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Surry Power Station - Afternoon Session

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ATTACHMENT 1

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR LICENSE RENEWAL
SURRY POWER STATION
+ + + + +
WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

The Public Scoping Meeting took place at the Surry Combined District Courtroom, Surry County Government Center, 45 School Street, Surry, Virginia, at 1:30 p.m., Chip Cameron, Facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT:

- CHIP CAMERON
- CHRIS GRIMES
- ROBERT PRATO
- ANDY KUGLER
- HON. WILLIAM H. BARLOW
- HENRY BRADBY
- JUDY LYTTLE
- DOUG CASKEY
- TYRONE FRANKLIN
- CONSTANCE RHODES
- CLAUDE REESON
- WILTON BOBO

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ALSO PRESENT:

RICHARD BLOUNT

WILLIAM BOLIN

MIKE STEVENS

PASTOR HOWARD DANIELS

THOMAS HARDY

RALPH ANDERSEN

A-G-E-N-D-A

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Opening remarks - Facilitator Chip Cameron 4

Presentation by Chris Grimes 9

Presentation by Andy Kugler 15

Hon. William H. Barlow 22

Henry Bradby 25

Judy Lyttle 26

Doug Caskey 28

Tyrone Franklin 30

Constance Rhodes 32

Claude Reeson 34

Wilton Bobo 35

Richard Blount 38

William Bolin 44

Mike Stevens 51

Pastor Howard Daniels 53

Thomas Hardy 55

Ralph Andersen 58

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

(1:30 p.m.)

FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Chip Cameron, I'm the Special Counsel for Public Liaison in the Office of General Counsel at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I would like to welcome all of you to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Scoping Meeting on the preparation of an environmental impact statement for Dominion's license application for renewal of the licenses at Surry Units 1 and 2.

I'm going to serve as your facilitator for today's meeting. And I just want to cover three things briefly about the meeting process before we go to the substance of the discussions today.

I would like to talk a little bit about what the NRC's objectives are today. Secondly I would like to go over the format and ground rules for today's meeting. And, third, I would like to just briefly go over the agenda with you, so that you know what to expect today.

In terms of the objectives for the meeting, the NRC wants to explain its process for evaluating the request for license renewal, and specifically what the role of the Environmental Impact

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1 Statement is in the NRC's decision making process on
2 the license renewal applications, and also on how the
3 NRC will develop and prepare the Environmental Impact
4 Statement.

5 Scoping, this has been advertised as a
6 scoping meeting. And scoping is a term that is used
7 in connection with the preparation of Environmental
8 Impact Statements. The Environmental Impact Statement
9 is a document that serves to assist the Nuclear
10 Regulatory Commission in making its decision on the
11 applications for license renewal.

12 And scoping is the process that allows the
13 NRC to receive information on potential environmental
14 impacts that might be looked at, that should be looked
15 at, in the Environmental Impact Statement.

16 So the second objective is to hear from
17 all of you on any information that you might have to
18 offer on potential impacts that the NRC should look at
19 in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement.

20 Then in a few minutes the NRC staff will
21 tell you a little bit more about the Environmental
22 Impact Statement process.

23 In terms of -- I guess I should say in
24 terms of getting information from you, that the NRC
25 will also be taking written comments on the scoping

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1 issues, and we will get -- maybe get a new microphone,
2 I don't know. We may need a battery, and I will just
3 go up here for now.

4 We wanted to be here today to talk with
5 all of you in person. And the remarks that you hear
6 today may help you to prepare written comments, if you
7 want to file those. But I would just emphasize that
8 any comments that the NRC hears today will be treated
9 in the same way as written comments.

10 In terms of format the meeting, basically,
11 is going to have two segments. The first segment is
12 going to consist of two brief presentations from the
13 NRC staff, to give you a context, to give you
14 background information, so that you will be able to
15 understand the license renewal process.

16 And after each of those presentations we
17 will go to you to see if there are any clarifying
18 questions that you might have for the NRC to answer.
19 After that we will go to the second segment of the
20 program.

21 And that is going to be formal comments
22 from any of you who wish to make formal comments. And
23 when we get to that period we are going to go to some
24 local officials, and others, and start off with that.
25 And then we are going to ask the Dominion Company to

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1 give us an overview of their license renewal
2 application.

3 In terms of ground rules, if you are going
4 to ask a question, or when you come up to give a
5 presentation, please give us your name and
6 affiliation, if appropriate.

7 We are keeping a transcript of the meeting
8 today that will be publicly available. But I would
9 like to know who you are when you are talking.

10 And the second ground rule, please just
11 one person at a time speaking, not only so that our
12 stenographer can get a clean transcript, but also so
13 that we can give our full attention to whomever has
14 the floor at the time.

15 Our last ground rule is I want to make
16 sure that everybody who wants to talk can talk today,
17 so I would just ask you to try to be as concise and
18 economical as possible in your comments.

19 And I'm going to ask you to try to keep
20 your formal comment to five minutes. We've set that
21 as a sort of flexible ground rule, so that we can make
22 sure that everybody gets a chance to speak.

23 In terms of the agenda, we are going to
24 start off with Chris Grimes, who is right here in the
25 front row. And Chris is the branch chief, and I have

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1 to -- I will never remember this, but License Renewal
2 and Standardization Branch.

3 That is in the NRC's Office of Nuclear
4 Reactor Regulation. And, Chris and the people who
5 work for Chris, are responsible for making the NRC's
6 initial recommendation, and the evaluation of license
7 renewal applications.

8 And, as you will hear from Chris, there is
9 two aspects, or three aspects, perhaps, to the license
10 renewal evaluation process. One is the environmental
11 analysis that we are, primarily, here to talk about
12 today.

13 But, secondly, there is an analysis of
14 safety, what are called safety issues, at the
15 facility. And Chris will tell you a little bit more
16 of that.

17 Then there are some inspection reports
18 that come in. Well, in Chris' branch they integrate
19 all of that information, including the environmental
20 information, to make their decision.

21 So he is going to talk about license
22 renewal overview, so that you see how all these
23 various pieces fit together.

24 Then we are going to focus on
25 environmental issues, and Andy Kugler, who is down

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1 here, Andy is the environmental project manager for
2 the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement
3 on the Surry license renewal application.

4 And he is going to give you an overview on
5 that. By way of background, Andy has a bachelor's
6 degree from Cooper Union in New York City, and a
7 master's in technical management from Johns Hopkins
8 University. He has also served as a licensed senior
9 operator for Gulf States Utilities before he joined
10 the NRC.

11 And Chris has been with the NRC since
12 1973, and he has a bachelors in nuclear engineering,
13 and now has the managerial responsibility for the
14 license renewal.

15 And with that I would just thank you all
16 for taking the time to be here today. We are looking
17 forward to talking to you, and I will turn it over to
18 Chris.

19 MR. GRIMES: Thank you, Chip. As Chip
20 mentioned I am Chris Grimes, I'm the chief of the
21 License Renewal and Standardization Branch. I have
22 overall responsibility for the conduct of the power
23 reactor license renewal program at the NRC.

24 And I -- before we get into the specifics
25 of the process, and the solicitation of comments

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1 today, I thought it would be important to provide a
2 context and a backdrop for today's meeting by giving
3 you a fundamental idea about the licensing process,
4 and the NRC's roles and responsibilities.

5 As you know Dominion has submitted a
6 license renewal application for Units 1 and 2 at
7 Surry. They did so in a combined application, with
8 the North Anna plant. We have one safety review that
9 covers all four units between Surry and North Anna.

10 We have two separate environmental reviews
11 because of the two different sites. The two units at
12 Surry have licenses that currently expire in 2012 and
13 2013. And the license renewal process that I want to
14 overview for you, is essentially the same as the
15 original licensing process when these plants were
16 first constructed.

17 The Atomic Energy Act provides that the
18 Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for
19 public health and safety, protection of the
20 environment, and common defense and security. It also
21 provided that each power reactor would have a 40 year
22 license term.

23 But the Atomic Energy Act went on to say
24 that those licenses could be renewed. The original 40
25 year license term was based primarily on anti-trust

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1 and economic factors, not on any technical limitation
2 of the plant design.

3 However, having established a 40 year
4 license term, the Commission realized, in the early
5 1980s, that we would have to establish a process in
6 order to make license renewal decisions.

7 So the Nuclear Regulatory Commission set
8 forth requirements for license renewal in Part 54 to
9 Title 10, which you will hear us refer to,
10 periodically, throughout these brief presentations, as
11 10 CFR 54.

12 There is a companion regulation that
13 provides the scope of the environmental review, and it
14 is provided in Part 51, or 10 CFR 51. The application
15 for license renewals are typically being submitted
16 right now, because utilities have about a 10 year
17 planning horizon in order to develop large new
18 generating capacity.

19 And so current -- licensees are currently
20 looking at license renewal in order to understand what
21 the expectations are regarding the plant inspection
22 and maintenance practices for the period of extended
23 operation, in order to make these decisions about
24 whether or not it is cost effective to continue plant

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1 operation, to decommission it, or to extend the
2 licenses.

3 The process that the NRC provides for, as
4 Chip mentioned, essentially runs in two parallel
5 paths. There is a safety review that looks at the
6 scope of license renewal issues.

7 And that scope is focused on the aging
8 management programs for passive long-lived system
9 structures and components. The reason that the
10 Commission felt that that could be a focus of these
11 regulations is because there are ongoing regulatory
12 processes that monitor the maintenance of the current
13 licensing basis and the provisions for things like
14 emergency planning, and security plans.

15 These are things that need to be
16 constantly attended to. However, those processes do
17 not explicitly look at the plant's design capability
18 to cope with long-term degradation of equipment due to
19 aging effects.

20 So the license renewal application focuses
21 on those inspection programs, and maintenance
22 practices, that are used to maintain the margins of
23 safety in the plant safety equipment.

24 Separately we conduct an environmental
25 review, and Mr. Kugler is going to address that in

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1 more detail. But the two principal products from the
2 NRC staff are a Safety Evaluation Report, and an
3 Environmental Impact Statement.

4 Those are taken together with two other
5 pieces. One is an independent review of the safety
6 issues by the Commission's Advisory Committee on
7 Reactor Safeguards.

8 That is an independent body of experts
9 from the industry and academia, who have particular
10 expertise on safety issues, and they look at the
11 quality of the staff's safety findings.

12 There is also an independent inspection
13 program that verifies certain key elements of the
14 staff's safety findings. And so, collectively, the
15 Commission's decision on this license renewal
16 application will rely on a Safety Evaluation Report,
17 an Environmental Impact Statement that includes public
18 commenting, an ACRS report, and an Inspection Report.
19 And those are the four principal products.

20 The schedule for this activity is about a
21 25 month schedule, because for this application we
22 have had no petitions to intervene for a Hearing. Had
23 there been a petition submitted and granted, then the
24 schedule would have been about 30 months to get
25 through the whole process.

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1 Before we get into Mr. Kugler's
2 presentation on the environmental review process I
3 would like to introduce Robert Prato. Bob Prato is
4 the safety project manager. Bob is responsible for
5 the conduct of the safety reviews by the NRC's
6 technical staff.

7 Bob and I are going to be available after
8 the meeting if there are any questions that you have
9 about the aging management program review, or the
10 specifics of the safety review process, and the
11 ultimate contents of the safety evaluation report.

12 But unless there are any particular
13 questions you have about the overall process, I'm
14 going to turn it over to Andy Kugler to go through the
15 environmental review process, and the scoping process.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And let's just see
17 if people do have any questions about the overall
18 license renewal process.

19 (No response.)

20 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay, let's go to
21 Andy.

22 MR. GRIMES: And I will mention this, as
23 Andy is coming up here, Bob and I will be available
24 separately if you have any specific questions about
25 the process.

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1 MR. KUGLER: Thank you Chip, and Chris.
2 Again, my name is Andy Kugler, and I'm the
3 environmental project manager. What that means is
4 that I'm leading the team that is performing the
5 environmental review.

6 At this point what we have on our team, we
7 have a number of NRC staff, and we also have several
8 experts that we have contracted, with the National
9 Laboratories, to bring in their expertise for the
10 evaluation.

11 The National Environmental Policy Act was
12 enacted in 1969. And for our purposes what it
13 requires us to do is to implement a systematic
14 approach to evaluate environmental impacts.

15 In looking at environmental impacts we
16 will be considering the impacts of the action that is
17 proposed, in this case license renewal, as requested
18 by Virginia Power Dominion.

19 We will also consider environmental
20 impacts of any alternatives that may be available to
21 the action that was requested. And that would include
22 a no action alternative. In other words, simply not
23 approving the request for license renewal. And we
24 will evaluate the environmental impacts of those
25 alternatives.

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1 The NEPA process is basically a disclosure
2 tool. The intent is for us to provide information out
3 to the public, and also to gather information from the
4 public that may be helpful in reaching our decision.

5 We consider license renewal to be a major
6 federal action, and what that means, in the context of
7 the work that we are doing, is that we will prepare an
8 environmental impact statement. It is a more detailed
9 document than we might otherwise prepare for a simpler
10 action, or a smaller action.

11 We are in the process, at this point, of
12 gathering the information we need to prepare that
13 document. And in particular at this stage we are
14 performing what we call scoping. And we are trying to
15 find out information from members of the public, and
16 from other agencies, that will -- that might have some
17 bearing on our evaluation.

18 So in particular we are looking for
19 information that maybe is not readily available, or
20 concerns that members of the public have that maybe
21 have not been addressed.

22 We want to take a look at those and see if
23 they require further evaluation, and evaluate them in
24 our Environmental Impact Statement.

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1 This slide provides what we call our
2 decision standard. What it is we are trying to -- the
3 decision we are trying to reach at the end, whether or
4 not the environmental impacts of this action, license
5 renewal, are so great as to preclude this action as an
6 alternative.

7 And I want to emphasize that even when we
8 reach the end, let's assume for a moment, if we were
9 to decide at the end that license renewal is
10 acceptable, from an environmental perspective, all
11 that means is that it will be okay for the licensee to
12 operate for the additional 20 years.

13 We don't determine whether they actually
14 do operate for those additional 20 years. Those
15 decisions are made elsewhere, in particular by the
16 licensee themselves, and by state regulators.

17 It is possible a licensee could determine,
18 after all this, that it is not economically feasible
19 to continue to operate a unit. That is their
20 decision. But we are simply determining whether it is
21 acceptable environmentally.

22 This slide gives a little more detail on
23 the environmental portion of the review process. The
24 licensee's application was received at the end of May.
25 In the middle of August we issued a notice of our

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1 intent to perform scoping, which we are doing now, and
2 our intent to develop an Environmental Impact
3 Statement in relation to the action.

4 We are currently in the scoping process,
5 which will run through the middle of October. After
6 that we will complete developing a draft of the
7 Environmental Impact Statement.

8 We expect to issue that draft toward the
9 end of April of next year. It will be issued, at that
10 point, for public comment. The public will be given
11 a period of time to review the document and prepare
12 comments.

13 We will also, at that point, come back
14 here for a second meeting, to accept verbal comments
15 as well, similar to what we are doing today.

16 After receiving any comments, and
17 evaluating those comments, we will then develop the
18 final Environmental Impact Statement, which we expect
19 to issue around the end of next year. So it is a
20 rather lengthy process.

21 We gather the information for our
22 evaluation from a number of different sources.
23 Obviously we use the Applicant's documents, that they
24 submitted to us, looking for public comments here.

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1 We also go out and we talk to state,
2 Federal agencies, local agencies, and local people who
3 may have information that will help us in our
4 evaluation.

5 We also go to the site ourselves, which is
6 part of what we are doing this week. We will be
7 visiting the site, looking around, getting familiar
8 with the lay of the land, how the site interacts with
9 the environment. And we use all that information to
10 develop our Environmental Impact Statement.

11 On our team we employ experts from a
12 number of different fields. Here we are trying to
13 kind of show, graphically, the sorts of areas we are
14 looking at. Everything from the air, to the water, to
15 under the ground.

16 We also look at things like socioeconomic,
17 how does the plant affect people's lives economically;
18 does it have impacts that are non-economical on people
19 that maybe have some negative impact on individuals.

20 So we try and look at all the ways in
21 which the plant can affect the public and the
22 environment.

23 Right now our schedule is to complete the
24 scoping by the middle of October. The comment period
25 runs out on the 15th of October. After that, as I

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1 indicated, we will develop our draft in April, and we
2 expect to issue a final document in December of 2002.

3 I am the agency's primary point of contact
4 for the environmental review. In the slides that
5 you've received, you have this same slide, it has my
6 phone number if you need to talk to me about
7 something, or if you have a comment you want to
8 submit, and you can discuss it. I still need to get
9 it in some form that we can use, either a written
10 letter -- as Chip indicated, verbal comments given
11 here at these meetings, which are transcribed, are
12 treated the same as written comments.

13 The documents associated with license
14 renewal have been made available. The Swem Library at
15 the College of William and Mary, is kind enough to
16 hold documents for us. And this was the location that
17 used to be the local PDR, if any of you have used it
18 previously. But they have the application. They've
19 got some of the reference documents, and they will
20 continue to receive any documents that are generated
21 in the future as we proceed in our review.

22 So if you want to look at the documents
23 they will be there. Most of the documents will also
24 be available on our web page, and they will also be

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1 available in our document management system, which is
2 available online.

3 If you want to submit comments to us,
4 other than verbal comments given today, your options
5 -- we've tried to give you as many options as we
6 could. Obviously you can write us a letter, and this
7 is the address you would write to.

8 You can stop by in person if you want to,
9 stop by in Rockville. Not too many people take that
10 option for some reason, but it is available to you.
11 You can also submit comments by email. We've set up
12 a special mailbox. And if you prefer using email that
13 is another method that you can use to submit.

14 That concludes my presentation. If
15 anybody has any specific questions for me concerning
16 the environmental review process, we can take those
17 now. Otherwise I thank you for your time.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Does anyone have any
19 questions, out there, on the environmental process?

20 (No response.)

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,
22 Andy. We are going to go out to all of you, there are
23 some formal comments now, and what I would like to do
24 is to start with some of the government officials, and

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1 I would like Delegate Bill Barlow, from the Virginia
2 House of Delegates, to come up to speak to us.

3 Delegate Barlow?

4 DELEGATE BARLOW: Thank you very much, Mr.
5 Chairman. The citizens here in this area really
6 appreciate the opportunity for all of us to come and
7 to make our comments in regard to this renewal of the
8 permit process.

9 I would like to just make, probably, three
10 or four points. First of all is that we here, in this
11 community, and incidentally I represent Surry County
12 in the new redistricting, all of Surry County, most of
13 Isle of Wight County, a little bit of Southampton,
14 part of the City of Franklin, all of the city of
15 Williamsburg, and part of James City County.

16 So all this area I'm very much concerned
17 about, and I have lived here all of my life, and I
18 want to continue to see this to be an outstanding area
19 in which to live.

20 The other points that I want to make,
21 first of all, the problem that we have in some parts
22 of the country is that they don't want any nuclear
23 power.

24 You know, one of the vital points that we
25 have is that we want to make sure that there is an

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1 uninterrupted flow of electrical energy. If we lose
2 that we have a major problem. We have already seen
3 that in California and other parts of the West.

4 And although there are a number of
5 complicating factors causing the problems that they've
6 had out there, certainly one of the factors is the
7 decision made, some years ago, to cease the
8 construction of nuclear power and generation plants.

9 And, certainly I think we, in this area,
10 have shown foresight in agreeing to have nuclear power
11 plants in our area. And we think that the decisions
12 made to that effect several years ago are certainly
13 bearing fruit today. And we certainly want nuclear
14 power to continue to be generated in our area.

15 The second point is in regard to the
16 environment, and certainly that is a major issue here
17 today. We feel that the power plant here has shown a
18 very clear and strong adherence to sound environmental
19 policies.

20 If you go up there, if you take the trip
21 up the road to the plant you will see fields, you will
22 see forest, you will see a wildlife refuge right next
23 to the power plant. So, certainly, the environment is
24 being carefully continued and the quality of the
25 environment is carefully continued by the existence of

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1 this plant, and by the policies and the operation of
2 the plant. So certainly that is not a concern.

3 In regard to, and the last point I would
4 like to make is in regard to safety. I've taken a
5 tour of the plant on several occasions, most recently
6 just a couple of months ago.

7 And I have really been impressed with how
8 carefully the plans, the procedures have been worked
9 out, and have been carried out in regard to the
10 operation of the plant.

11 Certainly safety, particularly in these
12 recent days, in the last week or ten days, the safety
13 of our citizens has to be a paramount concern. And I
14 feel that this plant has demonstrated, on a daily
15 basis through monitoring, self-monitoring by the plant
16 itself, monitoring by the nuclear regulatory
17 officials, I think it has shown that this is a safe
18 operation.

19 And if the application, the renewal
20 application process is, the permit is approved, then
21 that safe operation will continue.

22 Again, thank you for being here today, and
23 voicing your views. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you Delegate
25 Barlow.

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1 Next we are going to go to Mr. Henry
2 Bradby. And Mr. Bradby is the Chairman, I believe, of
3 the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors. Mr.
4 Bradby.

5 CHAIRMAN BRADBY: Thank you sir, and all
6 persons assembled. We are happy to be here today to
7 do whatever we can to encourage the process, and to
8 see that the license will be approved.

9 I heard the Chairman say that he would
10 like us to hold our comments to five minutes. We have
11 a thing over in Isle of Wight that we ask that you use
12 a maximum of five minutes, and a minimum of two. I'm
13 going to choose the two.

14 I again say we bring you greetings from
15 the governing body of the County of Isle of Wight,
16 known as the Board of Supervisors, and be here today
17 for the purpose to do all we can to see that the
18 license is renewed.

19 And I see there is five sentences, I'm
20 going to choose the fifth one. And that is you will
21 accept any comments you may have today.

22 I will say, without hesitation, that the
23 power plant is a good neighbor. I live closer to the
24 power plant than any of the other five board members,

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1 and never have a thought about anything going wrong,
2 because I concur with Mr. Barlow.

3 I have toured the plant, it is well
4 maintained, carefully looked after, and I don't have
5 any knowledge of ever having any environmental problem
6 over in Isle of Wight that happened over at the power
7 plant.

8 These are good neighbors, very cooperative
9 neighbors, and Isle of Wight stands firm and will do
10 all it can to see that this license is renewed. We
11 have a fire department right in Isle of Wight, nearer
12 to the power plant than any other station. And we
13 stand ready to be of any assistance.

14 We have a very close relationship with the
15 staff over at the power plant. And I want to say
16 today I thank you for the opportunity to speak on
17 behalf of the county. Thank you, and God bless you.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Chairman
19 Bradby.

20 Next we are going to go to Judy Lyttle,
21 from the Surry County Board of Supervisors, and I
22 believe Judy is the Bacons Castle representative on
23 the Surry County Board.

24 MS. LYTTLE: Good evening to everyone. I
25 am so glad to see so many out this afternoon to

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1 support, or if you have objections to the Surry
2 Nuclear Power Plant, we are here to hear that, also.

3 But as a representative of Surry County,
4 and the Bacons Castle District, we are so happy to
5 have Virginia Power and Dominion resources in Surry
6 County.

7 We feel that it has been a great asset,
8 and we know it has been a great asset to this county.
9 It has provided for great number of educational
10 purposes. It provides economics for our -- just
11 taking care of our citizens in a lot of ways.

12 We feel that Virginia Power is very safe,
13 we have no problems with that based on visiting the
14 power plant, based on the NRC's inspections.

15 I was here at a meeting, I think it was
16 last year, where the NRC came in and talked about
17 their new inspection procedure. And I was very
18 impressed.

19 And as a citizen, and I live within five
20 miles of the plant, I have no fear that anything is
21 going to happen there that would affect our citizens
22 in any way.

23 We are glad you are here, we hope that the
24 NRC will relicense the plant. We want it here, we
25 welcome it here, and we thank you for coming.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much
2 Supervisor Lyttle.

3 Next let's go to Mr. Doug Caskey, who is
4 the Administrator of Isle of Wight County.

5 MR. CASKEY: Good afternoon. Obviously I
6 stand here today as the chief administrative officer
7 for Isle of Wight, in support of the renewal of the
8 license for this facility.

9 Mr. Bradby has mentioned a few of the
10 things that this facility brings, not only to the
11 region, but to the Commonwealth as a whole. But I
12 think when I reflect on Surry Nuclear, and I've toured
13 the facilities numerous times over the past number of
14 years, what comes to my mind is total commitment as an
15 operation.

16 Total commitment in the sense of providing
17 nuclear energy in the most efficient and safe manner,
18 I think, that technology will allow, and regulations
19 will allow, in terms of this being a facility.

20 Nationwide, from the knowledge that I
21 have, Surry Nuclear, and the Dominion's operations are
22 the elite in the group. The service that is provided,
23 the utility that is provided to the region, to the
24 Commonwealth, is immeasurable in many aspects.

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1 The fact that we always know that the
2 height of their interest is safety and security, and
3 the production of that utility in a manner that will
4 not undermine the area as a whole.

5 The other total commitment that I'm very
6 much aware of is the commitment to the environment
7 that Surry Nuclear provides. I think it goes without
8 saying there are numerous areas in which they have led
9 the way over the decades in being environmental
10 stewards, to being in the business of providing
11 nuclear energy, and yet to have the level of
12 consciousness that they do, relative to the
13 environmental protection, is certainly to be
14 commended.

15 Their total commitment, also, is to the
16 Hampton Roads regions, and to the communities at
17 large. Obviously they are a tremendous asset to Surry
18 County. But they are also a tremendous asset to all
19 those neighboring jurisdictions within the region,
20 including Isle of Wight County.

21 They provide a tremendous employment base,
22 they are extremely supportive corporate citizens, not
23 only to Surry County, but to the region. They are
24 essentially, their management teams are at our beck

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1 and call when we call upon them, to need them for any
2 reason.

3 Their commitment is really widespread in
4 all areas. There is -- whether it is to the economy,
5 the environment, the product that they provide in
6 utility production. It filters down through all
7 aspects of life that probably many people in this
8 region, over the course of the last decades, have
9 taken for granted.

10 But if Surry Nuclear capability was not
11 here, and the capability to provide safe and efficient
12 nuclear energy were not here, I think certainly we
13 would recognize the difference.

14 Certainly we are in support, and stand
15 ready to assist in any way possible for this license
16 renewal. Thank you.

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.
18 Caskey. Let's go next to Mr. Tyrone Franklin, who is
19 with Surry County government, and I believe the
20 Director of Planning?

21 MR. FRANKLIN: That is correct. Good
22 afternoon, members of the hearing panel, citizens and
23 friends of Surry County. My name is Tyrone Franklin,
24 and as the gentleman indicated, I'm the Community

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1 Development Director in the Planning Department of
2 Surry County.

3 Approximately 27 years ago VEPCO, now
4 known as Dominion Virginia Power, received a
5 conditional use permit to construct and operate the
6 Surry Nuclear Plant as a generating source for
7 producing electricity.

8 During that time, from the county's
9 perspective, the main intent for the approval of the
10 permit was to ensure that the proposed use, location,
11 did not conflict with the land use plan; that public
12 health, safety, and general welfare of the community
13 was not adversely impacted; that adequate utilities,
14 off-street parking facilities would be provided, and
15 that the necessary safeguards would be in place for
16 the protection of the surrounding property, persons,
17 and neighborhood value.

18 Like then, as well as now, the Dominion
19 Virginia Power has continued to operate the facility
20 with the highest degree of professionalism, while
21 paying close attention to the concerns posed by the
22 Board of Supervisors, and citizens of Surry County,
23 and the approval process of their conditional use
24 permit.

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1 Dominion Power has proven to be a great
2 corporate citizen and steward for the environment. In
3 each instance they have been known to go beyond the
4 expectations that we might have had in the county.

5 Since my arrival to the county I have had
6 the opportunity to visit the facility. And what I
7 found was a very well run operation. I was quite
8 impressed.

9 And it is an honor for me, as a county
10 employee, to stand before you in full support of Surry
11 Power Station's license renewal application. Thank
12 you.

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.
14 Franklin. Let's go to Constance Rhodes, who is the
15 President of the Smithfield/Isle of Wight, or the
16 Executive Director of the Smithfield/Isle of Wight
17 Chamber of Commerce.

18 MS. RHODES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
19 Constance Rhodes, President of the Smithfield Chamber
20 of Commerce. We neighbor Surry County.

21 The purpose of my attendance today is to
22 endorse the Surry Power Station Units 1 and 2 for
23 relicensing. I too have visited the plant, and have
24 been very impressed with their professional operation,
25 and their attention to safety.

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1 There are lots of things that I could say
2 about the station, but I think today I should probably
3 comment on the community commitment perspective. They
4 provided safe and reliable electricity to this
5 community and adjoining communities, for more than 20
6 years.

7 They have been good corporate citizens,
8 good neighbors, contributing to a meaningful way of
9 life, contributing to the quality of life, and
10 therefore giving the citizens a better place in which
11 to live and work.

12 Their commitment in Isle of Wight, in
13 particular, has been demonstrated in a big way through
14 the United Way effort. Because of their generous
15 contributions they have assisted 12 non-profit
16 agencies in Isle of Wight on a yearly basis, enabling
17 us to meet the needs of those less fortunate in our
18 community.

19 As well when a recent devastating
20 hurricane hit southeastern Virginia, the Surry
21 employees joined forces with other Dominion employees,
22 to provide canned foods and household items for those
23 who suffered the loss of homes and property.

24 The company was recently honored with the
25 Governor's Community Service and Volunteerism Award.

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1 These are but a few examples of how Dominion's long-
2 standing tradition of investing in communities is
3 manifested locally and beyond to encompass the entire
4 state of Virginia.

5 Philanthropy and community partnerships
6 are well established traditions at Dominion. Their
7 involvement in our communities, and beyond, to include
8 the whole state of Virginia, demonstrates their
9 corporate citizenship.

10 I have full confidence that this tradition
11 will continue well into the new century. Thank you
12 for your time.

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much
14 for that comment. Let's hear it from another Chamber
15 of Commerce representative, Mr. Claude Reeson, from
16 the Surry County, President of the Surry County
17 Chamber of Commerce.

18 MR. REESON: Good afternoon, ladies and
19 gentlemen, Claude Reeson, President, Surry County
20 Chamber of Commerce.

21 Dominion Virginia Power's record speaks
22 for itself, I think all of us here know that. I have
23 toured the facility, it is a stellar facility,
24 extremely clean, well maintained, and operated.

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1 They also have been a model corporate
2 citizen, and have helped many organizations in the
3 county, plus provided jobs and an enormous tax base.
4 I'm sure everybody here knows that if they were not
5 there it would be an economic disaster for Surry
6 County.

7 But we hope they will be there for many,
8 many years to come. And we do encourage NRC to
9 approve this process. So we are looking forward to
10 working with the folks at Dominion Virginia Power for
11 many years to come. Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.
13 Reeson. Before we go to some -- to hear from some
14 representatives from Dominion Power, and some other
15 citizens from the community, I would like to ask Mr.
16 Wilton Bobo to come up.

17 Mr. Bobo is the Deputy Coordinator of
18 Emergency Management for James City County. Thank you
19 for being with us, Mr. Bobo.

20 MR. BOBO: Thank you for inviting me.
21 Good afternoon. It is always a pleasure to be in
22 Surry County.

23 I understand that the Nuclear Regulatory
24 Commission is considering the issue of safety, among

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1 other things, for the relicensing of Surry Power
2 Plant.

3 Well, today I got my meeting location
4 mixed up, and I went all the way over to Surry Power
5 Plant. And its response to last week's events is
6 right up there with their issue of safety. It was
7 complete and airtight.

8 I think it was so tight that I saw a flock
9 of geese, and they did a right turn above them, above
10 Surry Power Plant. And I'm pretty serious about that.

11 So that is another indication that they do
12 the nuclear safety on the same level, at least, on the
13 same level that we see out there for the security out
14 there at the plant today, as we speak.

15 As Deputy Coordinator for James City
16 County, my responsibility is for planning for nuclear
17 emergencies, among other things. And, thankfully, we
18 have not had any.

19 But I would like to testify to the fact
20 that all of the people at the Surry Power Plant have
21 worked with the county, they have worked with the
22 people in the emergency operations center, they have
23 provided training, all of the things that we need to
24 do in order to prepare to save and protect life and
25 property should we have an emergency. Now, they have

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1 given me great confidence that we are not going to
2 have any, because I've been here in the county for
3 going on five years now, and I haven't even seen my
4 phone, or pager, has never called -- have never called
5 me as a result of any safety issues, whatsoever.

6 But, meanwhile, we go about the business
7 of being prepared, not just James City County, but the
8 whole region is a better prepared region because of
9 the activities that are conducted at Surry Power
10 Plant.

11 Now, take the issue of hurricanes,
12 tornadoes, those kind of things that have nothing to
13 do with the operation of the plant, the fact that we
14 work with Surry, we maintain a viable emergency
15 response organization, keeps us better prepared to
16 respond to those non-nuclear emergencies.

17 And I'm glad to have Surry Power Plant as
18 a partner, technical advice, procedural advice,
19 whatever it takes, I have yet to have any request, for
20 that matter, reasonable request to Surry Power Plant
21 that they did not respond to in a very positive
22 manner.

23 Not only is James City County a better
24 prepared county because of the presence of Surry Power
25 Plant in our community, but the whole region is better

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1 prepared. It spills over into jurisdictions that are
2 not even risk jurisdictions.

3 As many of you know we have gone into
4 regionalization for emergency management. And I just
5 can't say enough good things. If you want me to go on
6 for another half hour I would be happy to. But it is
7 positive, and I urge you to go ahead and make the
8 correct decision and issue the license like it should
9 be.

10 We need the power, we need the good people
11 that we have at the plant, we need the leadership and
12 guidance, and the continued partnership of Surry Power
13 Plant, as well as James City County, and the other
14 jurisdictions in the area.

15 Thank you very much.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr. Bobo.
17 And I think it is appropriate now to go to two
18 representatives from the Dominion Power Company, and
19 then go back out to some other people from the
20 community.

21 I would like to ask Richard Blount to join
22 us. Mr. Blount is the Site Vice President at Surry.
23 Mr. Blount.

24 MR. BLOUNT: Thank you.

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1 Good afternoon. Like you said, my name is
2 Richard Blount, I'm the Site Vice President of
3 Dominion's Surry Nuclear Power Station.

4 I would like to thank the NRC for coming
5 out here to do this thing for us, the license renewal.
6 We welcome the input from the public, any issues they
7 bring forward.

8 I'm excited about this opportunity for
9 Surry Power Station. And I guess I get excited about
10 talking about Surry, and I can run on for 30 or 40
11 minutes. I will try to keep myself under control
12 here.

13 I'm not just excited for myself, I'm
14 excited for the 850 employees at the station. License
15 renewal will assure continued safe operation of Surry
16 Power Station, which now produces 15 percent of the
17 power in the State of Virginia.

18 It also will assure that the local economy
19 will continue to reap the benefits of the large
20 employee base of Surry Power Station.

21 Surry County has received continued
22 revenue from this area; since 1966 130 million dollars
23 has gone to Surry County. For me, personally, and for
24 the 850 employees, will be continued employment going
25 further into the century.

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1 I would like to take this moment to talk
2 about myself, my relationship to Surry County, and to
3 this area. I grew up 20 minutes from the power
4 station. I attended Smithfield High School, I went to
5 Main Street Baptist Church in Smithfield.

6 Although I grew up in Smithfield, my wife
7 and I now live in York County. My son goes to, lives
8 in Newport News, and goes to Old Dominion University.
9 He has graduated, he is out of the home.

10 I came to Surry Power Station in 1974 as
11 a summer intern, and as a laborer, while I was
12 majoring in physics at Old Dominion University. I
13 greatly and quickly developed an affinity for Surry
14 Power Station, and the nuclear technology that was
15 used to produce electricity.

16 I joined the company for a time in 1977
17 after graduating from Old Dominion. I worked my way
18 up from engineering technician to where I'm at today,
19 as site vice president. My career path included going
20 through supervisor of maintenance, instrumentation,
21 chemistry, instrument shop.

22 After going through all those departments
23 I became the director of nuclear safety and licensing
24 in 1997. I became a director of operations and
25 maintenance in 1999. I became site VP in 2000.

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1 Surry Power Station has a history of safe
2 and efficient operation. Since the 1990s Surry has
3 consistently been ranked one of the most efficient
4 producers of nuclear generated electricity in the
5 United States.

6 The station has also achieved, and
7 continues to achieve high levels of safety and
8 performance as measured by the Nuclear Regulatory
9 Commission, and the Institute of Nuclear Power
10 Operation.

11 From 1992 to 1998 the Nuclear Regulatory
12 Commission, in its systematic assessment of license
13 performance reports gave the station high marks for
14 safety.

15 Under the new oversight process, which is
16 updated on a quarterly basis on the agency's website,
17 Surry Power Station has maintained green windows in
18 the area of safety performance, meaning all the NRC
19 safety cornerstones are met.

20 The Institute of Nuclear Power Operations
21 also has consistently given Surry Power Station high
22 marks. Since we began commercial operation in 1972
23 utility representatives from 30 countries have come to
24 Surry Power Station to learn. We have learned from
25 them also. We want to continue to learn and improve.

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1 Many of you are aware that Surry Power
2 Station is adjacent to Hog Island wildlife preserve.
3 We designed Surry Power Station such that the water
4 that is released from the power station goes around
5 Hog Island so as to protect the oyster beds.

6 Also we designed a structure which takes
7 in, as water comes in, removes fish from the water,
8 protects them, and puts them back into the river.
9 That process is now used world-wide at other power
10 stations.

11 In preparing for the Surry relicensing
12 application, we had over 50 dedicated employees in
13 this process. They spent thousands of hours getting
14 ready for this license renewal process, their report
15 is to continue operation of Surry Power Station beyond
16 40 years, and the negligible impact to the environment
17 around the plant.

18 In a moment Bill Bolin, our chief
19 biologist will share information with you about our
20 environmental report.

21 One of the things we took when we
22 considered whether to apply for relicense for Surry
23 Power Station was the cost of replacing the plant.
24 The Surry Power Station generates more than 1,600

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1 megawatts of electricity, electricity equivalent for
2 400,000 homes.

3 The station is relatively inexpensive in
4 today's economy. Surry Power Station was built for
5 only 400 million dollars. That is small when you
6 consider building a new plant in today's economy. In
7 the future more electricity, not less, will be
8 required to meet the growing customer demand.

9 Because of Surry Power Station's low
10 production costs, overall safety performance, we
11 believe that relicensing the station is the best
12 option for meeting the future needs of Virginians.

13 Finally I would like to thank all of you
14 on behalf of the company, Dominion, for allowing us to
15 do business in Surry County. We have strived to be a
16 good corporate citizen, have enjoyed professional
17 support and the working relationship we have with the
18 community and other local departments.

19 As many of you know Dominion has a long-
20 standing tradition of doing this. We demonstrate it
21 in adopt-a-highway programs, Thanksgiving baskets for
22 the needy, blood drives, we give about 300 pints from
23 800 employees, which we consider very good output. We
24 support the area Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Special
25 Olympics, and many other community activities.

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1 Our volunteer program is key to Dominion's
2 corporate philosophy. We'll continue this commitment
3 to our communities in the future.

4 Again, I appreciate this opportunity to
5 speak to you. I believe Surry Power Station should be
6 relicensed, and I would like to turn it over to Bill
7 Bolin.

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
9 Mr. Blount. Mr. Bill Bolin from Dominion, who is the
10 manager of environmental biology for Dominion is going
11 to be our next speaker.

12 MR. BOLIN: Thank you, Chip. Again, my
13 name is Bill Bolin, I'm -- my official title is
14 manager of environmental biology. As Richard alluded
15 to, my unofficial title is chief biologist.

16 I began my career at Surry nearly 30 years
17 ago, being the first station biologist that was hired
18 by what was then VEPCO. When Congress passed the
19 Clean Water Act in the late 1960s, utility companies,
20 such as mine, had to decide whether they wanted to
21 hire staff in-house, or hire consultants to meet the
22 provisions of the Clean Water Act.

23 In what I consider, personally, as a
24 brilliant move they decided to hire in-house, and I
25 was fortunate to be asked to join the company.

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1 As such we were one of the first utilities
2 nationwide to staff with a full staff of environmental
3 professionals. I started work here at Surry, and was
4 primarily responsible for conducting environmental
5 monitoring for the station, much of which forms the
6 basis for our environmental report.

7 Let me share with you a few examples of
8 what I'm referring to. Richard has already mentioned
9 that there are considerations in the design and
10 placement of the station.

11 For example he mentioned that the
12 discharge for the station was placed upstream to
13 prevent, or to protect the oyster beds downstream.

14 Another example of the design feature is,
15 it is actually a design and a construction feature,
16 the containment structures were constructed below
17 grade so as to reduce the visual impact to the
18 historic James Town and Colonial Williamsburg sites.

19 What we did with the excavated materials
20 when we put it below grade was, we took those
21 excavated materials and made roads and dikes out on
22 Hog Island State Wildlife Refuge. Previously they had
23 no way to control flooding and draining so that they
24 could do more soil management for waterfowl. And this
25 allowed them to do that.

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1 I was also involved in what Richard
2 mentioned, about the state of the art withdraw
3 screens, which are at the intake structure, and now
4 are used industry-wide, as he mentioned, to protect
5 fish.

6 I could go on for quite a while about
7 other environmental considerations at Surry. But
8 perhaps I should spend a little bit of my time talking
9 about the essence of our environmental report.

10 Firstly, as you've heard already today, an
11 environmental report is required in any nuclear
12 license renewal process as a part of the National
13 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

14 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has
15 identified nearly 100 environmental issues that must
16 be addressed in the environmental report by all
17 applicants, which in this case is us.

18 Most of these issues were determined by
19 the NRC to be of minor environmental impact, and
20 therefore may be addressed generically. In our
21 environmental assessment we performed a review of
22 these same issues, and our assessment concurred with
23 the NRC assessment.

24 Some of the environmental issues are site-
25 specific for each facility, and must therefore be

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1 addressed accordingly. Some of the categories we
2 looked at included aquatic biology, terrestrial
3 biology, demographics, and transmission line impacts.

4 For example issues that we looked at, at
5 Surry, include such issues as waste heat, water
6 withdrawal, and threatened or endangered species. The
7 term waste heat refers to heat that is transferred to
8 water as it passes through the station to cool the
9 steam during the electrical generation process.

10 In the mid to late '70s we conducted a
11 study that led to the impacts of this waste heat on
12 the bottom of the James River. Basically we found no
13 long-term deleterious effects.

14 And the Virginia State Water Control
15 Board, which is now called the Department of
16 Environmental Quality, agreed with our findings.

17 Water withdrawal issues were looked at,
18 also. Water withdrawal represents the water, that I
19 mentioned earlier, that is used for cooling. The
20 Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences studied the
21 water withdrawal issue, and again demonstrated no
22 long-term deleterious effects on the James River
23 ecosystem. And, again, the Water Board, now VDEQ,
24 concurred with our findings.

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1 The evaluation of threatened and
2 endangered species was a little different, in that we
3 had to go to state and Federal agencies to investigate
4 possible impacts on listed species, which was an act
5 that came along a little later.

6 Our research showed no impact to any
7 threatened and endangered species as a result of
8 operation of Surry and its associated transmission
9 lines.

10 In fact one of the most long-lived and
11 successful bald eagle nests in the Chesapeake Bay
12 population is located on Surry Power Station property.

13 A couple of site-specific issues that we
14 looked at included socioeconomic impact, and cultural
15 resources. With regard to socioeconomic issues, we
16 found contribution to the local infrastructure.
17 Because there would be no new construction activity,
18 we are going to continue to use the same facilities,
19 the continued operation of the station means that
20 there will be, the impacts to the cultural resource
21 will also be negligible.

22 These are but a few examples of specific
23 issues addressed in the environmental report. In
24 evaluating these specific issues we consulted with
25 representatives of state and Federal resource

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1 agencies, as well as academicians, to update our
2 information.

3 In every issue we examined it was
4 determined that the continued generation of
5 electricity from Surry Power Station benefits our
6 customers, and the community, while at the same time
7 minimizing environmental impact.

8 Surry has a history of excellent
9 environmental stewardship. I'm very proud to have
10 been a small part of the Surry story, and the even
11 bigger Dominion story. Over the years it has been my
12 distinct privilege to be a part of numerous company-
13 wide environmental stewardship projects, such as the
14 recent peregrine falcon project, which we did this
15 spring, conducted in partnership with various state
16 and Federal agencies.

17 And in conclusion Richard and I would like
18 to thank you for your participation, your interest,
19 and your input into this process. It is crucial for
20 you to be involved. I'm going to turn my badge around
21 -- where is Chip?

22 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I'm right here.

23 MR. BOLIN: I'm going to turn my badge
24 around. I have been given proxy by Tony Castillo, who
25 is the refuge manager at Hog Island.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Oh, good, so you are
2 going to speak for Tony?

3 MR. BOLIN: I'm going to speak for Tony.
4 I'm going to turn my Dominion badge around. He
5 couldn't make it, but he wanted me to share a couple
6 of things about Dominion and Surry as a neighbor.

7 He said that, basically, that they are
8 extremely pleased to be a neighbor, or to have Surry
9 as a neighbor. Three things that he wanted me to
10 emphasize, safety, which has been said a number of
11 times here. They are extremely happy to have Surry be
12 there.

13 When they had a shooting accident a couple
14 of years ago, the first people to respond were the
15 emergency team from the power station, and he really
16 appreciated that.

17 Education, there is a joint program that
18 they work in conjunction with our education people at
19 the power station when they bring school group tours
20 on. They work together, and the refuge has the kids
21 for a while, and the information center has the kids
22 for a while. So that works well together.

23 And the other thing that he said was, in
24 terms of the environmental projects that we do on the

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1 power stations, such as the -- I mean, on the refuge,
2 such as the clean-up.

3 A couple of years ago I was involved in
4 putting up some osprey nests in platforms, as an Eagle
5 Scout project on the refuge. And he said he really
6 appreciates our being a neighbor. Thank you.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Bill, and
8 thanks for bringing us Tony's comments. And I would
9 like to get Mike Stevens now.

10 MR. STEVENS: Thank you very much. I have
11 made some notes, some points to hit on. And if any
12 point was hit at least three times before me I was
13 going to cross it off, so I don't have many points
14 left.

15 I guess what I really want to draw on,
16 number one, is 10.3 million dollars in taxes last year
17 for a county of 6,000 people. You can imagine the
18 effect that has on our services for the elderly, and
19 for our children's schools.

20 From a business point of view, I have a
21 restaurant, a small inn. The outages which Virginia
22 Power has considered to put in the off-season, not
23 during our busy time for the restaurant. But we fill
24 up the rooms, we fill up the restaurant. It helps us
25 to keep our employee level high through the year. And

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1 that also adds to the room tax for the town, payroll
2 for my employees.

3 That money rolls around several times in
4 the community before it leaves. So while my employee
5 may take home some change in tips, she stops by the
6 grocery store, the furniture store, the appliance
7 store, on the way home. And then, again, that circles
8 around as well.

9 The employees have volunteered their time
10 to build an amphitheater over at Chippokes, to paint
11 some buildings over there. They have been effective
12 on that, with the Tourism Committee, as well as the
13 Chamber of Commerce.

14 I would be remiss if I didn't share the
15 sense of trust that I feel with the plant operators.
16 From my business to the plant, catering and all, I get
17 to see inside, to a degree. And the impression I come
18 away with is a good sense of order and
19 professionalism.

20 I've never felt uncomfortable in any way
21 going into the plant. Again, clean and orderly. My
22 father is a retired engineer for another company, and
23 we used to go to the Grand Prix and the Indy race. As
24 he said, if it looks right, chances are it is going to

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1 work right. If it looks sloppy, then you know you've
2 got some problems underneath. It never looks sloppy.

3 So I've also been asked about how I feel
4 living close to the reactor. My answer has always
5 been, without hesitation, I sleep just fine. Thank
6 you very much.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mike.
8 Could we have Pastor Howard Daniels come up at this
9 point?

10 PASTOR DANIELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
11 and good afternoon to each of you.

12 I come representing the Tri-County
13 Interdenominational Ministers Conference, which take
14 in Isle of Wight County, Surry, and Prince George, as
15 well as Acorn here at Surry County.

16 I come in favor of relicensing, I will
17 refer to it as the plant. And I say that because you
18 have demonstrated your willingness to be here, and we
19 desire that you stay here, and to be licensed.

20 You've demonstrated that through what I
21 consider your safety record. We are impressed and
22 proud of the fact that we receive a tax base here.
23 And we are, more so, pleased with the fact that you
24 employ some of our citizens.

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1 But if you were not safe those aspects
2 would not be important at all. And not only that,
3 having lived here a number of years, I have gained a
4 vote of confidence as a citizen, that the plant is
5 safe.

6 Like some of the others, some have often
7 joked with me about the safety of the plant. And I
8 have said to them, if something was to happen, they
9 probably would get excited, having heard the news, and
10 run into a tree and kill themselves, before we would
11 have a concern here.

12 But we are concerned, and I'm impressed
13 with the safety record. Your follow-up, your follow-
14 through, having had some experience in radiological
15 training, I understand what is involved. So we are
16 pleased, on behalf of our ministers, doing things that
17 perhaps would improve and make a difference.

18 Sometimes there have been some products
19 called new and improved, and I see Dominion Power as
20 improving in areas where sometime they may not need
21 it, but sometimes you see a way to improve it, we have
22 been pleased with that.

23 So I'm very pleased with the environment,
24 the safety environment as well.

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1 Now, the most important thing is that it
2 is important to safety, because we are moving to
3 industrialize our county, and we need that
4 information, we need that selling tip, if you will, to
5 those that have shown interest in coming as we
6 industrialize our county.

7 And most important one is, I think, is
8 that I've asked some of my friends, and some
9 parishioners who are employed there, I did not tell
10 them I would be echoing today, but I just wanted to
11 know how they felt about the plant in general.

12 And, naturally, being employed they would
13 certainly speak in favor, but I didn't tell them that.
14 They indicated to me that safety was job one. And I
15 thought that summed it up well.

16 So we are pleased, and we certainly speak
17 today in favor of the relicensing. Bless you.

18 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
19 Pastor. Could we have Mr. Thomas Hardy?

20 MR. HARDY: Good evening, everyone. I
21 hadn't planned to speak, but I was asked to speak in
22 behalf of Surry County.

23 We are one hundred percent, I would say,
24 in favor of relicensing. I was in on the planning, I

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1 was on the Planning Commission here before I retired,
2 by design, really.

3 And then I had served for many years on
4 the Customer Advisory Board for Virginia Power, and
5 had a chance to visit a lot of their facilities
6 throughout the state.

7 And I'm pleased with the safety record
8 that we have at this plant. I was not going to object
9 at all for the plant coming to Surry, because it not
10 only has brought us money, but it brought us industry
11 that we didn't even have in the beginning, and it
12 really has helped us in that.

13 As my supervisor has said, that Virginia
14 Power has definitely been a very good neighbor to us.
15 A lot of places throughout the nation objected to
16 having nuclear power come in. But we didn't object.

17 And I want to thank James City County, and
18 Isle of Wight County, for being here today to support
19 us, and you all don't even get any tax money. But you
20 could have protested.

21 I was sent to Tulsa, Oklahoma, after the
22 Indians got an above-ground storage facility like we
23 have here in Surry, and to speak to the people out
24 there. And I thought I was going to have to be
25 escorted when I was touring, and I spoke in favor of

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1 putting one in the Indian reservation out there. So,
2 you know, they had a lot of people that protested.

3 But it didn't faze me too much, it didn't
4 scare me too much for nuclear power coming to Surry,
5 because I worked for so many years in the nuclear
6 submarine program. In fact, I was one of 12 that
7 certified submarines to go to sea.

8 And I know how it feels when NRC -- I
9 don't think that Surry -- but it was for safety, I was
10 supervisor for non-destructive testing, and they went
11 over every record. So I have a lot of experience in
12 it.

13 So they have been a good neighbor to us in
14 many ways. I've written a lot of questions, but I
15 think all of them have been answered. But there is
16 one in particular that I want to point your attention
17 to, since 9-11 came into effect a few days ago,
18 September 11th, a tragedy to this nation.

19 When the plant was designed, we on the
20 Planning Commission and others, thought more of ground
21 security. Now we have to look towards the air. And
22 from where I live I see flight patterns over Patrick
23 Henry.

24 And I would like for the FAA to look at
25 this very closely, because we wouldn't want to be in

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1 the direct path, even if they have to turn around,
2 like they did the other day, we don't know what might
3 happen.

4 We hope it never happens, but I would like
5 to see some restrictions on the air space in
6 conjunction to the nuclear power plant, because I do
7 see planes coming in at Patrick Henry, that are coming
8 too close to that plant. So it is something for us to
9 look at, in view of what happened a few days ago.

10 So thank you so much, and thanks to James
11 City County, Isle of Wight County, and to all the
12 citizens of Surry County that showed up today. We are
13 very proud to have you here, and we wholeheartedly
14 endorse the renewal of the license. Thank you.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mr.
16 Hardy, for those comments, and that recommendation,
17 also.

18 Our final speaker for this afternoon's
19 session is Mr. Ralph Andersen from the Nuclear Energy
20 Institute in Washington, D.C.

21 MR. ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Cameron. As
22 Mr. Cameron mentioned, I'm from the Nuclear Energy
23 Institute in Washington, D.C. That is essentially the
24 national policy organization for the nuclear energy
25 industry.

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1 But I would like to say that I'm specially
2 pleased to be here today, because my home is in the
3 Commonwealth of Virginia, and my electric bill says
4 Dominion Virginia Power on it, when I get it every
5 month.

6 And I should say, parenthetically, that I
7 grew up in the state of California, and when I moved
8 out to Virginia ten years ago, it was no longer a
9 tragedy when I opened my electric bill. I really
10 commend Dominion Virginia Power on its cost
11 effectiveness.

12 Nuclear energy provides electricity for
13 about one in five businesses and homes in the United
14 States. That is nuclear energy provides about 20
15 percent of the electricity in this nation.

16 But here in Virginia electricity consumers
17 actually get about 37 percent from the two nuclear
18 units at Surry, and the two nuclear units at North
19 Anna.

20 What I would like to do is just basically
21 touch on just three of what I think are very good
22 reasons why license renewal should go forward for the
23 Surry plant.

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1 And these are reasons that I'm sure that
2 the NRC will address in depth, in the generic
3 Environmental Impact Statement.

4 First of all license renewal is good for
5 the environment. I was very interested in hearing
6 about the various programs and conservation of the
7 environment that takes place at the Surry Plant. And
8 I should mention that that is representative of the
9 programs at virtually all of the nuclear power plants
10 in the United States.

11 But, additionally, nuclear energy provides
12 the largest energy source that makes electricity
13 without emitting green house gases, or other air
14 pollutants, such as sulfur dioxide, or nitrogen oxide,
15 that have been related to issues such as global
16 warming, and degradation of air quality. In fact
17 nuclear energy provides 70 percent of our nation's
18 emission-free generation.

19 Second is hydroelectric power at 29
20 percent, and then solar energy and wind power,
21 actually account for a little less than one percent of
22 our emission-free electrical generation.

23 Second, license renewal is good for the
24 local community and the region. Clearly it will
25 preserve good jobs for this area. Again, I was very

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1 interested to hear about longer term plans for
2 industrializing the area, in addition to tourism, food
3 processing, agriculture, there is a great premium
4 placed on low cost energy, reliable energy, and
5 additionally just on good air quality.

6 And, of course, also given that the plant
7 is located in this region it has a profound effect on
8 your tax base. And, again that is traditionally true
9 of most plants, because most plants are usually
10 located away from large metropolitan areas.

11 And, finally, renewal of Surry's license
12 is good for the national economy. And that is
13 because, first of all, I believe the NRC will conclude
14 that renewing the Surry license will be much more
15 economical than building any other source of
16 electricity to replace it.

17 And of equal importance to our nation's
18 energy policy, the low cost generation of electricity,
19 and in particular the price stability of nuclear
20 energy. We don't have highly variable price, is of
21 critical importance to a stable economy, especially in
22 this period, when we face the economic challenges that
23 we do.

24 If you think back over the last year, at
25 least a partial explanation for some of the headline

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1 news about energy problems was a direct function of
2 varying prices associated with natural gas as an
3 energy supply.

4 With nuclear energy the prices have been
5 very consistent, and typically the prices have been
6 coming down over time, such that actually in the year
7 2000 the lowest cost source of energy in the United
8 States is nuclear energy.

9 What I would like to do is close by
10 commending Dominion, and the nuclear professionals at
11 Surry, for their continuing excellent record of safety
12 performance, and their commitment to protecting public
13 health and safety, and the environment.

14 Together these are the key factors that
15 support a positive decision on renewing the license.
16 And I would like to echo comments I heard earlier. It
17 has to be safety first. Those other benefits
18 certainly come after that.

19 And then I would just like to make a
20 personal remark. I've been in my current job for
21 about ten years. Before that I actually worked for a
22 utility in Michigan, and then previous to that in
23 California, at nuclear power plants.

24 But in that time I've had the opportunity
25 to work with the staff from virtually all of the 104

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1 nuclear power plants that are currently operating in
2 the United States. And this is an industry that
3 prides itself on its professionalism, and on its
4 commitment to excellence in safe, reliable, and cost
5 effective operation.

6 But what I found over the years is that
7 within any group of professionals there are always
8 standouts. And I want to say, quite sincerely, that
9 over time I have really come to see the people from
10 Dominion Virginia Power in general, as among the best
11 of the best. Thank you.

12 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Ralph.
13 That is the last of the speakers who signed up. I
14 would ask if anybody else has a comment that they
15 wanted to make before we adjourn today?

16 (No response.)

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Well, thank
18 you, all of you, for coming out today, and for sharing
19 that information with us. We will be back for another
20 meeting here tonight at 7 o'clock, with an open house
21 at 6 o'clock. Thank you.

22 (Whereupon, at 3:00 p.m. the above-
23 entitled matter was concluded.)

24

25

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