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Title: Public Scoping Meeting for Waterford
Steam Electric Station, Unit 2

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3

+ + + + +

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

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Auditorium

St. Charles Parish Emergency Operation Center

15026 River Road

Hahnville, Louisiana

+ + + + +

7:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

GENE CARPENTER, Moderator

PHYLLIS CLARK

ELAINE KEEGAN

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. CARPENTER: Good evening. It's the
3 appointed time, so we'll go ahead and get started.
4 I'm Gene Carpenter; I'm with the US Nuclear Regulatory
5 Commission. I am the meeting facilitator for this
6 evening.

7 With me today we have two my colleagues
8 from the NRC: Phyllis Clark, who is the safety review
9 project manager; and Elaine Keegan, who's the
10 environmental review project manager.

11 Today's meeting is for the licensee
12 renewal application, for the environmental review
13 scoping meeting for the Waterford steam generator --
14 steam electric station license renewal.

15 For the purpose of this meeting -- this is
16 a public meeting -- we are here to give you a
17 presentation as to just what will be going on for the
18 scoping of the license renewal application. Elaine
19 and Phyllis will do that. And then we will turn it
20 open to the public. This is Class 3 public meeting,
21 which means that we are here to get your comments.

22 Now, I do have a sign-up sheet for those
23 of you who wish to do comments, although you don't
24 have to sign up for it. Those who do sign up, I will
25 take you first, and then anybody else who wishes to

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1 make comments, we will then ask for members of the
2 public to raise their hand and then come to the
3 microphone.

4 We do have a microphone here. The meeting
5 is being transcribed, so we will be able to capture
6 all of your comments for this.

7 Elaine and Phyllis will of course give you
8 an address that you could send your comments if you
9 don't wish to give them today, so that we can get that
10 from you at that point.

11 For the administrivia portion of this,
12 anyone who needs to, there are restrooms out the door
13 and to the back. If for any reason this facility
14 needs to actually operate or there is an emergency,
15 the gentleman all the way in the back in the green
16 shirt, he gets it. He is the one who is responsible,
17 and we defer directly to him, and the meeting stops.

18 So at this time, Elaine? Are you ready?

19 MS. KEEGAN: Okay.

20 MR. CARPENTER: I'm turning it over to
21 Elaine. Thank you.

22 MS. KEEGAN: Okay. I admit to being
23 technologically challenged.

24 As Gene said, my name's Elaine Keegan.
25 I'm the environment project reviewer -- or project

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1 manager for the Waterford 3 license renewal, and I'll
2 give you a brief rundown of the process for a license
3 renewal from safety and environmental.

4 NRC's a federal agency that regulates the
5 civilian use of nuclear material. The Atomic Energy
6 Act authorized the NRC to grant license for 40 years.
7 The 40-year term is not based on safety or economic;
8 it was based on -- no, let me restart this.

9 The 40-year term was based primarily on
10 economic considerations and antitrust factors, not on
11 safety and technical limitations. The Atomic Energy
12 Act also allows for license renewal for an additional
13 20 years or more.

14 NRC's mission is to ensure adequate
15 protection of public health and safety, promote the
16 common defense and security, and to protect the
17 environment.

18 Waterford 3 -- these dates, you know them
19 probably better than I will. Application was
20 submitted in March of 2016, included an environmental
21 report with the application.

22 License renewal process has two parallel
23 paths: the environmental review and the safety
24 review. Hearings may conducted if interested
25 stakeholders submit contentions and request a hearing

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1 and it's been accepted.

2 The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board,
3 which is an adjudicatory panel, will conduct the
4 hearings. The Commission considers the outcome of the
5 hearing process in its decision on whether or not to
6 issue a renewed operating license.

7 Phyllis will describe the safety side of
8 the review later.

9 The environmental review is performed in
10 accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act
11 of 1969, or NEPA. NEPA establishes the national
12 policy for considering environmental impacts and
13 provides the basic architecture for federal
14 environmental reviews. All federal agencies must
15 follow a systematic approach in evaluating potential
16 impacts and must also assess alternatives to the
17 action.

18 The NEPA process involves public
19 participation and public disclosure. The two primary
20 parts of the process designed to obtain public
21 participation are the scoping process and when we
22 issue the draft supplemental environmental impact
23 statement.

24 We have public meetings near the plant so
25 that the people can provide the comments during the

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1 scoping meeting and after the draft has been -- draft
2 EIS has been published. This slide shows the types of
3 areas that are reviewed, and our review will be
4 documented in the supplemental environmental impact
5 statement.

6 Our review may also consider mitigation
7 for those impacts considered significant. We also
8 consider the impacts of alternatives to license
9 renewal, including the impacts of not issuing a
10 renewed license. We document our review in the
11 environmental impact statement, which will be publicly
12 available.

13 In conducting our environmental review, we
14 consult with various federal, state, local officials,
15 as well as tribal leaders and gather pertinent
16 information from these sources to ensure it is
17 considered for our analysis.

18 Examples are National Oceanic and
19 Atmospheric Administration, Fish & Wildlife, state
20 department of public health, National Marine Fisheries
21 Service, and the state historic preservation officer.
22 We've also sent letters out to local tribal leaders.

23 Ultimately the purpose of the
24 environmental review is to determine whether the
25 environmental impacts of license renewal are

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1 reasonable and, in combination with safety review and
2 inspections, to make a recommendation to the
3 Commission whether to renew the license or not.

4 And now it's Phyllis's turn.

5 MS. CLARK: Good evening. I'm Phyllis
6 Clark, a safety project manager for the Waterford 3
7 license renewal application. I'm going to go over the
8 licensing renewal safety process very briefly.

9 To better understand the licensing renewal
10 process, it's good to know the safety principles that
11 guide license renewal. The first principle is that
12 the current regulatory process is adequate, and the
13 interrelationship between our regulations and
14 licensing and oversight activities provide for
15 adequate protection of the public health and safety at
16 any point during the plant life.

17 The second licensing renewal principle
18 describes mainly the current licensing basis for the
19 plant, operating experience, research results, and
20 other information that supports our decision making
21 also feed into the aging management program.

22 This information is also used in our
23 licensing activities as a basis for the changes of the
24 regulations and guidance.

25 As a consequence of applicants receiving

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1 the renewal license, the aging management program is
2 necessary to ensure continuous safe operation of the
3 passive long-lived structures and components are added
4 to the existing plant licensing basis.

5 Next I'll go through this flow chart for
6 the actual safety review. The flow chart highlights
7 the licensing renewal safety review. The safety
8 review is performed under the regulation of 10 CFR
9 54 -- Part 54.

10 The focus of the safety review stems from
11 the NRC application under the Atomic Energy Act of
12 1954. The purpose of the review is to make sure and
13 verify that each applicant has fully analyzed the
14 management of the aging effects in sufficient detail
15 to conclude that the plant can be operated safely
16 during the period of extended operation.

17 The license renewal application must
18 contain technical information and evaluations about
19 the different types of plant aging that might be
20 encountered in specific plants and how the licensing
21 may manage or mitigate those aging effects.

22 This information must be sufficiently
23 detailed to permit the NRC staff to determine whether
24 effects of aging are well managed, such that the plant
25 can operate during the extended period of operation

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1 without undue risk of health and safety to the public.

2 After completing the evaluation, the
3 staff's review is documented in the safety evaluation
4 report, which is -- the acronym is SER -- in addition,
5 a regional inspection report and also regional
6 administrator's recommendations of their issue to
7 document the results of the inspections conducted and
8 the overall regional oversight performed.

9 One of these considerations is independent
10 review performed by the Advisory Committee on Reactor
11 Safeguards, commonly referred to as ACRS. This is
12 mandated by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. The ACRS
13 is a group of scientists and nuclear safety experts
14 who serve as a consulting body to the Commission.

15 The ACRS reviews a renewal application,
16 the NRC staff's evaluation, which would be the SER,
17 and inspection findings. The ACRS reports their
18 findings and recommendations directly to the
19 Commission.

20 Subsequently the results of evaluation are
21 reviewed by the ACRS and, based on the review of the
22 information presented, the ACRS makes a decision to
23 issue a recommendation letter to grant the renewed
24 license, which is something that we -- well, Waterford
25 would like.

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1 The step is very valuable since it
2 provides an independent third-party assessment of the
3 review performed. The dotted line on the flow chart
4 depicts that the hearings may be conducted if
5 interested stakeholders submit concerns or
6 contingencies and their request for the hearing is
7 granted.

8 The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board --
9 and this is an adjudicatory panel -- will conduct the
10 hearings. The Commission considers the outcome of the
11 hearing process in its decision on whether or not to
12 issue the renewed operating license.

13 Next we have the agency's decision, and
14 we'll discuss the Commission's consideration. In
15 summary, before deciding to issue the renewed
16 operating license, the Commission considers various
17 factors: the staff's safety review, which is
18 documented in the SER, safety evaluation report; the
19 staff's environmental review, which will be conducted
20 under Elaine Keegan's direction, which involved
21 preparation of the environmental impact statement; NRC
22 inspection findings and conclusions; the
23 recommendations of the ACRS and, if a hearing is
24 conducted, the outcome of the process is considered as
25 well.

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1 Now, this completes the presentation of
2 the licensing aspect of it, and I'll turn it back over
3 to Elaine to inform you how to actually look at the
4 reviews, SER.

5 MS. KEEGAN: Okay. Based on this slide
6 you can tell we're usually geared more for members of
7 the public than for the licensees. The website for
8 the Waterford license renewal is there. It contains
9 links to the licensing application, the environmental
10 report, the most up-to-date schedule.

11 It also includes who -- Phyllis's name, my
12 name, and the division of operating reactor licensing
13 PM also.

14 If you want to get on the LISTSERV for
15 Waterford so that you get all the correspondence,
16 that's -- go to the Waterford LISTSERV and you'll get
17 all their correspondence.

18 These are the milestones that have been
19 established. We're at the June 8, obviously. The
20 draft supplemental environmental impact statement is
21 scheduled to be published in May of 2017. Safety
22 evaluation report will be available in June of 2017,
23 with a final EIS and the final SER in January of 2018.

24 This is contact information for Phyllis
25 and myself. Feel free to contact us.

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1 If you want to submit comments after the
2 meeting, by mail it's to the Chief of the Rules,
3 Announcement, and Directives Branch. You can go to
4 regulations.gov, use docket ID NRC-2016-0078. In the
5 handouts it was 0079; -78 is correct.

6 Comments on the scoping for the
7 environmental review are due August 1. And that's all
8 I have. This has been the scariest meeting I've been
9 at since y'all are on our side, I guess. I've not
10 faced a friendly audience before.

11 Does anybody have questions about the
12 licensing process?

13 (No response.)

14 MS. KEEGAN: Anybody want to speak?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. KEEGAN: This is almost a record for
17 getting through.

18 No questions?

19 (No response.)

20 MS. KEEGAN: Come on. It wasn't that
21 good.

22 MR. CARPENTER: Any comments, anything?
23 You don't have to speak. We get paid whether you do
24 or not.

25 (No response.)

1 MS. KEEGAN: Well, that's it. It's all
2 yours.

3 MR. CARPENTER: So Elaine and Phyllis have
4 given you a very high-level overview of the process as
5 we go through in the NRC to review the applicant's
6 application for license renewal.

7 Again, at this time we're taking any
8 questions, any comments that you have on this; either
9 specifically questions regarding the environmental
10 impact and how we do that; how we do a license renewal
11 application. What is the NRC? Entirely up to you
12 guys.

13 (No response.)

14 MS. KEEGAN: (away from microphone)

15 MR. CARPENTER: No? Okay. Since those of
16 you in the audience heard what Phyllis was saying but
17 our court reporter could not, she'll be here again
18 next week, and if you have any further questions, you
19 can ask her in person at that time.

20 Again, you can submit comments after the
21 meeting, as we have up on the screen, or you can
22 contact either Phyllis or Elaine directly with
23 questions or comments, and their contact information
24 is available in the handout.

25 Going once? Twice?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. CARPENTER: Thank you very much. We
3 appreciate your participation. Have a very good
4 evening.

5 (Whereupon, at 7:19 p.m., the public
6 meeting was concluded.)

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