

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: Public Meeting RE Draft Environmental
Impact Statement, Exelon Generation Company
Byron Station Units 1 and 2
Afternoon Session

Docket Number: 50-454 and 50-455

Location: Byron, Illinois

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Work Order No.: NRC-1338

Pages 1-35

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Category 3 Public Meeting to Discuss the
Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

+ + + + +

EXELON GENERATION COMPANY

BYRON STATION UNITS 1 AND 2

Regarding the Renewal of Facility Operating
License Nos. NPF-37 and NPF-66 for a 20-Year Period

Docket Nos. 50-454 and 50-455

+ + + + +

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 3, 2015

+ + + + +

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

7993 NORTH RIVER ROAD

BYRON, ILLINOIS

+ + + + +

The above-entitled matter commenced
pursuant to notice at 2:00 p.m.

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1 PRESENT:
2 CHERYL HAUSMAN, Facilitator
3 LOIS M. JAMES, NRC Environmental Project Manager
4 BRIAN WITTICK, NRC Branch Chief
5 HARRAL LOGARAS, NRC Government Liaison
6 JAMES MCGHEE, Senior Resident Inspector
7 JASON DRAPER, Resident Inspector
8 VIKTORIA MITLYNG, NRC Public Affairs Officer

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(2:00 p.m.)

1
2
3 MS. JAMES: Welcome to the preliminary
4 results of the license renewal review for the Byron
5 Station license renewal application. At this time, I
6 would like to introduce the facilitator for the meeting,
7 and she will kick us off. Cheryl? Cheryl Hausman will
8 be the facilitator.

9 MS. HAUSMAN: Good afternoon, everybody.
10 I would like to thank you and welcome you, and thank you
11 for participating in the public meeting to provide
12 comments for the US NRC's draft supplemental impact
13 statement for license renewal of Byron Station's Units
14 1 and 2.

15 My name is Cheryl Hausman and I'm going to
16 be your facilitator for the meeting this afternoon. My
17 role as a facilitator is to help the meeting run smoothly
18 to ensure that everybody who wishes to speak has an
19 opportunity to do so, and to try to keep us on time.

20 This is a Category 3 public meeting to
21 encourage active participation and information
22 exchange with the NRC and members of the public to obtain
23 comments for the draft environmental impact statement.
24 The NRC invites and encourages members of the public to
25 present oral and written comments on the appropriate

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1 scope of issues to be considered in and the content of
2 the draft environmental impact statement.

3 Before we begin, I would like to go over a
4 few ground rules for the meeting. I would like to let
5 everybody know that the meeting is being transcribed,
6 so I ask that you keep any background noise or sidebar
7 conversations to a minimum so the transcriber can
8 produce an accurate recording of the meeting. Also, a
9 security officer is present at the meeting. The
10 security officer is standard practice and is here for
11 everybody's safety.

12 Please be respectful of others during the
13 meeting, and we will ensure that all participants who
14 have a question or want to make a comment can be heard
15 and have time to do so. Please turn off all electronic
16 devices at this time or put them on vibrate. If you need
17 to take a phone call, that is certainly understandable;
18 but I ask that you step outside into the lobby to take
19 those calls so the audience can hear the proceedings and
20 the transcriber can obtain an accurate recording.

21 The exit for the room is right over here,
22 and then there are two outside exits on both corners.
23 Restrooms are outside in the lobby to the left. And if
24 we have to evacuate for any reason, please follow the
25 directions from the security officer.

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1 like to turn the meeting over to Lois James. Please
2 hold questions and comments until I begin the question
3 and answer public comment periods. Thank you.

4 MS. JAMES: The first thing I'd like to do
5 is introduce all the, or have the NRC staff who is here
6 introduce themselves so that people know who they can
7 talk to after the meeting.

8 My name is Lois James. I'm from our
9 headquarters office outside of D.C. I'm the
10 Environmental Project Manager for the environmental
11 review of the license renewal associated with the Byron
12 Station. My supervisor is Brian Wittick. Here is here
13 to answer any other questions that I can't. You've
14 already met Cheryl.

15 We have, well, why don't we let the NRC
16 people wave their hands? All the people.

17 MR. LOGARAS: I'm Harral Logaras, I'm the
18 Government Liaison from Region III office.

19 MR. MCGHEE: Jim McGhee, I'm the Senior
20 Resident Inspector for the Byron Station, one of two
21 inspectors that are here. We work seven and seven days
22 a week. I'd be happy to meet anybody here and speak to
23 anybody about the Byron Station, and I'm at your
24 disposal.

25 MR. DRAPER: I'm Jason Draper, I'm the

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1 Resident Inspector, I work with Jim, here at the Byron
2 Station.

3 MS. MITLYNG: And I'm Viktoria Mitlyng,
4 the Public Affairs Officer for the Region III. Any
5 questions relating to this meeting or otherwise, I'm
6 over here.

7 MS. JAMES: And I'm going to ask Vika if you
8 could slide this way just a little bit because we have
9 a conference line set up and we have at least one
10 individual on the conference line. And so, as long as
11 you speak into the microphone, the individual on the
12 phone should hear. And then we will also be taking
13 comments or questions from the individual on the phone.

14 If we could turn to slide 5? Okay. Now
15 that we have introduced ourselves, the next thing I'm
16 going to do is to thank everybody here for coming. This
17 is very important, the environmental impact statement
18 is a very important part of our license renewal process.
19 And it is very important to hear from members of the
20 public on the environmental report as is.

21 I would like to stress that the
22 environmental review is not complete at this time.
23 What we're presenting to you is the draft environmental
24 impact statement. And comments received today
25 verbally, in writing, by the end of the comment period

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1 which is February 20th, will be considered in the final
2 supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS).

3 I would like to start off the briefing by
4 going over the agenda. Cheryl has already done that.
5 The first thing I'm going to cover is the NRC's
6 regulatory role. Then I'm going to go over our
7 preliminary findings. And then I'll present the
8 schedule for the remainder of the environmental review
9 and how you can submit comments. Next slide please.

10 The NRC was established to regulate the
11 civilian use of nuclear material, including facilities
12 producing power. The NRC conducts license renewals for
13 plants whose owners wish to operate them beyond their
14 initial licensing period, which is 40 years. The
15 license renewal reviews address safety issues related
16 to aging management and environmental issues relating
17 to the operation beyond the 40 years throughout the 20
18 years of continued operation.

19 In all aspects of the NRC's regulation, our
20 mission is threefold:

- 21 * To ensure adequate protection of public
22 health and safety;
- 23 * Promote common defense and security; and
- 24 * Protect the environment.

25 Protecting the environment is a key part of

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1 our mission. Next slide please.

2 We are here to discuss the potential
3 site-specific impacts of the license renewal. The way
4 we do license renewal and the way NEPA allows us to do
5 it is we have what we call a generic environmental impact
6 statement or GEIS. This examines the possible
7 environmental impacts that can be applied to all
8 applications.

9 The GEIS, to the extent possible,
10 establishes and bounds the significance of these
11 potential impacts. The analysis in the GEIS pertains
12 to operating power reactors. For each type of
13 environmental impact, the GEIS establishes generic
14 findings, covering as many plants as possible. For
15 some of these environmental issues, the GEIS found that
16 a generic evaluation was not sufficient; and thus, a
17 plant-specific, site-specific environmental impact was
18 required.

19 The site-specific findings for Byron are
20 contained in the draft SEIS which was published in
21 December. Hopefully, everybody has a copy of it.
22 Outside the door, we have hard copies of it. We have
23 the PDF file on CDs. You can also get it from the NRC
24 website and the EPA website. Next slide please.

25 NEPA. NEPA tells us we have to define a

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1 purpose and a need for the proposed action. The
2 proposed action is to issue a renewed license. The
3 purpose and need is to provide an option that allows for
4 power generation beyond the initial term.

5 This is important because we don't
6 determine whether the plant will operate or continue to
7 produce power, that is done by the local population, the
8 power companies, the transmission companies, all the
9 people in this area actually will make the final
10 decision. What our decision is, is to determine if the
11 environmental are great enough to deny license renewal
12 as an option for those decision makers. So, that's an
13 important part of what we do. Next slide please.

14 How the impacts are defined. The
15 NRC-defined impact levels are small, moderate, and
16 large.

17 Small: Effects are not detectable or are
18 so minor that they need to destabilize nor noticeably
19 alter any important resource attribute.

20 Moderate: Effects are sufficient to alter
21 noticeably, but not to destabilize important attributes
22 of the resource.

23 Large: Effects are clearly noticeable and
24 are sufficient to destabilize important attributes.

25 While this applies to most of the resources

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1 that we look at, there are three specific that have their
2 own designation. Next slide please.

3 Special Status Species or Endangered
4 Species Act. What you'll find there is no effect, may
5 affect but not likely to adversely affect, or may affect
6 and is likely to adversely affect. Cultural and
7 Historical Resources, that will be specific to whatever
8 historical properties are in the area. And then
9 Environmental Justice, the determination is
10 disproportionately high or adverse impacts. Next
11 slide please.

12 Okay. The first results I'm going to give
13 you is the cumulative impact, the overall impact to the
14 environment including past, present and reasonably
15 foreseeable future actions. In this area, the
16 preliminary findings were everything was small except
17 for two areas. Terrestrial resources was small to
18 moderate, and that was based primarily due to
19 agriculture runoff in the area and residential
20 development over the term of extended operation.

21 For aquatic and for global climate change,
22 they were determined to be a moderate cumulatory impact.
23 And that aquatic was moderate due to past river
24 channelization and damming and ongoing runoff. The
25 climate change was determined to be moderate primarily

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1 due to present and future global emissions of greenhouse
2 gases. Next slide please.

3 Now, here is the site-specific results for
4 Byron. As you can see, we determined at the preliminary
5 results that everything was small. Historical and
6 cultural resources, there was no adverse effect.
7 Special species status, there was no effect. And under
8 environmental justice, there was no disproportionately
9 high or adverse impacts. All of these are discussed in
10 depth in Chapter 4 of the environmental impact
11 statement. Next slide please.

12 The National Environmental Policy Act or
13 NEPA mandates that each environmental impact statement
14 consider alternatives to any proposed major federal
15 action. A major step in determining whether a license
16 renewal is reasonable or not is to compare to likely
17 impacts of other alternatives. Alternatives must
18 provide an option that allows for power generation
19 capability beyond the term of the current license to
20 meet the future needs.

21 In the draft SEIS, the staff initially
22 considered 17 different alternatives. We narrowed it
23 down to five that we considered in the SEIS. They are
24 a new nuclear facility; integrated gasification
25 combined cycle; natural gas combined cycle; a

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1 combination alternative which included natural gas
2 combined-cycle, wind, and solar. The last option was
3 purchase power, to just buy power from wherever you
4 could get it. And then the last thing which we always
5 have to consider is the no alternative, no action
6 alternative which would mean for the nuclear power plant
7 would be go into decommissioning at the end of its
8 initial license. Next slide please.

9 Our preliminary conclusion is that the
10 adverse environmental impacts of the license renewal
11 for Byron Station are not great enough to deny the option
12 of license renewal for the energy decision makers.
13 Again, at this point, I would like to stress that this
14 is our preliminary finding. This public meeting to
15 address comments are to gather the comments, it's an
16 important part of our process, and comments will be
17 considered. Next slide.

18 I just wanted to acknowledge or make sure
19 everyone knew that in September of 2014, the NRC issued
20 the Continued Storage Rule. The Continued Storage Rule
21 generically addresses the environmental impacts of
22 continuing to store spent fuel onsite or after the
23 licensed life of the reactor. We address these issues
24 in NUREG-2157. The rule went final on September 19th
25 and the location of where you can find the NUREG is

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1 provided on the bottom of the slide. Next slide.

2 Environmental milestones. Here, we have
3 listed everything that we have completed as well as what
4 is future. The draft SEIS public meeting is today,
5 February 3rd. The comment period ends February 20th.
6 And the current schedule is to issue the final
7 supplemental environmental impact in July of 2015.
8 Next slide please.

9 For additional information, again my name
10 is Lois James. My contact information is provided.
11 The draft SEIS can be viewed locally at the public
12 library, and you can also find it on the NRC website.
13 Next slide.

14 Submitting comments after the meeting.
15 There are three different ways you can submit comments.
16 First, you can mail them directly to the NRC. Second,
17 you can provide them in person at the NRC, and our
18 address is there. Third, you can go to the
19 regulations.gov, do a search for the docket number, and
20 you will come up with the actual PDF file of the EIS and
21 you will be permitted to submit comments there.
22 Comments are due February 20th.

23 This concludes my presentation. I would
24 like to turn the meeting over to Cheryl to conduct the
25 question and answer session.

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1 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you, Lois. Before we
2 begin the public comment period, NRC would like to
3 provide an opportunity to answer questions or provide
4 clarifications on the presentation you have just heard.
5 So, let's take a few minutes, and for a brief Q&A period,
6 this is the part of the meeting where you have an
7 opportunity to ask questions on the material which has
8 just been presented.

9 If you have a question, please step up to
10 the microphone, introduce yourself by name, and mention
11 any organization affiliation if you would like. Please
12 keep your questions brief and relevant to the topic
13 which is the slides that you've just seen so that we can
14 get as many of them as possible. This portion of the
15 meeting is regarding the presentation. Following this
16 Q&A session, we will begin the public comment portion
17 of the meeting.

18 I would like to first go to the phone lines
19 and then to the audience in the room. Are there any
20 questions or comments from participants on the bridge
21 line?

22 PHONE OPERATOR: If anyone on the phone
23 line would like to ask a question or make a comment,
24 please dial one. Again, if you would like to ask a
25 question or make a comment, please dial one.

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1 Currently, I'm showing no questions from the phone line.

2 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Does anybody in
3 the audience have a question or comment about the slide
4 presentation? Please step into the microphone.

5 MR. BLOBAUM: This sort of relates to slide
6 --

7 MS. HAUSMAN: Please step into the
8 microphone.

9 MR. BLOBAUM: I'm sorry.

10 MS. HAUSMAN: That's all right. And state
11 your name please.

12 MR. BLOBAUM: This relates to storage,
13 this relates to storage. I would like to know if any
14 of the spent fuel rods or waste are in dry cask storage.
15 If so, how much?

16 MS. HAUSMAN: And your name, sir?

17 MR. BLOBAUM: Darrell Blobaum.

18 MS. JAMES: I would ask that specific
19 question but I'm not going to address that right here
20 because I don't know that information, specific
21 information off the top of my head. After the meeting,
22 we will have the resident inspectors available outside
23 the meeting. And then if you want more specifics in
24 that, I can promise to catch up with you after the
25 meeting, I mean via e-mail, via a letter or via

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1 tele-conference. Okay?

2 MS. HAUSMAN: Are there any other
3 questions about the slide presentation? Please state
4 your name, sir.

5 MR. CAMPBELL: Stanley Campbell with
6 Sinnissippi Alliance and from Rockford, Illinois. I
7 was wondering if the NRC reviewed the activities at the
8 Byron Nuclear Power Plant as far as problems that came
9 up through its operating systems over the years, the
10 number of times they might have been dinged by the NRC
11 or actions that they may have been forced to take to make
12 any corrections?

13 MS. JAMES: The environmental impact
14 looked at what happened to the environment and actually
15 went way before the site was even built. So, in general
16 terms, I would say we did. Safety issues will be
17 addressed in the safety evaluation report, not
18 specifically in the environmental impact statement, and
19 that's another document that will be coming out later
20 this year.

21 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. We will now move
22 into the public comment period. This is the part of the
23 meeting where you have an opportunity to give your
24 comments or ask questions on the scope and content of
25 the draft environmental review.

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1 There are a number of things we can do to
2 ensure this part of the meeting runs as smoothly as
3 possible. First, as I mentioned earlier, the meeting
4 is being transcribed, so please keep the background
5 noise to a minimum so that we can provide an accurate
6 transcript. For those making comments, please begin by
7 identifying yourself with your name, and if you would
8 like to mention any organization affiliation, please do
9 that as well.

10 In addition, if you could be as succinct as
11 possible, we should be able to get everyone's comments
12 and conclude the meeting in a timely manner. If you
13 wish to make a comment outside the scope of this meeting,
14 the NRC staff will be available for approximately 30
15 minutes following the meeting to answer specific
16 questions.

17 First, I will call to the microphone the
18 individuals who have filled out a yellow comment card
19 and then open it up to the general audience. Mr. Mitch
20 Farmer?

21 MR. FARMER: I'd like to start by saying I
22 didn't want to go first. Well, this is my, I just want
23 to say this is my first environmental impact meeting.
24 And I live in Geneva, I'm a nuclear engineer at Argonne
25 National Lab, and I've worked the last 27 years in the

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1 area of light-water reactor safety which is one element
2 of this but I think it's predominantly addressing the
3 environmental impact.

4 My personal opinion is, and I'm speaking
5 personally now, is that this plant runs safely. And I
6 really have worked heavily with the industry over the
7 years and I can tell you there is a real commitment to
8 safety and a continuing evolution of safe operation of
9 these plants. And I'm saying this as a citizen, not as
10 an engineer. I have lived in this state for many years
11 and I feel perfectly comfortable living here.

12 And then with respect to the environmental
13 impacts, I think that the impacts are actually positive
14 of the operation of this plant. CO2, you know, if
15 anybody who is I guess bucking horns with the concept
16 of global warming, you don't have to really question it
17 anymore, I think it's a real issue. And I believe that
18 plants like this are greatly reducing the amount of CO2
19 gas emissions in the country. And therefore, on the
20 environmental side of the story, I think this is a very
21 positive viewpoint. So, that's what I wanted to say.

22 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Ms. Deanna
23 Mershon.

24 MS. MERSHON: Thank you. Deanna Mershon,
25 Executive Director of the Byron Area Chamber of

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1 Commerce. The Byron Chamber of Commerce fully supports
2 the license renewal for the Byron Station. We also
3 respect the importance of this license renewal to our
4 community in general. The economic activity and jobs
5 that the Byron Station creates in our community is
6 critical. It is very important that our residents
7 understand the importance of this renewal process and
8 fully support the benefits nuclear power brings to our
9 Byron community. Thank you.

10 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Doug
11 O'Brien?

12 MR. O'BRIEN: Good afternoon. I'm Doug
13 O'Brien with the Illinois Clean Energy Coalition. I
14 wanted to echo what Mr. Farmer had said a few moments
15 ago. One of the most vital issues that is involved in
16 the renewal of operating licenses for these plants is
17 whether or not we are truly going to pursue meaning
18 reductions in carbon emissions that negatively impact
19 public health, our economy, and global climate.

20 Nuclear power provides over 90 percent of
21 the carbon-free electricity generation in the state of
22 Illinois. It's a simple fact that we as a state cannot
23 hope to meet the pending federal EPA emission reduction
24 targets without continued operation of our nuclear
25 fleet. The closing of any of these plans will force us

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1 to rely on alternative sources, particularly fossil
2 fuels, that will increase the generation of carbon
3 pollution.

4 Last year, the Illinois Clean Energy
5 Coalition studied the state's carbon emissions from
6 electricity and found that nuclear energy prevents the
7 emissions of over 90 million tons of CO2 each year.
8 That is the equivalent of the carbon pollution from
9 every passenger car in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and
10 Wisconsin. And while other carbon sources like wind
11 and solar are desirable and promising, the simple fact
12 is that they are nowhere near capable of replacing the
13 amount of electricity generated by nuclear.

14 The recent multi-agency report produced by
15 the state of Illinois about the risk of losing nuclear
16 generation stated that the social costs of replacing
17 nuclear generation with fossil fuel generation could be
18 as high as \$18 billion over the next decade. This is
19 in the form of added public health costs and other
20 expenditures resulting from increased pollution. That
21 report also stated that the state's economy would lose
22 billions in economic activity.

23 In closing, the Illinois Clean Energy
24 Coalition strongly encourages the renewal of the
25 operating license for Byron Station. It is a key

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1 component in our role as the leading generator of
2 carbon-free energy, and vital to our progress towards
3 a cleaner environment, sound public health, and a better
4 quality of life. Thank you.

5 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Steve
6 Herdklotz.

7 MR. HERDKLOTZ: Hi, my name is Steve
8 Herdklotz. I'm with Hoo Haven Wildlife. We would like
9 to take a few minutes to comment on the Exelon Nuclear
10 facility here in Byron.

11 It's a testimony of how the company is good
12 to the community and how it helps their endeavor to be
13 a good steward of Mother Earth into the community.
14 Byron has shown how it has helped the community and the
15 surrounding area with this willingness to give back.
16 They have helped financially and supportively with the
17 wildlife rehabilitation of the animals. They have been
18 very, very conscious of the environmental impact to the
19 migratory birds and to the other animals to which they
20 have to be around. They have helped with the
21 environment as far as waterways and stuff like that, as
22 far as keeping them clean and everything. Exelon has
23 been very good to the community in its willingness to
24 go the extra mile to education with schools and
25 community groups and everything to show how safe and how

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1 much the nuclear power is creating the power generation
2 and how it's helped the community.

3 Hoo Haven with its environmental program
4 tied with Exelon have helped together and worked
5 together to show they have given back and how much care
6 they have given to the environment and to the wildlife
7 and the economic impact to the community. They also are
8 a very big factor in the tax base to the government
9 agencies and stuff like that. And they help as far as
10 being able to outreach the other communities and
11 facilities and help them in their endeavors to grow and
12 keep everything safe in the environment.

13 We support the Byron facility and think
14 they have done a tremendous job. They are great with
15 the no carbon emissions or very, very low carbon
16 emissions in the electrical power industry. And I
17 think they have done a great job. We support them very
18 much.

19 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Mark
20 Nearkorn?

21 MR. NEARKORN: My name is Mark Nearkorn.
22 I am the current president of Rockriversweep.org.
23 Rockriversweep.org is a 501C3, not-for-profit
24 organization dedicated to preserving the health and the
25 ecosystem of the Rock River. We represent over 500

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1 volunteers in 34 communities along the 284 miles of the
2 Rock River in a one-day yearly cleanup effort.

3 The Byron Generating Station of Exelon has
4 supported this effort with its generous support that was
5 instrumental of the funding of Rockriversweep.org as
6 well as the employee volunteers of the Byron Station
7 that contribute every year to the local cleanup efforts
8 here in Byron and in Oregon. With their help, we are
9 making a positive impact every year to the river
10 cleanliness. Thank you.

11 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Mr. Ken
12 Harrison?

13 MR. HARRISON: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Ken Harrison. I'm a senior reactor operator at the
15 Byron Nuclear Power Plant. I wanted to talk here today
16 because I am proud of the environmental stewardship of
17 our power plant, and especially the role of operators
18 in this effort. There are three key aspects that I
19 believe demonstrate the operators' critical role in
20 environmental stewardship: training, engaged thinking
21 operations, and monitoring.

22 Our training program is intensive.
23 Initial training involves classroom training as well as
24 on-the-job training. This one or two-year-long
25 program includes detailed information about the

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1 specific systems and equipment and their potential
2 impact to the environment. Initial qualification
3 includes practical examinations and plant
4 demonstration of proper operation of the equipment, and
5 including specific checks to ensure proper
6 environmental stewardship.

7 Once qualified, the training continues
8 with six one-week-long sessions each year. These
9 continuing training sessions review and examine the
10 operators on systems and equipment, and include an
11 annual review of the environmental safety requirements
12 that we employ at the station. Additionally, most of
13 the operators have been trained as level 3 or 5 HAZMAT
14 responders, and a specific number of these
15 qualifications are maintained on shift 24 hours a day.

16 The detailed training then translates into
17 the next key aspect of engaged thinking operations. We
18 have detailed procedures for operating the plant and
19 equipment. The operators, through training, understand
20 the details of these procedures and then tier them step
21 by step during operations. The details include
22 specific precautions, limitations, and actions so
23 support environmental safety.

24 But we're not satisfied with strict
25 compliance to the letter of the procedure. Our operators

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1 are fully engaged and use all of their senses and
2 training to help events. They are engaged in the
3 operations to the point that they can identify which
4 procedures are appropriate given the current plant
5 conditions and to recommend alternatives or even stop
6 jobs if, based on their training and knowledge, there
7 are any safety concerns including environmental safety.

8 Finally, the operators, recognizing that
9 the best way to respond to an event is to prevent one,
10 monitor the plant through detailed tours of the power
11 plant. They monitor the operating condition of running
12 equipment and ensure that the standby equipment is ready
13 when necessary. Additionally, they focus their tours
14 looking for environmental safety issues. They inspect
15 vendor trucks and equipment when accepting chemical
16 deliveries. They look to ensure appropriate burns or
17 spill collection devices are in place for portable
18 equipment staged throughout the plant. And they look for
19 any signs of potential trouble.

20 While these three sound like great
21 expectations, I can assure you that I know because, as
22 a supervisor, I go into the field and I observe their
23 behaviors. And I sit on curriculum review committees
24 which determine the training program details. Proper
25 training, engaged thinking operations, and monitoring

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1 will continue to be significant success markers in our
2 successful environmental stewardship. Thank you.

3 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Before we
4 continue, I'd just like to check in with the
5 participants on the bridge line. Are there any
6 questions from anybody who is on the bridge line?

7 PHONE OPERATOR: At this time, we do have
8 a question from Mr. Morgan Lewis. The line is open.

9 MR. LEWIS: Thank you. I'm a member of the
10 public. I just like to point out that I did call in
11 today several times to get the bridge line and the tax
12 code and I did not see any mention of handouts on the
13 zonings. It puts me at a grave, or a disadvantage as
14 I am a member, I am not from the area, I am from
15 Pennsylvania, I wish to help with my expertise. I am
16 registered, I am a retired, registered professional
17 engineer for 50 years, and I am the only individual
18 intervenor to ever -- day intervention against a, an
19 operating nuclear power plant, namely Two Mile Island,
20 number one restart during the 1980's. Thank you, over
21 and out.

22 PHONE OPERATOR: Thank you. There are no
23 additional questions on the phone line.

24 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Okay. Are
25 there anybody, is there anybody else in the audience who

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1 would like to make a comment or who has a question?
2 Please step up to the microphone.

3 MR. BLOBAUM: Darrell Blobaum. I'm from
4 the Rock River Open Forum in Rock Falls. I oppose
5 re-licensing of the Byron Nuclear Power Plant. I do not
6 believe that nuclear power is viable as a clean source
7 of energy. From cradle to the grave of nuclear
8 materials, it produces carbon emissions as well as
9 dangerous radioactive emissions.

10 I believe that, at present, our renewable
11 energy alternatives are rapidly developing and that
12 nuclear power should be put on the back burner, allowed
13 to die a natural death which it seems to be doing now
14 with rising costs. I do not believe nuclear energy is
15 environmentally sound or economically sound at this
16 point. Thank you.

17 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you.

18 MR. CAMPBELL: Stanley Campbell with
19 Sinnissippi Alliance in Rockford, Illinois. Exelon
20 has indicated at the state level that they are running
21 out of money and may have to shut down the Byron Nuclear
22 Power Plant.

23 If this is true, it might indicate that the
24 utility has to cut costs, and at a plant like Byron, this
25 could mean cutting the staff and the maintenance. Or

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1 both. This could indicate that Exelon may not have the
2 funds to safely operate the reactor. So, if the NRC
3 could please check and see if Exelon has the wherewithal
4 to financially operate the plant safely, I think the
5 public would be satisfied.

6 Also, the NRC needs to ensure that
7 employees at the plant feel secure in expressing safety
8 concerns and do not experience any form of retribution
9 as has previously occurred, at least according to an
10 article published in the Japan Times in March of, I
11 believe it was 2014. Ensuring that the employees at the
12 plant are able to present their concerns and are heard
13 by the management I think gives the public at least a
14 belief that problems would be stopped, or at least would
15 be looked into. Thank you.

16 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Ms. Linda Lewison?

17 MS. LEWISON: Thank you. Hello. I am
18 with Nuclear Energy Information Service. This is a 34
19 year-old watchdog on the nuclear industry in Illinois,
20 a safe energy grassroots group for the past 34 years.
21 And I am also a member of the National Core Team of the
22 Sierra Club Nuclear Free Campaign.

23 Here are our comments. Fact: Byron has
24 been slated by Exelon for possible closure due to
25 unprofitability. We might add into the record that the

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1 CEO of Exelon has been given a multimillion-dollar raise
2 in the last year. One way utilities use to regain
3 profitability is to cut costs. At a plant like Byron,
4 this could mean cutting staff and cutting O&M or both.
5 Exelon's comments on unprofitability may indicate that
6 it has already engaged in actions that have degraded the
7 safety levels at the reactor site. Those are facts.

8 Our comment and our concern. NRC needs to
9 ensure that Exelon cuts neither staff nor O&M spending,
10 and that both are kept at levels to ensure the safety
11 of the public, the workers, and the plant. Also, NRC
12 needs to publicly guarantee that any workers expressing
13 safety concerns, as Stanley mentioned, publicly do not
14 experience any form of retribution as has previously
15 occurred. I'm referring to the Drew Richards study
16 that Mr. Campbell also mentioned. Can a utility
17 publicly stating it may have to close a reactor site be
18 serious about continuing the costly re-licensing
19 process and vice versa? And be serious about meeting
20 its requirements in full?

21 The second set of facts. Byron has been
22 slated by Exelon for possible closure due to
23 unprofitability. Worker layoffs and other economic
24 disruption are guaranteed when Exelon makes the
25 decision to close Byron for whatever reasons it chooses.

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1 Our comments and our concerns. As part of
2 the re-licensing process, NRC needs to publicly affirm
3 that sufficient funds are available in the
4 decommissioning fund to meet the NRC requirements for
5 decommissioning, as outlined in current NRC
6 decommissioning calculation formulas. And I might
7 add, since the organizations I work with have followed
8 the decommissioning at Zion closely, we have been at
9 every ZCAP meeting from the beginning, this is almost
10 a billion dollars in public rate payer funds. And the
11 man who is running the project announced in December
12 that they were out of money. They are going to make it
13 up in some other way, but the public needs to have access
14 to how those decommissioning funds are being spent and
15 misspent. So, that refers to the NRC requirements for
16 decommissioning, and the NRC needs to affirm that if you
17 do close, as part of the re-licensing process, you need
18 to give information that you have that there are funds
19 for decommissioning.

20 Number two, our other concern is a just
21 transition fund needs to be established immediately as
22 a condition for community acceptance of re-licensing
23 that financially prepares the workers and community for
24 a future loss of incomes and economic benefits. This
25 needs to be negotiated among community leaders,

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1 workers, and their union leadership and Exelon
2 management. It can also be a part of negotiations with
3 the legislature, Exelon, and workers unions. And it
4 should be a part of the re-licensing process at this
5 time.

6 Lastly, I want to add to make the point the
7 question: "How do you close a reactor?" You only have
8 two choices. You can either close it proactively,
9 preemptively as Zion closed, as Big Rock Point closed,
10 as Kewaunee has closed, and that still has a number of
11 problems associated with it in terms of what do you do
12 with the waste, how is it stored "safely" since it's
13 going to be around almost a million years, in other
14 words, forever? What do you do, how do you close it
15 preemptively with responsible management? Or do you
16 let it close you as in the case of Fukushima and
17 Chernobyl?

18 And when you go into the re-licensing
19 process at this time, and this reactor here, the two
20 reactors at Zion had been around quite a while, that
21 should be very much on your mind. There is going to be
22 an ending to this at some point; hopefully sooner rather
23 than later. And the question is which way do you want
24 to see this reactor closed? Thank you.

25 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you. Is there anybody

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1 else in the room this evening, or this afternoon, that
2 has a question or would like to make a comment?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. HAUSMAN: One last check with the
5 bridge line. Anybody have a question or comment from
6 the bridge line?

7 PHONE OPERATOR: There is no question or
8 comment currently on the line.

9 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you.

10 PHONE OPERATOR: But I do see one coming in
11 shortly. Hi, Morgan Lewis, your line is open. Morgan
12 Lewis, your line is open.

13 MR. LEWIS: A big thing on my mind right now
14 in Pennsylvania is that we have a little problem with
15 the shaft oil transport across the state, and the
16 railroad cars have a nasty habit of having fires and
17 there's going to be radioactive waste on the highway.
18 As far as I know, mainly shipping coming down from Canada
19 of liquid radioactive waste going to South Carolina, I
20 don't know if you know --be coast, but yes, it can go
21 to Philadelphia or any other place it wants to.

22 Now, and I hope that people over there
23 understand what it means to have radioactive shipments
24 on the road, sometimes a truck having more radioactivity
25 in it than many Hiroshima style bombs. And we, our

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1 state, we're outside of major cities, we are almost
2 totally dependent on volunteer firemen who have no
3 training due to the fact that they can't afford the time
4 and effort on a volunteer basis, uncompensated, to take
5 the needed training even when offered which they don't.
6 And I hope that the NRC and the utility have seen to train
7 these people, to supply these people with adequate
8 equipment such as Yoke meters and whatever training is
9 necessary.

10 That's my comment. Take it as you wish.
11 It doesn't need an answer at this time. I hope you will
12 look into it and put it in the draft generic
13 environmental impact statement. Thank you.

14 MS. HAUSMAN: Thank you.

15 PHONE OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time,
16 we have no additional questions on the phone line.

17 MS. HAUSMAN: Okay, thank you. Anybody
18 else in the room? Lois or Brian, any comments?

19 MS. JAMES: Again, I just wanted to thank
20 everybody who participated. Remember, the comments
21 are due by February 20th. You have several ways to
22 provide them, writing or online. And the NRC staff will
23 be available for the next 30 minutes to answer other
24 questions you may have. Thank you. Thank you very
25 much.

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1 MS. HAUSMAN: And just a reminder for
2 openness and transparency, the transcript of this
3 meeting will be available publicly on NRC's web page.
4 Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at
6 2:49 p.m.)
7

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