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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 1:00 p.m. EDT, Lance Rakovan,  
Environmental Review Lead, 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 1:01 p.m.

3 MR. RAKOVAN: Welcome, everyone. This is  
4 Lance Rakovan. I'm the Environmental Project Manager  
5 for the St. Lucie Plant subsequent license renewal  
6 review, and I'd like to welcome you all to this public  
7 meeting hosted by the US Nuclear Regulatory  
8 Commission, or NRC, as you'll hear it abbreviated  
9 today.

10 Before we get started, I wanted to just  
11 kind of walk through a little bit of how this meeting  
12 is going to work. I'll go through this again soon,  
13 but all visuals -- in other words, showing of slides  
14 -- will be done through Teams. And audio will be  
15 through the bridge line. So hopefully everyone's  
16 figured that out.

17 I do see one phone number on the Teams,  
18 but I'm not sure how to get a hold of that person at  
19 this point. If you are on the bridge line and are  
20 not on the Teams, you can find the meeting slides in  
21 NRC public ADAMS, or you can go to the public meeting  
22 schedule page for this and there is a link. The  
23 accession number is ML21302A079.

24 So having said that, let's go ahead and  
25 get started with the meeting. So again, my name is

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1 Lance Rakovan. We also have with us today Hector  
2 Rodriguez-Luccioni, who is the Safety Project  
3 Manager, and more than a few other NRC staff are on  
4 the line just in case we have some questions or need  
5 to address some issues that are to their specialties.

6 Our goals today are to provide you with  
7 an overview of the subsequent license renewal  
8 process, both safety and environmental for the St.  
9 Lucie review, and to get your input on the  
10 environmental issues that the NRC should address in  
11 our review.

12 Now a term you're going to hear a lot  
13 today is scoping, which simply means determining the  
14 scope of the environmental review. In this case, for  
15 the continued operation of the St. Lucie Plant.  
16 Today's meeting is just one way that you can  
17 participate in the process, and we'll be going into  
18 more detail about that later. Moving on to slide 3.

19 So our agenda today, after some opening  
20 remarks, we'll provide an overview of the license  
21 renewal process. After the NRC's staff presentation,  
22 we will have some time to have clarifying questions  
23 about the topics covered.

24 Our plan is to address only these types  
25 of questions because we want to maximize the time

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1 available for the final part of the meeting, which is  
2 the most important, at least in my opinion: for you  
3 to provide your input on what should be included in  
4 the scope of the NRC's environmental review. Moving  
5 on to slide 4.

6 So again, the logistics. We'll be  
7 showing the slides using Teams and all audio will be  
8 on the telephone bridge line. I understand that seems  
9 overly complicated, but it's an unfortunate  
10 necessity. We will not be using the live video aspect  
11 of Teams because the timing of the bridge line audio  
12 and the Teams video does not line up, and trust me,  
13 it can be very distracting.

14 This is a comment-gathering meeting by  
15 the NRC's definition, so we are actively seeking your  
16 input. Please note that we are transcribing today's  
17 meeting so the NRC staff can be sure to get a full  
18 accounting of the comments you provide. Moving on to  
19 slide 5.

20 So again, Hector and I will be talking  
21 about the safety and environmental reviews,  
22 respectively. Rob Elliott, who is my supervisor, is  
23 the Chief of the Environmental Review License Renewal  
24 Branch. And Lauren Gibson, who is Hector's  
25 supervisor, is the Chief of the License Renewal

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1 Projects Branch.

2 With that, I'd like to turn it over to  
3 Rob just to say a few words. Rob, are you with us?

4 MR. ELLIOTT: Yep, thank you. Hello,  
5 everybody. As Lance said, I'm Rob Elliott, and I'm  
6 the Chief of the Environmental License Renewal  
7 Branch. I'd like to echo some of Lance's comments  
8 and welcome you all to the meeting today.

9 I wanted to take a moment to emphasize  
10 the importance of your involvement in our  
11 environmental review, as Lance will be discussing. I  
12 hope you'll get something out of the presentation,  
13 and I very much hope that you will provide your  
14 comments to help us with our environmental review.

15 I'll be back to provide some closing  
16 remarks at the end of the meeting, but in the  
17 meantime, I will turn things back over to Lance and  
18 look forward to hearing your scoping comments then.

19 Lance.

20 MR. RAKOVAN: All right, thanks, Rob.  
21 Moving on to slide 6. Let's go ahead and discuss the  
22 St. Lucie Plant subsequent license renewal. St.  
23 Lucie Units 1 and 2 were first licensed in 1976 and  
24 1983, respectively, and were granted renewed licenses  
25 in 2003. The current renewed licenses will expire in

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1 2036 for Unit 1 and 2043 for Unit 2, respectively.

2 If a license renewal is granted, it would  
3 be for an additional 20 years. Florida Power and  
4 Light filed an application for subsequent license  
5 renewal of the St. Lucie Nuclear Station with a letter  
6 dated August 3, 2021. Moving on to slide 7.

7 A license renewal application is  
8 required to contain certain sets of information:  
9 general information, such as the applicant's name and  
10 address; business and administrative information;  
11 technical information which pertains to aging  
12 management. This information is the focus of the  
13 safety review.

14 The application also includes an  
15 environmental report, which is the applicant's  
16 assessment of the environmental impacts of continued  
17 operation. This information serves as the starting  
18 point for the staff to review the environmental  
19 aspects of subsequent license renewal for the St.  
20 Lucie Plant.

21 I'd like to now turn things over to  
22 Hector Rodriguez-Luccioni. Hector.

23 HECTOR RODRIGUEZ-LUCCIONI: Thank you,  
24 Lance. Can you hear me?

25 MR. RAKOVAN: Yes, we can.

1                   HECTOR RODRIGUEZ-LUCCIONI:    Okay, next  
2                   slide, please.    Once again, my name is Hector  
3                   Rodriguez-Luccioni, and I go by they, he, or she  
4                   pronouns.    And I'm the Safety Project Manager for the  
5                   St. Lucie subsequent license renewal review.    I will  
6                   now walk us through the NRC subsequent license  
7                   renewal review process, as shown on these slides.

8                   Starting from the left, the process  
9                   begins once a subsequent license renewal application  
10                  has been accepted for review.    Then the process breaks  
11                  out into two separate reviews that occur in parallel,  
12                  the environmental review and the safety review.

13                  On the safety side of the review,  
14                  following the staff's review of the application, the  
15                  Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS,  
16                  completes an independent review of the application to  
17                  make a recommendation to the Commission.

18                  The environmental and safety reviews that  
19                  have dotted lines that lead to hearings.    The dotted  
20                  lines represent the opportunity for a hearing in  
21                  accordance with the Atomic Energy Act, which  
22                  establishes a process for members of the public to  
23                  request involvement in hearings on a variety of  
24                  civilian nuclear matters, including subsequent  
25                  license renewal.

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1                   Finally, with inputs from the  
2 environmental review, ACRS recommendation, and the  
3 safety review, as well as the staff's findings from  
4 the safety review, a final decision is made by the  
5 NRC. Next slide, please.

6                   The Atomic Energy Act authorizes the NRC  
7 to issue licenses for commercial power reactors to  
8 operate for up to 40 years. These licenses can then  
9 be renewed for an additional 20 years at a time. This  
10 period following the initial licensing term is known  
11 as the period of extended operations.

12                   Now subsequent license renewals will  
13 allow plants to operate beyond the 60 years of the  
14 initial license and first renewal. Subsequent  
15 license renewals will also be for 20 years.

16                   The purpose of the Safety Review is to  
17 identify aging effects and that could impair the  
18 ability of systems, structures, and components within  
19 the scope of license renewal to perform their  
20 intended functions and to demonstrate that this aging  
21 effect will be adequately managed during the period  
22 of extended operation.

23                   This scope has not changed from initial  
24 license renewal to subsequent license renewal. As  
25 previously mentioned, on August 3, FPL submitted the

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1 subsequent license renewal application for St. Lucie.  
2 After receiving the application, the NRC conducted an  
3 assessments review.

4 The NRC determined that FPL's application  
5 was sufficient and acceptable for docketing on  
6 September 24, 2021. Then we moved onto our technical  
7 review, which includes an Aging Management Audit.

8 The Aging Management Audit consists of  
9 three parts: the In-Office Technical Review Audit,  
10 Onsite Audit, and Breakout Audit. During all phases  
11 of the audit, the NRC staff reviews the application,  
12 documents, and references in great detail.

13 As far as the safety review, the staff  
14 also reviews the applicant's operating experience for  
15 information applicable to aging management. At the  
16 very end, the staff will document its review in a  
17 safety evaluation report, or SER. Next slide,  
18 please.

19 The NRC ensures the adequate protection  
20 of public health and safety and the environment  
21 through the regulatory process with which is shown on  
22 this slide. The regulatory process consists of five  
23 major components. We develop regulations and  
24 guidance for applicants and licensees. We license or  
25 certify applicants to either use nuclear material,

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1 operate nuclear facilities, or decommission.

2 We oversee licensee operations and  
3 facilities to ensure that licensees comply with  
4 safety requirements. We evaluate operational  
5 experience of licensed facilities or involving  
6 licensed activity and in support of our regulatory  
7 decision, we conduct research, hold hearings to  
8 address concerns of parties affected by the Agency's  
9 decisions, and obtain independent review.

10 With license renewal, the regulatory  
11 process now considers aging management, as  
12 represented by the red block and arrow.

13 Now I will turn the meeting back to Lance  
14 Rakovan, who will discuss the environmental review.  
15 Lance.

16 MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you, Hector. Again,  
17 I would like to now focus on the environmental side  
18 of the review. The National Environmental Policy  
19 Act, or NEPA, obligates federal agencies to consider  
20 the environmental impacts of federal actions. The  
21 NRC's specific environmental regulations are  
22 contained in 10 CFR Part 51.

23 The objective of our environmental review  
24 is to determine whether or not, and let me say it in  
25 the way it's written in the regulations first, the

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1 adverse environmental impacts of the license renewal  
2 are so great that preserving the option of license  
3 renewal for energy planning decisionmakers would be  
4 unreasonable.

5 Kind of like the way that I have it on  
6 the slide better, it's to determine if the  
7 environmental impacts of license renewal are so great  
8 that license renewal would be unreasonable, period.  
9 Moving on to slide 12.

10 Our environmental review considers the  
11 impacts of continuing to operate the plant for an  
12 additional 20 years and any proposed mitigation of  
13 those impacts, as warranted. We also consider the  
14 impacts of reasonable alternatives to the proposed  
15 action of subsequent license renewal, including the  
16 impacts of not issuing a subsequent renewed license.

17 The staff documents its environmental  
18 review in an Environmental Impact Statement. The  
19 staff has developed a generic Environmental Impact  
20 Statement that address a number of issues common to  
21 all nuclear plants. The staff is supplementing that  
22 generic EIS with a site-specific EIS in which we will  
23 address issues that are specific to the St. Lucie  
24 Plant.

25 The staff also reexamines the conclusions

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1 reached in that generic EIS to determine if there is  
2 any new and significant information that would change  
3 these conclusions. Moving on to slide 13.

4 For subsequent license renewal review,  
5 the NRC looks at a wide range of environmental impacts  
6 as part of preparing an Environmental Impact  
7 Statement. These are just a few of the types of  
8 impacts that we'll be looking at. Slide 14.

9 When conducting our environmental  
10 review, we consult with various federal, state, and  
11 local officials, as well as leaders of Native  
12 American tribes, and gather pertinent information  
13 from these sources to ensure it is considered in our  
14 analysis. As illustrated on the slide about  
15 consulting agencies, examples include the US Fish and  
16 Wildlife Service, EPA, state historical preservation  
17 officer, and so on. Moving on to slide 15.

18 The scoping process is a critical part of  
19 the environmental review. A full listing of the goals  
20 of the scoping process can be found in the Federal  
21 Register Notice that announced our intent to conduct  
22 a scoping process and also mentioned this meeting.

23 The scoping process will be used to  
24 determine the scope of the supplement to the generic  
25 EIS and identify the significant issues to be

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1 analyzed in depth; identify and eliminate from  
2 detailed study those issues that are not significant  
3 or that have been covered by prior environmental  
4 review; identify any related environmental  
5 assessments; identify other environmental review and  
6 consultation requirements related to the proposed  
7 action; and identify any cooperating agencies, like  
8 those in the previous slide, and as appropriate  
9 assignments for preparation and schedules for  
10 completing the supplement to the generic  
11 Environmental Impact Statement to the NRC and any  
12 cooperating agencies. Moving on to slide 16.

13 We are currently gathering information  
14 that we will use to prepare the Environmental Impact  
15 Statement for the license renewal. As part of that  
16 process, again, we are here to collect your comments  
17 on the scope of the environmental review, that is,  
18 the environmental impacts that the staff should  
19 consider.

20 In general, we're looking for information  
21 about environmental impacts from the continued  
22 operation of the St. Lucie Plant during the period of  
23 extended operation of 20 years.

24 You can assist us in this process by  
25 telling us, for example, what aspects of your local

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1 community we should focus on. What local,  
2 environmental, social, and economic issues the NRC  
3 staff should examine during the environmental review.  
4 And what reasonable alternatives are most appropriate  
5 for your local region.

6 These are just some of the examples of  
7 the input we are looking for, and they represent the  
8 kinds of information we are seeking through the  
9 environmental scoping period. Your comments today  
10 would be helpful in providing insights of this nature  
11 for the environmental analysis. Moving on to slide  
12 17.

13 Here are the important milestones that  
14 the environmental review process will follow. If you  
15 have environmental scoping comments you would like to  
16 submit outside of today's meeting, you have until  
17 November 22 to do so. The opportunity to submit  
18 contentions for a hearing closes on November 29.

19 Please note that we plan to issue a draft  
20 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for  
21 public comment by October 2022. This is another way  
22 that you can be involved in this process. Members of  
23 the public will have an opportunity to provide  
24 comments on the draft Supplemental Environmental  
25 Impact Statement.

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1                   While this slide lists milestones for the  
2 environmental review and opportunities for public  
3 involvement, the safety review will be performed in  
4 accordance with a separate schedule. Moving on to  
5 slide 18.

6                   The Morningside and Kilmer branches of  
7 the St. Lucie County Library have agreed to make  
8 license renewal applications available for public  
9 inspection. The draft Supplemental Environmental  
10 Impact Statement will also be available at these  
11 libraries when it is published for comment.

12                   In addition, these documents are, in the  
13 case of the license renewal application and will in  
14 the case of the DSEIS, be available on the NRC website  
15 at this address. Moving on to slide 19.

16                   As I said earlier, the most important  
17 piece of today's meeting is to receive any comments  
18 that you may have on the scope of the environmental  
19 review. Here are the various ways that you can submit  
20 your comments for our environmental review.

21                   You can provide written comments by mail  
22 to the NRC at the address provided here. Or, even  
23 better, you can send your comments electronically by  
24 going to regulations.gov and looking for Docket ID  
25 NRC-2021-0197. Or you can send them to the email

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1 SaintLucieEnvironmental@NRC.gov.

2 Comments should be submitted by November  
3 22, 2021. Any comments received after this date will  
4 be considered if at all possible. Moving on to slide  
5 20.

6 This slide identifies the primary points  
7 of contact within the NRC for license renewal of the  
8 St. Lucie Plant. In addition to Hector and me, the  
9 other individual listed here is Mike Mahoney, who is  
10 the current project manager for the operation of St.  
11 Lucie Plant.

12 So that more or less concludes the  
13 presentation. Before we move on and open the floor  
14 to comments, though, I'd like to pause for a moment  
15 to see if anyone has clarifying questions about the  
16 presentation that we just provided.

17 Melinda, can you please let folks know  
18 how to get your attention if they a clarifying  
19 question?

20 OPERATOR: Thank you. At this time, for  
21 your clarifying questions, please press star-1.  
22 Please unmute your phone and record your name clearly  
23 at the prompt. To withdraw your request, please press  
24 star two. Once again, at this time, please press  
25 star-1 for clarifying questions. One moment, please.

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1 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay, so we'll pause  
2 momentarily to see if there are any clarifying  
3 questions. Once we take care of any of those, we'll  
4 go ahead and open the floor to providing scoping  
5 comments.

6 OPERATOR: We do have one from Audra  
7 Livergood. Your line is open at this time.

8 MS. LIVERGOOD: Thank you. Can you all  
9 hear me?

10 MR. RAKOVAN: Yes, please, go ahead.

11 MS. LIVERGOOD: Okay, thank you. So I  
12 just wanted to clarify, I think you said at the  
13 beginning of the presentation that the license or  
14 what's being considered is the license to be renewed  
15 for an additional 20 years for Unit 1 and Unit 2. So  
16 I just want to confirm dates. So would that, for  
17 Unit 1, would that be March of 2056 and for Unit it  
18 would be April of 2063, is that correct?

19 MR. RAKOVAN: I believe that is correct,  
20 yeah.

21 MS. LIVERGOOD: Okay, thank you.

22 MR. RAKOVAN: Certainly. Any other  
23 questions?

24 OPERATOR: At this time we are showing no  
25 further questions.

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1 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay, so let me go ahead.  
2 I'll put up a couple general questions about the types  
3 of topics that we're looking to hear about today.  
4 What about your community should the NRC consider in  
5 the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement?  
6 What local environmental issues should be addressed?  
7 What other reasonable alternatives should be  
8 considered?

9 With that, we do have one speaker who  
10 preregistered to speak today. So Jodie Eldridge, if  
11 you could get Melinda's attention so we can make sure  
12 that your line is unmuted, we'll go ahead and start  
13 the commenting period with you. And then we'll go  
14 ahead and open the floor after that.

15 OPERATOR: Thank you. And Jodie, at this  
16 time, if you'll please press star-1. And for general  
17 comments please press star-1 at this time. One  
18 moment, please.

19 Jodie Eldridge, your line is open.

20 MS. ELDRIDGE: Thank you. Hello  
21 everyone. My name is Jodie Gless Eldridge, Senior  
22 Manager of Environmental Services for Florida Power  
23 and Light Company. Environmental Services supports  
24 the development, construction, and operation of our  
25 facilities to ensure they are constructed and

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1 operated in an environmentally sound and responsible  
2 manner.

3 My team is comprised of biologists and  
4 archeologists who provide input to avoid impacts to  
5 habitat, wildlife, and cultural resources. If  
6 avoidance can't occur, then we find ways to minimize  
7 and/or mitigate those impacts. I've been with the  
8 company for over 13 years and have seen firsthand our  
9 commitment to being an industry leader in  
10 environmental protection and stewardship.

11 I come to you today proud to support the  
12 St. Lucie subsequent license renewal. The St. Lucie  
13 Nuclear Power Plant has an outstanding track record  
14 of protecting wildlife during approximately 40 years  
15 of operation. Our wildlife protection program has  
16 allowed for our trained biologists to gather data on  
17 thousands of threatened or endangered sea turtles.

18 Through the turtle program at St. Lucie  
19 Plant, FPL performs a valuable service to researchers  
20 worldwide providing sea turtle data to further the  
21 protection and conservation of the species, as well  
22 as supporting local initiatives focused on the  
23 protection and rehabilitation of the sea turtle.

24 Being a turtle biologist by training, I  
25 am incredibly proud of this program and the work that

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1 we do on a daily basis.

2 In closing, FPL takes our commitment to  
3 protecting the environment seriously, and we are  
4 proud to provide clean, reliable power to the  
5 Treasure Coast and all our FPL customers. Thank you.

6 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay, thank you very much.  
7 Again, that was the only speaker who I had  
8 preregistered to speak prior to the meeting. So  
9 Melinda, if you could let folks know how they can get  
10 your attention -- and to start a queue with folks who  
11 would like to provide comments.

12 OPERATOR: Thank you. And once again,  
13 star-1 at this time for your comments, please press  
14 star-1. Provide your name clearly at the prompt. To  
15 withdraw your request, please press star two. One  
16 moment, please.

17 Thank you for standing by. We are  
18 showing no further comments at this time.

19 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay. While we wait to see  
20 if anyone has any comments, and again, this is  
21 certainly not a speak now or forever hold your peace  
22 kind of situation, but I'll go ahead and put up the  
23 way that you can provide your comments outside the  
24 meeting and go over that.

25 You can provide them by snail mail to our

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1 Office of Administration. The preferred way to do it  
2 would be electronically though, again, to  
3 regulations.gov under Docket ID No. NRC-2021-0197.  
4 Or emailing them to [SaintLucieEnvironmental@NRC.gov](mailto:SaintLucieEnvironmental@NRC.gov).

5 Again, we're looking for comments to be  
6 submitted by November 22 to ensure that they're  
7 included as we move forward with our work on the  
8 Environmental Impact Statement. Any comments  
9 received after that, we will do our best to take them  
10 into account, but we are limited somewhat by our own  
11 timelines.

12 Melinda, any takers?

13 OPERATOR: Thank you. No comments at  
14 this time.

15 MR. RAKOVAN: All right, you know, we do  
16 have this meeting scheduled for two hours and we have  
17 not used quite a half an hour of it yet. So I'm going  
18 to go ahead and pause for a moment to give folks a  
19 chance just in case they wish to provide some  
20 comments, and just in case they're feeling shy, if  
21 you will.

22 So I'm going to go ahead and pause.

23 OPERATOR: And as a reminder, for your  
24 comments please press star-1 at this time. One  
25 moment, please.

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1 MR. RAKOVAN: All right, Melinda, I'll  
2 check in one more time.

3 OPERATOR: Thank you, and we are showing  
4 no further comments at this time.

5 MR. RAKOVAN: Okay, well, we do have an  
6 additional meeting tonight at six o'clock. I  
7 understand that sometimes afternoon meetings can be  
8 somewhat light. So hopefully we will have folks call  
9 into that meeting if they weren't able to call into  
10 this one.

11 So I am going to go ahead and turn it  
12 over to Rob Elliott to provide some closing comments.  
13 Rob, are you with us?

14 MR. ELLIOTT: I sure am. Well, thank you  
15 again for participating in today's meeting. Please  
16 remember that today is not your last opportunity to  
17 provide scoping comments. The best way to provide  
18 comments after today is the email address,  
19 SaintLucieEnvironmental@NRC.gov.

20 Or go to regulations.gov and search for  
21 the Docket ID NRC-20210-0197. Remember the scoping  
22 period ends on November 22. Any comments after that  
23 day will be considered if possible, but may not get  
24 incorporated if we receive them too late.

25 Anyone who provides their comments using

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1       these methods will receive a scoping summary report,  
2       which we plan to issue in mid-2022. And you can also  
3       reach out to Lance to request that you be included in  
4       the distribution for correspondence related to the  
5       St. Lucie license renewal.

6                   Thank you again for participating in  
7       today's meeting. And with that, Lance, I think we  
8       can close it out.

9                   MR. RAKOVAN: I believe we can. Thank  
10       you, Rob.

11                   (Whereupon the above-entitled matter  
12       went off the record at 1:30 p.m.)

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