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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Title: DSEIS Meeting for Grand Gulf Nuclear  
Station, Unit 1: Afternoon Session

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING ON DRAFT  
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT FOR GRAND  
GULF NUCLEAR STATION  
AFTERNOON SESSION

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Hearing Room  
Port Gibson Hall  
1005 College Street  
Port Gibson, Mississippi

The above-entitled hearing was conducted  
at 2:00 p.m.

BEFORE: BOB HAGAR, Facilitator

- NRC STAFF:
- DAVID DRUCKER
  - BRIAN D. WITTICK
  - RICHARD SMITH
  - BLAKE RICE
  - VICTOR DRICKS

P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. HAGAR: Again, my name is Bob Hagar,  
3 and I'm facilitating this meeting, and my primary  
4 role is to make sure that everybody who has -- who  
5 wants to say something in this meeting has an  
6 opportunity to say it.

7 But there's a few details I want to tell  
8 you about this meeting, I want to make sure you  
9 have about this meeting, so that you will  
10 understand what is going on.

11 First, the meeting is going to be in  
12 three parts. The first part, the NRC staff will  
13 deliver a presentation to talk about the  
14 preliminary results of the license renewal  
15 environmental review for Grand Gulf Nuclear  
16 Station. That will be part one.

17 Part two is when the public -- when you  
18 have an opportunity to ask questions and get  
19 answers about that material. And then part three  
20 will be a time when you have the opportunity to say  
21 whatever you want to say. This will be a time when  
22 you can provide feedback, provide comments about  
23 this, or comments about anything you want to  
24 comment about.

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1                   Now, we've got a schedule to meet. And  
2                   so I will be keeping track of the time. And after  
3                   we complete parts one and two, I'll see how much  
4                   time is left. I'll see how many people want to  
5                   speak. And speakers should have all filled out a  
6                   yellow feedback card -- a yellow speaker card.

7                   And for this meeting, I didn't see any  
8                   yellow speaker cards, so I'm assuming no one is  
9                   going to want to speak. But that's what the third  
10                  part of the meeting is for. So that is one detail;  
11                  the meeting is going to be in three parts.

12                  The second detail is that this meeting --  
13                  that the NRC has to produce a transcript of this  
14                  meeting. And to make that transcript possible,  
15                  we're recording the meeting.

16                  And so that the recording is clear, we  
17                  have to set up some ground rules. One is that if  
18                  you are going to speak, you have got to speak into  
19                  a microphone. And so for when the time comes for  
20                  you to speak, if you will raise your hand, I'll  
21                  bring the microphone to you.

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1                   And second is, the first time you speak,  
2                   we would like you to say your name so that the  
3                   court reporter will know who is speaking. And if  
4                   you have an unusual spelling of your name, you  
5                   might go ahead and spell it, and help that out. So  
6                   that is one thing, os speak into the microphone.

7                   And the other is, only one person speaks  
8                   at a time, because if the recording picks up two  
9                   people speaking, we can't tell what either one of  
10                  them is saying.

11                  And also we don't want any background  
12                  noise. So we can't have side conversations. And  
13                  please silence your personal electronics, so we  
14                  don't have phones ringing or text messages, noises,  
15                  and things like that. So any questions about the  
16                  ground rules we are going to follow?

17                  (No verbal response.)

18                  MR. HAGAR: All right. Then I am going  
19                  to turn the meeting over to David Drucker, who's  
20                  going to be the primary NRC speaker. And I will  
21                  come back at the end of part one to facilitate part  
22                  two.

23                  So David, go ahead.

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1                   MR. DRUCKER: Thank you, Bob. And thank  
2 you all for taking time to come out to this  
3 meeting. My name is David Drucker. I am the  
4 project manager for the environmental review of the  
5 Grand Gulf Nuclear Station license renewal  
6 application.

7                   I hope the information we provide with  
8 this presentation will help you understand what we  
9 have done so far and the role you can play in  
10 helping us make sure that the final Environmental  
11 Impact Statement is accurate and complete.

12                  I would like to emphasize that the  
13 environmental review is not yet complete. I would  
14 like to start off by briefly going over the agenda  
15 and purpose for this presentation.

16                  Today, I will discuss the NRC's  
17 regulatory role, the preliminary findings of our  
18 environmental review, which addresses the impacts  
19 associated with extending the operating license of  
20 the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station for an additional 20  
21 years. And I will present the current schedule for  
22 the remainder of the environmental review and how  
23 you can submit comments outside this meeting.

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1                   At the end of the presentation, there  
2 will be time for question and answers on the  
3 environmental review process and, most importantly,  
4 time for you to present your comments on the Draft  
5 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. And  
6 the acronym that I will be using for that Draft  
7 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is  
8 SEIS.

9                   The NRC was established to regulate the  
10 civilian use of nuclear materials, including  
11 facilities producing electric power. The NRC  
12 conducts license renewal reviews for plants whose  
13 owners wish to operate them beyond their initial  
14 license period.

15                  NRC license renewal reviews address  
16 safety issues related to managing the effects of  
17 aging and environmental issues related to an  
18 additional 20 years of operation.

1           In all aspects of the NRC's regulation,  
2           our mission is threefold: to ensure adequate  
3           protection of public health and safety, to promote  
4           the common defense and security, and to protect the  
5           environment.           We are here to discuss the  
6           potential site-specific impacts to license renewal  
7           for Grand Gulf. The Generic Environmental Impact  
8           Statement, or GEIS, examines the possible  
9           environmental impacts that could occur as a result  
10          of renewing licenses of individual nuclear plants.  
11          The GEIS establishes and bounds the significance of  
12          potential impacts.

13                 The analysis in the GEIS pertains to  
14                 operating power plants. For each type of  
15                 environmental impact, the GEIS establishes general  
16                 findings covering as many plants as possible.

17                 For some environmental issues, the GEIS  
18                 found that a generic evaluation was not sufficient  
19                 and that a plant specific analysis was required.  
20                 The site-specific findings for Grand Gulf are  
21                 contained in the Draft Supplemental Environmental  
22                 Impact Statement, or Draft SEIS, published in  
23                 November 2013. And there's a table outside that  
24                 has copies of these; hard copies and CD copies if  
25                 you would like them.

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1                   This document contains analyses of all  
2                   applicable site-specific issues as well as a review  
3                   of issues covered by the GEIS to determine whether  
4                   the conclusions in the GEIS are valid for Grand  
5                   Gulf. In this process, the NRC staff also reviews  
6                   the environmental impacts of potential power  
7                   generation alternatives to license renewal.

8                   For each environmental issue identified,  
9                   an impact level was assigned. The NRC established  
10                  three levels of significance for potential impacts:  
11                  small, moderate and large, as defined on the slide.

12                  For a small impact, the effects are not  
13                  detectable or are so minor that they will neither  
14                  destabilize nor noticeably alter any important  
15                  attribute of the resource.

16                  For a moderate impact, the effects are  
17                  sufficient to alter noticeably but not to  
18                  destabilize important attributes of the resource.  
19                  And for a large impact, the effects are clearly  
20                  noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize  
21                  important attributes of the resource.

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1           As a side note, for the protected species  
2           habitats and habitats resource, the impact  
3           significance -- we don't use small, moderate or  
4           large. We use the language that is specific to the  
5           authorizing language for this resource, which is  
6           the Endangered Species Act.

7           This slide lists the site-specific issues  
8           that NRC staff reviewed for the continued operation  
9           of Grand Gulf during the proposed license renewal  
10          period. Overall, the impacts for license renewal  
11          on all these issues were found to be small, which  
12          means the effects are not detectable or are so  
13          minor, they will not destabilize nor noticeably  
14          alter any important attribute of the resource.

15          And out in the right-hand column, you see  
16          DSEIS section, and those section numbers correlate,  
17          you know, with the section number here in the DSEIS  
18          that I am holding at the table.

19          This slide provides a summary of our  
20          findings with respect to cumulative impacts  
21          associated with Grand Gulf. Cumulative impacts  
22          include the effects on the environment from other  
23          past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future  
24          human actions.

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1                   These effects not only include the  
2                   operation of Grand Gulf but also impacts from  
3                   activities unrelated to Grand Gulf, such as  
4                   urbanization -- future urbanization or energy  
5                   producing facilities in the area. This analysis  
6                   considers potential impacts through the end of the  
7                   current license term as well as the 20-year renewal  
8                   license term.

9                   While the level of direct and indirect  
10                  impacts on Grand Gulf, on aquatic and terrestrial  
11                  resources are small, the cumulative impacts when  
12                  combined with other sources would be moderate for  
13                  both aquatic and terrestrial. This is primarily  
14                  due to the historical Mississippi River  
15                  modifications that have been made. And in all  
16                  other areas considered, the staff preliminarily  
17                  concluded that cumulative impacts are small.

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

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1                    Alternatives must provide an option that  
2                    allows for power generation capability beyond the  
3                    term of the current nuclear power plant operating  
4                    license to meet future system generating needs.

5                    In the Draft SEIS, NRC staff initially  
6                    considered 16 different alternatives. And then the  
7                    staff chose the most likely of those alternatives  
8                    and analyzed those in further depth.

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

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1                   The NRC's preliminary conclusion is that  
2                   the environmental impacts of renewal of the  
3                   operating license for Grand Gulf would be smaller  
4                   than those feasible and commercially viable  
5                   alternatives. The no-action alternative would have  
6                   small environmental impacts in most areas, with the  
7                   exception of socioeconomic impacts, which would be  
8                   small to large.                   Continued operation would  
9                   have small environmental impacts in all areas, and  
10                  the staff preliminarily concluded that continued  
11                  operation of the existing Grand Gulf Nuclear  
12                  Station is the environmentally preferable  
13                  alternative.

14                  Now, on the slide, you see the four  
15                  alternatives that were analyzed in depth: new  
16                  nuclear; natural gas, coal, and a combination  
17                  alternative that included gas, natural gas and  
18                  biomass.

1                   Based on the review of likely  
2                   environmental impacts from license renewal as well  
3                   as potential environmental impacts of alternatives  
4                   to license renewal, the staff's preliminary  
5                   recommendation in the Draft SEIS is that the  
6                   adverse environmental impacts of license renewal  
7                   for Grand Gulf are not great enough to deny the  
8                   option of license renewal for energy-planning  
9                   decision makers.

10                   For the term beyond the 20-year period of  
11                   extended operation, the NRC addresses the  
12                   management of spent nuclear fuel in a waste  
13                   confidence decision and rule. Previous license  
14                   renewal Supplemental Environmental Impact  
15                   Statements noted that the environmental impacts of  
16                   temporary storage of nuclear fuel for the period  
17                   following the reactor operating license term were  
18                   addressed by this rule.

19                   This Draft Supplemental Environmental  
20                   Impact Statement does not discuss potential  
21                   environmental impacts of storing spent fuel for an  
22                   extended period after the plant shuts down. That  
23                   issue will be addressed in the NRC's waste  
24                   confidence Environmental Impact Statement and rule.

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1           The draft rule and EIS were issued in the  
2 fall of 2013, and the public had an opportunity to  
3 provide comments. The final EIS and rule is  
4 expected to be issued in the fall of 2014.  
5 Additional information on the waste confidence  
6 rulemaking and EIS can be found on NRC public  
7 website at the link listed on the slide.

8           In August 2012, the Commission decided  
9 that the Agency will not issue licenses dependent  
10 upon a waste confidence decision until the waste  
11 confidence rule is completed. However, the  
12 Commission directed the staff to proceed with  
13 licensing reviews and proceedings.

14           And that is what we have done here with  
15 the Grand Gulf Draft Supplemental Environmental  
16 Impact Statement. We have kept working on it in  
17 light of activity with waste confidence.

18           I would like to emphasize that the  
19 environmental review is not yet complete. Your  
20 comments today and all written comments received by  
21 the end of the comment period on February 11 will  
22 be considered by the NRC staff as we develop the  
23 final SEIS, which we currently plan to issue in  
24 September 2014.

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1                   Those comments that are within the scope  
2                   of the environmental review and provide new and  
3                   significant information can help to change the  
4                   staff's findings. The final SEIS will contain the  
5                   staff's final recommendation on the acceptability  
6                   of license renewal based on the work we have  
7                   already performed and any new and significant  
8                   information we receive in the form of comments  
9                   during this comment period.

10                   As you know, I am the primary contact for  
11                   the environmental review, and John Daily is the  
12                   primary contact for the safety review. Copies of  
13                   the Draft SEIS, both hard copy and on CD are  
14                   available out in the entry way.

15                   And in addition, the Henrietta Person  
16                   Memorial Library has a copy available for review,  
17                   and then you can also find electric copies of the  
18                   Draft SEIS, along with other information about the  
19                   Grand Gulf license renewal review, online as shown.



1                   The NRC staff will address written  
2                   comments in the same way we address spoken comments  
3                   received today. You can submit written comments  
4                   either online or via conventional mail. To submit  
5                   written comments online, visit the website  
6                   regulations.gov and search for Docket ID NRC-2011-  
7                   0262.

8                   And if you have written comments today,  
9                   you may give them to any NRC staff member. I would  
10                  appreciate getting them. This concludes my  
11                  presentation, so I would like to turn it back over  
12                  to Bob.

13                  MR. HAGAR: All right, David. Thank you.

14                  Okay. Now we enter part two of the  
15                  meeting. Does anyone have any questions about the  
16                  material that has just been covered? And if so,  
17                  you raise your hand, and I'll bring you a  
18                  microphone.

19                  (No response.)

20                  MR. HAGAR: All right. I'm seeing no  
21                  hands, so I am concluding that no one has a  
22                  question about the material that was just covered.

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1                   So with that, we move into now phase  
2 three of the meeting. This is an opportunity for  
3 you to provide the feedback that David requested or  
4 to make any other comments you want to make about  
5 anything.

6                   Does anyone have anything to say in part  
7 three of the meeting?

8                   (No response.)

9                   MR. HAGAR: All right. No one has  
10 anything to say.

11                   So, David, do you have any words to close  
12 the meeting?

13                   MR. DRUCKER: I thank you all for coming  
14 out. We'll be doing this again. Open house starts  
15 at 6:00 p.m., same location, and the meeting will  
16 start at 7:00 p.m.

17                   I haven't spoken to the mayor, but on a  
18 side note, if the weather were to turn foul or  
19 something were to happen in the building --  
20 absolutely the mayor will make that call, whether  
21 or not we have the building to use. And we would  
22 get out word best we could that the meeting wasn't  
23 going to happen.

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1                   But I have every indication that it is  
2 going to happen this evening, so the open house  
3 starts at 6:00, and the meeting starts at 7:00.

4                   MR. HAGAR: Thank you all for being here.  
5 This meeting is concluded.

6                   (Whereupon, 2:30 p.m., the meeting was  
7 concluded.)

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