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17 BEFORE: BOB HAGAR, Facilitator

18 NRC STAFF:

19 DAVID DRUCKER

20 BRIAN D. WITTICK

21 RICHARD SMITH

22 BLAKE RICE

23 VICTOR DRICKS

24

25

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2 MR. HAGAR: We're kind of doing an
3 abbreviated meeting. My name is Bob Hagar. I am a
4 member of the NRC's facilitation corps, and my job
5 here is to facilitate this meeting, and what that
6 means is to give you guys an opportunity to speak;
7 well, basically to make sure that anybody who wants
8 to say something in this meeting has an opportunity
9 to say it without interruption.

10 But before we get started, there's some
11 details about the meeting that you need to know;
12 that is that the meeting is going to be in three
13 parts. Part one is when the NRC staff is going to
14 go through this presentation to talk about the
15 subject matter.

16 Part two is when you are going to have an
17 opportunity to ask questions to clarify this
18 material, and NRC staff will answer those
19 questions. And then part three of the meeting is
20 going to be a time when you can provide the
21 feedback that this presentation is asking for, or
22 you can say anything else you want to say without
23 interruption. So that is one of the details. The
24 meeting is going to be in three parts.

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11 So if you are going to speak, you need to
12 speak into a microphone too. And if you need to
13 speak, you raise your hand. I will bring the
14 microphone to you. One -- that's one.

15 The second thing is that only one person
16 can speak at a time, so please don't interrupt a
17 speaker, because if we -- if two people speak at
18 the same time, from the recording we can't tell
19 what anybody said.

1 And third is we can't have any background
2 noise, so we can't have side conversations and
3 can't have electronic noise. So please right now,
4 if you haven't already, turn off your personal
5 electronics. So I guess that's all you need
6 to know about the meeting. So are you okay with
7 the ground rules? You understand the ground rules?
8 You're okay with that?

9 (No verbal response.)

10 MR. HAGAR: Right. I'm going to turn the
11 meeting over to David Drucker then. Now, he's the
12 first speaker. When he gets done, I will come back
13 for the question-and-answer period, and after that,
14 we'll move into phase three of the meeting. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. DRUCKER: Thanks, Bob. And thank you
17 all for coming out tonight. My name is David
18 Drucker, and I'm the project manager for the
19 environmental review of the Grand Gulf Nuclear
20 Station license renewal application.

21 I just want to introduce -- and if you
22 all want to switch seats, please do. I'm sorry
23 about the pole being in our way, but whatever; make
24 yourself comfortable there.

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I want to introduce first of all, my supervisor, Brian Wittick. He is sitting on my immediate left. He has come with me from Rockville, Maryland. And to his left is Richard Smith. And he's the senior resident inspector at Grand Gulf. And then sitting out here in the audience is Victor Dricks, and Victor is the public affairs officer for Region IV, and he has come out from Arlington, Texas. So that is the NRC contingent that is with us tonight.

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

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1 So I would like to emphasize that the
2 environmental review is not yet complete. I would
3 like to start off by briefly going over the agenda
4 and purpose of this presentation, at which time, I
5 will discuss the NRC's regulatory role, the
6 preliminary findings of our environmental review,
7 which addresses the impacts associated with
8 extending the operating license of the Grand Gulf
9 Nuclear Station for an additional 20 years. And I
10 will present the current schedule for the remainder
11 of the environmental review and how you can submit
12 comments outside this meeting. At the end
13 of this presentation, there will be time for
14 questions and answers on the environmental review
15 process and, most importantly, time for you to
16 present your comments on the Draft Supplemental
17 Environmental Impact Statement, which we call the
18 SEIS, or the Draft SEIS.

19 And here is a copy of it right here.
20 There's hard copies out on the table in the hallway
21 and also CDs. If you want, you can take them with
22 you tonight.

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The NRC was established to regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including facilities producing electric power. The NRC conducts license renewal reviews for plants whose owners wish to operate them beyond their initial license period. NRC license renewals address safety issues related to managing the effects of aging and environmental issues related to an additional 20 years of operation. In all aspects of the NRC's regulation, our mission is threefold: to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote common defense and security, and to protect the environment.

We are here to discuss the potential site-specific impacts of license renewal for Grand Gulf. The Generic Environmental Impact Statement, or GEIS, examines the possible environmental impacts that could occur as a result of renewing licenses of individual nuclear plants. The GEIS establishes and bounds the significance of potential impacts.

22 The analysis in the GEIS pertains to
23 operating power plants. For each type of
24 environmental impact, the GEIS establishes general
25 findings covering as many plants as possible.

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1 For some environmental issues, the GEIS
2 found that a generic evaluation was not sufficient
3 and that a plant specific analysis was required.
4 The site-specific findings for Grand Gulf are
5 contained in the Draft Supplemental Environmental
6 Impact Statement, or Draft SEIS, published in
7 November 2013.

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

15 For each issue identified, an impact
16 level was assigned. The NRC established three
17 levels of significance for potential impacts:
18 small, moderate and large, as defined on the slide.

19 For small impact, the effects are not
20 detectable or are so minor, that they will neither
21 destabilize nor noticeably alter any important
22 attribute of the resource.

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1 For a moderate impact, the effects are
2 sufficient to alter noticeably but not to
3 destabilize important attributes of the resource.

4 For a large impact, the effects are clearly
5 noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize
6 important attributes of the resource.

7 For protected species and habitats, that
8 resource, the impact significance determination
9 language is specific to the authorizing legislation
10 which is the Endangered Species Act. So we don't
11 use small, moderate and large for protected species
12 and habitat, and you'll see on the next slide what
13 we do use.

This slide lists the site-specific issues that NRC staff reviewed for the continued operation of Grand Gulf during the proposed license renewal period. Overall, the impacts of license renewal on all these issues were found to be small, which means the effects are not detectable and are so minor that they will neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource.

This slide provides a summary of our findings with respect to cumulative impacts associated with Grand Gulf. Cumulative impacts include the effects on the environment from other past, present, and the reasonably foreseeable future human actions. These effects not only include the operation of Grand Gulf but also the impacts from activities unrelated to Grand Gulf, such as future urbanization or other energy producing facilities in the area. This analysis considers potential impacts through the end of the current license term as well as the 20-year renewal license term.

14 While the level of direct and indirect
15 impacts of Grand Gulf on aquatic and terrestrial
16 resources are small, as shown on the previous
17 slide, the cumulative impacts, when combined with
18 all other sources, would be moderate for aquatic
19 and terrestrial resources. This is primarily due
20 to historical Mississippi River modifications. And
21 in all other areas considered, the staff
22 preliminarily concluded that cumulative impacts are
23 small.

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1 The National Environmental Policy Act
2 mandates that each Environmental Impact Statement
3 consider alternatives to any proposed major federal
4 action. A major step in determining whether
5 license renewal is reasonable or not is comparing
6 the likely impacts of continued operation of the
7 nuclear plant with the likely impacts of
8 alternative means of power generation.

Finally, the NRC staff considered what would happen if no action is taken and Grand Gulf shuts down at the end of its current license without a specific replacement alternative. This alternative would not provide power generation capacity nor would it meet the needs being fulfilled 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.

15 Based on the review of likely
16 environmental impacts from license renewal as well
17 as potential environmental impacts of alternatives
18 to license renewal, the NRC staff's preliminary
19 recommendation in the Draft SEIS is that the
20 adverse environmental impacts of license renewal
21 for Grand Gulf are not great enough to deny the
22 option of license renewal for energy-planning
23 decision makers.

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For the term beyond the 20-year period of extended operation, the NRC addresses the management of spent nuclear fuel in a waste confidence decision and rule. Previous license renewal Supplemental EIS noted that the environmental impacts of temporary storage of nuclear fuel for the period following the reactor operating license term were addressed by this rule.

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

15 The draft rule and EIS were issued in the
16 fall of 2013, and the public had the opportunity to
17 provide comments. The final EIS and rule is
18 expected to be issued in the fall of 2014.

19 Additional information on the waste confidence
20 ruling and EIS can be found on the NRC public web
21 link at the link listed on the slide.

1 In August 2012, the Commission decided
2 that the Agency will not issue licenses dependent
3 upon the waste confidence decision until the waste
4 confidence rule is completed. However, the
5 Commission directed the staff to proceed with
6 licensing reviews and proceedings.

If the results of the waste confidence EIS and rule identify information that impacts this analysis in this Supplemental EIS for Grand Gulf, the NRC staff will perform the appropriate review for those issues and may supplement the SEIS before the NRC makes a final licensing decision as to whether or not to renew Grand Gulf's license. If no changes are required, the NRC staff will base its decision on the final Supplemental EIS, the waste confidence EIS and rule, regional inspections, and the safety evaluation report.

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

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

I am the primary contact for the environmental review, and John Daily is the primary contact for the safety review, and his -- our contact information is up on the slide. Copies of the Draft SEIS are available on CD and hard copy in the entryway.

16 And in addition, the Henrietta Person
17 Memorial Library has a hard copy available for
18 review, and you can also find electronic copies of
19 the Draft SEIS, along with other information about
20 the Grand Gulf license renewal review, online at
21 the website shown. And in addition, I just want to
22 say that copies of these slides are available
23 outside in the hallway for pickup, too.

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

If you have written comments today, you
may give them to any NRC staffer. I would
appreciate them. If you're going to provide them
to any NRC staffer, please give them to me. And
this concludes my presentation. So I am turning it
back over to Bob.

MR. HAGAR: All right.

That was part one of the meeting. This is part
two. Do you have any questions about any of the
topics that David discussed?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. HAGAR: Okay. Body language in the
18 negative says no. Okay.

19 So now we move to part three of the
20 meeting. Do you have any comments addressing this
21 environmental impact license renewal or about
22 license renewal in general? Do you want to say
23 anything?

24 (No response.)

1 MR. HAGAR: Okay. Again, body language
2 in the negative. I am going to say that no one has
3 any questions in part three of the meeting.

4 So with that, David, do you have any
5 closing comments?

6 MR. DRUCKER: Yes. I would like to thank
7 Bob Hagar for facilitating today's meeting, coming
8 all of the way out from Texas to do that. And I
9 would like to thank our resident inspector who is
10 here this evening. We had the other one was --
11 Blake Rice was out here this afternoon.

12 I would also like to thank Victor Dricks
13 for coming out to support this, from Region Four.
14 Thanks to Bob Smiley, our AV guy. Sue, thank you
15 for transcribing. And thanks mostly to my boss for
16 taking me out here in this terrible weather. So
17 that's it. Thanks.

18 MR. HAGAR: All right. Thank you for
19 your attention. This meeting is adjourned.

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