidence Generic Environmental Impact Statement or
5 proposed rule.

6 We have other official ways of submitting
7 your comments on the documents. And if you need help
8 with that, please give me a call.

9 The transcript of today's teleconference
10 and a meeting summary of the call will be publicly
11 available in ADAMS within three weeks. We will send a
12 W.C. Outreach e-mail with links to the transcript and
13 meeting summary and these documents will also be
14 available on the public involvement page of the NRC's
15 Waste Confidence website.

16 If you would like to be on our W.C. Outreach
17 e-mail distribution list, please send an e-mail with that
18 request to w-c-o-u-t-r-e-a-c-h-@-n-r-c-dot-g-o-v,
19 that's wcoutreach@nrc.gov.

20 And if you have any questions about access
21 to information or about the Waste Confidence review or
22 public meetings in general, please call me at
23 301-287-0675.

24 And with that, we'll get the call started
25 with Carrie Safford the Deputy Director of Waste

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1 Confidence Directorate.

2 MS. SAFFORD: Thanks, Sarah. Good
3 afternoon, everyone.

4 Before I get started, I want to thank you
5 all for participating today and for showing an interest
6 in the agency's activities regarding Waste Confidence.
7 We appreciate your participation and input.

8 The purpose of today's call is to
9 communicate with the public by providing you with an
10 update on the revised public meeting schedule and the new
11 deadline for the public comment period.

12 Due to the lapse in appropriations and the
13 subsequent shutdown of the NRC, five Waste Confidence
14 public meetings scheduled across three weeks were
15 postponed.

16 Seven previously scheduled meetings were
17 unaffected. The unaffected meetings include the public
18 meeting held here in Rockville, Maryland, on October 1st,
19 and Denver, Colorado, on October 3rd, Chelmsford,
20 Massachusetts, which took place on Monday, October 28th,
21 and tonight we'll be holding a public meeting in
22 Tarrytown, New York.

23 And just a brief side note on that, the
24 location for the Tarrytown meeting, it's still in the
25 same hotel but it has been moved to the Grand Ballroom,

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1 Salon E. And I can repeat that information later if
2 folks need it.

3 The meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina,
4 will occur as scheduled on November 4th and the meeting
5 in Orlando, Florida, will occur as scheduled on November
6 6th.

7 And, finally, our previously scheduled
8 webcast meeting to be held here in headquarters in
9 Rockville, Maryland, on November 14th will be held as
10 planned.

11 So that leaves five meetings that had to be
12 rescheduled. And the following schedule is as follows:
13 Oak Brook, Illinois, on November 12th; Carlsbad,
14 California, on November 18th; San Luis Obispo,
15 California, on November 20th; Perrysburg, Ohio, on
16 December 2nd; and Minnetonka, Minnesota, on December 4th.

17 In addition to the original schedule, we are
18 also adding a final wrap-up meeting on December 9th. This
19 meeting will be in the form of a facilitated
20 teleconference allowing an additional venue for
21 participants who are not able to attend a regional
22 meeting to provide their oral comments.

23 Our most recent W.C. Outreach e-mail sent
24 out on Monday, October 28th, contained the incorrect phone
25 number and pass code for the December 9th facilitated

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1 teleconference. So in the next day or two we'll send out
2 a correction e-mail with the link to the December 9th
3 teleconference meeting notice and it will include the
4 correct phone number and pass code.

5 We will also update the Waste Confidence
6 Public Involvement website with the teleconference
7 information.

8 And, finally, in order to accommodate the
9 rescheduled meetings and the final teleconference, the
10 public comment period has been extended from November 27th
11 to December 20th. The December 20th date provides about
12 ten days after the last meeting for individuals to
13 finalize their comments and submit them before the end
14 of the comment period.

15 I'll now turn it back over to Sarah Lopas
16 and we'll open up the line for questions on the new
17 schedule.

18 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Thank you, Carrie.
19 Okay. So at this point we're going to open up the phone
20 lines. To ask a question be sure to press Star 1.

21 And just a reminder that when we do open up
22 your phone line to start off by introducing yourself,
23 that's so the court reporter can get your name, and state
24 your affiliation if you have one, and speak clearly.

25 Okay. Audra, can we hear from Dean Baker,

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1 please?

2 MR. BAKER: Sarah?

3 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Hi, Dean. Go ahead.

4 MR. BAKER: Sarah, with the recent
5 government shutdown and the decision to extend the public
6 comment period, the schedule for completion of the final
7 rule is potentially challenged.

8 When will you be able to let us know if
9 there's going to be an actual schedule impact to that
10 final action?

11 MS. SAFFORD: Hi, Dean. It's Carrie Safford.
12 Thanks for the question.

13 We're currently evaluating any impact to
14 the overall schedule and don't want to try to provide any
15 guesses here. So we want to be able to give you accurate
16 information.

17 As soon as we know we will post that
18 information. We hope to be able to do so within the
19 coming weeks. But, again, just as soon as we know
20 something we'll post information on the public website
21 and through W.C. Outreach, as well.

22 MR. BAKER: Thank you.

23 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Thanks, Dean. Audra,
24 can we hear from Gail Snyder, please?

25 MS. SNYDER: Hi. This is Gail Snyder.

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1 Can you hear me?

2 Hi. I was wondering have you transferred
3 all those that had registered for the original meeting
4 date to the new meeting date or do people need to
5 re-register?

6 MS. SAFFORD: This is Carrie. We've already
7 transferred everyone to the new meeting date so there's
8 no need to re-register.

9 MS. SNYDER: Thank you.

10 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Thank you, Gail.

11 Okay. If you have a question press Star 1.
12 And we probably not hang on, we're not going to hang on
13 the line until 2:30 so get your questions in now. Press
14 Star 1.

15 Can we hear from Stephen Sondheim, please?

16 MR. SONDEHEIM: Yes, hi. Can you hear me?

17 FACILITATOR LOPAS: We can. Hi, Stephen.

18 MR. SONDEHEIM: Hi. It's Stephen Sondheim.
19 I'm from the Sierra Club in Memphis, Tennessee.

20 I want to tell you that I appreciate the
21 transcripts that have come out for Denver and for the D.C.
22 meeting. And I hope that the transcripts coming out, you
23 know, from each session are timely because it helps us
24 to get what was said and what else needs to be said.

25 And I also want to ask if I had heard that

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1 some of these are being recorded by NRC. Is that the case
2 or not? I'm just curious.

3 MS. SAFFORD: Hi. This is Carrie Safford
4 again. The California meeting will be videotaped with
5 an audio recording that goes along with it. They will
6 also have a court reporter there with the traditional
7 transcript. But those are the only two meetings where
8 we have plans for videotaping.

9 MR. SONDEHEIM: The two California
10 meetings, okay.

11 MS. SAFFORD: Yes.

12 MR. SONDEHEIM: Well, and how soon will the
13 transcripts come out after each meeting approximately?

14 MS. SAFFORD: Within a number of days we'll
15 be able to post them on our website.

16 MR. SONDEHEIM: Okay.

17 MS. SAFFORD: And, again, a W.C. Outreach
18 will go out letting people know and giving the link for
19 the transcripts.

20 MR. SONDEHEIM: Thank you so much. Okay.

21 MS. SAFFORD: Thank you.

22 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Audra, can we hear from
23 Erica Gray, please?

24 MS. GRAY: Hello?

25 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Hi, Erica.

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1 MS. GRAY: Hi. Yes. I think I'm trying to
2 understand, too. And Stephen just mentioned about the
3 transcripts.

4 So the transcripts will be made available
5 from all the meetings, am I understanding that correctly?

6 MS. SAFFORD: Yes, that's correct.

7 MS. GRAY: Okay. And I think it was just
8 mentioned that the California meetings will be
9 videotaped as well as the transcripts?

10 MS. SAFFORD: That's correct.

11 MS. GRAY: And I'm assuming the next one at
12 Maryland headquarters will also be webinared; is that
13 correct?

14 MS. SAFFORD: Yes. It will be a webinar
15 with the facilitator teleconference line just like the
16 kickoff meeting on October 1st.

17 MS. GRAY: Okay. And, I'm sorry, where can
18 I find those transcripts?

19 MS. SAFFORD: The transcripts, the link to
20 the transcripts are posted on our Waste Confidence page.

21 FACILITATOR LOPAS: And, Erica, this is
22 Sarah Lopas.

23 MS. GRAY: Yes.

24 FACILITATOR LOPAS: I believe I have your
25 e-mail. If you -- do you have my e-mail address, Erica,

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1 or do you know how to get a hold of it? Do you have a
2 pen? You could jot it down real quick.

3 MS. GRAY: Okay.

4 FACILITATOR LOPAS: It's Sarah,
5 S-a-r-a-h-dot-l-o-p-a, as in apple-s, as in
6 Sam-@-N-R-C.gov.

7 If you just send me an e-mail, I'll be able
8 to shoot you links to those transcripts. But all the
9 transcripts, we e-mail them out by a W.C. Outreach
10 e-mail.

11 MS. GRAY: Okay. So --

12 FACILITATOR LOPAS: We also post them on
13 our w- -- our Waste Confidence public involvement
14 website.

15 MS. GRAY: Okay. I guess I just haven't
16 come across it yet.

17 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay.

18 MS. GRAY: Can't think of anything else
19 right now. Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR LOPAS: All right. Thank you.
21 Audra, can we next hear from Mike Carberry, please?

22 MR. CARBERRY: Yes. Good afternoon. And
23 thank you for having this call.

24 I would like to ask why some of these
25 meetings are being scheduled, the Waste Confidence

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1 public hearings, in a place -- in places that are very
2 inaccessible to a lot of the public.

3 Perrysburg, Ohio; Oak Brook, Illinois.
4 Oak Brook, Illinois, is not Chicago. It's very hard for
5 people that do not have a car, which a lot of people in
6 frontline communities may not have them because they are
7 of lower means.

8 And so I just am very confused about why the
9 NRC has put some of these meetings in fairly inaccessible
10 places. Minnetonka, Minnesota, is not Minneapolis and
11 it's not St. Paul. So Tarrytown, New York, some of the
12 other places. The Boston meeting, the Boston area
13 meeting should have been in Boston.

14 And, you know, and also I'd like to register
15 basically a complaint saying that all of these meetings
16 should be recorded, video and audio, to be available for
17 the public.

18 If there are public comment periods, then
19 they really should be available for all of the public,
20 not just the public that can afford the means to get to
21 these out-of-the way hearings. Thank you.

22 MS. SAFFORD: I think, Mike -- this is
23 Carrie again -- I can, you know, give you a little bit
24 of information on how we chose the meeting locations.

25 Overall in the geographic regions we base

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1 that upon information that we received during the scoping
2 process that began last November. And we solicited
3 public input on locations where the public wanted to have
4 meetings when we came around to the public comment
5 period.

6 We also solicited input and heard feedback
7 from folks during our monthly status teleconferences.
8 And we used those attendance lists as well. We get a
9 printout of all the folks who participate in our monthly
10 status telecons and we can get an idea of what regions
11 of the country are we getting the most interest from the
12 public and the most participation.

13 And we also based that on historical
14 experience that we have here at the NRC in putting on
15 public meetings across the country and where we have
16 areas of high attendance or low attendance.

17 And, finally, a lot of it, you know, some
18 of it just comes down to sheer logistics. Where we can
19 get a hotel or meeting space to accommodate the size and
20 the nature of our meetings. And that, in itself, can be
21 quite restrictive and is a challenge for us when we try
22 to find and pinpoint a location.

23 So but we appreciate your comments and we
24 do take them into consideration.

25 MR. CARBERRY: Yes. If you would -- yes.

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1 If you'd like me to send you a list of downtown hotels
2 in Chicago that would be available during that same date,
3 I probably could come up with that.

4 I just, it's just Oak Brook, Illinois, is
5 very inaccessible to the people that want to that could
6 potentially speak. Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. SAFFORD: Thank you.

8 FACILITATOR LOPAS: All right. Audra,
9 next can we hear from Carol Kurtz, please?

10 MS. KURTZ: Yes. I have a question about
11 the size in Oak Brook on the 12th. How large will the
12 room, what is the capacity, the size? And also is that
13 meeting going to be taped and recorded?

14 Thank you.

15 MS. SAFFORD: Hi. So the meeting space in
16 Oak Brook, Illinois, I don't have the exact numbers in
17 front of me here, but I'm guessing it's going to be at
18 least a couple hundred people will be able to be
19 accommodated in that facility.

20 And no, the only meetings that will be
21 videotaped will be the California meetings. We do not
22 have plans for videotaping any of the other regional
23 meetings. We will have webcast and the facilitator
24 teleconference for the November 4th meeting -- 14th, my
25 apologies, the November 14th meeting here at

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1 headquarters.

2 MS. KURTZ: Okay. Thank you.

3 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Thank you, Carol.

4 Audra, next can we hear from Mary Olson,
5 please?

6 MS. OLSON: Hi, can you hear me?

7 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Hi, we can. Hi, Mary.

8 MS. OLSON: Hi. As a good facilitator I
9 know it's a typical process to create a cue of speakers.
10 But I'd like a cue about walk-ins versus people who called
11 ahead.

12 If we're having a really good turnout at one
13 of these places, is there a chance that walk-ins just
14 don't, I mean, be able to speak?

15 MS. SAFFORD: Hi, Mary. It's Carrie. For
16 the most part we're going to make every effort possible
17 to accommodate everyone.

18 We -- pre-registration is really the way to
19 go. I think you already know that and a lot of folks do.
20 And we've received a lot of response for some of our
21 meetings and that helps us in our planning in determining
22 how long we can afford each speaker to talk at the podium.

23 And that's the best I can say is that the
24 more pre-registration we get the better we can plan to
25 accommodate and allow everyone an opportunity to speak.

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1 MS. OLSON: And I get that. It's just
2 that, you know, I actually have gotten to the level of
3 doing radio outreach and some people are doing pretty
4 generic advertising-type outreach. And so it's just
5 getting to be a feel that we could actually have people
6 that we did not have any prior knowledge of actually show
7 up.

8 And since that's sort of the goal of this
9 activity, I would feel like that was a total success that
10 if they bounce off completely then -- and yet, you know,
11 anyway.

12 MS. SAFFORD: Yes. We appreciate your
13 feedback. And we will take that into consideration as
14 we head into some of these meetings with larger totals
15 of pre-registered speakers.

16 MS. OLSON: One more corollary question
17 which is about the 10 p.m. ending time. Is that, you
18 know, hard stop? Is that like you still got 10 to 15
19 people you're going to keep going? What's the deal
20 there?

21 MS. SAFFORD: In general, we do have a
22 little bit of flexibility on the 10 p.m. ending time. It's
23 not hard and fast. But because we do hold these in hotels
24 we do have to adhere to whatever the agreement with the
25 hotel is in allowing their staff to come in after us to

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1 clean up and set up for whatever the next day's activity
2 in that room is.

3 But we do have some flexibility. We can't
4 stay all night. We can't keep it going for hours after
5 10 o'clock. But we do have some flexibility. Like you
6 said, if there's 10 or 15 people left we'll make every
7 effort we can to make sure everyone gets that opportunity
8 to speak.

9 MS. OLSON: Okay. Just FYI, there's
10 pretty good convergence happening for Charlotte. I
11 think Negassi say -- it's not Negassi, it's a different
12 commissioner who is still on the commission has suggested
13 Orlando, that one looks to me to be maybe his meeting,
14 but we'll find out.

15 MS. SAFFORD: Okay. Thank you.

16 MS. OLSON: Yep.

17 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay. Thank you,
18 Mary.

19 Okay. Next can we hear from Lou Zeller?
20 And a reminder to press Star 1 if you would like to ask
21 a question.

22 Hi, Lou.

23 MR. ZELLER: Hi. Thank you. I'm Lou Zeller.
24 I'm the executive director of Blue Ridge Environmental
25 Defense League here in the southeast from Georgia on up

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1 to Virginia.

2 My question has to do with the venue, the
3 spot in Charlotte that Mary Olson just mentioned. That
4 it's a private hotel, as you know.

5 My question is who is the gatekeeper there
6 and who would be in charge of security? And my question
7 is simply on, you know, will it be the NRC in charge or
8 a private firm or, you know, Charlotte Municipal Police?

9 The reason I ask this is because there have
10 been -- we've had difficulties in the past with
11 heavy-handed tactics by, and trickery actually, in
12 Charlotte being the city that it is.

13 But, in other words, if we have questions,
14 people might bring signs, photographs to show to the
15 commissioners. They may wear shirts, banners, buttons.
16 People coming long distance would want to gather
17 somewhere in arriving before the meeting, of course,
18 because it's a long trip.

19 Where can people gather where if we've got
20 a number of people on the hotel site and how early can
21 they arrive? If questions arise on the site, I plan to
22 be there, who do we talk to from the NRC or from whoever's
23 in charge who would be at the Charlotte Hilton?

24 MS. SAFFORD: Hey, Lou. This is Carrie.
25 And there was a lot of information there in your comment

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1 so I'm going to try to hit on just a few of them that I
2 remember.

3 And if I forget anything I think it would
4 be easy for you also, if you could also touch base with
5 Sarah Lopas after the call and she can fill in any gaps
6 that I might not cover.

7 But, first of all, I guess I'm not familiar
8 with any other meetings at least that the NRC has hosted
9 in Charlotte that would have been heavy-handed.

10 I can say for purposes of our public
11 meetings we do coordinate with local law enforcement, we
12 coordinate with the hotel. It is their site and we are
13 a guest on their property for hosting these meetings.

14 The specifics on either you want to bring
15 in posters or signs or whatnot, typically those are okay
16 for our public meetings. One thing that you might hear
17 would be that the signs during the public meeting,
18 itself, you know, we prefer that they don't obstruct
19 anyone's view or prevent anyone from speaking or seeing
20 what's going on. So you might be asked to stand at the
21 side of the room or the back of the room with your sign.

22 I'm trying to think of some of the other
23 questions. Typically, so we have an open house at each
24 of these meetings that's going to start from 6 to 7 p.m.
25 NRC staff is typically on premises a little earlier than

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1 that. I can't guarantee what time. Probably by 5 o'clock
2 at which point, you know, we start coordinating and
3 setting up with the hotel and the local law enforcement.

4 I can't provide you with any good direction
5 on where groups can meet to gather or protestors of that
6 nature.

7 Then, again, if I missed anything in some
8 of the points that you asked about, I would encourage you
9 to get in touch with Sarah and we can help you from there.

10 MR. ZELLER: Okay. I should e-mail, then,
11 to Sarah Lopas?

12 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Yep. Do you have my
13 e-mail, Lou?

14 MR. ZELLER: Yes, I do. Thank you.

15 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay. Great.

16 All right. Audra, can we hear from Gail
17 Snyder again, please?

18 MS. SNYDER: I was just wondering when you
19 pre-register there doesn't seem to be a confirmation that
20 your registration was received. So I'm just wondering,
21 say, for instance if we have someone from Nebraska who
22 pre-registers, comes into the Oak Brook meeting in
23 Illinois, they knew they were pre-registered and then
24 it's not on the pre-registration and never get the chance
25 to publicly speak.

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1 That was a long way to come to not be able
2 to speak. It's happened to me in Michigan in meetings
3 that weren't pre-registered meetings, but it's rather
4 frustrating to go a long way and not have the opportunity.

5 So how does one confirm their registration
6 has gone through? Can you get to the meeting and check
7 to see that your name is on the registration list? What
8 can we do to kind of confirm that we're on the list?

9 MS. SAFFORD: Okay. So my understanding
10 is that you should receive a confirmation e-mail when you
11 pre-register. And then when you get to the meeting we
12 keep a list of all the individuals who have
13 pre-registered.

14 And so when you come in, come up to the info
15 desk and just let us know you're there and let us know
16 that your intent is still to speak or if you've changed
17 your mind and don't want to speak, let us know that, too.
18 Because it helps us manage the meeting. Thank you.

19 MS. SNYDER: Okay. Did you say that we
20 should receive a confirmation e-mail?

21 MS. SAFFORD: Yes. Yes. So if you
22 haven't, I don't know if you said you haven't received
23 one for --

24 MS. SNYDER: No. I just registered today
25 so I don't know if I've received one yet so I would give

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1 that another 24 hours or something. I would imagine it'd
2 be faster but.

3 MS. SAFFORD: Yes. It is typically five
4 days. Because not -- many people are registering for
5 many meetings so we have to make sure that we can get back
6 to everybody.

7 But I would check --

8 MS. SNYDER: Okay.

9 MS. SAFFORD: -- if you don't hear something
10 then just let us know and make sure you're on the list.

11 Okay. Thank you.

12 MS. SNYDER: Hello? It's hard to hear your
13 reply.

14 MS. SAFFORD: I'm sorry. I was just saying
15 if you don't get a confirmation e-mail within the next
16 few days, just let us know and we'll make sure that you're
17 on the list for the meeting that you intend to come to.

18 MS. SNYDER: Thank you. I have another
19 question if you don't have other people listed or I'll
20 wait for another turn.

21 MS. SAFFORD: Go ahead with one more
22 question, Gail.

23 MS. SYNDER: Well, at the first meeting that
24 was held before the government shutdown I had made a
25 statement on the phone that, you know, there's 12

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1 meetings being held. And really when you configure the
2 time allowed for people to speak there's really only
3 about 30 hours total of publicly-facilitated commentary
4 time spread across the entire country.

5 And I really think that the public hearing
6 time is very important. And it plays a role in the public
7 input process that is completely different than
8 submitting comments in written form. If it wasn't
9 important we would just all submit comments in written
10 form.

11 So I had asked at that first meeting that
12 they really do facilitate teleconferencing and
13 webcasting at all of the meetings, if not more than just
14 the two that are scheduled.

15 And I know you have your plans in place.
16 But I'm wondering if there is any discussion or if I can
17 submit to you and some people who asked as well on this
18 call that, you know, you already know how to do
19 teleconferencing and webcasting. It isn't new to the
20 NRC. I think it's unreasonable to request that more of
21 the meetings are facilitated in this way.

22 Because, you know, I do agree with one of
23 the earlier speakers that some of these meetings are held
24 in odd locations. And there are people who it's just
25 very inconvenient to get to them. And, you know, the

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1 Chicago one being an example. If it was in Chicago a lot
2 more people would probably come.

3 MS. SAFFORD: Okay. Well, I appreciate your
4 feedback and your input on that. One of the reasons we
5 added the December 9th meeting was to provide that
6 additional opportunity for folks who weren't able to make
7 it to a regional meeting to be able to present their
8 comments orally and in front of a group, although, I mean,
9 be it on a teleconference, but everyone can hear and
10 participate in that fashion.

11 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay. Thank you for
12 your comments.

13 Next can we hear from Laura Swett, please?

14 MS. SWETT: Yes. I was just wondering if
15 you could reiterate the new deadline for the public
16 comment period.

17 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Sure. It's Friday,
18 December 20th.

19 MS. SWETT: Wonderful. Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR LOPAS: You're welcome. A
21 reminder to press Star 1 if you have a question.

22 Our next question will be Stephen Sondheim
23 again.

24 MR. SONDHEIM: Hi. It's Stephen again. I
25 want to reiterate what Mike Carberry was saying and

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1 emphasize, you know, about central locations where
2 people are.

3 That I know there was a bit of a push and
4 pull between, for example, I think Tarrytown in New York
5 was picked because it's closer to Indian Point and
6 there's a lot of people living in the Hudson River
7 communities and I understand that being close to them was
8 important.

9 At the same time, my God, there's millions
10 of people in New York City who are and would be affected
11 by radiation from Indian Point.

12 And so I urge you all to in the future to
13 consider the major population centers. It's just so
14 important. And that's the -- that's another reason.

15 And I still don't understand why you can't
16 at least do a teleconference, telephone conference. The
17 technology's there. We do it all the time, each of our
18 little groups do it all the time. And at the very least
19 it would allow people in the major population centers,
20 you know, to chime in.

21 So please consider those. Thank you.

22 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay. Thank you,
23 Stephen.

24 All right. A reminder to press Star 1 if
25 you have a question. Right now we don't have anybody in

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1 the queue so we will close out the call shortly if we don't
2 have anymore questions. So press Star 1 if you would
3 like to ask a question about the rescheduled meetings or
4 the extended comment period.

5 Next can we hear from Tom Rielly, then.

6 MR. RIELLY: Yes. Good afternoon. This
7 is Tom Rielly at Vista 360 in Chicago.

8 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Hi, Tom.

9 MR. RIELLY: Hey. Regarding the Friday,
10 December 20th, public comment period ending. One, could
11 you speak to the issue of how these public comment windows
12 are set?

13 And, secondly, due to the depth, volume,
14 scope, and complexity of the material that the public
15 would comment on, in this case there's a team of roughly
16 I guess 40 people at the NRC putting documents together
17 regarding this GEIS and the related scope.

18 Could the meeting, could the public comment
19 meeting be extended or is that prohibited by some rule
20 or law? Thank you.

21 MS. SAFFORD: Thanks, Tom. This is
22 Carrie. There is no prohibition on extending the public
23 comment period any further.

24 Right now what we're trying to do is
25 accommodate a reasonable period of time. It will also

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1 accommodate our public meeting schedule and traveling to
2 the regions.

3 You had asked about the timeframe. I think
4 with the extension it takes us to about 98 days, which
5 is not unusual for this type of proceeding at the NRC.
6 And when I say this type, I mean high-public interest and
7 high-public participation.

8 I'm sorry, did you have -- was there other
9 points or did I just answer your question?

10 MR. RIELLY: No. I think you adequately
11 addressed it. Thank you.

12 MS. SAFFORD: Okay. Thank you.

13 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay. Next can we
14 hear from Erica Gray again?

15 MS. GRAY: Yes, hello?

16 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Hi, Erica.

17 MS. GRAY: Yes. It's Erica Gray again.

18 Well, what was just mentioned about, you know, public
19 timeframes on commenting and whatnot. I mean, I got a
20 copy in Maryland, the headquarters of the GEIS, and the
21 thing just sat.

22 I mean, it was published in September and
23 comments started a month later. So, I mean, I am a little
24 frustrated on the timeframe. I really believe the
25 public needs more time.

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1 But I also do believe that the public at
2 large does not know and is unaware of what's going on.
3 So the transparency issue I think should be brought
4 forward here.

5 I mean, I don't understand why the NRC
6 cannot, number one, it should be put in the newspapers
7 or maybe even on the local news. Because this is an
8 important issue that's going to affect everybody
9 everywhere.

10 So I think that if we really want to be
11 transparent I want to know why the NRC cannot put
12 something in the newspaper at least a few weeks prior to
13 the end of whatever the comment period ends up being. I
14 mean, December 20th, right before Christmas, I mean, like
15 I said, most the people I talk to don't even know what
16 I'm talking about.

17 So really there should be some sort of, you
18 know, information put out in local newspapers or on the
19 local news. Thank you.

20 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay, Erica. Thank
21 you for that comment. And I will note that we do issue
22 press releases that are typically picked up by papers,
23 you know, across the country. So thank you for that.
24 Next can we hear from Lou Zeller, please? Hi, Lou.

25 MR. ZELLER: Thank you. Yes, this is Lou

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1 Zeller again. I have a question --

2 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Lou, hang on. Can you
3 speak up because your phone's a little --

4 MR. ZELLER: Hello?

5 FACILITATOR LOPAS: We're having a hard
6 time hearing you. Can you try again? Your reception
7 sounds not so good.

8 MR. ZELLER: All right. Is it any better?

9 FACILITATOR LOPAS: No. But give it a shot
10 and we'll see if we can decipher what it is you're saying.
11 It's very fuzzy on this end, but go ahead.

12 MR. ZELLER: All right. Thank you. I
13 have a question if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is
14 aware of fracking on nuclear reported sites and the
15 potential impact on seismic activity at the reactor sites
16 which is a really big issue right now in North Carolina.

17 And I just wondered if anybody in the room
18 is familiar with any awareness about this news which I
19 just learned about in the last little while.

20 Ms. Safford: I'm sorry, Lou. We couldn't
21 get any of that. There's a lot of static on the line.
22 We did have it earlier but maybe there's a problem with
23 your connection. And, I apologize, no one here can
24 decipher the question.

25 If it doesn't improve, I mean, maybe if we

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1 can have the operator disconnect him and reconnect Lou.
2 And if that doesn't improve then he can get in touch with
3 us.

4 MS. ZELLER: Any better?

5 FACILITATOR LOPAS: No.

6 MR. ZELLER: Hello?

7 FACILITATOR LOPAS: No. Are you on a cell
8 phone, Lou?

9 All right. Okay. Well, we might have to
10 -- Lou, you might have to, if you can hear me I know you
11 were going to call or e-mail me, so maybe we can take up
12 whatever you were just going to ask there but we could
13 not hear it.

14 So if anybody else has a question please
15 press Star 1 on your phone. I'll give it a couple more
16 seconds. Oh, here we go.

17 All right. Can we hear from Myla Reson,
18 please?

19 MS. RESON: Yes. Hi. This is Myla. And
20 I'm just really interested in what Lou had to say. I
21 think he was asking about fracking and the impact, if I
22 heard him correctly through all that static, about
23 fracking and the impact that might have on seismic
24 activity around the country at these nuclear power
25 plants.

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1 But I thought if I could just call in and
2 ask a question, that may give Lou enough time to reconnect
3 with a better line and let us all hear what he asked
4 because I'm actually not sure if that was what he was
5 asking about. Thanks.

6 MS. SAFFORD: Thanks, Myla. It's Carrie
7 Safford. That's a great question. For today's call,
8 though, we're really limiting it to just the revised
9 schedule and the extension of the public comment period.
10 That would be a great question for the -- for submittal
11 in the public comment period.

12 I don't know if either you or Lou have plans
13 to come to one of the public meetings, the regional
14 meetings, as well, but you can talk with staff during the
15 open house portion of those meetings.

16 MS. RESON: Well, then let me ask another
17 question. I'd just like to reiterate what Mike Carberry
18 said.

19 I'm just pretty unhappy about your
20 reasoning in terms of limiting the meetings to places
21 where that are often quite inaccessible to large
22 metropolitan areas that where people who are impacted
23 might better be able to attend. So I just want to chime
24 in on that and reinforce what was said.

25 When I listened to your reasoning on it,

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1 frankly, it just it's pretty thin beer. It just I think
2 that it's a rationale that just doesn't wash. And if you
3 were to look at places in Chicago that are -- and I'm in
4 Southern California, by the way -- but accessible in
5 Chicago by public transportation, I can't imagine that
6 you wouldn't be able to find venues during that same time
7 period. Thanks.

8 MS. SAFFORD: Thanks, Myla

9 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay. Audra, can we
10 go to Stephen Sondheim again?

11 MR. SONDHEIM: Hi.

12 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Hi, Stephen.

13 MR. SONDHEIM: It's Stephen. Stephen
14 Sondheim. I'm sorry, but I thought of something else
15 which is different. And that is the comments, when you
16 all respond to them, are you going to respond to them
17 generally or are -- and/or are you going to respond to
18 the individual who made the comment?

19 And part of the reasoning is sometimes it
20 would -- it might be more pointed to respond to the
21 individual as well. It might even create some dialog.
22 Will there be a chance for dialog I guess is my question?

23 In other words, are you just going comment
24 and that's it or if something's brought up that's, you
25 know, to question and you give an answer, will there be

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1 a chance to discuss that answer?

2 Thank you.

3 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay, Stephen. So
4 you're asking kind of how the NRC is going to be
5 responding to comments and kind of what that format is
6 going -- what that's going to look like, what the format
7 of our response to comments, right?

8 MR. SONDEHEIM: Yes.

9 MS. SAFFORD: Okay. This is Carrie. And,
10 in general, when the comments will all come in and we here
11 at the NRC look through all the comments. We try to pull
12 out common threads. I'm not sure if you're familiar with
13 our environmental scoping report that was issued earlier
14 in March.

15 We followed a very similar, if not the
16 identical process. But we'll categorize the comments so
17 we get similar comments together in groups so we can
18 respond to them together in one location. And that will
19 be appended to our final documents when that is issued.

20 So we do not respond to individual comments
21 back to the writer, but we do respond to them and provide
22 an explanation of our response in the final documents.
23 Every document that comes in is input into ADAMS and you
24 can track your comment with the appropriate response in
25 the final document.

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1 MR. SONDEHEIM: Okay. So there'll be no
2 chance for dialog, then. Let's say your comments miss
3 the point or don't cover it all or are just not on target
4 --

5 MS. SAFFORD: Not in a written -- yes, not
6 in a written format. If you have an opportunity to come
7 to one of the public meetings and attend one of the open
8 houses and have a chance to talk with one of the NRC staff,
9 that is a way to ask some questions.

10 But the actual public comment period at each
11 of those meetings will be for receipt of comment only and
12 not for dialog or Q and A.

13 MR. SONDEHEIM: Oh, no, I understand. But
14 what I'm asking is after you respond to the comments is
15 there a chance to dialog either in writing or --

16 MS. SAFFORD: No.

17 MR. SONDEHEIM: -- you know, often points
18 made in EISs, you know, in any kind of EIS, aren't on
19 target, they miss the point or there's other information.
20 How would be, as the public, be able to respond to that
21 or do we have to take that on ourselves and do it in a
22 public forum or media forum?

23 MS. SAFFORD: There is no opportunity to
24 have a dialog back and forth on the written submitted
25 comments or on any of the comments submitted during the

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1 public comment period.

2 MR. SONDEHEIM: Okay. Thank you.

3 MS. SAFFORD: Yep.

4 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Okay. Press Star 1 if
5 you have a question about the comment period, the
6 extension of the comment period to December 20th, or any
7 of the rescheduled upcoming public meetings.

8 It is now 2:14 and if nobody else has any
9 other questions -- oh, here we go. Here is Marv Lewis.
10 Can we hear from Marv, please?

11 MR. LEWIS: I might as well get my two cents
12 in. Look --

13 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Of course, Marv. Come
14 on in.

15 MR. LEWIS: All right. So I appreciate it.
16 You're doing a damn good job. I appreciate it. And I
17 appreciate the stuff you sent me and everything.

18 Look, back in I guess the 70s what the NRC
19 tried and I loved and the other agencies tried and did
20 was they took comments on an 800 number and typed it in
21 themselves. And it was really great and was really easy.
22 And, hell, it didn't even cost electricity from me.

23 But I was wondering if you're ever really
24 thinking of going back to that?

25 MS. SAFFORD: Hey, Marv, it's Carrie

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1 Safford. That is similar to the intent of the December
2 9th meeting. The December 9th meeting is going to be a
3 facilitated teleconference just like what we're
4 participating in right now and it will be an opportunity
5 for folks to call in and speak their comments. And those
6 will be transcribed and they will be entered as part of
7 the record as a comment received.

8 So, very similar. And it will be transcribed
9 ultimately when the transcriptionist, the court
10 reporter, issues the document.

11 MR. LEWIS: December 9th meeting, I don't
12 have my schedule up. But no, I'm sure that Sarah will
13 send me information or if she hasn't already. And thank
14 you very much.

15 It's just a suggestion to keep in mind
16 anyway whether to present them on time or not. Thank
17 you. Bye.

18 FACILITATOR LOPAS: Thanks, Marv. Next
19 can we hear from Tom Rielly again?

20 MR. RIELLY: Yes. Good afternoon. Tom
21 Rielly, Vista 360 in Chicago.

22 See, I'm just following up on my original
23 inquiry and your response and then, if you will, request
24 for comment on the public comment period.

25 Why not extend this to, the public comment

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1 period, to January 20th, which is 30 days? And depending
2 on, if you will, the volume or the response from the
3 public in total, extend it yet again to January 31st, which
4 would be about 40-some days versus the 98 that you sort
5 of outlined.

6 In this case it would give the public and/or
7 any other late arrivals or the rescheduled meetings the
8 opportunity to make comment and to effectively, you know,
9 give input to the record.

10 Is that possible and should we make that
11 request in writing?

12 MS. SAFFORD: I think as Sarah outlined
13 earlier at the beginning of the call, comments received
14 here on this teleconference are not formal comments on
15 the record in this proceeding.

16 If you would like to make that formal
17 request, I'd suggest that you do that in writing.

18 MR. RIELLY: Sure. Very well. Thank you
19 very much.

20 MS. SAFFORD: Thank you.

21 FACILITATOR LOPAS: All right. Thank you,
22 Tom.

23 Okay. Press Star 1 if you have a question
24 about the meeting or any of the upcoming meetings or the
25 comment period. If there aren't any other questions, we

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1 will go ahead and close out this telecon.

2 All right. Last call to press Star 1.

3 Okay. And with that I think we're going to
4 close this teleconference. I am going to send it back
5 to Carrie Safford.

6 We will -- I will send out the transcript
7 of this telecon and the meeting summary within a couple
8 weeks from W.C. Outreach e-mail.

9 So, Carrie?

10 MS. SAFFORD: I just want to thank everybody
11 for calling in today. We received some -- we heard some
12 good comments and some good input and we do appreciate
13 that.

14 We hope to see some of you at the regional
15 meetings and hear from you during the comment period.
16 Thank you very much.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled proceeding was concluded
18 at 2:18 p.m.)

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