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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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LaSALLE COUNTY STATION

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIS (DSEIS)

PUBLIC MEETING

+ + + + +

TUESDAY

MARCH 22, 2016

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The Public Meeting was convened at the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Operations Center, 711 East Etna Road, Ottawa, Illinois at 7:00 p.m., David Drucker, Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

DAVID DRUCKER, Facilitator and Presenter

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. DRUCKER: Good evening. Thanks for
3 coming out tonight. I'm David Drucker with the U.S.
4 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and I'm --

5 THE OPERATOR: Mr. Drucker, I have to join
6 you to the main conference. I'm sorry. One moment.

7 MR. DRUCKER: Sure.

8 THE OPERATOR: Welcome, and thank you for
9 standing by. At this time, all participants are on
10 listening mode. During our Q&A session, you may press
11 *1 on your touch tone phone if you would like to ask
12 a question. Today's conference is being recorded. If
13 you have any objections, you may disconnect at this
14 time. Now I'd like to turn the meeting over to Mr.
15 David Drucker, so you may begin.

16 MR. DRUCKER: Thank you, India. This is
17 David Drucker. I'm work for Nuclear Regulatory
18 Commission. I'm the project manager for the
19 environmental review of the LaSalle County Station
20 license renewal application. Hereafter, I will refer
21 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as the NRC.

22 There are two primary purposes for this
23 meeting. The first purpose is to discuss the contents
24 of this document that I'm holding up, the draft
25 supplemental environmental impact statement for

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1 license renewal of LaSalle County Station. Hereafter,
2 I will refer to this document as the draft SEIS. SEIS
3 stands for Supplemental Environmental Impact
4 Statement.

5 The second purpose of this meeting is to
6 obtain comments on the draft SEIS. This meeting is
7 available by teleconference and, India, I just want to
8 make sure. Can you ask the folks on the line, or
9 actually, folks on the line, can you hear me? Because
10 I'm speaking at a distance from the speakerphone.

11 THE OPERATOR: Everyone, your lines are
12 now open, and you can respond.

13 MR. MAHERAS: David, this is Steve
14 Maheras, and I can hear you just fine.

15 MR. DRUCKER: Okay. Good, if one person
16 can hear me, the rest of you all can hear me.
17 Before going further, I want to introduce NRC staff
18 here tonight. Stu Sheldon is an NRC Region III
19 license renewal inspector, and Robert Ruiz is the
20 senior resident at the plant.

21 I'd also like to point out that on the
22 phone we have or will have a few NRC staff folks. My
23 supervisor, Jim Danna is the chief of the
24 environmental review and project management branch.
25 Michele Moser is the technical reviewer for aquatic

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1 resources.

2 Kevin Folk is the technical reviewer for
3 service water resources. Bill Ford is the technical
4 reviewer for ground water. And you hear earlier Steve
5 Maharris is the consultant from Pacific Northwest
6 Laboratories for the high burn-up fuel section.

7 Next, I'd like to cover a few details
8 about this meeting. Exelon applied to the NRC to
9 renew the operating licenses for LaSalle County
10 Station units one and two for an additional 20 years.
11 The NRC is reviewing that application, and will use
12 the results of that review to decide whether to renew
13 the licenses.

14 Tonight I will tell you the preliminary
15 results of the environmental review. These results
16 are documented in the draft SEIS. And I will also ask
17 for your comments on the draft SEIS. The meeting
18 tonight will, essentially, have four parts. The
19 introduction is the part that we're doing now.

20 In the second part I will discuss the
21 review process and the preliminary findings of the
22 review. Copies of this presentation are on the table
23 by the door and Stu Sheldon, it looks like he
24 handed out copies to everyone here.

25 The next portion will be an opportunity to

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1 ask questions about the material presented, and I will
2 answer those questions. And finally, the NRC staff
3 will listen to your comments about the draft SEIS.
4 Note that the NRC will listen during this time. We
5 generally won't respond to what you're saying here in
6 the meeting. Instead, we will prepare written
7 responses to your comments that will be published as
8 a part of the final SEIS.

9 Please note that this meeting is being
10 recorded,; a transcriber's sitting right up here in
11 front. And he's doing that to produce a written
12 record of what's said at this meeting. In order for
13 the transcript to be accurate, please comply with the
14 following.

15 First, please silence your phones and any
16 other personal electronics you have with you. If you
17 must accept a call during this meeting, please step
18 outside into the lobby so the other meeting
19 participants can hear the proceedings and so your
20 phone ringing, nor your conversation is recorded.

21 When you speak, please use a microphone.
22 And I'll bring it around for the question and answer
23 period to you guys. That's how we will ensure that
24 what you say is recorded. When you speak, identify
25 who you are and, if you represent a group, what group

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1 you represent. Also, if you have an uncommon name or
2 if your name has an unusual spelling, please spell
3 your name. And to ensure the recording is clear,
4 please don't hold side conversations, and do not
5 interrupt the speaker. Thank you.

6 When you signed in tonight, you may have
7 noted yellow cards, like the one I'm holding up, on
8 the table. Several of you have already filled them
9 out, and that's to be a speaker. So if you want to
10 speak, let me know. I'll bring a card around to
11 you, and you can fill that out now.

12 When we get to the public comment portion
13 of this evening, I will give each public commenter
14 three minutes to speak. And then, after everyone's
15 had a chance to speak, we can, if you haven't finished
16 your comments, you can certainly have more time. So
17 far I only have four folks who are signed up to speak.

18
19 Also on the table outside is a stack of
20 public meeting feedback forms. Please fill one out
21 and provide it to me or leave it on the table, or you
22 can drop it in the mail; it's postage free. Your
23 assessment of this meeting tonight will help
24 improve future meetings.

25 And finally, for those who don't know, the

1 restrooms are out the hallway to the left. Emergency
2 exit is out the hallway to the right. And security is
3 located at the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office. It's
4 just across the parking lot, if we should need
5 security.

6 Okay, do you have any questions on this
7 brief introduction before I go any further, and start
8 discussing the environmental review? No - ok
9 then.

10 I'm going to start discussing the
11 environmental review and preliminary results from the
12 draft SEIS. First, I would like to emphasize that the
13 environmental review is not yet complete. I hope the
14 information provided in this presentation will help
15 you understand what we've done so far, and the role
16 you can play in helping to make sure that the final
17 environmental impact statement is accurate and
18 complete.

19 I'd like to start off by briefly going
20 over the agenda for this portion of my speech. First
21 of all, I'll comment on the NRC's regulatory role,
22 then I'll provide the preliminary findings of our
23 environmental review, and then I will present the
24 current schedule for the remainder of the
25 environmental review, and tell you how you can submit

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1 comments outside of this meeting.

2 At the end of the presentation, there will
3 be time for questions and answers on the comments of
4 my briefing and, most importantly, time for you to
5 present your comments on the draft SEIS.

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

11

12 NRC license renewal reviews address safety
13 issues related to managing the affects of aging and
14 environmental issues related to an additional 20 years
15 of operation. In all aspects of the NRC regulation,
16 our mission is three-fold. To ensure adequate
17 protection of the public health and safety, to promote
18 common defense and security, and to protect the
19 environment.

20 Our environmental review looks at the
21 potential site-specific impacts of license renewal of
22 the LaSalle County Stations Units 1 and 2. A
23 generic environmental impact statement, or GEIS,
24 examines the possible environmental impacts that could
25 occur as a result of renewing licenses of individual

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1 nuclear power plants.

2 The GEIS describes the
3 significance of these potential impacts. The analysis
4 in the GEIS pertains to operating power reactors. For
5 each type or environmental impact, the GEIS
6 establishes generic findings, covering as many plants
7 as possible.

8 For some environmental issues, the GEIS
9 found that a generic evaluation was not sufficient,
10 and that a plant-specific analysis was required. The
11 2013 revision to the GEIS is sitting here on the
12 table; these three volumes. The GEIS was originally
13 done in 1996. It contains more information than
14 these three volumes, and there was an addendum in
15 1999.

16 This gives you an idea of the effort
17 that went in to looking at nuclear power plants
18 across the country, and determining which
19 impacts, environmental impacts, were generic, and
20 which require site-specific analysis.

21 The site-specific findings for the LaSalle
22 County Station are contained in the draft SEIS
23 published in February, 2016. This document contains
24 analyses of all possible site-specific issues, as well
25 as a review of issues covered by the GEIS, to

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1 determine whether the conclusions in the GEIS are valid
2 for LaSalle County Station.

3 In this process, the NRC staff also
4 reviews environmental impacts of potential power
5 generation alternatives to license renewal.

6 Finally, I want to mention that on
7 March 10th of last year, March 10th of last year,
8 I was here conducting the environmental scoping
9 meetings. During those meetings and the scoping
10 period, the NRC collected comments that informed
11 the scope of the environmental review. Those
12 comments, and the NRC responses to those comments,
13 are found in the scoping summary report.

14 Hard copies and CDs of the scoping summary
15 report are available on the table by the door. And
16 also, that same CD that has the scoping summary report
17 contains a copy of the draft SEIS. Please feel free
18 to take a copy of the CD.

19 For each environmental issue identified an
20 impact level is assigned. The NRC's standard of
21 significance for impacts was established using the
22 White House counsel on environmental quality
23 terminology for significant. The NRC established
24 three levels of significance for potential impacts,
25 small, moderate and large, as defined on the slide.

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1 For a small impact, the effects are not
2 detectible or are so minor that they will neither
3 destabilize nor noticeable alter any important
4 attribute of the resource. For a moderate impact, the
5 effects are sufficient to alter noticeably, but not
6 destabilize important attributes of the resource. And
7 for a large impact, the effects are clearly noticeable
8 and are sufficient to destabilize important
9 attributes of the resource.

10 While these impact level designations are
11 used for most of the resource areas that we looked at
12 in the draft SEIS, there are three areas that have
13 their own impact level designations. And these are
14 discussed on the next slide.

15 So for special status species, the impact
16 significance determination language comes from the
17 Endangered Species Act. And choices to describe the
18 impacts are no effect, may affect but not likely to
19 adversely affect, and may affect and is likely to
20 adversely affect.

21 For cultural and historic resources, the
22 National Historic Preservation Act requires Federal
23 agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings
24 on historic properties. And for environmental
25 justice, under Executive Order 12898, Federal agencies

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1 are responsible for identifying and addressing
2 disproportionately high and adverse human health and
3 environmental impacts on minority and low-income
4 populations.

5 This slide lists the issues the NRC
6 reviewed for the continued operation of the LaSalle
7 County Station during the proposed license renewal
8 period. So in this one slide, this is basically a
9 very quick summary of what you would find in that
10 larger document, the draft SEIS.

11 For all issues, except aquatic resources,
12 the impacts of license renewal were found to be small,
13 which means the effects are not detectible, or are so
14 minor that they will neither destabilize nor
15 noticeably alter any important attribute of the
16 resource.

17 Thermal impacts would be small for aquatic
18 resources in the Illinois River, and small for aquatic
19 resources in the cooling pond, except for gizzard and
20 threadfin shad. Gizzard and threadfin shad would
21 experience moderate thermal impacts in the cooling
22 pond.

23 The NRC staff also considered cumulative
24 impacts. Cumulative impacts are the effects on the
25 environment from other past, present and reasonably

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1 foreseeable future human actions, other than LaSalle
2 County Station. The effects not only included
3 operation of LaSalle County Station, but also impacts
4 unrelated to LaSalle, such as future urbanization,
5 other energy producing facilities in the area and
6 climate change.

7 The analysis considers potential impacts
8 through the end of the current license term, as well
9 as the 20-year license renewal term. The NRC staff
10 determined that most cumulative impacts would be
11 small, and the analysis is provided in section 4.16 of
12 the draft SEIS.

13 The National Environmental Policy Act
14 mandates that each environmental impact statement
15 consider alternatives to any proposed major Federal
16 action. A major step for determining whether license
17 renewal is reasonable or not is comparing the likely
18 impacts of continued operation of a nuclear plant with
19 the likely impacts of alternatives means of power
20 generation.

21 Alternatives must provide an option that
22 allows for power generation capability beyond the term
23 of the current nuclear power plant operating license
24 to meet future system generation needs. In the draft
25 SEIS, NRC staff initially considered 17 different

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1 alternatives, and then we narrowed those 17 down to
2 five, and looked at those five in detail.

3 Additionally, the NRC staff considered
4 what would happen if no action is taken and LaSalle
5 shuts down at the end of its current licenses without
6 a specific replacement alternative. This alternative
7 would not provide power generation capacity nor would
8 it meet the needs currently met by LaSalle.

9 The NRC's preliminary conclusion is that
10 the environmental impacts of renewal of the operating
11 licenses for LaSalle would be smaller than those
12 feasible and commercially viable alternatives.
13 Continued operation would have smaller environmental
14 impacts in almost all areas. The staff concluded that
15 continued operation of the existing LaSalle County
16 Station is the environmentally preferred alternative.

17
18 Based on review of likely environmental
19 impacts from license renewal, as well as potential
20 environmental impacts of alternatives to license
21 renewal, the NRC staff's preliminary recommendation in
22 the draft SEIS is that the adverse environmental
23 impacts of license renewal for LaSalle County Station
24 are not great enough to deny the option of license
25 renewal for energy planning decision makers. And that

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1 preliminary conclusion shows up several places in the
2 draft SEIS, but chapter five is the conclusion
3 chapter.

4 I would like to re-emphasize that the
5 environmental review is not yet complete. Your
6 comments tonight, and all written comments received by
7 the end of the comment period on April 4th, will be
8 considered by the NRC staff as we develop the final
9 SEIS, which we currently plan to issue in August of
10 2016.

11 Those comments that are within the scope
12 of the environmental review and provide new and
13 significant information can help change the staff's
14 findings. The final SEIS will contain the staff's
15 final recommendation on the acceptability of license
16 renewal based on the work we've already performed and
17 any new and significant information we receive in the
18 form of comments during the comment period. I just
19 want to emphasize that the comment period closes on
20 April 4th, the second to the last line here on this
21 slide.

22 As many of you know, I am the
23 primary contact for the environmental review,
24 and Jeff Mitchell is the primary contact for the
25 safety review, and our information is on the handouts
that I provided

1 you tonight, our contact information. Copies of the
2 draft SEIS are available on CD on the table near the
3 door. In addition, the library shown on this slide
4 has a copy available, current copy available for
5 review.

6 You can also find electronic copies of the
7 draft SEIS, along with other information about the
8 LaSalle County Station license renewal review online
9 at the website shown. And finally, additional
10 information can also be obtained by contacting the
11 representatives of NRC's Region III office of public
12 affairs, as shown on the slide.

13 NRC staff will address written comments in
14 the same way we address spoken comments received
15 today. You can submit written comments either online
16 or via conventional manner. To submit written
17 comments online, visit the website regulations.gov and
18 search for docket ID NRC-2014-0268. If you have
19 written comments today, you may give them to me or any
20 other member of the NRC staff.

21 Please note that if you provide verbal
22 comments tonight, you don't need to submit them in
23 writing since your verbal comments are part of the
24 transcribed record, and they will be responded to. So
25 this concludes my formal presentation.

1 So now we enter the question and answer
2 portion of our meeting. This portion is distinct
3 from the comment portion. I will now answer
4 questions specific to the material that I presented
5 here tonight. I'd like to begin with questions
6 those on the phone. Operator?

7 THE OPERATOR: Yes.

8 MR. DRUCKER: If there's anyone on the
9 phone that has questions about the material I
10 presented, can you please go ahead and let them ask
11 their questions one at a time, and I'll do my best to
12 answer them.

13 THE OPERATOR: Certainly. If you would
14 like to ask a question on the phone line, please press
15 *1 and record your name when prompted. Please make
16 sure your phone is not muted when you record your
17 name. Once again, that's *1 and record your name.
18 One moment for our first question. And no questions
19 have come in.

20 MR. DRUCKER: Okay Operator, thank you.
21 Most of the folks here in the room have been a part of
22 the license renewal process. They're familiar with
23 the scoping process we did last year. But I just want
24 to emphasize, for anyone who's listening, that you
25 know, this is not a hearing. This is a public

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1 meeting.

2 And the goal of this meeting is two-way
3 communication; for me to provide information about the
4 environmental impact statement that we've been working
5 on and have developed, and then to receive comment on
6 that document. So I am looking for questions on the
7 material I presented.

8 With that, I'm going to go to questions.
9 Does anyone have any questions about the material I
10 presented here in the room? If there are no
11 questions, I just want to --

12 MS. SNYDER: I have a question.

13 MR. DRUCKER: Gail, go ahead.

14 MS. SNYDER: My first question is you said
15 this is a public meeting. There's not really many
16 members of the public here, so I'm just wondering what
17 does the NRC do to promote this? I find it hard to
18 believe in an area where there's thousands of people
19 who could be impacted by this decision that nobody's
20 shown up, no elected officials, unless there's
21 something here I don't know about. I'm just
22 wondering, you know, why there's such a poor turnout.

23 MR. DRUCKER: Good question. Certainly,
24 certainly, let me answer that first; your first part
25 of the question was how do we advertise, basically,

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1 this public. This meeting is advertised through many
2 means. The first place that it's advertised is we put
3 out a Federal Register notice, the NRC does,
4 announcing the meeting.

5 And then the Environmental Protection
6 Agency, it publishes a Federal Register notice
7 that announces the release of the draft SEIS, and
8 then how to contact me if you're interested in
9 learning more about that. So there's two Federal
10 Register notices that go out.

11 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's
12 website also has actually several places where we talk
13 about the meeting. We have a public meeting web page
14 that speaks to all the meetings that we have. We have
15 a license renewal web page that talks about this
16 meeting. There's also the regular LaSalle operating
17 license web page, which also points to my license
18 renewal web page. So there's those web pages.

19 We also have advertisements in local
20 newspapers. I can get those for you if you're
21 interested. But we did advertise in the local
22 newspapers, announcing this meeting. I also reached
23 out to everyone who attended the scoping meetings last
24 year through e-mail and or letter.

25 I either sent them a hard copy of the

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1 draft SEIS, along with a copy of the Federal Register
2 notice, which provided the information on when and
3 where this meeting would be held. Either hard copy,
4 or I provided them a CD of the draft SEIS.

5 Off the top of my head, I actually used to
6 carry a list of all different ways that we advertised
7 the meetings; off the top of my head, that's how we do
8 it. There were e-mails, too. For example, e-mail
9 reminders I sent out to the EPA via Region V folks so
10 they may be on the phone tonight.

11 So those are the basic ways. If I missed
12 anything, and my boss is listening feel free to chime
13 in, Jim, and let me know what I missed. But those are
14 the major ways. Oh, another way; the fliers. I
15 asked the resident inspector to post fliers locally
16 around.

17 Good question and, yeah, sometimes we get
18 a big turnout at these meetings, and sometimes we
19 don't. Personally, I was at one down in Mississippi,
20 Grand Gulf. There were a few flakes of snow, and the
21 Governor basically told everyone to stay in. And I
22 flew own with my boss at the time, and we had no
23 trouble. There was no snow on the roads; didn't
24 understand what the problem was. But it was a local
25 thing.

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1 I was paying attention to the news this
2 morning, and I heard the terrible, terrible news of
3 what was going on in Belgium, but I doubt that that
4 somehow would impact people showing up here. I did
5 read the local paper to see there were a couple other
6 meetings.

7 There was a board of education meeting in
8 one of the schools, but I didn't think it would impact
9 attendance at this meeting. And I did work with the
10 folks at the plant, and I worked with our resident
11 inspector trying to pick a night that wasn't busy with
12 other activities. I do believe we have at least one
13 elected official here with us tonight. Mr. Walsh?

14 MR. WALSH: Yes, I'm a member of the
15 LaSalle County board.

16 MR. DRUCKER: OK, thanks.

17 MR. WALSH: Chair of legislative
18 rules.

19 MR. DRUCKER: Great.

20 MR. WALSH: County board member. MR.

21 DRUCKER: Good question. Any other
22 questions from folks in the room?

23 MS. SNYDER: I have more questions.

24 MR. DRUCKER: Please.

25 MS. SNYDER: Slide number 10, which is

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1 titled environmental review of LaSalle County Station
2 has the resources areas and the impacts listed. On
3 the bottom it says waste management, and the impact is
4 small. And I'm just wondering can you define what
5 waste management is in this?

6 MR. DRUCKER: Yes, that's a great
7 question. The answer to your question is contained
8 in the draft SEIS that we are discussing this
9 evening. And there's a section on waste
10 management. That section is located in Chapter 4.
11 Bear with me just for a moment, and I will flip to
12 it. It's section 4. --

13 MS. SNYDER: Does it refer to nuclear
14 waste, or is it waste from the plant, other than?

15 MR. DRUCKER: Section 4.13 of the draft
16 SEIS discusses, the spent fuel produced by the
17 plant, both onsite storage and offsite radiological
18 impacts. This section also discusses low level
19 waste storage and disposal, mixed waste storage, and
20 non-radioactive waste storage. So this is the
21 section that does cover the spent nuclear fuel.

22 So there's a total of five issues that
23 are looked at in this section. In a different
24 section, Section 4.15.1, that section discusses
25 issues related to the uranium fuel cycle. But spent

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1 is at the plant is talked about in Section 4.13.

2 MS. SNYDER: And when you say the impact
3 is small, do you mean that it's small in comparison to
4 what's already there, or that 20 years of additional
5 waste will have a small impact?

6 MR. DRUCKER: Yeah, this is, this section
7 is talking to 20 years of additional operation.

8 MS. SNYDER: The small impact.

9 MR. DRUCKER: Yes.

10 MS. SNYDER: I have another question.

11 MR. DRUCKER: Please.

12 MS. SNYDER: I don't want to hog the
13 questions. Slide number 12, alternatives; and you're
14 talking about citing alternatives and the criteria
15 required to replace the energy. If you nuclear plant
16 had shut down, you said something about what would
17 happen if the nuclear plant shut down, and you found
18 that there wouldn't be an alternative power source
19 that would replace that power.

20 And I was just wondering if you had, or
21 the committee had, whoever drafted this, whatever
22 group drafted it had looked at the report from the
23 State of Illinois? There were a number of agencies;
24 there was a bill, HR, a resolution, HR1146, which was
25 looking at nuclear power in the state.

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1 And state agencies drafted a report, and
2 they came out with the opposite finding of what you're
3 saying. So maybe we will e-mail that report to you.
4 I think that would be informative to what their
5 position is, is not the same as your conclusion.

6 MR. DRUCKER: OK, thank you.

7 MS. SNYDER: And that's a state study by
8 state agencies.

9 MR. DRUCKER: All right. I appreciate
10 that very much. Thanks, Gail. Okay, if there are no
11 other questions, then we're going to move right along
12 to the comment portion of tonight's meeting. And as
13 I stated at the beginning, primarily the NRC staff
14 will be listening, and we will respond to any comments
15 in written form in the final SEIS.

16 So let me go to the operator. India, is
17 there anyone on the phone that wants to provide a
18 comment?

19 THE OPERATOR: If you do have comments,
20 please press *1 and record your name when prompted.
21 Once again, that's *1 -- and no comments have come in
22 over the phone.

23 MR. DRUCKER: Thank you. Thank you, very
24 much.

25 THE OPERATOR: You're welcome.

1 MR. DRUCKER: Okay, I have yellow cards
2 from three, from four folks. I'll shuffle them and
3 pull them out randomly. I hope it does not
4 matter to any of you. I would appreciate, would the
5 speakers come up to the front here, and you can use
6 this microphone. Gail, are you available first?

7 MS. SNYDER: Sure.

8 MR. DRUCKER: And the next speaker will be
9 Doug O'Brien, so Doug if you want to prepare yourself
10 and move up to the front to save some time. In fact,
11 there's only four of you. It'll be Gail, Doug, Steve
12 and Tom.

13 MS. SNYDER: I don't know if this makes
14 your life easier.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Oh great, thank you.

16 MS. SNYDER: Good evening. My name is
17 Gail Snyder, and I'm here representing Nuclear Energy
18 Information Service. I serve as the president of the
19 board. Our comments tonight are really directed,
20 maybe, not specifically at environmental issues, but
21 the licensing renewal.

22 And one of our first comments is that the
23 analysis of socioeconomic impacts are incomplete. No
24 analysis of impacts for early or unexpected closures
25 were considered or provided. The Exelon safety

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1 evaluation report documents a significant tax impact
2 for the presence of the LaSalle County Station, yet
3 only addresses the positive impacts.

4 No mention or analysis of negative impacts
5 resulting from a abrupt planned or unexpected early
6 closure of LaSalle is presented. This is a
7 significant omission, particularly in light of Exelon
8 Corporation's threat of two years ago to close
9 reactors in Illinois on economic grounds.

10 According to the Exelon SER, LaSalle
11 represents a sizeable portion of the county total tax
12 base. It also accounts for large portions of the
13 school district's adjusted property tax levy. These
14 are not insignificant amounts. Their abrupt
15 disappearance would wreak economic havoc on the
16 affected governmental and essential service entities'
17 ability to operate, just as Exelon's predecessor,
18 ComEd, did to the community of Zion in 1997, when they
19 unilaterally closed the Zion reactors.

20 The SER either fails to recognize or
21 mention at all some of the possible events that could
22 result in such a closure situation, such as an
23 unexpected major accident resulting in immediate and,
24 presumably, premature closing, NRC-ordered shutdown,
25 Exelon unilateral decision to close the plant on

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1 economic or other grounds, as it did in Zion,
2 resulting in an immediate loss of about 55 percent of
3 Zion's tax base.

4 Devaluation through sale has occurred at
5 the Clinton Station, resulting in enormous loss of the
6 tax base, eventual old age, license expiration
7 closure, which is the outcome of -- and I would add,
8 in light of what's happening in Brussels today, and
9 the fact that they've shut down their nuclear reactors
10 and can't provide security, terrorism is also a
11 possible way that a nuclear reactor could shut down
12 unexpectedly.

13 Exelon's being a business will certainly
14 make the calculations it made when it closed Zion and
15 decided that LaSalle should continue to operate. In
16 this omission, the SER makes the same mistake the U.S.
17 Government made when it invaded Iraq. No exit
18 strategy. To simply assume that the only
19 socioeconomic effects of LaSalle's presence will be
20 positive ones is simply irrational.

21 Our recommendation: Planning for some
22 kind of eventual closure must be made long before it
23 happens to minimize economic and service disruptions
24 to the entities whose tax bases will be affected.
25 Debate about the license extension serves as a good

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1 reminder of this fact, and an opportunity to take
2 action.

3 We recommend that dependent government and
4 tax entities begin formal negotiations with Exelon to
5 establish an escrow of mitigation funds based on some
6 mutually agreeable assessment and payment structure so
7 that dependent entities will have some kind of
8 temporary funds available to soften the economic blow
9 or closure and not radically disrupt essential
10 services.

11 Our second comment, which is shorter, is
12 the inadequate attention paid to water availability at
13 the LaSalle Nuclear Power Plant under potential future
14 climate disruption conditions. Historically, LaSalle
15 Nuclear Power Plant has been one of the Illinois
16 reactor sites most sensitive to water availability
17 under severe drought conditions; for example, 1998,
18 2005, 2006.

19 It's siting on a portion of the Illinois
20 River network that is shallower than other parts has
21 brought the reactors close to mandatory shutdowns to
22 stay within EPA regulatory limits for thermal
23 pollution during extreme droughts on more than one
24 occasion over the past two decades.

25 Forecast for the future of Illinois's

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1 climate over the next few decades indicate it
2 approaching that of current day west Texas. This will
3 have severe impacts on the aquatic system in the area,
4 and on the availability of water for intake and
5 discharge at LaSalle.

6 A more thorough re-examination of
7 LaSalle's ability to safely operate, obtain sufficient
8 cooling water, and not thermally and radiologically
9 damage the local aquatic ecosystem is in order in this
10 re-licensing proceeding. Thank you.

11 MR. DRUCKER: The next speaker is Doug
12 O'Brien from the Illinois Clean Energy Coalition.

13 MR. O'BRIEN: Thank you. My name is Doug
14 O'Brien. I'm with the Illinois Clean Energy
15 Coalition, and this is another one in a long number of
16 these hearings or events that I've been to, talking
17 about a lot of the positive impacts that Illinois's
18 nuclear generating stations have had on the economy.

19
20 It's ironic that I'm following somebody
21 who came up and posited these impacts, these
22 beneficial impacts and somehow turned them into a
23 negative. And I think that it's also a little bit
24 insulting to the intelligence of local officials here
25 and around Illinois to assume that they don't have the

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1 sense to plan for the future. And I know that many
2 local governments do just that. They do it
3 vigilantly, and they do it effectively.

4 But I wanted to talk a little bit about
5 the environmental impacts, the positive environmental
6 impacts of the plant. As the initial NRC reports
7 shows, the overall impacts when it comes to energy
8 generation are positive. That the alternative sources
9 for energy generation in Illinois would create more
10 negative impacts environmentally, particularly in the
11 area of CO2 emissions, as it's critically important
12 that we always consider the beneficial impact of
13 Illinois's nuclear fleet on CO2 emissions here in
14 Illinois.

15 The Illinois Clean Energy Coalition's
16 study in 2014 showed that Illinois's nuclear fleet
17 prevents the emission of over 92 million tons of CO2
18 annually. Now this is a significant contributor to
19 global climate change, and something that we can do in
20 preserving and protecting our nuclear fleet that will
21 have a real, immediate, ongoing positive impact on our
22 environment.

23 Now, other sources of clean energy are
24 vital to our future, as well. But the simple truth is
25 we cannot quickly or easily replace nuclear generation

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1 with other clean sources. And a nuclear plant like
2 LaSalle would require, for example, thousands of new
3 wind turbines to replace its electricity generation.
4

5 And we still can't rely on wind 24/7, nor
6 on solar 24/7. And the process of siting these wind
7 farms, the capital and the permitting that is needed
8 to begin operating them is daunting. So losing any of
9 Illinois's nuclear plants would leave us with no
10 short-term alternative but to increase our use of
11 fossil fuels and move us in the wrong direction.

12 Additionally, I think it's important to
13 note that it's vital for the NRC and our national
14 government to continue to push forward with practical
15 waste storage solutions that will allow for the
16 continued safe and secure storage of spent fuel, while
17 we wait for the Federal government to put aside
18 politics and live up to the commitment it made years
19 ago to establish a nationwide solution for spent fuel
20 storage.

21 In the meantime, plants like LaSalle's
22 spent fuel is expertly handled, never having produced
23 any impact to the surrounding ecosystem. And while
24 the plants and the NRC have managed a laudable short-
25 term solution, we have to continue to push for the

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1 permanent solution promised by our government.

2 So I think, in conclusion, the Illinois
3 Clean Energy Coalition applauds the NRC and its
4 findings. We believe that it's accurate in showing
5 the LaSalle Station, like other stations across the
6 state, has a positive impact on the environment moving
7 forward here in Illinois. Thank you.

8 MR. DRUCKER: Steve Buck is next.

9 MR. BUCK: Good evening. I'm Steve Buck.
10 I'm an engineer at LaSalle Station. I just recently
11 started back in August. I am a resident of Ottawa,
12 Illinois, and I'm a former Eagle Scout, originally
13 from Crystal Lake, Illinois. So environmental
14 stewardship is something that is very much a part of
15 my character. It's something that I developed early
16 on in my youth, and I still continue it to this day as
17 an adult.

18 I'd like to share a couple key points of
19 how LaSalle Station is trying to be an environmental
20 steward itself through our activities to help conserve
21 the environment and leave the environment at least in
22 the best, the same condition, if not better condition
23 than we came in.

24 We had recently installed, last year, a
25 couple of charging stations for electrical vehicles.

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1 So there's four charging ports available, which saved
2 about 1,300 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions for any
3 of our workers who chose to use their electric
4 vehicles instead of a carbon-producing combustion
5 engine vehicle.

6 We have an annual station earth day
7 activity every year. Some of those include electronic
8 waste recycling programs where we collect electronic
9 waste. And we typically give out green gifts to those
10 who participate to bring in their electronics for
11 recycling as a thank you for looking out for that so
12 that we don't throw electronics just simply into
13 landfills.

14 There's been a big push for LED lighting
15 upgrades, both inside the plant and outside, most
16 noticeably in the parking lot. The LED lights were
17 replaced. They should last about seven to 10 years
18 out in the conditions outside in the parking lot.
19 And we're noticing that there's reduced electricity
20 usage for those, longer life span, and we've been
21 doing studies at other places inside the plant where
22 we can utilize LED lighting.

23 We are members of the Wildlife Habitat
24 Council certification. We have achieved
25 re-certification last year for our efforts. We have

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1 many projects around the site, such as bat boxes, Uber
2 boxes, and activities with the fish hatchery in the
3 lake.

4 Our North American Young Generation
5 Nuclear, it's a youth group primarily of those who are
6 new to the nuclear industry, which I am a site
7 director at LaSalle Station; we have an
8 adopt-a-highway program for about a two-mile stretch
9 near the facility. And during the summer months, the
10 warmer months, we do a highway clean-up where we go
11 both sides of the highway, and just pick up any trash,
12 litter that might be on the side of the road.

13 We have a Gabby Green educational program
14 that goes out to our elementary schools. We discuss
15 energy conservation, resource conservation. We talk
16 about limited use of our water in certain situations,
17 turning the lights off when we go to the rooms. Some
18 very simple concepts for young children to understand
19 so that they can be environmental conscious starting
20 at a young age.

21 We are starting to develop a program with
22 Boy Scouts of America. As I said, I'm a Boy Scout,
23 and this is something that's just starting to develop
24 in the last month. Developing programs with the Boy
25 Scouts to help encourage them with their environmental

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1 practices, some of their merit badges and their rank
2 advancements and helping them live up to that
3 environmental stewardship themselves.

4 We also are firm supporters of the Who
5 Haven, which is wildlife rehabilitation center,
6 primarily for birds of prey, where we collect food for
7 those animals and also participate in bird releases,
8 releasing them back into the environment.

9 MR. DRUCKER: Thanks. The final speaker
10 from the cards, where's Tom, Tom Jackson?

11 MR. JACKSON: Good evening. My name's Tom
12 Jackson. I'm site superintendent at Illini State
13 Park, Marseilles fish and wildlife area in LaSalle.
14 I work for the Department of Natural Resources, and
15 the IDNR currently has a lease through 2025 with
16 Exelon to manage the wildlife area and the fishing
17 opportunities.

18 LaSalle Lake is a fish and wildlife area,
19 along with a public fishing area. We're open to the
20 public from March 15th to October 15th every year for
21 fishing, providing many varieties of fish species,
22 including hybrid striped bass, large and small mouth
23 bass, crappie, blue gill and catfish.

24 In the months from October 15th through
25 March 15th of every year, the site is closed to the

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1 public, and provides a wildlife area for waterfowl
2 migrating through the area. IDNR works closely with
3 Exelon to provide a great recreational opportunity to
4 local resident and visitors from throughout the state
5 and even surrounding states.

6 LaSalle Lake provides good wildlife
7 habitat for the waterfowl, as mentioned before, and
8 provides good fishing and outdoor recreation for the
9 community. It also provides good economic benefits,
10 visitors to the area.

11 In my time as site superintendent, Exelon
12 management has made themselves available and
13 supportive in our efforts to provide site visitors
14 with access to the lake, and a rewarding experience
15 while visiting the site. I thank you for the
16 opportunity to speak on behalf of LaSalle Lake fish
17 and wildlife area and the Department of Nature
18 Resources.

19 MR. DRUCKER: Okay, if there's no one else
20 here or on the phone who has comments, and there
21 doesn't appear to be, I want to thank everyone who
22 provided --

23 MS. BOUDART: I have a comment.

24 MR. DRUCKER: Oh.

25 MS. BOUDART: May I make a comment?

1 MR. DRUCKER: Absolutely.

2 MS. BOUDART: Okay.

3 MR. DRUCKER: Is it easier for me to bring
4 you the microphone there?

5 MS. BOUDART: Well, if you can so I think
6 I can speak loud enough. The person who spoke first,
7 who are you? Either the purple shirt or the white
8 striped shirt. Anyway, let me see --

9 MR. DRUCKER: Can you tell us your name.

10 MS. BOUDART: Oh yeah, my name is Jan
11 Boudart, and I'm with the Nuclear Energy Information
12 Service, and somebody, I guess I didn't get, yeah, I
13 asked, Doug O'Brien, the Clean Energy Coalition. Is
14 that you?

15 Well, I was very interested in the fact
16 that you said that until our government keeps its
17 promise to take care of the high level nuclear waste,
18 it's being handled very efficiently and not being
19 allowed to harm anyone. And, in fact, your statement
20 was never having produced any impact from the high
21 level nuclear waste.

22 And I think this is something that, rather
23 than say that I, well, I personally don't believe
24 that, but I can't prove that it's wrong. Also, you
25 can't prove that it's right.

1 Recently, the Nuclear Regulatory
2 Commission decided not to conduct health studies of
3 the impacts of the power plants around the United
4 States. And without those studies, you can't say that
5 there is no impact, and you cannot say that there is
6 an impact because there is no study.

7 So to come up with the statement that this
8 activity of taking care of the high level nuclear
9 waste never produced any impact is a statement that is
10 not supported. If I were to say well, I know it has
11 produced an impact, that would also be an unsupported
12 statement. There has been no study to find out
13 whether or not there is an impact. And I think that
14 kind of a positive statement really exposes the feet
15 of clay.

16 MR. DRUCKER: Thank you, and I'm going to
17 ask you could just fill out a card for me, just with
18 your name and e-mail address. All right, thank you
19 all. Do we have any other comments from anyone on the
20 phone?

21 THE OPERATOR: If you would like to have
22 a comment or question, please press *1 and record your
23 name when prompted. Thank you. No questions or
24 comments have come in.

25 MR. DRUCKER: Okay, thank you. Thanks to

1 everyone who provided comments during this meeting,
2 because that information exchange is what this
3 meeting's all about. Also, thanks to all of you for
4 giving the speakers your time and attention.

5 And I want to thank Connie Brooks who's
6 actually across the hallway there and Fred Moore who
7 work here for the use of LaSalle County emergency
8 operations center. And finally on the table, if you
9 want to, please pick up a meeting feedback form if you
10 haven't already, and either return it to me or any
11 other staff member. Feel free to mail it in. And
12 with that, this meeting is concluded.

13 I'm going to stick around. If anyone had
14 any questions and wants to talk to me one-on-one, I'm
15 happy to stick around and do that. So thank you all,
16 again, for coming out tonight.

17 THE OPERATOR: This concludes your
18 conference, and you may disconnect. Once again, your
19 conference has ended, and you may disconnect.

20 (Whereupon, at 8:00 p.m., the above-
21 mentioned public hearing was concluded.)
22
23
24
25