

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**Transcript has been edited to correct grammatical errors.
Areas edited are identified with [Square brackets]**

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to Environmental Justice: Evening Session

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS AGENCY APPROACH

TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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THURSDAY,

JULY 15, 2021

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The Public Meeting was convened via Teleconference, at 8:00 p.m. EDT, Lance Rakovan, Facilitator, presiding.

NRC STAFF PRESENT:

ALLEN FETTER, Project Manager, Environmental Justice

Review Team

DAVID MCINTYRE, Office of Public Affairs

LANCE RAKOVAN, NRC Facilitators Corps

GREGORY SUBER, Director, Environmental Justice

Review Team

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P R O C E E D I N G S

8:01 p.m.

MR. RAKOVAN: Good evening, everyone.

My name is Lance Rakovan, and I'm a member of the NRC's facilitator corps. It's my pleasure to facilitate this evening's meeting.

The purpose of this comment-gathering meeting, held by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC, is to describe the staff's efforts in assessing environmental justice, or EJ, in NRC's programs, policies, and activities, as directed by the Commission in a Staff Requirements Memo. And the Accession No. for that, in case you speak ADAMS, is ML21113A070.

I understand that there may have been some confusion involving the team plank, and we apologize for any confusion that may have caused.

We appreciate your attendance at this meeting. We're early in our review process and your input is important to the NRC's assessment of environmental justice. Your comments will be carefully considered and will help shape our efforts.

This is a comment-gathering meeting by the NRC's definition. This means the primary purpose of this meeting is to receive comments from members of the public and other stakeholders. NRC staff will also

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answer process-related questions, as time permits.

I'd like to note that the NRC is continuing to operate in a largely work-at-home status at this time. So, most of NRC's participants in this meeting are working remotely and calling in individually. We recognize that this configuration presents unique challenges and continue to welcome comments about what is and isn't working with this meeting format. The meeting format form is located at the NRC's recently held public meetings web page for this meeting's announcement. Your input helps us improve future NRC public meetings.

Slide 3, please.

Our agenda for this meeting is fairly straight[-]forward. After a brief presentation by the NRC to provide some information about the NRC's environmental justice efforts, the public will be offered an opportunity to provide comments to and ask questions of the NRC staff.

This meeting is scheduled from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Eastern Time. We will try to allow for as much public input as possible, but we will generally try to adhere to that meeting schedule.

Today's call is meant to be an exchange of information and, as always with NRC public meetings,

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no regulatory decisions will be made.

Slide 4, please.

Here's the logistical information for today's meeting. Please log into both the Teams and the bridge line, the toll-free phone line. The audio will only be through the bridge line. This arrangement allows us to minimize our bandwidth to have a more stable meeting platform and help conduct the meeting's question-and-answer and comment sessions.

If you are not on Teams and would like to view the presentation slides, they are in NRC's ADAMS document database. The Accession No. for the package containing today's slides is ML21193A295. Again, that's ML21193A295. The easier way to get to the presentation slides is on the public meeting announcement page for this meeting on the NRC's website.

Today's call is on an operator-moderated line where participants will have their lines muted until we reach the portion of the meeting where they can provide comments or ask questions. You will be given instructions on how to provide oral comments and ask questions before the public comment session of this meeting.

As indicated in the agenda, we have

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allotted a substantial portion of this meeting for that particular process. However, if participants would like to email questions to our Public Affairs Officer during the staff presentation, you can send an email to David McIntyre, and the email address is dtm@nrc.gov. That's dtm@nrc.gov.

Today's call is being recorded and will be transcribed. The transcription will be made available along with a published meeting summary.

Given the number of participants we expect on the call and the format, we ask that each time a person speaks they, first, introduce themselves. I also ask that speakers limit their use of acronyms, and we'll try to do the same.

For members of the public, if you would like to have your participation reflected on a sign-in sheet, please email Ed Miller. That's ed.miller@nrc.gov.

Slide 5, please.

This slide contains speakers for this evening's meeting as well as our previous meeting this afternoon. Tonight our speakers will be Gregory Suber, who is the Director of the Environmental Justice Review Team, who will be giving some opening remarks; followed by Allen Fetter, the Environmental Justice

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Review Team's Project Manager.

With that, I'll go ahead and turn things over to Greg for some opening remarks.

MR. SUBER: Thank you, Lance.

Good evening and welcome to today's meeting on NRC's review of how it addresses environmental justice in its programs, policies, and activities.

As Lance mentioned, I'm Gregory Suber, the Director of the Environmental Justice Review Team, and will be walking through the next few slides.

As noted on slide 5, the Environmental Justice Review Team is composed of staff from across the Agency, representing a broad range of disciplines.

For example, our team includes environmental scientists, staff from the Office of Small Business and Civil rights, state and tribal liaisons, health physicists, attorneys, and project managers.

Next slide, please.

The purpose of this meeting is to describe NRC's efforts in assessing environmental justice, as directed by the Commission in an April 23rd, 2020 Staff Requirements Memorandum, which we will discuss in more detail in a few minutes.

In addition, we are here to receive your

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comments. As Lance mentioned, your comments are critical to our review and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Next slide.

In response to the direction from the NRC's Commission, the multidisciplinary Environmental Justice Review Team is conducting a systematic review of how the Agency's programs, policies, and activities address environmental justice. As part of this review, the team will not be examining ongoing licensing actions. Specific licensing and regulatory matters will continue to be addressed through NRC's normal process.

Soliciting feedback is an important part of this review and a key component of today's meeting.

We appreciate that there may be interests that extend beyond the stated scope of this meeting. However, we would like to focus our discussion on comments and questions related to this meeting. For example, what should the NRC consider in this review of environmental justice? Are there areas that could be enhanced? And what are we currently doing well? So, we thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to keep this meeting focused.

Next slide, please.

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A key question to help us frame today's discussion is, what is environmental justice? Environmental justice refers to the federal policy established in 1994 by Executive Order 12898. This Executive Order directed federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

As an independent agency, the NRC was requested, rather than directed, to comply with the Executive Order. This Executive Order did not create new authority for federal agencies. Accordingly, the NRC looked to how it fit into its existing authorities at the time. The NRC does not site, own, or manage nuclear facilities or properties. Rather, its mission is to license and regulate the nation's civilian use of radioactive materials in accordance with its statutory authority. As part of its licensing and regulatory activities, the NRC conducts safety, security, and environmental reviews.

After Executive Order 12898 was issued, the NRC incorporated environmental justice into its reviews. The NRC Chairman at that time determined that the NRC would try to carry out the goals of this

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Executive Order through its licensing process; in particular, its reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

Next slide, please.

In 2004, the Commission issued a Policy Statement on environmental justice. That Policy Statement serves as the NRC's current policy in addressing environmental justice in NRC's licensing and regulatory activities.

Consistent with the Chairman's 1994 determination that we just discussed, the 2004 policy explains that an environmental justice assessment is conducted through NRC's NEPA process. For example, when the NRC is reviewing a license application for a new reactor, a reactor license renewal, or a fuel facility, which are major federal actions under NEPA, it will consider environmental justice in its reviews.

The Policy Statement focuses on that environmental justice reviews should be on identifying and weighing disproportionately high and adverse environmental impacts on environmental justice communities that may be different from the impacts on the general population. The Policy Statement also notes that, consistent with NEPA, it is not a broad-ranging or even limited review of racial or

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economic discrimination.

In addition, the policy states that, in conducting environmental justice reviews, staff will publish demographic data, community interviews, and public input through well-noticed public scoping meetings to help identify environmental justice communities that may be the subject of adverse impacts.

Next slide, please.

With regard to the staff's current assessment, the Commission directed the staff to consider a number of areas, including whether the 2004 Policy Statement we just discussed is adequate. The Commission also directed the staff to consider recent Executive Orders, practices of other federal and state agencies and tribal governments, as well as potential formal mechanisms to gather external input.

As part of this review, the Commission directed the staff to engage others representing a broad range of perspectives and to leverage institutional knowledge and use transformation initiatives where practical.

To help inform this review, we developed a number of questions to solicit your views. Allen Fetter, the Team's Lead Project Manager, will walk us through those questions before we open the meeting up

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for your comments.

Allen?

MR. FETTER: Thank you, Gregory.

Again, I'm Allen Fetter, the Project Manager for this effort.

And next slide, please.

The following questions excerpted from The Federal Register notice will help inform the NRC staff's environmental justice review.

Next slide, please.

"What is your understanding of what is meant by environmental justice at the NRC?"

Next slide.

When the NRC is conducting licensing and other regulatory reviews, the Agency uses a variety of ways to gather information from stakeholders and interested persons on environmental impacts of the proposed action.

"How could the NRC expand how it engages and gathers input?"

"What formal tools might there be to enhance information gathering from stakeholders and interested persons in NRC's programs, policies, and activities?"

"Can you describe any challenges that may

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reduce your ability to engage with the NRC on environmental justice issues?"

Next slide.

"How could the NRC enhance opportunities for members of environmental justice communities to participate in licensing and regulatory activities?"

"What ways could the NRC enhance identification of environmental justice communities?"

"What has the NRC historically done well, or currently does well, that we could do more of or expand with respect to environmental justice, including engagement efforts?"

"In your view, what portions of the 2004 Policy Statement are effective?"

Next slide.

"What actions could the NRC take to enhance consideration of environmental justice at the NRC, considering the Agency's mission and statutory authority?"

"Would you recommend that NRC consider any particular organization's environmental justice program(s) in its assessment?"

"Looking to other federal, state, and tribal environmental justice programs, what actions could the NRC take to enhance consideration of

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environmental justice?"

"Considering recent Executive Orders on environmental justice, what actions could the NRC take to enhance consideration of environmental justice?"

"Are there opportunities to expand consideration of environmental justice at the NRC, considering the Agency's mission? If so, what are they?"

Next slide, please.

This slide shows how you may provide comments and the timeline for our review. This first number, a toll-free number is being set up for those who want to use it and will be provided for those who ask for it. And it's expected by the end of next week.

There's also email, mail, and a federal rulemaking website that's listed in The Federal Register notice. And we also plan to have additional public meetings and interaction during the comment period.

Please submit your comments by August 23rd, 2021. And in January 2022, the staff will provide results of its review to the Commission.

Next slide.

I'll now turn it back over to Lance.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you very much, Greg

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and Allen.

We wanted to keep things brief, so we could get to the public comment-and-question portion of this meeting.

Dexter, if you could go over to folks to let them know how they can get your attention again, and start a queue for making comments or asking questions.

OPERATOR: Thank you.

If you'd like to make a comment or ask a question, please press *1, unmute your phone, state your name and affiliation for a comment or a question introduction. If you'd like to retract your question, please *2. Again, if you'd like to make a public comment or ask a question, please press *1, unmute your phone, state your name and affiliation for question/comment introduction.

One moment.

MR. RAKOVAN: And while he's doing that, I'll remind people that we would like to make sure that we can get through as many people as possible tonight.

So, if you could limit your time to three to five minutes for your comments or your question. If we have additional time, we'll loop back around and you can get back into the queue again.

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I'd also like to check in with Dave McIntyre to see if he received any questions through email.

Dave, are you with us? Can you let us know if you received any questions through email at this point?

MR. MCINTYRE: Hi, Lance. I am here, but
I have received no emails.

OPERATOR: Currently, I have no questions on the phone, either.

MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. Why don't we try one thing? Ed, if you could back the slides up a little bit, maybe we could bring up one of the slides that has some of the questions, just to kind of get people thinking about it. And I can go through the questions again, just to see if we can facilitate any comments.

No, you had them up there a second ago. And now, they're gone. I'll go ahead and go through some of the questions that we were asking.

"How could the NRC expand how it engages and gathers input in regards to environmental justice?"

"What formal tools might there be to enhance information gathering from stakeholders and interested persons in the NRC's programs, policies, and activities?"

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"Can you describe any challenges that may reduce your ability to engage with the NRC on environmental justice issues?"

We do have one question on the chat. "Have any of the other public meeting dates been set?"

Greg, do you want to take this one?

MR. SUBER: Sure, Lance. You can hear me, right?

MR. RAKOVAN: We can.

MR. SUBER: Okay. Great.

Yes. So, no, we haven't pinned down any particular date for our next public meeting or rounds of public meetings, but we intend to continue this comment-gathering period until sometime in September.

So, when we do get our dates, we'll do something -- some of this is what we did previously -- post them, most definitely, on the NRC external website for public meeting notices, and reach out through all the instruments that we use, the EPA listserv, so on and so forth, to make sure that those meetings are well-publicized.

MR. RAKOVAN: All right. Very good.

Dexter, do we have anyone in the queue?

OPERATOR: We do have a comment or question from Priscilla Preston.

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Priscilla, your line is open.

MS. PRESTON: Okay. Thank you.

Will the EPA report feed into the Draft EIS for the Westinghouse license, or for any facility being approved, the licensing?

MR. SUBER: Okay. So, thanks for that question.

These are two independent efforts. So, in my slide presentation, I mentioned that we will not have, that this particular effort is not related to any licensing actions that we're currently undergoing.

Having said that, we are still soliciting input from people who are impacted by the Westinghouse facility, people who are impacted by any facility with respect to how well you think we're conducting our activities now.

And if there are things that we are doing that you would like us to do or, importantly, things that we are not doing that you think we need to do more of to make sure we get the information that we need from the public -- so, if you participated in any of the meetings regarding Westinghouse and you observed that there are some things that we could do better, we would at that point like to hear about this. But this particular report is independent of the licensing

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action.

MS. PRESTON: Okay. EJ considerations will not be a part of the EIS, is that right?

MR. SUBER: So, it's not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is that our initiative is a general or generic initiative. So, we're looking at the entire country. We're looking at every place where we conduct our licensing and regulatory activities where there's an EJ community and saying, hey, how can we be more responsive to the environmental justice community? What types of things would you like to see us do? What type of actions? How can we better communicate with you? What does effective engagement mean to you? You know, explain to us what it means for engagement. Is it the outcome? Is it more conversations? When you think of better engagement, more meaningful engagement, what does that mean to you just in general? Because this particular activity does not directly feed into any specific licensing action.

MS. PRESTON: Okay. So, licensing is the main thing that you're involved with. I mean, how is this going to help anything to give you our comments?

MR. SUBER: It will help us improve our process, and that's what we're looking to do. So, the opposite might occur, right? As we get your comments

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and receive your comments, and evaluate your comments, we can feed that information back to everyone else at the Agency and say, hey, these are best practices; hey, we're missing the mark in this area, and when you conduct your licensing activities, you should do X, Y, and Z. That's why you'll see that at this stage it's important, because it will help everybody who is carrying out the EJ studies.

MS. PRESTON: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SUBER: You're welcome.

MR. FETTER: So, Gregory, this is Allen Fetter. I wanted to add an additional response to Priscilla.

It is that the Westinghouse EIS and all of our [EISs] discuss EJ, environmental justice, issues, which are independent of this particular review.

Oh, it's not. I'm sorry, I think I misspoke.

MR. SUBER: Lance, do we have any other questions?

OPERATOR: I currently have no additional comments or questions from the telephone lines.

If you'd like to make a comment or ask a question, please press *1, unmute your phone, and

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clearly state your name and affiliation for comment introduction.

One moment.

(Pause.)

MR. RAKOVAN: I currently don't see any additional questions coming in on the chat.

OPERATOR: I have no additional questions.

MR. RAKOVAN: Dave, I'll check in with you. Mr McIntyre, anything coming in through email?

MR. MCINTYRE: No.

MR. RAKOVAN: All right. Well, we'll do that thing where we take more than a couple of seconds of what is sure to be uncomfortable silence, just to give folks a chance to queue in. We obviously don't want to end the meeting any sooner than we need to, but we would like to give folks ample time in order to weigh in.

MR. SUBER: Hey, Lance, if I could, I'd like to just talk briefly about some of the outreach efforts that aren't directly related to public meetings that we have planned.

MR. RAKOVAN: Sure, go ahead.

MR. SUBER: If that is appropriate? Okay.

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So, part of our initiative is to reach out to impacted communities, and we are in the process of planning in different regions of the country that particular outreach. So, one of the participants mentioned Westinghouse. And actually, the week of July 26th, I believe, we will be in the South Carolina area and we will be talking to different environmental justice community-based groups and organizations. We'll be having interviews with some state and local officials -- once again, trying to better inform our process and try to get feedback as to what type of things they've seen maybe other agencies doing or, as far as the state is concerned, what type of things the state does that they think we could possibly adopt in our environmental justice program.

So, public meetings are important, but I just wanted to mention that we are doing more, I guess, more targeted outreach with particular groups that we know have asked questions, made comments, or raised some concerns.

MR. RAKOVAN: Great. Thanks, Greg.

OPERATOR: I do have a telephone comment or question from Tangee Brice Jacobs.

Your line is open.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Good afternoon, and

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thank you all again for giving us this opportunity.

And one of the things that you all mentioned was effective engagement. Okay, rural America, poor to no broadband internet. I am very concerned at how effective engagement and communication in rural areas -- how are you all planning on doing that? How do you all plan to do that, especially now with COVID?

MR. SUBER: Okay. So, that's a great question.

And I can tell you some of the things that we've done in the past. Some of the things that we've done in the past is that we have produced brochures and we have disseminated those brochures at churches and community centers, so that people in rural areas will be cognizant of our activities.

But, if you don't mind, can I ask you what type of things would you like to see? I understand that we're in this COVID environment and that many communities really don't want outside people coming into their communities, possibly spreading the virus or spreading the variant.

And the reason we're having this is to ask you, what would be effective for you? What type of things that we aren't doing that you would like to see

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us do?

MS. BRICE JACOBS: I would like in the rural areas that, when you all do come in to our areas, that you speak where our communities, the people here will understand what you're saying.

And let me speak for here in South Carolina in my county. When you all came, the community reached back to me and said, yeah, they came, but we didn't understand what they were saying. Now that's a concern that I have -- better communication and speak to people where they understand what you're saying, and not just show slides that sometimes people cannot follow in our rural areas.

MR. SUBER: Do you mind if I ask you what particular county you're making reference to?

MR. SUBER: I'm in Fairfield.

MR. SUBER: You're at Fairfield? Oh, okay. Okay. Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful. Thank you very much.

So, yes, I'm kind of familiar with Fairfield County and I understand what you're saying. And I'll tell you, a few years ago, when we had an outreach in Fairfield County, instead of having a slide show, what we did is we had an open house where we went to White Hall. Is it White Hall Baptist Church?

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MS. BRICE JACOBS: Yes.

MR. SUBER: Okay. But we went to White Hall Baptist Church. We put down some tables and we just had --

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Well, White Hall AME.

MR. SUBER: White Hall AME, exactly.

We put down some tables and we just had a conversation with people who came up to the tables.

Are those the types of interactions that you're talking about? As opposed to having a slide show, just have people able to look at pictures, ask questions, and the NRC answer those questions?

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Yes.

MR. SUBER: Oh, okay. Okay. All right.
So, I'll tell you that's helpful.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: I attended the ones at McCrorey-Liston.

MR. SUBER: Okay.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: The high school.
Well, it was a high school for me back then.

MR. SUBER: Is that recently?

MS. BRICE JACOBS: No, we're talking about when the second -- no, this was, I think, when the first -- the first. Twenty-six years ago now, I believe.

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MR. SUBER: Oh, okay, 26 years ago. Oh, okay. Yes, yes. And that was a while ago, and we have tried to improve our process. And I thank you for your comments and for your candidness and you're really helping me understand what doesn't work. And I understand that a slide presentation with a bunch of funny pictures on it, with a whole bunch of scientific and technical terms --

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Exactly.

MR. SUBER: -- doesn't work for you, right? And I get that. So, that's actually helpful. So, we know that when we come to Blair or Jenkinsville or Pomaria or Winnsboro that we have to modify our show, right? We have to modify what we do.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: I'm asking you all to consider what I'm saying because of the experience here in Fairfield, and I'm sure that in rural areas Fairfield is not the only rural area under the guidelines of the environmental justice, I think you were saying, policies.

MR. SUBER: Uh-hum.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Even though each county is unique in its own needs, I'm comfortable in saying that I'm sure other rural, low-income areas that are targeted would have some of the same issues. Does that

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make sense?

MR. SUBER: It absolutely and positively makes sense. And I'm going to ask you something because I have particular interest in Fairfield County.

Would you be okay to leave your name and your number with us, so that we can kind of further this conversation and really get down and address some of your needs?

MS. BRICE JACOBS: No problem. I'm probably already there on your list because I was on your mailing list at one time.

MR. SUBER: Okay.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: But no problem.

And another thing, see, I'm on the phone. I can't see slides. There are areas that I love -- internet, this technology is another deterrent for our rural areas. And oh, yes, I'll get in touch with you all and I'll respond. I have some email addresses and I'll -- I think it was today --

MR. SUBER: Jessica?

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Allen Fetter.

MR. SUBER: Allen Fetter. Yes, ma'am, Allen Fetter.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: I have his information and I'll email mine to him, if that's all right.

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MR. SUBER: That will be perfect. And thank you so much. I really appreciate just the honesty and the concern in your voice and allowing us to have a real conversation. I appreciate it.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Thank you.

OPERATOR: If you'd like to ask a question, please press *1, unmute your phone, state your name and affiliation for question introduction.

One moment.

(Pause.)

I have no additional questions at this time.

MR. RAKOVAN: All right. It looks like we have a question that came in. I'm having a very difficult time reading it. I apologize, that way that it's displayed on the screen, I'm very much struggling.

Let me see if I highlight if it will help. Yes.

"Where can we find EJ documents related to Westinghouse?"

Do we have anybody who can speak to Westinghouse specifically on the line tonight? I mean, I'm sure they're on the public website.

MR. MCINTYRE: Hey, Lance?

MR. RAKOVAN: Yes?

MR. MCINTYRE: This is Dave McIntyre from

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Public Affairs.

MR. RAKOVAN: Yes. Thank you.

MR. MCINTYRE: I think I can try to address this a little bit. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Westinghouse fuel facility license renewal is due to be issued soon, I believe by the end of the month, give or take a little bit. And that should have, I believe it does have an environmental justice discussion within it, because this is how we've addressed environmental justice issues throughout the years, through our NEPA process, through the National Environmental Policy Act process with our Environmental Impact Statement reviews.

And so, I would say hold onto that in the next couple of weeks. And there is, I believe, a web page under "Fuel Cycles" on our website that would have information about this. If I can call that up within the next few minutes, I'll put it in the chat, or something, for the Team's discussion of this. But, certainly, that is something that's coming out soon.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thanks, Dave.

Dexter, anyone else on the queue?

(No response.)

Dexter, are you there?

OPERATOR: Hi. I'm sorry, I have no

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additional comments or questions at this time.

MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. MCINTYRE: Hey, Lance, this is Dave.

I have an email question now.

MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. Please. Go ahead.

MR. MCINTYRE: From a Patrick White, who asks -- and this is just coming in; he's the Project Manager from the Nuclear Innovation Alliance -- "Does the NRC have a process for tailoring outreach processes, such as venues, formats, organizations, for individual communities to facilitate feedback before they begin the formal commenting process? If not, that could be helpful for all communities, including EJ communities with different needs." End of question.

MR. SUBER: Okay. So, I can comment to that. We do have guidance on how we conduct our reviews. And what we also have is a lot of experienced people in terms of a tremendous amount of flexibility, and we do try to cater each review to the particular site. So, there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to how we conduct our reviews. There's not a one-size-fits-all. It's all approached on how we do NEPA. And so, we do try to tailor our reviews to each specific facility.

Having said that, if there are things that

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the comment[er]s or anyone has experienced, in particular, that they thought was successful, then we'd like to hear that. If there's anything, in particular, like we just heard, that we thought was working, to find out that it's not working, then we need to hear that. So, the feedback is really important.

So, the answer to the question is we do not have a one-size-fits-all type of approach to performing our NEPA reviews, but we would love feedback and examples of things that we either got right or things we got wrong, or things that you observed from other organizations that you think would benefit the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

MR. MCINTYRE: I've got a question in the chat that I'm going to kind of consider a comment really. The question is, "EJ communities suffer from multiple polluting industries. Will that be considered?" I think we can take that as a comment that multiple polluting industries should be considered when it comes to the NRC's environmental justice efforts.

I don't know if we want to touch upon that in a brief answer, Greg, or whether we just want to say thank you for the comment, and we, obviously, will take that into consideration. Do you have a feel on

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that?

MR. SUBER: Yes. So, we do consider cumulative impacts when we perform our NEPA reviews. And so, the totality of what's going on in the area, that does feed into our review. So, yes, we do.

But I do appreciate that comment, and maybe there is a better or more holistic way that we can perform that part of our evaluation. And so, we appreciate the comment and we'll look into how we look at cumulative impacts.

MR. RAKOVAN: All right. I'll check in with both Dexter and Dave to see if we have any additional questions or comments out there.

OPERATOR: I have no additional questions or comments.

If you'd like to ask a question or make a comment, please press *1, unmute your phone, and clearly state your name and affiliation for comment/question introduction.

One moment.

(Pause.)

MR. MCINTYRE: Hey, Lance, a question came in over the chat for the evening meeting.

MR. RAKOVAN: Yes.

MR. MCINTYRE: This is Dave McIntyre from

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Public Affairs.

The question from Pamela is, "When asked about NEPA processes, NRC refers to online information" -- I guess that's me -- "which is not understandable by the public. What will NRC do to ensure the public understands NRC's interpretation of the NEPA processes?"

As a public affairs officer and a communications specialist, I would say that we, as an agency, certainly do value plain language in our public communications. And we recognize, of course, that we are dealing with a highly technical scientific subject that is not readily adaptable to plain language.

And we actually struggle with this, and this is something that we are trying to do better every time. But when we are talking about nuclear technology and very detailed regulatory safety requirements, it can be difficult. And we certainly welcome people reminding us that, hey, you know, what does that actually mean to us? And we do try to do that and express it that way. It is challenging, and we take the point every time we get it.

MR. RAKOVAN: Yes, and I think I'd build upon that. I think we can take this, again, as a comment that the NRC could reevaluate what they're

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doing to ensure that the public understands the NRC's interpretation of the NEPA process.

We've got another one that popped up. "NEPA requires planning with and by the public in advance of actions. This point seems to be ignored by the NRC."

So, it sounds like that's a comment that we can definitely take. I don't know if anybody wants to kind of talk about that, you know, any of the efforts that we do take at this point.

MR. SUBER: Yes, this is Gregory Suber again.

And, yes, I appreciate the comment. And we've been looking to the timing of our reviews. And it's a comment I wanted to be a little bit more specific on some of the ways that they think we ignore things or do not respond to things in a timely manner, and that would also be very helpful.

MR. RAKOVAN: All right. Again, we'll pause just to give folks a chance, if they want to put something into the chat, send something to Mr. McIntyre at dtm@nrc.gov, or, again, to get Dexter's attention and join the queue, if he has enough people to make one. So, we'll go ahead and pause and see if we have any additional comments or questions at this time.

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OPERATOR: Excuse me. It's Dexter. I currently have a comment or question from Tangie Brice Jacobs.

Your line is open.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Okay. How are you all notifying elected officials when you are being asked to provide licensing in any county or state, when in any county? Do you all have any process for notifying elected officials, primarily the ones in that county?

Do you understand my question?

MR. SUBER: I think I understand your question. And similar to this process, when we have particular licensing actions, it's customary for us to notify the public and notify local and state officials through what we call a Federal Register notice.

And if you think that that's not an adequate process, then -- is that what you're saying, that The Federal Register notices aren't getting to rural and --

MS. BRICE JACOBS: No. No, I'm asking.

MR. SUBER: Oh, yes, yes, yes. Right. So, that's the process. The process is through what we call Federal Register notices.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Federal Register

notices?

MR. SUBER: Yes, ma'am.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: And that goes to elected officials? Is that what I'm understanding?

MR. SUBER: Okay. Well, it goes out in what we call The Federal Register, and associated with each Federal Register notice is a distribution list, where we send it to people who have expressed an interest in those particular activities. And so, if a state or local official acknowledges that, hey, I'm interested in what's going on at Westinghouse, at V.C. Summer, at Vogtle, at Shearon Harris, at any nuclear power plant or any facility, they can get on that list.

And when we send a notice out, they'll get a notification that, hey, we issued something on the plant that you're interested in, and they would know how to retrieve that information.

MS. BRICE JACOBS: Thank you.

MR. SUBER: You're welcome.

OPERATOR: Our next comment or question comes from Elaine Cooper.

Elaine, your line is open.

MS. COOPER: Okay. Hello. I am in Columbia, South Carolina, and I know much of the community in Lower Richland. I was just in Lower

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Richland yesterday. That is the area that Westinghouse is in and, also, I'm familiar with the community around V.C. Summer.

I was listening to Tangee's question, and it's just not good enough. I feel like the NRC is full of many, many intelligent employees, so-called intelligent employees, that could easily contact newspapers, the news stations, and all new elected officials. Many elected officials in South Carolina -- for that matter, across the United States -- are not even familiar perhaps with what's in their backyard or they're just getting up-to-speed about what their community is interested in. Therefore, they wouldn't know to contact you all to get a notice.

It just seems that, if you do want community involvement, which is one of your requirements, then that's the least you could do, is really pound the pavement and, actually, even put it out on Facebook, Twitter, the whole nine yards, about your meetings and how the public can access them -- if you wanted the public to be involved.

MR. MCINTYRE: Hello, Lance. May I?
This is Dave McIntyre from Public Affairs. If I may
speak to that?

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MR. RAKOVAN: By all means.

MR. McINTYRE: The NRC issues a lot of news releases. We do reach out to the media. We issue more news releases, I think, than most federal government agencies. We are very active in our outreach. We have Facebook. We do Facebook posts. We did Facebook posts about these meetings, about this review. We tweeted these reviews. We have YouTube videos.

MS. COOPER: But, see, that's where the problem lies.

MR. McINTYRE: We are very active in getting our information out on social media.

MS. COOPER: There's no broadband.

MR. McINTYRE: And we have listservs that you can subscribe to on our website that are facility-specific. So, if you have an interest in the Westinghouse fuel fabrication facility in South Carolina, for instance, you can subscribe very easily. Again, this is if you have email, but you can subscribe to that, and you will get notices frequently about different updates, any letters that are issued to the licensee, any inspection reports, anything in our oversight. We are extremely transparent. We do a lot of effort to get the word out.

MS. COOPER: The community that surrounds

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Westinghouse is in a rural community that does not have broadband access. So, therefore, they don't have the internet access whatsoever. That is the community that lives near Westinghouse and many of the employees of Westinghouse who definitely would like to be involved.

So, you have to realize that a lot of nuclear power plants throughout the U.S. are not in urban, affluent areas that have internet. Okay. So, you have to --

MR. SUBER: So, thank you. And I really appreciate that comment, and it's some really good food for thought. Because we know that we pay special attention to our congressional staff. As a matter of fact, we have an Office of Congressional Affairs. And I think what I hear you saying is that, yes, we pay attention to people at the congressional level, but, for these rural communities, maybe it would benefit us to pay a little bit more attention to the county council or the state senator or someone who's a little closer than your United States Congressional Representative. Is that fair? Is that a fair summary of what you're saying?

MS. COOPER: That is a fair summary because, actually, the elected officials around

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Westinghouse in this rural area do have a way to get the word out to a lot of their constituents. So, yes, I'm saying that. I'm talking about county and, yes, the representatives in the South Carolina Statehouse Legislature.

MR. SUBER: Okay. All right. All right.
Thank you very much. I really appreciate that.

And I think within our outreach -- is your State Senator, is it Senator Darrell Jackson?

MS. COOPER: Yes.

MR. SUBER: Okay. Great, great, great.
Yes, so we've been reaching out to --

MS. COOPER: It's the Representatives who have, actually, a very, very close connection to the community.

MR. SUBER: And who is that?
MS. COOPER: Representative Wendy Brawley, Representative Jermaine Johnson are the two main Representatives down there. It actually would be a much better way to actually communicate and get the community to come out.

MR. SUBER: Okay. You said Jermaine Johnson and who else?

MS. COOPER: Representative Jermaine Johnson and Representative Wendy Brawley.

MR. SUBER: How do you spell Wendy's last name?

MS. COOPER: B, as in boy, R-A-W-L-E-Y.

MR. SUBER: Okay. Excellent. Excellent. Okay. Okay. So, we'll be reaching out to them.

MS. COOPER: Okay. Thank you. That's great.

MR. SUBER: Thank you. You take care.

MR. RAKOVAN: All right. So, I've got a lot of talk in the chat that I'm going to try to summarize. A lot of it is focused on learning how Federal Register notices are distributed, announcements about prospective actions, or from the industry side in terms of applications for relicensing, moving forward rapidly without reaching the community effectively.

The Federal Register isn't really effective on reaching the public. And Dave has shared that we do have some other ways that we send out information. But, obviously, we've got a lot of great comments here that we need to reconsider.

And again, I'll read this one because it kind of summarizes it. "Why are you insisting on only computer and electronic means when the questions are

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about how the NRC must use additional means to reach people without computer access?"

You know, there's numerous ways that the NRC attempts to do this. In certain cases, we can mail out hard-copy documents to stakeholders who request them. We provide certain documents to local libraries, so that folks can go to their library and review materials.

But, again, given the comments that we're receiving and the questions that we're being asked, it's obvious that the NRC should consider other ways of outreach, again, in non-electronic manner.

Dave, Dexter, do we have anyone else at this point?

OPERATOR: I have no additional comments or questions at this time.

MR. RAKOVAN: Dave, are you back with us?
(No response.)

MR. SUBER: Yes, I believe he said that there were no more additional comments and questions at this time.

MR. RAKOVAN: I'm sorry, Greg, I was checking with Dave McIntyre. I think he might have fallen off the bridge line.

MR. SUBER: Oh, okay.

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MR. RAKOVAN: I wanted to see if he was back with us.

OPERATOR: Excuse me. It's Dexter, your operator. It looks like Dave's line dropped.

MR. RAKOVAN: Yes. Yes, I was checking to see if he was back. Oh, well.

And then, we also have a comment that postcards can be mailed to residents about meetings with information. That's definitely a comment that we can into account. Thank you.

Dave says that he's on the line, but he can't be heard.

OPERATOR: Yes, I just noticed his line in the other room. Give me a moment. I just joined him. His line is open now.

MR. RAKOVAN: Sure.

MR. McINTYRE: Lance, if you can hear me now, I do not have any additional comments by email.

MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. We can hear you. Thank you.

MR. McINTYRE: Thank you. Glad to be back.

MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. We'll go ahead and take another one of those long pauses to see if anything pops up.

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(Pause.)

OPERATOR: I have a question or comment -- excuse me -- I have a question or comment from Priscilla Preston again.

Priscilla, your line is open.

MS. PRESTON: Thank you.

You mentioned a visit July 26th to South Carolina, is that correct? And you said, someone said they would be meeting with state and local officials?

MR. SUBER: Yes, ma'am.

MS. PRESTON: Okay. Can you tell us which state and local officials?

MR. SUBER: We'll be meeting with the South Carolina -- excuse me -- we'll be meeting with Fairfield County Council at their bimonthly meeting.

MS. PRESTON: Oh, okay. All right. Thank you very much.

MR. SUBER: You're welcome.

OPERATOR: If you'd like to ask a question or make a comment, please press *1, unmute your phone, and clearly state your name for question or comment introduction.

One moment.

(Pause.)

MR. RAKOVAN: And again, we're looking for

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specific comments on things the NRC should consider in terms of its environmental justice processes and procedures.

OPERATOR: I have no current comments or questions.

MR. RAKOVAN: Dave, anything from the email?

MR. McINTYRE: No, nothing.

MR. RAKOVAN: Greg, do you want to move to close or do you want to give it a little more time?

MR. SUBER: Yes, it's getting late and I understand people might be pretty much spent. So, I think we can go ahead and move to close the meeting.

So, does that mean -- okay, go ahead.

MR. RAKOVAN: No, it's all you, if you'd like to say a few words to close us out, Greg.

MR. SUBER: Well, first of all, I would sincerely like to thank everyone for participating in this meeting.

So, the reason we had an eight o'clock meeting was to hope to get people who may have been working during the day on the East Coast or who people who wanted to join us from the Midwest or the West Coast.

Thank you all for being patient. Thank you for challenging us to do better. That's exactly

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why we're here. That's exactly why we're listening to you. We know we're not perfect and we definitely want to enhance all of the efforts that we currently have ongoing.

I would like to reiterate the fact that there are other ways for you to submit comments, if you'd like. And those things were all in The Federal Register, but there's also contact information that's given to you on the slide that I think Lance is going to go over at the end. I'm sorry if I'm bumbling the process.

But I just want to say, thanks, everyone, for participating. I really enjoyed the exchange of information. And please continue to look out for us because we are serious about this outreach effort, and it will be ongoing for the next several months. And this is just the first of many opportunities to have your voice heard.

Thank you.

MR. FETTER: Hey, Gregory, this is Allen Fetter.

I just wanted to follow up on the contact information on the last slide. Those are email addresses to contact us if you have questions about this ongoing effort or how to submit comments.

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But if you go back a couple of slides, for those who can see the slide show, the preferred way to submit the comments, we have a telephone number that you can use and leave a voicemail as a comment, and then, there's an email address specifically for those comments, as well as regular mail. And if you need help with the email address or getting to the federal rulemaking website, I can help you out. But, otherwise, the email works very well.

MR. RAKOVAN: And let's go ahead and say those out[-]loud, just in case folks aren't being able to see the slides. The telephone number is 301-415-3875. Again, that's 301-415-3875. And the email address is nrc-ejreview@nrc.gov. Again, that's nrc-ejreview@nrc.gov.

The slides for this meeting are available in public ADAMS. The easiest way to find them is to go to the NRC's public meeting schedule and look at the public meeting page specifically for this meeting, and you can link to them there.

MR. FETTER: Yes, they are down at the bottom of the meeting, where it says "More Information". There's [also] a couple of documents that you can access, and if you click on those, you can find the slides.

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MR. RAKOVAN: And unless anyone has anything else, I believe we are closed.

(Whereupon, at 9:07 p.m., meeting was concluded.)

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