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the Saint Lucie Plant Units 1 and 2
Subsequent License Renewal Application

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING RELATED
TO THE SAINT LUCIE PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

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WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2021

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The meeting was held via Video-
Teleconference, at 6:00 p.m. EDT, Lance Rakovan,
Environmental Review Lead, Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards, presiding.

- NRC STAFF:
- LANCE RAKOVAN, Environmental Review Lead, Office of
Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)
- ROBERT ELLIOTT, Chief, Environmental Review License
Renewal Branch, NMSS
- LAUREN GIBSON, Chief, License Renewal Projects
Branch, NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor
Regulation (NRR)
- HECTOR RODRIGUEZ-LUCCIONI, Safety Review Lead, NRR

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 6:01 p.m.

3 MR. RAKOVAN: This is Lance Rakovan, I am
4 the Environmental Project Manager for the St. Lucie
5 Plant subsequent license renewal review, and I'd like
6 to welcome you all to this public meeting hosted by
7 the US NRC, or Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

8 I'd like to go over a few logistic things
9 quickly. If you have any questions, you can email
10 Beth.Alferink@nrc.gov. Again, we'll be using just
11 the -- we're using Teams just for visuals, showing
12 the slides. And we'll be using the operator-assisted
13 bridge line for our audio.

14 The public meeting slides can be found in
15 public ADAMS using the accession number ML21302A079.
16 You can also find the slides on the public meeting
17 posting page on our public meeting schedule at
18 nrc.gov. Just look under public meetings.

19 So let's go ahead and get things started.
20 Our goal today is to provide you with an overview of
21 the subsequent License Renewal Process, both safety
22 and environmental, for the St. Lucie review, and also
23 to get your input on the environmental issues that
24 the NRC should address in our environmental review.

25 Now, a term you're going to hear a lot

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1 today is scoping, which means simply in this case
2 determining the scope of the environmental review for
3 the continued operation of the St. Lucie Plant.
4 Today's meeting is just one way that you can
5 participate in the process, and we'll be going into
6 more detail about that later. Moving on to slide 3.

7 Our agenda for today. After some opening
8 remarks, we'll provide an overview of the license
9 renewal process. After the NRC staff's presentation,
10 we'll have some time to ask clarifying questions
11 about the topics covered.

12 Our plan is to address only these type of
13 questions because we want to maximize the time
14 available for the final part of the meeting, which
15 is, in my opinion, the most important, the
16 opportunity to provide you with your -- to hear your
17 input on what should be included in the scope of NRC's
18 environmental review. Moving on to slide 4.

19 Here's the overall logistics for our
20 meeting today. As I said earlier, we'll be showing
21 slides using Teams, and all audio will be on the
22 telephone bridge line. I know that seems to be overly
23 complicated, but it's an unfortunate necessity. We
24 will not be using the live video aspect of Teams
25 because of the timing of the bridge line audio and

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1 the Teams video does not line up and can be very
2 distracting.

3 This is a comment-gathering meeting by
4 the NRC's definition, so we are actively seeking your
5 input. Please note that we are transcribing today's
6 meeting so the NRC staff can be sure to get a full
7 accounting of the comments you provide.

8 Along with me today, you'll be hearing
9 from Hector Rodriguez-Luccioni, who is the Safety
10 Review Lead. Also we have Rob Elliott, my immediate
11 supervisor, the Environmental Review License Renewal
12 Branch Chief. And Lauren Gibson, who is Hector's
13 supervisor, is the License Renewal Project Branch
14 Chief.

15 With that, I'll turn things over to Rob
16 to make a few welcoming comments. Rob.

17 MR. ELLIOTT: Thank you, Lance. Hello,
18 everybody. As Lance said, I'm Rob Elliott, and I'm
19 the Branch Chief for the Environmental Review License
20 Renewal Branch.

21 I'd like to echo some of Lance's comments
22 and welcome you all to our meeting today. I'd just
23 like to take a moment to emphasize the importance of
24 your involvement in our environmental review, as
25 Lance will be discussing in his presentation. I hope

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1 you will get something out of the presentation, and
2 I very much hope that you will provide some comments
3 to help us with our environmental review.

4 I will be back at the end to provide some
5 closing remarks. But in the meantime, I'll turn
6 things back over to Lance and look forward to hearing
7 your scoping comment soon.

8 Lance, over to you.

9 MR. RAKOVAN: Thanks, Rob. Moving on to
10 slide 6. Let's go ahead and discuss the St. Lucie
11 Plant subsequent license renewal. St. Lucie Units 1
12 and 2 were first licensed in 1976 and 1983, and were
13 granted renewed licenses in 2003. Current renewed
14 licenses expire in 2036 for Unit 1 and 2043 for Unit
15 2, respectively. If a license renewal is granted, it
16 will be for an additional 20 years.

17 Florida Power and Light filed an
18 application for subsequent license renewal of the St.
19 Lucie Nuclear -- or St. Lucie Plant with a letter
20 dated August 3, 2021. Moving on to slide 7.

21 A license renewal application is required
22 to contain a certain -- certain types of information:
23 general information such as the applicant's name and
24 address, business and administrative information,
25 technical -- and technical information which pertains

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1 to aging management. This information is the focus
2 of the safety review.

3 The application also includes an
4 environmental report, which is the applicant's
5 assessment of the environmental impact of continued
6 operation. This information serves as a starting
7 point for the staff to review the environmental
8 aspects of subsequent license renewal for the St.
9 Lucie Plant.

10 I would like to now turn things over to
11 Hector Rodriguez-Luccioni. Hector.

12 HECTOR RODRIGUEZ-LUCCIONI: Thank you,
13 Lance. Can you hear me?

14 MR. RAKOVAN: Yes, we can.

15 HECTOR RODRIGUEZ-LUCCIONI: Okay, so once
16 again, my name is Hector Rodriguez-Lucionni, and I go
17 by they, he, and she pronouns. And I am the Safety
18 Project Manager for the St. Lucie subsequent license
19 renewal review.

20 I will now walk us through the NRC
21 subsequent license renewal review process, as shown
22 on this slide. Starting from the left, the process
23 begins once a subsequent license renewal application
24 has been accepted for review. Then the process breaks
25 out into two separate reviews that occur in parallel,

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1 the environmental review and the safety review.

2 On the safety side of the review,
3 following the staff's review of the application, the
4 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS,
5 completes an independent review of the application to
6 make a recommendation to the Commission.

7 The environmental and safety reviews that
8 have dotted lines that lead to hearings. The dotted
9 lines represent the opportunity for a hearing in
10 accordance with the Atomic Energy Act, which
11 establishes a process for members of the public to
12 request involvement in the hearings on a variety of
13 civilian nuclear matters, including some subsequent
14 license renewal.

15 Finally, with inputs from the
16 environmental review, ACRS recommendation to
17 undertake the review, as well as the staff's finding
18 in the safety review. A final decision is made by
19 the NRC. Next slide, please.

20 The Atomic Energy Act authorizes the NRC
21 to issue licenses for commercial power reactors to
22 operate for up to 40 years. These licenses can then
23 be renewed for an additional 20 years at a time. This
24 period following the initial licensing term is known
25 as a period of extended operation.

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1 Now subsequent license renewals would
2 allow plants to upgrade beyond the 60 years of the
3 initial license and first renewal. Subsequent
4 license renewals will also be for 20 years.

5 The purpose of the safety review is to
6 identify aging effects that could impair the ability
7 of systems, structures, and components within the
8 scope of license renewal to perform their intended
9 function and to demonstrate that these aging effects
10 will be adequately managed during the period of
11 extended operation.

12 This scope has not changed from initial
13 license renewal to subsequent license renewal. As
14 previously mentioned, on August 3, FPL submitted the
15 subsequent renewal application for St. Lucie. After
16 receiving the application, the NRC conducted an
17 acceptance review. The NRC determined that FPL's
18 application was sufficient and acceptable for
19 docketing on September 24, 2021.

20 Then, we move on to our technical review,
21 which includes an Aging Management Audit.
22 Aging Management Audit consists of three parts: the
23 In-Office Technical Review Audit, On-Site Audit, and
24 Breakout Audit. During all phases of the audit, the
25 NRC staff reviews the applications, documents, and

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1 references in greater detail.

2 As part of the safety review, the staff
3 also reviews the applicant's operating experience for
4 information applicable to aging management. At the
5 very end, the staff will document its review in a
6 safety evaluation report. Next slide, please.

7 The NRC ensures the adequate protection
8 of public health and safety and the environment
9 through the regulatory process, which is shown in
10 this slide. The regulatory process consists of five
11 major components. We develop regulations and
12 guidance for applicants and licensees. We license or
13 certify applicants to either use nuclear materials,
14 operate nuclear facilities, or decommission.

15 We oversee licensee operations and
16 facilities to ensure that licensees comply with
17 safety requirements. We evaluate operational
18 experience of licensed facilities or involving
19 license activity. And in support of our regulatory
20 decision, we conduct research, hold hearings to
21 address the concerns of parties affected by the
22 Agency's decisions, and obtain independent reviews.

23 With license renewal, the regulatory
24 process now considers aging management, as
25 represented by this red block and arrow.

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1 Now, I will return the meeting back to
2 Lance Rakovan, who will be discussing the
3 environmental review. Lance.

4 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you, Hector.
5 Focusing on the environmental review, the National
6 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, obligates federal
7 agencies to consider environmental impacts of federal
8 actions. The NRC's specific environmental
9 regulations are contained in 10 CFR Part 51.

10 The objective of our environmental review
11 is to determine whether or not, and let me say it in
12 the way that it's written in the regulations first:
13 the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal
14 are so great that preserving the option of license
15 renewal for energy planning decisionmakers would be
16 unreasonable.

17 A little more straightforward version is
18 here on the slide. It's to determine if the
19 environmental impacts of license renewal are so great
20 that license renewal would be unreasonable. Slide
21 12.

22 Our environmental review considers the
23 impacts of continuing to operate the plant for an
24 additional 20 years and any proposed mitigation of
25 those impacts as warranted. We also consider the

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1 impacts of reasonable alternatives to the proposed
2 action of subsequent license renewal, including the
3 impacts of not issuing a subsequent renewed license.

4 The staff documents its environmental
5 review in an Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS.
6 The staff has developed a generic Environmental
7 Impact Statement that addressed a number of issues
8 common to all nuclear plants. The staff is
9 supplementing that generic EIS with a site-specific
10 EIS in which we will address issues that are specific
11 to the St. Lucie Plant.

12 The staff also reexamined the conclusions
13 reached in that generic EIS to determine if there is
14 any new and significant information that would change
15 these conditions. Moving to slide 13.

16 For subsequent license renewal review,
17 the NRC looks at a wide range of environmental impacts
18 as part of preparing an Environmental Impact
19 Statement. These are just a few of the types of
20 impacts, and we'll be talking about these a little
21 bit later as well. Slide 14.

22 When conducting our environmental
23 review, we consult with various federal, state, and
24 local officials, as well as leaders of Native
25 American tribes, and gather pertinent information

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1 from these sources to ensure it is considered in our
2 analysis.

3 As illustrated on this slide about
4 consulting agencies, examples include the US Fish and
5 Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection
6 Agency, state historical preservation officer, and so
7 on. Slide 15.

8 The scoping process is a critical part of
9 the environmental review. A full listing of the goals
10 of the scoping process can be found in the Federal
11 Register Notice announcing the NRC's intent to
12 conduct a period of scoping process.

13 The scoping process will be used to
14 determine the scope of the supplement to the generic
15 Environmental Impact Statement and identify the
16 significant issues to be analyzed in depth.

17 As well as to identify and eliminate from
18 detailed study those issues that are not significant
19 or that have been covered by prior environmental
20 reviews; identify any related environmental
21 assessments; identify other environmental review and
22 consultation requirements related to the proposed
23 action; and identify any cooperating agencies, like
24 those in the previous slide, and as appropriate,
25 assignments for preparation and schedules for

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1 completing the supplement to the generic
2 Environmental Impact Statement to the NRC and any
3 cooperating agencies.

4 Moving to slide 16. We are currently
5 gathering information that we will use to prepare the
6 Environmental Impact Statement for the license
7 renewal. As part of that process, we are here to
8 collect your comments on the scope of the
9 environmental review, that is, the environmental
10 impacts that the staff should consider.

11 In general, we are looking for
12 information about environmental impacts from the
13 continued operation of the St. Lucie Plant during the
14 period of extended operation of 20 years.

15 You can assist us in that process by
16 telling us, for example, what aspects of your local
17 community we should focus on. What local
18 environmental, social, and economic issues the NRC
19 staff should examine during the environmental review.
20 And what reasonable alternatives are most appropriate
21 for your local region.

22 These are just some of the examples of
23 the input we are looking for, and they represent the
24 kinds of information we are seeking through the
25 environmental scoping period. Your comments today

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1 would be helpful in providing insight of this nature
2 for the environmental analysis. Slide 17.

3 Here are the important milestones in the
4 environmental review process. If you have
5 environmental scoping comments you would like to
6 submit outside of today's meeting, you have until
7 November 22 to do so. Any comments received after
8 that date will be considered if possible.

9 The opportunity to submit contentions for
10 a hearing closes on November 29. Please note that we
11 plan to issue a draft Supplemental Environmental
12 Impact Statement for public comment by October 2022.
13 This is another way you can be involved in this
14 process. Members of the public will have an
15 opportunity to provide comments on the draft
16 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

17 While this slide lists milestones for the
18 environmental review and opportunities for public
19 involvement, the safety review will be performed in
20 accordance with a separate schedule. Slide 18.

21 The Morningside and Kilmer branches of
22 the St. Lucie County Library have agreed to make the
23 license renewal application available for public
24 inspection. The draft Supplemental Impact Statement
25 will also be available at these libraries when it is

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1 published for comment.

2 In addition, you'll be able to find these
3 documents on the NRC website using the address listed
4 on the slide. Slide 19.

5 As I said earlier, the most important
6 piece of today's meeting is to receive any comments
7 that you may have on the scoping of the environmental
8 review. Here are the various ways that you can submit
9 your comments for consideration.

10 You can provide written comments by mail
11 to the NRC on the address provided on the slide. Or
12 preferably, you can send your comments electronically
13 by going to regulations.gov and searching Docket ID
14 NRC-2021-0197. Or, sending an email to
15 SaintLucieEnvironmental@NRC.gov.

16 Again, comments should be submitted by
17 November 22. Any comments received after that date
18 will be considered if at all possible. Moving on to
19 slide 20.

20 This slide indicates the primary points
21 of contact for the NRC for license renewal of the St.
22 Lucie Plant. In addition to Hector and me, the other
23 individual listed here is Mike Mahoney, who is the
24 current project manager for the operation of St.
25 Lucie Plant.

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1 So that more or less finishes the
2 presentation that we had. But before we open the
3 floor to comments, I'd like to pause a moment to see
4 if anyone has any clarifying questions on our
5 presentation.

6 Holly, if you could let folks know how to
7 get your attention if they have a clarifying
8 question, please.

9 OPERATOR: Yes, if you would like to ask
10 a question, please unmute your phone, press star one,
11 and record your first and last name clearly when
12 prompted so I may introduce you. Again, to ask a
13 question, press star one. It may take a few moments
14 for questions to come in, please stand by.

15 MR. RAKOVAN: Yeah, we'll pause for a
16 moment to see if anyone has any clarifying questions.

17 OPERATOR: And I have no questions at
18 this time.

19 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay, thank you so much.
20 Let's go ahead and open things up for commenting.
21 Just to again, put some questions up, the kind of
22 things that we are looking to focus on. What about
23 your community should the NRC consider in the
24 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement? What
25 local environmental issues should be addressed? What

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1 other reasonable alternatives should be considered?

2 We'll go ahead and let Holly let you know
3 again how to signal if you would like to make a
4 comment, and we'll pause to see if anyone has comments
5 to make.

6 Holly, can you let them know, please.

7 OPERATOR: Yes, if you would like to make
8 a comment, again, please press star one, unmute your
9 phone, and record your first and last name clearly so
10 I may introduce you. Again, star one to make a
11 comment. If you'd like to -- I'm sorry, withdraw
12 yourself from the queue, you can press star two. But
13 again, star one to make a comment.

14 And I have no parties in the queue at
15 this time. But again, if you would like to make a
16 comment, please press star one.

17 MR. RAKOVAN: All right, so while we're
18 giving folks a chance to do that, let me back up a
19 couple slides and go through again how folks can
20 provide comments outside of today's meeting. There
21 are several ways to do it. You can use snail mail
22 and send something in directly to our US Nuclear
23 Regulatory Commission address.

24 You can use a couple different ways to
25 send in your comments electronically. The first

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1 would be to go regulations.gov, and again look for
2 Docket ID NRC-2021-0197. Or you can send your
3 comments in using the email address
4 SaintLucieEnvironmental@NRC.gov.

5 Again, we're hoping to receive all
6 comments by November 22. If we do receive comments
7 after that date, we'll do our best to take them into
8 account if it's at all possible.

9 Holly, any takers?

10 OPERATOR: And I show no one in queue at
11 this time. But again, if you would like to make a
12 comment, please press star one.

13 MR. RAKOVAN: All right, I'll go ahead
14 and pause for a couple minutes just to give folks a
15 chance in case they're fumbling for their phones.

16 Holly, no takers?

17 OPERATOR: I show nobody in queue at this
18 time.

19 MR. RAKOVAN: All right. I'm going to
20 make the assumption that if anyone wished to speak,
21 they would have taken action by now. And I will go
22 ahead ask Rob to provide some closing remarks if you
23 would. Rob, are you with us?

24 MR. ELLIOTT: Yes, I am. Well, I want to
25 thank everybody for participating in today's meeting.

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1 Please remember that today is not the last
2 opportunity to provide scoping comments. The best
3 way to provide the comments after today is to use the
4 SaintLucieEnvironmental@nrc.gov email, or to go to
5 regulations.gov and search for the Docket ID NRC-
6 2021-0197.

7 Remember that the scoping comment period
8 ends November 22, and any comments that are received
9 after that date will be considered if possible, but
10 they may not be considered if they're -- if time
11 doesn't permit. Anyone who provides their comment
12 using these methods will receive a scoping summary
13 report, which we plan to issue in the mid-2022
14 timeframe. You can also reach out to Lance to request
15 that you be included in the distribution of
16 correspondence related to the St. Lucie license
17 renewal.

18 Again, thank you for participating in
19 today's meeting, and with that, Lance, I think we can
20 close the session.

21 MR. RAKOVAN: I believe we are closed.
22 Thanks, everyone.

23 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
24 went off the record at 6:25 p.m.)