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 Public Meeting - Afternoon Session

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

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SEQUOYAH LICENSE RENEWAL

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PUBLIC MEETING - AFTERNOON SESSION

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

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SODDY DAISY, TENNESSEE

+ + + + +

The meeting convened at Soddy Daisy City
Hall, 9835 Dayton Pike, Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, at 2:00
p.m.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(2:00 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. HAGAR: May I have your attention
4 please. Steve, are you hearing me all right? Okay.
5 This is a meeting called by the Nuclear Regulatory
6 Commission to discuss the preliminary results of the
7 license renewal environmental review of the Sequoyah
8 Nuclear Plant.

9 Good afternoon. My name is Bob Hagar, I'm
10 a member of the NRC's Facilitation Corps and in this
11 meeting my role has really three parts.

12 One is I'm going to try to help the meeting
13 run smoothly. I'm going to make sure that everybody who
14 has something to say in this meeting has a chance to say
15 it and I'm going to try to keep us on schedule.

16 I'll do my best to make this meeting
17 worthwhile for everyone who's here, and I hope you'll
18 help me do that.

19 Before we get started, I want to cover with
20 you a few details about this meeting. First of all, I
21 think everyone knows that Tennessee Valley's Authority
22 has applied to renew the Sequoyah operating license for
23 an additional 20 years.

24 The NRC is reviewing that application.
25 The NRC is also reviewing, as part of that application,

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1 the environmental impact of license renewal. NRC has
2 developed some preliminary results of that review and
3 the NRC wants your comments on those results, and so
4 that's really the primary purpose of this meeting.

5 Next, the meeting today essentially has
6 three parts. The first part is going to be the NRC
7 presentation. They're going to describe the process by
8 which they develop the results they're going to describe
9 today. Then we're going to have a period where we're
10 going to cover questions and answers where you can ask
11 questions. The NRC staff will answer questions about
12 the presentation materials because the NRC wants to
13 ensure that you understand the process that they're
14 in.

15 Following that, the NRC wants comments on
16 the results that they've described. So the meeting's
17 got those three parts.

18 Now the NRC is going to describe the results
19 of the environmental review and they're going to say
20 that it's been documented in a draft supplemental
21 environment impact statement and they may refer to that
22 document as the DSEIS, in fact I'm going to refer to it
23 as a DSEIS too so when you hear DSEIS think Draft
24 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. They
25 might also refer to just the general Supplemental

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1 Environmental Impact Statement and let me call that the
2 SEIS.

3 Now in this third part, in the public
4 comment section, the NRC staff will listen to your
5 comments about the environmental impact of license
6 renewal. Now note that the NRC staff will listen --
7 they generally won't respond, won't provide responses
8 to what you say. Instead, they'll prepare written
9 responses to your comments after the meeting, after
10 they've had a chance to refer to documents and talk to
11 other people to make sure they've got the right answers,
12 and they'll include those responses in the report of
13 this meeting.

14 Now also the NRC has arranged to have this
15 meeting recorded, and this gentleman off to the right
16 is preparing that record. That's so the NRC can produce
17 a transcript, that is a record of what was said during
18 the meeting.

19 Now in order for that transcript to be
20 accurate we need to establish a few ground rules to
21 ensure that the recording is clear and complete.

22 First of all, in this meeting when you speak
23 I want you to speak into a microphone and this is the
24 microphone that we want you to speak into. So when you
25 have a question we want you to come up here and ask the

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1 question, if you have comments you want to make we want
2 you to come up here and make those comments so that what
3 you say gets recorded.

4 Now the first time you speak we want you to
5 identify yourself and, if you represent a group, what
6 group you represent. Also, if you have an uncommon name
7 or if your name has a unusual spelling, please also spell
8 your name. And also to ensure that the recording is
9 clear, we want you to minimize any background noise.
10 Don't hold side conversations and don't interrupt the
11 speaker, wait till the speaker is done. That's because
12 if the microphones picks up two people speaking at the
13 same time, we can't tell what either one of them said.

14 So finally please silence your personal
15 cell phone and any other personal electronics you have
16 with you. Now we realize that you may not be able to
17 completely disconnect yourself from the rest of the
18 world during this meeting but if you have to take a call
19 during this meeting please step out in the hallway and
20 take care of that business so that the other meeting
21 participants can hear what's going on and so that
22 neither your phone ringing nor your side of the
23 conversation becomes part of the record. Is everyone
24 okay with those ground rules? All right.

25 When you signed in today you may have

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1 noticed some blue and yellow cards, they look like this,
2 and if you wanted to speak we asked you to sign in. I
3 don't think anybody did. So if during the presentation
4 you decide you do want to say something, just let me
5 know. I'm going to be sitting right up here and I'll
6 give you a card so you can fill it out.

7 And when we get to the third part of the
8 meeting I'll see how much time remains and see how many
9 people want to say something and do the simple math to
10 see how much each time each person has. So if you plan
11 to be a speaker please plan to be flexible enough to fit
12 what you want to say in the time that remains.

13 Now also on the table is a public meeting
14 feedback form. We'd ask you to fill that out before you
15 leave today and hand it to any of the NRC staff members
16 or, if you choose to take it with you, please drop it
17 in the mail. It's postage free. And your assessment
18 of how today's meeting went will help us improve future
19 meetings so please take a moment to let us know what you
20 think about it.

21 Finally, I think everybody knows the
22 restrooms are right outside the door. If there's a
23 problem where we have to evacuate, if we hear an alarm
24 or someone tells us we have to evacuate, we want to just
25 step outside this door and turn right and that'll take

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1 you right outside and we'll gather on the lawn out there.
2 And we have a couple of security officers back there in
3 the back to help us if we have an emergency. So does
4 anyone have question about anything I've covered?

5 All right. With that I'm going to turn
6 this meeting over to David Drucker. He's the
7 environmental project manager for the NRC's review of
8 the Sequoyah license renewal application, he's pretty
9 much responsible for the reviews that they're going to
10 talk about today.

11 I'll be back when the NRC presentation is
12 done and if you have any questions, again if you have
13 questions about the material that's presented, please
14 hold those questions until we get to the second part of
15 the meeting. All right? Thank you for your attention.

16 MR. DRUCKER: Thank you, Bob. And thank
17 you all for taking the time to come out to this meeting
18 today. My name is David Drucker and as Bob said I'm the
19 project manager for the environmental review for the
20 Sequoyah Nuclear Plant license renewal application.

21 I hope the information we provide with this
22 presentation will help you understand what we've done
23 so far and the role you can plan in helping us make sure
24 that the final environmental impact statement is
25 accurate and complete.

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1 I would like to emphasize that the
2 environmental review is not yet complete.

3 I'd like to start off by briefly going over
4 the agenda and the purpose of this presentation. I will
5 discuss the NRC's regulatory role, the preliminary
6 findings of our environmental review which addresses
7 the impacts associated with extending the operating
8 licenses of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant for an additional
9 20 years, and I will present the current schedule for
10 the remainder of the environmental review and how you
11 can submit comments outside of this meeting.

12 At the end of the presentation there will
13 be time for questions and answers on the contents of my
14 briefing and, most importantly, time for you to present
15 your comments on the draft supplemental environmental
16 impact statement, the acronym for which you'll hear me
17 refer to it is SEIS.

18 Next slide. The NRC was established to
19 regulate civilian use of nuclear materials including
20 facilities producing electric power. The NRC conducts
21 license renewal reviews for plants whose owners wish to
22 operate them beyond their initial license period.

23 NRC license renewal reviews address safety
24 issues related to managing the effects of aging, and
25 environmental issues related to an additional 20 years

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1 of operation.

2 In all aspects of the NRC's regulation our
3 mission is threefold. To ensure adequate protection of
4 public health and safety; to promote common defense and
5 security, and to protect the environment.

6 Next slide. We're here today to discuss
7 the potential site-specific impacts of license renewal
8 for the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant. The generic
9 environmental impact statement, or GEIS, examines the
10 possible environmental impacts that could occur as a
11 result of renewing licenses of individual nuclear power
12 plants.

13 The GEIS establishes and bounds the
14 significance of these potential impacts. The analysis
15 in the GEIS pertains to operating power reactors. For
16 each type of environmental impact, the GEIS establishes
17 generic findings covering as many plants as possible.
18 There is a copy of the generic environmental impact
19 statement out on the table outside the room and that
20 document is also available online.

21 Now for some environmental issues the GEIS
22 found that a generic evaluation was not sufficient and
23 that a plant-specific analysis was required. The
24 site-specific findings for Sequoyah are contained in
25 the draft SEIS which was published in July of 2004 and

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1 I have a copy of it here and there's copies of it, both
2 a hard copy out on the table outside this room and CDs
3 with this document available for you all.

4 This document contains analyses of the
5 applicable site-specific issues as well as a review of
6 the issues covered by the GEIS to determine whether the
7 conclusions of the GEIS are valid for Sequoyah. In this
8 process the NRC staff also reviews the environmental
9 impacts of potential power generation alternatives to
10 license renewal.

11 Next slide. For each environmental issue
12 identified, an impact level is assigned. The NRC
13 standard of significance for impacts was established
14 using the White House Council on Environmental Quality
15 terminology for significance. The NRC established
16 three levels of significance for potential impacts --
17 small, moderate and large -- as defined in the slide.

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

22 For a moderate impact the effects are
23 sufficient to alter noticeably, but not destabilize,
24 important attributes of the resource.

25 And for a large impact the effects are

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1 clearly noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize
2 important attributes of the resource.

3 While these impact level designations are
4 used for most of the resource areas analyzed in this
5 DSEIS, there are three areas that have their own impact
6 level designations and they are discussed on the next
7 slide.

8 So for special status species the impact
9 significance determination language comes from the
10 Endangered Species Act and the choices to describe the
11 impacts are no effect, may affect but not likely to
12 adversely affect, and may affect and is likely to
13 adversely affect.

14 For cultural and historic resources the
15 National Historic Preservation Act requires federal
16 agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings
17 on historic properties and, finally, for environmental
18 justice under Executive Order 12898 federal agencies
19 are responsible for identifying and addressing
20 disproportionately high and adverse human health and
21 environmental impacts on minority and low income
22 populations.

23 So on these last slides you've seen now what
24 the impact levels are that we'll use to describe here
25 in the DSEIS.

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1 Next slide. As a part of the environmental
2 review, the NRC staff considered cumulative impacts.
3 Cumulative impacts include the effects on the
4 environment from other past, present and reasonably
5 foreseeable future human actions.

6 These effects not only include the
7 operation of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant but also impacts
8 from activities unrelated to Sequoyah, such as future
9 urbanization and energy producing facilities in the
10 area and also climate change.

11 The analysis considers potential impacts
12 through the end of the current license term as well as
13 a 20-year license renewal period.

14 The cumulative impacts on all resource
15 areas were found to be small with the following
16 exceptions. First, the cumulative impacts on surface
17 water would be small to moderate primarily due to
18 long-term surface water warming associated with climate
19 change.

20 Second, cumulative impacts on terrestrial
21 resources would be moderate, primarily due to
22 increasing urbanization.

23 Next, the cumulative impacts on aquatic
24 resources would be large primarily due to the historical
25 change on the Tennessee River since the early 1900s and

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1 the cumulative impact on global climate change would be
2 moderate, primarily due to present and future global
3 emissions of greenhouse gasses.

4 Next slide. So now that we've looked at
5 cumulative impacts we're going to take a look at the
6 site-specific impacts generated here by the Sequoyah
7 Nuclear Plant. And this slide lists those impacts that
8 the NRC staff reviewed for continued operation of
9 Sequoyah Nuclear Plant during the proposed license
10 renewal period.

11 Overall, the impacts for license renewal on
12 all these issues were found to be small, which means the
13 effects are not detectable or so minor that they will
14 neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important
15 attribute of the resource.

16 Next slide. The National Environmental
17 Policy Act mandates that each environmental impact
18 statement consider alternatives to any proposed major
19 federal action.

20 A major step in determining whether license
21 renewal is reasonable or not is comparing the likely
22 impacts of continued operation of the nuclear plant with
23 the likely impacts of alternative means of power
24 generation. Alternatives must provide an option that
25 allows for power generation capability beyond the term

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1 of the current nuclear power plant operating licenses
2 to meet future system generating needs.

3 In the draft SEIS, NRC staff initially
4 considered 18 different alternatives and then narrowed
5 those 18 down to four alternatives and considered those
6 four alternatives in depth.

7 Additionally, the NRC staff considered
8 what would happen if no action is taken and Sequoyah
9 shuts down at the end of its current licenses without
10 a specific replacement alternative.

11 This alternative would not provide power
12 generation capacity, nor would it meet the needs
13 currently met by Sequoyah.

14 The NRC's preliminary conclusion is that
15 the environmental impacts of license renewal for
16 Sequoyah would be smaller than those feasible and
17 commercially viable alternatives. Continued
18 operation would have small environmental impacts in all
19 areas. The staff concluded that continued operation of
20 the existing Sequoyah Nuclear Plant is the
21 environmentally preferred alternative.

22 Next slide. Based on a review of the
23 likely environmental impacts from license renewal as
24 well as potential environmental impacts of alternatives
25 to license renewal, the NRC staff's preliminary

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1 recommendation in the draft SEIS is that the adverse
2 environmental impacts of license renewal for Sequoyah
3 are not great enough to deny the option of license
4 renewal for energy planning decision makers.

5 Next slide. This draft SEIS does not
6 discuss potential environmental impacts of storing
7 spent fuel for an extended period after the plant shuts
8 down. For the term beyond the 20-year period of
9 extended operation, the NRC addresses the management of
10 spent nuclear fuel in the continued storage final rule.

11 On August 26, 2014, the Commission approved
12 publication of the continued storage final rule and the
13 generic environmental impact statement that supports
14 it. Under the final rule the environmental impacts of
15 continued storage are generically determined in new reg
16 2157; its title is "Generic Environmental Impact
17 Statement for Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel."
18 And that information is codified in the NRC regulations
19 at 10 CFR 51.23 and therefore those impacts do not need
20 to be determined on a site-specific basis so they're not
21 covered here in our DSEIS.

22 Next slide. So I'd like to reemphasize
23 that the environmental review is not yet complete. Your
24 comments today, and all written comments received by the
25 end of the comment period on September 29th, will be

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1 considered by the NRC staff as we develop the final SEIS,
2 which we currently plan to issue in March 2015.

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

11 Next slide. As many of you know, I am a
12 primary contact for the environmental review. Manny
13 Sayoc is the primary contact for the safety review.
14 Copies of the draft SEIS are available on CD in the
15 entryway. In addition, the three libraries showing the
16 slide have a hard copy of the draft SEIS.

17 You can also find electronic copies of the
18 draft SEIS, along with other information about the
19 Sequoyah Nuclear Plant license renewal review, online
20 at the website shown. Copies of these slides are
21 available out in the hallway so you don't need to write
22 this down if you find it too long to write down. You can
23 find it right outside.

24 Next slide. NRC staff will address
25 written comments in the same way we address spoken

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1 comments received today. You can submit written
2 comments online or via conventional mail. To submit
3 written comments online, visit the website
4 regulations.gov and search for Docket ID No. NRC
5 2013-0037. If you have written comments today you may
6 give them to any NRC staff member and those comments that
7 are made, other people's comments can also be viewed at
8 regulations.gov at that Docket ID number I just cited,
9 and that's available here.

10 This concludes my presentation and I'll
11 turn the meeting back over to Bob.

12 MR. HAGAR: All right. That was part 1 of
13 the meeting, now we're in part 2. Does anyone have any
14 questions about the material that was presented? David,
15 if you would please step up here, ask your question and
16 then we'll ask the NRC staff to respond.

17 MR. LOCKBURN: Good afternoon. My name is
18 David Lockburn. I have two questions. Shall I ask both
19 of them?

20 MR. HAGAR: Why don't you ask both of them
21 and we'll let the staff decide whether they can respond
22 to both of them at once or separately.

23 MR. LOCKBURN: Fair enough. The first
24 question was is the NRC's process for the environmental
25 assessments for license renewal different in any

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1 appreciable way because TVA is a federal entity instead
2 of a private company?

3 And the second question was regarding the
4 cumulative impacts, they were based on a projection of
5 future activities. Is there a formal process to flag
6 and address any future activities that exceed the
7 projections that were made in good faith to this point?

8 MR. HAGAR: Okay. Can you guys address
9 those separately or what? Why don't you just step up
10 here. Maybe let's take them separately. The first
11 question?

12 MR. DRUCKER: The first question was is
13 there any difference between this review and other
14 reviews we've done because TVA is a government entity?
15 And I personally have been involved with two past
16 reviews, one out at Palo Verde, not a TVA plant, one down
17 at Grand Gulf, again not a TVA plant. And no, there were
18 no differences in this review as compared to those two
19 or any others I would anticipate throughout the country.
20 The process is exactly the same.

21 MR. HAGAR: Okay. And then the second
22 question?

23 MR. DRUCKER: I want to make sure -- I
24 wasn't 100 percent, Dave, it was the cumulative impacts
25 and you wanted to know if we flag and identify things,

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1 is it in the future?

2 MR. HAGAR: Again give your question
3 again, David.

4 MR. LOCKBURN: This is Dave Lockburn
5 again. The question is cumulative impacts you project
6 future activities and then try to assess. And the
7 question was if those future activities differ from what
8 the estimates were or the projections were, is there a
9 formal process to flag that and address that delta from
10 what was done now based on the projection?

11 MR. DRUCKER: You're talking about things
12 changing in the future?

13 MR. LOCKBURN: That's correct, yes.

14 MR. DRUCKER: Okay. Good question. From
15 a licensed renewal standpoint, if something changes
16 during a license renewal process, that will be fed into
17 the license renewal process. And we tried to make that
18 -- I hope I made that clear that we're not done. We just
19 produced a draft. The next step is to produce the final.

20 So at any time between now and, for example,
21 this comment period that ends September 29th, or even
22 after that, if something new and significant comes along
23 and comes into my knowledge and awareness, that will
24 feed into this process.

25 After the license renewal process is

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1 complete and a license is granted, that would have to
2 feed -- changes from anything, any other changes whether
3 it's cumulative or something that you're familiar with,
4 with safety, there would be other avenues that you would
5 need to feed that information to the NRC.

6 I just want to point out that from a
7 cumulative standpoint, if you turn to Appendix E in the
8 draft supplemental environment impact statement, there
9 is a list of the projects that we foresee today impacting
10 the region cumulatively. And so that's basically what
11 you would look to. If there's something different that
12 you're aware of that's not in that Appendix E, I would
13 certainly want to be made aware of it.

14 MR. LOCKBURN: Thanks.

15 MR. DRUCKER: Thank you.

16 MR. HAGAR: David, did that answer your
17 question? Very good. Does anyone else have questions
18 about the material that was presented? All right. I
19 don't see any hands.

20 So now we'll enter the third part of the
21 program, the third part of the meeting. This is an
22 opportunity for you to provide your input, any comments
23 you have that relate to the environmental impact of
24 renewing the license of Sequoyah Nuclear Plant.

25 And again I didn't have anybody sign up so

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1 now's the time if you want to speak, now is the time to
2 raise your hand. I'll call on the people who raise
3 their hands and you can come on up here and ask.

4 All right. I see no hands and I interpret
5 that to mean that no one has any input they want to
6 provide in this meeting. So Brian Wittick, do you have
7 any closing comments?

8 MR. WITTICK: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Brian Wittick, I'm the chief of the environmental
10 projects branch.

11 First, I wanted to thank everyone for
12 coming out today. We really value everyone's comments,
13 any feedback that's provided. That's the purpose of the
14 meeting that we're having here today is to try to solicit
15 comments, insights, questions from local members of the
16 public. It's an important part of the Nuclear Regulatory
17 Commission's process or values to be open and
18 transparent and engage members of the public.

19 During the environmental impact review
20 process, we have two opportunities for engaging the
21 public. The first is when we first receive the
22 environmental report. We have a public scoping meeting
23 that was conducted about a year ago, and this is the
24 second and last opportunity for the public to provide
25 comment.

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1 As David mentioned, the comment period for
2 the draft environmental impact statement runs through
3 the 29th of September -- could you move back to the
4 previous slide that provides for comments?

5 MR. HAGAR: I think I can. It's kind of
6 awkward here.

7 MR. WITTICK: So we have until the 29th of
8 September for everyone to submit their comments. As
9 David mentioned, this is the process to do so. Or on the
10 slide before that David provided his email. You can
11 provide comments to any one of us.

12 And the last thing that I want to mention
13 is if you have any comments or questions but you didn't
14 feel comfortable getting up and asking, we have a number
15 of members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff,
16 we have Gaillard Smith who's the senior resident out at
17 the Sequoyah Plant with us and Philip is the resident
18 out at the plant right now. Bob, David, myself, we'll
19 all be around after the meeting for a time for anyone
20 that wants to engage us and has any questions.

21 Again, I thank everybody for coming out
22 today and I'll turn it back over to Bob.

23 MR. HAGAR: Well thanks Brian. I want to
24 remind you that we'd like you to fill out a meeting
25 feedback form and reinforce what Brian just said, that

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1 the NRC staff is going to be available after the meeting;
2 if you want to have some one-on-one conversations you
3 do that at that time.

4 And in advance we want to thank you for
5 providing feedback on this meeting and with that this
6 meeting is concluded. NRC will stand by to meet with
7 you one-on-one if you wish. Thank you all for your
8 time.

9 (Whereupon, the Sequoyah Public Meeting
10 having been concluded, went off the record at 2:29 p.m.)
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NEAL R. GROSS

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