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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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at St. Lucie, Units 1 & 2
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

AT ST. LUCIE, UNITS 1 AND 2

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2002

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Council Chambers

Port St. Lucie City Hall

Port St. Lucie, Florida

The Public Meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.

NRC STAFF PRESENTERS:

CHIP CAMERON

NOEL DUDLEY

MICHAEL MASNIK

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

(7:00 p.m.)

MR. CAMERON: Good evening everybody.

I'd like to welcome you to tonight's public meeting. My name is Chip Cameron. I'm the special counsel for public liaison within the Office of General Counsel at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and I'm going to serve as your facilitator tonight.

Now tonight's meeting is on the subject of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement by the NRC, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, on the request by Florida Power and Light to renew the licenses for the St. Lucie operating units. And what I'd like to do is just go over three things briefly with you about tonight's meeting before we get to the substance of our discussions tonight.

And I'd like to talk about objectives for the meeting tonight. Secondly talk about the format and ground rules, and third, to give you a little overview of the agenda for tonight's meeting so that you know what to expect.

In terms of objectives tonight, we want to make sure that you understand what the NRC's license renewal process is and how you can participate in that

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1 process, not only tonight, but over the course of the
2 NRC's review of the Florida Power and Light license
3 renewal application.

4 And an important part of the NRC's review
5 process on the license renewal application is the
6 environmental review and tonight's meeting is called
7 a scoping meeting, which is a term that's used in
8 connection with the preparation of an Environmental
9 Impact Statement by a federal agency under the
10 National Environmental Policy Act. And the
11 Environmental Impact Statement helps guide the NRC's
12 decision-making on whether to grant a renewal of the
13 license for the St. Lucie Plants.

14 Scoping is very simply an advance
15 preparation by the NRC to find out what types of
16 information we should look at in preparing that
17 Environmental Impact Statement, what types of impacts
18 we should consider, what types of alternatives.

19 And this leads me to the second objective
20 for tonight's meeting, which is to hear from you
21 members of the public on environmental issues and
22 environmental concerns, and that's why we're here
23 tonight to talk to you.

24 We are also taking written comments on
25 these issues and the NRC staff will be talking to you

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1 in a little bit about how you submit written comments.
2 But we did want to be here personally to meet you and
3 to explain more about what our responsibilities are.

4 And as you're listening to people tonight,
5 either from the NRC or other people in the audience,
6 it may give you some information to assist you in
7 preparing any written comments that you might want to
8 submit. But let me emphasize that anything that you
9 say tonight is on the record and will be treated with,
10 the same way as any written comments that are
11 submitted.

12 In terms of the format for the meeting and
13 the agenda also, they follow the two objectives of the
14 meeting, to provide information to you and for the NRC
15 to be able to listen to your comments.

16 There's really two segments to the
17 meeting. The first segment is comprised of two brief
18 NRC presentations to give you some background on the
19 license renewal process.

20 The first presentation is going to be an
21 overall presentation on the license renewal process
22 and then we'll go to you for questions and answers
23 about that process. And then we're going to get a
24 little bit more detailed in the second presentation
25 and focus on what the environmental review process is,

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1 and then go to you again for a question and answer.

2 Noel Dudley, who is right here, is going
3 to give the first presentation on the overall license
4 renewal process. And Michael Masnik, who is right
5 over here, is going to give the second presentation.

6 And I'd like to give you some background
7 on both Noel and Mike.

8 Noel is the license renewal project
9 manager for St. Lucie for this particular license
10 renewal and he's worked with the NRC for approximately
11 18 years, including being a senior staff engineer for
12 the advisory committee on reactor safeguards, that's
13 an advisory committee of experts that advises the
14 Commission on license applications of this type and
15 other activities.

16 He's also been a resident inspector at the
17 Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant and also a certified
18 licensed operator licensing examiner. And the
19 operators are the ones who operate the nuclear power
20 plants.

21 Prior to joining the NRC, Noel was a
22 certified shift supervisor at the Loss of Fluid Test
23 Facility, known as LOFTF, which in Idaho and he was
24 officer in the Nuclear Navy, and he spent two years in
25 the Peace Corps in Kenya, teaching physics and

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1 science.

2 His graduate work is from Idaho State
3 University and Villanova, and he has a Bachelor's in
4 Engineering and Physics from Villanova.

5 Mike's background, he's the environmental
6 project manager. And you're going to see in their
7 presentations now the safety -- the evaluation of the
8 safety issues comes together with the evaluation of
9 the environmental issues. And the NRC considers both
10 of those as well as special inspection findings in
11 making its decision on license renewal.

12 Mike is the environmental project manager
13 for St. Lucie. He has been with the NRC for about 25
14 years and he has a Bachelor's from Cornell University
15 in Zoology and a Master's and PhD. from Virginia
16 Polytechnic Institute in Ichthyology.

17 And he was part of the original
18 environmental review team on the original licensing
19 decision on the St. Lucie Plant.

20 He's been involved in various activities
21 and responsibilities at the Commission including
22 decommissioning and the oversight of the cleanup at
23 the Three Mile Island Plant.

24 And we do have, in addition to Noel and
25 Mike, we have people here from other offices at the

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1 NRC. And from our regional offices. We also have a
2 group of expert scientists with us, who are helping to
3 prepare the Environmental Impact Statement. And I
4 would just encourage all of you to meet them and talk
5 to them after the meeting.

6 The second segment of the meeting is going
7 to be our opportunity to listen to your comments
8 tonight. And we have several people who are signed up
9 to speak.

10 If you are listening to things tonight and
11 you decide that you'd like to speak, that's fine. You
12 didn't need to sign up in advance, but we thank you
13 for doing so, because it gives us an idea of how many
14 people to expect.

15 And in terms of ground rules for tonight's
16 meeting --

17 VIDEO PERSON: You're fading in and out.

18 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

19 (Audio problems with the microphone
20 connection.)

21 MR. CAMERON: We want to make sure that
22 everybody has the opportunity to talk tonight. And
23 that means that we have to encourage you to try to be
24 as concise as possible in your remarks. And as a
25 general guideline, I would ask you to keep your

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1 remarks to approximately five minutes. Thank-you.
2 And we have some flexibility there, but not a whole
3 lot, so try to keep it to five minutes.

4 Secondly, I would ask you to only speak,
5 one person at a time speaking, so that we can give
6 them our full attention. And we are keeping a
7 transcript tonight that will be available to anybody
8 who wants it and it will help us to keep track of what
9 the comments are. So one person at a time will allow
10 us to have a clean transcript tonight.

11 Okay. The focus tonight is environmental
12 information. It's the environmental review. We know
13 there are other concerns. Perhaps the safety issues
14 that Noel Dudley is going to be talking about. We
15 want to hear those, if you have some concerns about
16 those. And those safety issues will be referred to
17 the people who are doing the safety evaluation.

18 If there are other concerns that don't fit
19 within the license renewal context, we will make sure
20 that they get back to the people at the NRC who are
21 responsible for dealing with those particular issues.

22 An important point to emphasize is that no
23 decisions have been made on any of these issues at
24 this point. Nothing has been foreclosed and we want
25 to hear from you tonight, written comments. We have

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1 our review to do before there will be any decisions,
2 preliminary -- even preliminary decisions made.

3 So I thank you for being here. And I do
4 want to, before I turn the meeting over to Noel, is to
5 thank the City of Port St. Lucie for letting us use
6 these wonderful facilities tonight and also thanks to
7 the audio-visual staff for helping us out.

8 And with that, I'd like to turn it over to
9 Noel Dudley, to give us an overview on the license
10 renewal process.

11 Noel?

12 MR. DUDLEY: Thank-you, Chip.

13 As Chip mentioned, I am Noel Dudley, the
14 project manager for the safety review of St. Lucie
15 Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, license renewal
16 application.

17 As you may know, the Florida Power and
18 Light Company submitted their license renewal
19 applications on November 30th, 2001. The operating
20 licenses for St. Lucie Units 1 and 2 currently expire
21 in 2016 and 2023, respectively.

22 The license renewal process that I will
23 overview for you today, confirms that the licensing
24 basis at the time of original plant construction, as
25 revised over the years, will continue to be valid for

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1 the period of extended operation.

2 The Atomic Energy Act provides that the
3 Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for
4 public health and safety, protection of the
5 environment and the common defense and security. It
6 also provides that each power reactor would have a
7 forty year license term. But the Atomic Energy Act
8 went on to say that those licenses could be renewed.

9 The original forty year license term was
10 based primarily on anti-trust and economic factors and
11 not on any technical limitation of the plant design.

12 However, having established a forty year
13 license term, the Commission realized in the early in
14 the early 1980's that it would have to establish a
15 process for making license renewal decisions.
16 Consequently, the Commission developed and approved a
17 new regulation concerning the process for renewing
18 power reactor operating licenses. This regulation is
19 formally referred to as 10 CFR Part 54, "Requirements
20 for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power
21 Plants."

22 There is a companion regulation that
23 provides the scope of the license renewal and it is
24 referred to as -- the scope of environmental review --
25 and is referred to as 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental

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1 Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and
2 Related Regulatory Functions."

3 Applications for license renewal are
4 submitted years in advance for several reasons. If a
5 utility decides to replace a nuclear power plant, it
6 would take up to ten years to plan and construct new
7 generating capacity to replace that nuclear plant. In
8 addition, plans to replace or recondition major
9 components are early considerations for license
10 renewal.

11 Licensees considering license renewal,
12 evaluation the requirements for additional plant
13 inspections and maintenance practices for the period
14 of extended operation. A licensee then must decide
15 whether to renew a plant license or to begin
16 decommissioning the plant at the end of the present
17 license term.

18 The process that the NRC provides for, as
19 Chip mentioned, essentially runs in two parallel
20 paths. There is a safety review, which is the top
21 path, looks at the scope of license renewal issues
22 associated with aging management programs for passive
23 long-lived system structures and components.

24 Now this is important: The Commission
25 believes that ongoing regulatory -- that the ongoing

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1 regulatory process is adequate to monitor the
2 maintenance of active components, the current
3 licensing basis, and the provisions for plants such as
4 emergency planning and security plans. Now what that
5 says, it's a -- the items I just mentioned are outside
6 the scope of license renewal.

7 There are many plant processes that
8 provide constant attention to these things. However,
9 those processes do not explicitly look at the plant's
10 design capabilities to cope with long-term degradation
11 of equipment due to aging effects.

12 So the license renewal application focuses
13 on those inspection programs and maintenance practices
14 that are used to maintain the margins of safety for
15 safety-related equipment.

16 The application also evaluates non-safety-
17 related components and structures that would adversely
18 affect the reliability of the safety-related
19 equipment.

20 Separately, the NRC conducts an
21 environmental review, which is the bottom path on the
22 slide, and Dr. Michael Masnik is going to address that
23 in more detail.

24 The NRC staff prepares a Safety Evaluation
25 Report and an Environmental Impact Statement. These

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1 products, taken together with two other products, form
2 the basis for the Commission to renew a license.

3 One of the other products is produced by
4 the Commission's Advisory Committee on Reactor
5 Safeguards. The ACRS is an independent body of
6 experts from the industry, national labs, and
7 academia, who have expertise in a variety of technical
8 areas. The ACRS reviews the technical quality of the
9 license renewal application and the NRC Safety
10 Evaluation Report. It then writes a report to the NRC
11 Chairman, Dr. Meserve.

12 There is also an NRC inspection program
13 that verifies certain key elements of the staff's
14 safety findings. Collectively, the Commission's
15 decision on a license renewal application, will rely
16 on the Safety Evaluation Report, Environmental Impact
17 Statement, and ACRS Report, and the NRC inspection
18 reports.

19 These activities are scheduled over about
20 a 25 month period, assuming there is not a hearing.
21 Had there been a hearing petition, which was submitted
22 and then granted, then the schedule would have been
23 about 30 months to complete the review process.

24 I will be available after the meeting if
25 there are any questions that you have about the aging

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1 management program review, the specifics of the safety
2 review process, or the ultimate content of the Safety
3 Evaluation Report.

4 Unless there are any questions you have
5 about the overall process, I'll turn the meeting over
6 to Mike Masnik to go through the environmental review
7 of this license action.

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you very much,
9 Noel.

10 (Audio problems with the microphone
11 connection.)

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay, how about now?

13 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

14 MR. CAMERON: All right.

15 Let's see if you have any questions for
16 Noel now on the safety evaluation.

17 Are you picking up anything now?

18 (Audio problems with the microphone
19 connection.)

20 MR. CAMERON: We want to see if there's
21 any questions that people have and we're going to go
22 right out there.

23 We really do need another mike, though, to
24 get this on the transcript.

25 Mr. Doyle, why don't you come up here and

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1 ask your question, and then we'll have whoever is
2 going to answer it come on up. So why don't you come
3 up here and do that and we'll try to get another mike
4 talking stick for you.

5 So just give us your name, okay, and
6 affiliation, if appropriate?

7 MR. DOYLE: My name is Glenon Doyle, and
8 I live right in between the two power plants.

9 And my question for Mr. Noel Dudley --
10 thank-you very much for your presentation tonight --
11 is, if security is outside the scope of license
12 renewal and all that is required for license renewal,
13 perhaps, are the four elements that you mention of a
14 safety report, an EIS, an ACR -- a safety report being
15 the actual components of the nuclear plant and that
16 they're safe, EIS would be an environment statement --
17 I'm not sure what that encompasses, ACRS is from the
18 scientists, and NCR (sic) report is from our nuclear
19 friends.

20 If that's all that's required, what part
21 does security play in the licensing of the plant?

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Mr. Doyle.

23 (Inaudible) Mr. John Tappert is with us,
24 who was going to deal with the security issues.

25 Noel, do you have anything to say about

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1 that first before we go on to John?

2 MR. DUDLEY: I'll just give a very broad
3 answer to that -- is that license renewal only looks
4 at those elements of plant aging that are not part of
5 the ongoing licensing basis.

6 Security is an operating plant issue.
7 It's an issue that deals with all nuclear power plants
8 that are licensed today and is dealt with as, for all
9 plants across the country. And it was intended not
10 have generic issues be included in a plant's specific
11 review for license renewal.

12 And would John explain what the situation
13 is with the generic?

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay, and John is the
15 section chief for the environmental review of all
16 license renewals and he'll give you more background
17 for all of you on the important issue concerning
18 security.

19 John?

20 MR. TAPPERT: Yeah.

21 (Audio problems with the microphone
22 connection.)

23 MR. TAPPERT: We say it's out of scope for
24 the license renewal process, because we're looking at
25 granting an extension license for twenty years, and we

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1 deal with security in the current operating basis of
2 the plant. Not to say that it's not important or that
3 we don't take it very seriously, particularly in the
4 aftermath of the September 11th attacks. The agency
5 has taken a number of actions to upgrade the security
6 of nuclear power plants. We've manned our operation
7 center. We're in constant communication with the FBI
8 and with the plants. We have issued orders to the
9 other operating reactor plants to upgrade the security
10 programs.

11 The Commission is also undertaking a long
12 term program to analyze all aspects of nuclear reactor
13 safeguards. So when we say it's out of scope, it's
14 not to say that we don't think it's important here and
15 that the agency isn't dealing with it. It's just not
16 part of this particular licensing action.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, John.

18 Other questions on the license renewal
19 process, generally, before we go to Dr. Michael
20 Masnik.

21 (No response.)

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And if something
23 comes up as a result of -- if you think of something
24 you want to ask, we're going to have a question and
25 answer after Mike's presentation, so you can ask it

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1 then.

2 Mike? This is on the environmental review
3 process for license renewal.

4 DR. MASNIK: Thanks, Chip and Noel.

5 As Chip mentioned, my name is Mike Masnik
6 and I'm the environmental project manager responsible
7 for the environmental review for the NRC's license
8 renewal effort for St. Lucie.

9 With me tonight is a number of
10 environmental experts, both from the NRC and from
11 several national laboratories. We arrived earlier
12 this week and we've been conducting our environmental
13 audit on a number of disciplines, ranging from aquatic
14 ecology, to socioeconomics, to radiation protection.
15 You can tell who we are, we're the guys with the
16 jackets, and ties, and the name tags.

17 The National Environmental Policy Act or
18 NEPA, was passed in 1969, and it is one of the most
19 significant pieces of legislation enacted in the 20th
20 Century. For the first time, the federal government
21 was required to consider the impact of its actions on
22 the environment.

23 As you see from this slide, NEPA
24 prescribes a process, requires consideration of
25 impacts and requires the evaluation of alternatives.

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The requirements for NEPA fall on the federal agency that's taking the federal action, and in this case, it's the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC has elected to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or in NEPA jargon, called the EIS, as part of the review extending the operating license for St. Lucie for an additional twenty years.

What NEPA does not require is of equal importance. For example, NEPA does not require that the alternative with the smallest impact to be chosen, nor does it require that the federal agency hold adjudicated hearings on the impact of the proposed action.

As I just mentioned, our focus here is on the environmental impacts of a twenty year renewal of the St. Lucie operating license, which has been requested by the licensee.

We will also consider environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action, which may be available, and they would also include what we call the no action alternative. In other words, simply not approving the request for license.

What else does NEPA require?

NEPA was designed to disclose information.

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1 The intent is for the federal agency to both inform
2 the public, and to involve and gather information from
3 the public, that might be helpful to us in reaching
4 our decision.

5 Finally, NEPA requires the federal
6 agencies to be candid in our discussion of impact,
7 consider ways in which the potential impacts might be
8 mitigated.

9 At this point in the review, we're in the
10 process of gathering information we need to prepare
11 the Environmental Impact Statement. In the jargon of
12 NEPA, we are performing what we call scoping.

13 A public meeting is part of our scoping
14 process, with the purpose of providing you, the
15 public, and other governmental agencies with an
16 opportunity to participate in the preparation of the
17 Environmental Impact Statement, by sharing with us any
18 information you might believe to have some bearing on
19 our environmental evaluation.

20 In particular, we're looking for
21 information that might not be readily available, or
22 concerns that members of the public have, that may not
23 have been addressed by the licensee in their
24 environmental report, which was included as part of
25 their application for license renewal.

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1 We want to consider any information
2 provided to us, to see if it warrants further
3 evaluation in the development of our draft
4 environmental impact statement.

5 Now what exactly is the NEPA scoping
6 process?

7 As this slide states, it's a formal
8 process that defines the proposed action and
9 identifies specific issues that should be analyzed in
10 depth by the staff. Scoping should also identify
11 issues that may have been overlooked, and there is
12 where we need your help.

13 Scoping also helps the staff to eliminate
14 issues that are not relevant to the proposed action.
15 It also identifies other environmental reviews that
16 might involve the proposed action, and as well as
17 local, state, tribal and federal entities, that have
18 a stake in the decision.

19 Now, once we gather our information and we
20 perform our analysis, and we prepare the Environmental
21 Impact Statement, we need to make a decision as to
22 whether or not the NRC should, from an environmental
23 perspective, allow the licensing -- or the
24 re-licensing of the facility.

25 This next slide provides what we call our

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1 decision standard. It states what we're trying
2 decide, the decision we're trying to reach, and that
3 is whether or not the environmental impacts of the
4 proposed license renewal, are so great as to preclude
5 the license renewal as a reasonable alternative.

6 Now I want to emphasize that if we were to
7 decide in the end that license renewal is acceptable
8 from an environmental perspective, all that means is
9 that it's okay for the licensee to operate for an
10 additional twenty years, from an environmental
11 perspective. We don't determine whether they actually
12 will or will not operate those additional twenty
13 years. Those decisions are made elsewhere, in
14 particular, by the licensee themselves, and perhaps by
15 state regulators.

16 It is possible the licensee could
17 determine, after this review, that it is not
18 economically feasible to continue operating the plant.
19 If so, they would shut down and that's their decision.
20 We are simply determining whether continued operation
21 through the license renewal period is acceptable
22 environmentally.

23 Now this slide gives a little more detail
24 on the environmental review schedule for St. Lucie.
25 Unfortunately, it's a little out of focus and it may

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1 be difficult to read. If you have our hand-out,
2 though, you should be able to read it. I'll quickly
3 go through it.

4 The licensee's application was received on
5 November 29th, 2001. On February 28th, 2002, we
6 issued a notice of our intent to perform scoping,
7 which is what we're doing now. We also issued in that
8 same federal register notice, the intent to develop an
9 Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed action.

10 The scoping phase of our environmental
11 review will end on April 30th, 2002. After that we
12 will complete the development of a draft environmental
13 impact statement, which we expect to issue for public
14 comment in October of 2002.

15 We will also come back here in early
16 December for another public meeting to focus on the
17 draft environmental impact statement that we've
18 issued, and to give the public an opportunity to
19 provide us with any comments you might have on the
20 document.

21 After receiving and evaluating those
22 comments, we will then develop a final Environmental
23 Impact Statement, which we expect to issue in July of
24 2003.

25 Now we gather information for our

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1 evaluation from a number of different sources,
2 including the document sent to us by the licensee. We
3 also meet and correspond with federal, state and local
4 government officials, and interested people from the
5 local community, which might have information that
6 would help us out in our environmental evaluation.

7 We also visit the site, which is another
8 part of what we're doing here this week, getting
9 familiar with the local environment, examining
10 features of particular interest, and observing
11 firsthand how the site interacts with the environment.

12 Now our review team focuses on many
13 environmental interests. This slide shows the sort of
14 areas we're looking at, everything from the air, to
15 the water, to under the ground.

16 We also look at issues such as
17 socioeconomics, how does the plant affect people's
18 lives economically. We consider environmental
19 justice, which focuses on the question of whether
20 there are minority or low-income population groups
21 that might be disproportionately impacted by the
22 proposed license renewal.

23 Now just lifting a few key dates from the
24 earlier slide, our schedule is to complete the scoping
25 process by April 30th, 2002. That's when the public

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1 comment ends -- comment period on scoping ends. After
2 that, as I indicate, we will issue our draft
3 Environmental Impact Statement in October, and we
4 expect to issue the final Environmental Impact
5 Statement in July of 2003.

6 Now I'm the agency's primary point of
7 contact for the environmental review. Note that the
8 slide includes my phone number. However, if you want
9 to provide me comments, I need to get your input in a
10 form that we can use, either in writing or as Chip
11 indicated, verbal comments given here at tonight's
12 meeting, which is being transcribed, and that
13 transcription from this meeting will become a written
14 record of your comments.

15 Now arrangements have been made for the
16 documents associated with the license renewal
17 environmental review to be locally available to you.
18 The Indian River Community College Library has been
19 kind enough to donate some shelf space available for
20 documents related to our environmental review.

21 If you need to go the library, ask at the
22 front desk and they'll direct you to the carrel that
23 contains that information. At the present time, it's
24 a couple of feet long of material.

25 The library will continue to receive

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1 documents that are generated in the course of our
2 environmental review and those will be made available
3 in a similar manner.

4 Also documents will be available on our
5 document management system, which can be accessed
6 through our web page, and the website is given on this
7 slide, down at the bottom. I know it's a little
8 difficult to read. It's www.nrc.gov

9 Basically you enter that site and it will
10 direct you to our records management program called
11 ADAMS, and then from that you will be able to get just
12 about any document that the NRC has published, not
13 only on this particular license renewal application,
14 but any other.

15 Now, if you want to submit comments,
16 written comments to us, other than those that you're
17 providing tonight in your verbal comments, we have a
18 couple of options. You can write us a letter and the
19 address you would use to get that -- to send that
20 letter to us is on the slide.

21 But I want to caution you, however, that
22 since last fall's anthrax incident, many letters
23 delivered to the Washington, D.C. area, particularly
24 to federal agencies, has taken up to several months.
25 In fact, I was provided a letter this evening that was

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1 dated the 2nd of February, and it was received several
2 days ago. Unfortunately our mail is shipped somewhere
3 in the mid-West where it's irradiated before it's then
4 sent to us.

5 So if you plan to submit written comments,
6 please send them by e-mail to the address on this
7 slide, right down here (indicating). What we've done
8 is developed a -- or we set up a special e-mail
9 mailbox, just for the St. Lucie review. So if you
10 send it to that e-mail address, and I check it daily,
11 I'll be able to receive it.

12 Now if you're unable to send them by e-
13 mail and do plan to send them by regular mail, I would
14 please ask that you let me know, call me and tell me
15 that you've mailed them, so that I'll be looking for
16 them, and I'll probably ask you at that time if you
17 could fax them to me as well, so I have a hard copy to
18 work from.

19 And, of course, certainly you can stop in
20 and deliver your comments to me personally, if you're
21 in the Rockville, Maryland area, however, we haven't
22 had too many people use this option in that past.

23 That concludes my presentation and if
24 anybody has any specific questions for me concerning
25 the environmental review process, we can take those

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1 now. And I thank you for your time.

2 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Mike.

3 Are there questions about the concept, or
4 any left-over questions from Noel Dudley's
5 presentation?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Well, let's go to --
8 in a minute we'll go to hearing from you.

9 Yes?

10 MR. DOYLE: I'm not sure where to begin
11 on this, but in the review of nuclear power plants, is
12 there an acceptable loss to life in the community?

13 I notice from speaking with several people
14 with ties and badges on tonight, that they realize
15 that there's a cost factor through FP&L, that that's
16 acceptable loss to the community for life.

17 And also, will the fact that the amount of
18 catastrophic damage that can occur in the nuclear
19 industry, which is much greater than the petroleum, or
20 solar, or any other industry taken into effect, and
21 once accepting this, the Nuclear Regulatory
22 administration must surely acknowledge that there is
23 a certain number of casualties that are acceptable,
24 and for every million people, I'd like to ask you to
25 inform the public of the potential impact or identify

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1 the significant issues to be discussed in depth on
2 this particular topic.

3 (Audio problems with the microphone
4 connection.)

5 MR. CAMERON: Mike, do you get the
6 characterization on that question?

7 DR. MASNIK: We don't have an acceptable
8 number of deaths associated with any of the actions
9 that we take. Our regulations require actions on the
10 part of licensees to make the risk to the public as
11 low as reasonably can be achievable.
12 And we do not assume that operation of a plant will
13 result in so many deaths.

14 MR. CAMERON: The NRC generally does not,
15 in setting its regulations, does not use a cost
16 benefit equation in coming up with (inaudible)
17 necessary to protect the public.

18 Is that correct?

19 DR. MASNIK: Correct.

20 MR. CAMERON: All right.

21 Anybody else?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) --
23 statistics.

24 MR. CAMERON: Why don't we get one more
25 statement in, okay?

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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

2 MR. CAMERON: All right, good. I don't
3 mean good, but, all right.

4 Let's go to the second part of the
5 meeting. I don't think there's any other questions
6 out there. And this is where we hear from you. And
7 we're going to have two short presentations by the
8 Florida Power and Light folks now to give you their
9 rationale on the license renewal application.

10 First of all we go to Mr. Don Jernigan,
11 who is the senior vice-president at the St. Lucie
12 site, and then we're going to hear from Tom
13 Abbatiello, their environmental aide on this.

14 MR. JERNIGAN: Good evening, and thank-
15 you, Mr. Cameron.

16 My name is Don Jernigan, and I am the
17 vice-president of the Florida Power and Light, St.
18 Lucie Nuclear Power Plant.

19 I'd like to thank the staff of the Nuclear
20 Regulatory Commission and the City of Port St. Lucie
21 for holding this very important meeting today.

22 This is a very important meeting to
23 identify the environmental aspects of the license
24 renewal initiative as it relates to the St. Lucie
25 community, and Florida Power and Light welcomes both

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1 the insight and input from the community. And I'd
2 like to thank everyone that is here for attending this
3 evening and participating in this very important
4 process, and I appreciate this opportunity to be able
5 to speak to you.

6 Assisting me today is Mr. Tom Abbatiello.
7 He is the environmental lead for the license renewal
8 project for Florida Power and Light and he will speak
9 after me. We will be using this time to provide a
10 brief overview of the environmental report associated
11 with renewing the St. Lucie Power Plant licenses.

12 First I'd like to take just a little bit
13 of time just to talk a little bit about myself. I did
14 graduate here in the State of Florida from the Florida
15 State University with a Bachelor of Science in
16 Physics, and earned my MBA from the University of
17 Miami. I have currently more than twenty years
18 experience in the nuclear power industry. I hold a
19 senior reactor operator's license from another nuclear
20 power plant and have served as an officer in this
21 country's Navy's nuclear power program in the
22 submarine service for over five years.

23 I joined Florida Power and Light's Turkey
24 Point Nuclear Power Plant located south of Miami,
25 Florida in 1991, holding a number of technical

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1 positions, before becoming the plant general manager
2 at that facility. And as some of you may know, that
3 Turkey Point is widely recognized as one of the top
4 performing nuclear power plants in the world.

5 And I came to the St. Lucie Power Plant in
6 2001 as a site vice-president, and I am excited to be
7 not only the vice-president of St. Lucie, but to be a
8 member of this community in the St. Lucie, Martin
9 County area.

10 On a personal note, my wife and I do
11 consider this a very wonderful location to live and
12 work. We have two children. Both are at college,
13 except when they need more money and make it a point
14 to come home. We consider this a great place to call
15 home and since this is our home, I care a great deal
16 about this community that we live in. The prosperity
17 and the well being of this community is extremely
18 important to me.

19 And thinking about extending the
20 operations of the St. Lucie Power Plant, I believe the
21 process involves more than just renewing the plant's
22 licenses. It's about renewing our future in this
23 community as well. And here are a few reasons why.

24 St. Lucie is one of the top performing
25 plants in this country and supplies a source of clean,

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1 safe, reliable and low cost power to the people of the
2 Treasure Coast. We are one of the largest employers
3 in the St. Lucie and Martin County areas, with over
4 800 full-time employees, but more importantly, our
5 people do more than just work at the power plant.
6 They are active members of the community in the St.
7 Lucie, Martin County area.

8 The St. Lucie Power Plant provides a
9 source of clean energy. And it's through our
10 operations that we avoid production of greenhouse
11 gases, which many scientists believe contribute to
12 global warming. And with these points in mind, let me
13 share a little more information about the power plant
14 itself.

15 The St. Lucie Plant is a two-unit site
16 located on Hutchinson Island, about eight miles
17 southeast of Ft. Pierce. At full power, this power
18 plant produces about 1,700,000 watts of electricity.
19 That is more than enough electricity to meet the
20 annual needs of more than 500,000 homes.

21 Over the years, St. Lucie Power Plant has
22 demonstrated high levels of both safety and
23 reliability. It has consistently received high
24 ratings for both the Institute of Nuclear Power Plant
25 Operations, an independent organization -- our

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1 regulators and peers
2 have repeatedly recognized St. Lucie as a top
3 performing plant.

4 As I mentioned earlier, St. Lucie Power
5 Plant also provides an economical source of
6 electricity for our friends and neighbors here on the
7 Treasure Coast.

8 Even if you were to add the future costs
9 of operation and maintenance and the cost of our
10 license renewal process, St. Lucie Power Plant remains
11 a very cost effective supplier of electricity.

12 We are committed to continue the
13 performance that we have demonstrated through our
14 renewal of our operating licenses which, for -- which
15 were issued for Unit 1 in 1976, and Unit 2 in 1983.
16 These forty-year licenses were issued after completion
17 of an extensive evaluation of the technical and
18 environmental aspects associated with the St. Lucie
19 Power Plant.

20 Today, nuclear power plants have an option
21 to renew their operating licenses and continue to
22 provide a valuable service to our community.

23 The preparation of a license renewal
24 application is a major undertaking. Thousands of work
25 hours are used to generate this information and to

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1 verify that St. Lucie would in fact continue to be a
2 safe and reliable power plant in the future.

3 I'm very proud of our application, and I'm very proud
4 of the team that has put it together.

5 For more than 25 years, our employees have
6 worked very hard to sustain the option for continued
7 operation of both St. Lucie units well beyond their
8 initial forty years of operation, through the
9 dedication of the highest maintenance standards and a
10 commitment to safety. Not only have our employees
11 worked to keep license renewal as an option, but they
12 have also worked to keep this community involved in
13 the process.

14 Employees from many departments at the
15 power plant have formed outreach teams to share
16 information about the plant and license renewal with
17 our neighbors and our friends in the surrounding
18 communities. Our teams have spoken to more than 2,000
19 individuals at 75 meetings and gatherings. The
20 feedback that we have received has shown strong
21 support for the re-licensing of the St. Lucie Power
22 Plant, to ensure its continued safe operation and to
23 maintain it as a member of this community.

24 And I'd like to thank all of our neighbors
25 for the warm reception that you have shown in inviting

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1 us to share this information with you. It has
2 certainly given us the opportunity to hear what was
3 important to you, and will help us in continuing our
4 relationship with the people of the St. Lucie
5 community.

6 In closing let me say that during my
7 career in this power industry, I've had the
8 opportunity to look at many different forms of power
9 generation and delivery. I believe that the renewal
10 of the St. Lucie Plant licenses is the preferred
11 option for meeting the growing energy needs in this
12 region.

13 I'd like to turn this presentation over
14 now to my environmental lead, Tom Abbatiello, who will
15 give some additional information on the environmental
16 aspects of our application.

17 Tom?

18 MR. ABBATIELLO: Thanks, Don.

19 Good evening everyone, and thanks to all
20 of you who took time to come out here this evening
21 after probably working all day.

22 It's an honor to be here today
23 representing the dedicated employees of FPL's St.
24 Lucie Plant, as we pursue renewal of the plant's
25 operating licenses. Our employees want to remain a

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1 part of this community and obtaining renewed licenses
2 is a necessary step to ensure we are able to continue
3 as active and beneficial neighbors in this community.
4 As Don said, my name is Tom Abbatiello and I am the
5 environmental lead for the St. Lucie Plant license
6 renewal project.

7 I began work in the Navy nuclear industry
8 in 1968, after receiving a Master's Degree in
9 Engineering From Rensilier Polytechnic Institute. I
10 joined FPL in 1986. My wife and I live in Palm City
11 and we are extremely fortunate to be able to live and
12 work in a beautiful area like this.

13 We also believe it is important to give
14 back to the community where we live. I am pleased to
15 be a part of a group of FPL employees who contribute
16 to local area agencies through the United Way. Our
17 employees also mentor students and volunteer in local
18 schools. We also support the St. Lucie County
19 Education Foundation in its scholarship program.

20 FPL employees are also involved in helping
21 the community through other organizations, such as
22 Scouts, Little Leagues, civic groups and church
23 programs. And the Plant's information center, called
24 the Energy Encounter, hosts about 40,000 visitors each
25 year, including 15,000 students who visit on

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1 educational field trips.

2 As you can see, the people who work at St.
3 Lucie Plant are an integral part of the local
4 community. As members of that community and your
5 neighbors, safety is our highest priority.

6 The St. Lucie Plant team is made up of
7 highly trained professionals who have a strong
8 commitment to safely operating the plant. Our
9 employees work hard, and are dedicated to high
10 standards of excellence and continuous improvement.

11 I'm equally proud of the work we do to
12 preserve and protect the environment. FPL has made a
13 long-standing commitment to the protection of
14 Florida's environment.

15 Our display in the lobby shows the broad
16 range of involvement and lists a few of the
17 environmental awards that we have received. These
18 awards include the William Bankard Award for
19 Excellence in Marine Environmental Protection. And
20 the National Land Management Award.

21 In February of this year, FPL joined the
22 EPA's new Voluntary Climate Leader's Program as a
23 charter partner. This program is aimed at reducing
24 greenhouse gas emissions.

25 Simply stated, our commitment to the

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1 environment at St. Lucie Plant is an integral part of
2 FPL's culture. Locally, our environmental programs
3 are well known.

4 The St. Lucie Plant, which looks out on
5 the Atlantic Ocean, maintains a strong commitment to
6 sea turtle protection. Our sea turtle program
7 involved around-the-clock efforts, including
8 scientific research and data gathering, participation
9 in the sea turtle stranding and salvage program,
10 ongoing sea turtle beach nesting surveys and our free
11 guided turtle walks for the public.

12 In fact, some of you may have been on these turtle
13 walks, which we conduct annually during nesting
14 season.

15 One aspect of our sea turtle program is
16 our research, which involves examining the turtles
17 that have entered the plant's intake canal. Expert
18 biologists, who are on our staff, measure, weigh and
19 electronically tag turtles. This unique research data
20 is highly valued by other research biologists in the
21 scientific community. The data gathered clearly shows
22 that the sea turtle population is steadily growing.
23 Our sea turtle protection and education programs are
24 making a positive contribution to this trend.

25 Aside from the continued environmental

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1 programs, the renewal of the St. Lucie Plant licenses
2 is important to meeting the energy needs of Florida.
3 Florida's population is growing approximately two
4 percent per year and, as we can see from the city here
5 at Port St. Lucie, this area is rapidly expanding.

6 Electricity consumed per customer has also
7 increased. FPL must provide power plants to meet the
8 growing demand for energy. It's also important that
9 power plants be close to where the electricity is
10 needed, to ensure the quality of the power and the
11 stability of the system.

12 Another benefit in renewing the St. Lucie
13 Plant licenses is our ability to continue providing
14 clean energy without using additional land for new
15 power plants. In fact, nuclear power plants prevent
16 substantial amount of carbon emissions and other
17 pollutants from going into the air we breathe. The
18 positive impact on air quality will continue during
19 the period of extended operation.

20 Part of the process to renew our licenses
21 included evaluating alternatives to license renewal.
22 We studied the alternatives for generating this
23 electricity and renewing the operating licenses at St.
24 Lucie Plant continues to make good sense.
25 St. Lucie Plant's license renewal has the least

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1 environmental impact for providing electricity to this
2 region.

3 Keeping St. Lucie Plant a part of this
4 community is also important to the social and economic
5 well being of our neighbors. The estimated economic
6 impact of plant operation is more than 80 million
7 dollars annually. The involvement of the St. Lucie
8 Plant employees in this community, as I discussed
9 earlier, helps make our area a better place to live.

10 The St. Lucie Plant employees want to
11 remain a part of this community and, as your
12 neighbors, share an interest in the well being of the
13 community and the protection of the environment. We
14 are committed to safely and reliably operating the St.
15 Lucie Plant in an environmentally responsible manner
16 long into the future, to meet the energy need of
17 Florida.

18 Thank-you.

19 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you very much,
20 Tom and
21 thank-you, Don.

22 I'm going to go first to Dr. Alice
23 O'Keefe, who is with the American Association of
24 University Women.

25 DR. O'KEEFE: First of all, I want to say

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1 that, you know, looking about among the sea of suits,
2 important people, and I'm just Jane Q Public, really.
3 I'm a school teacher, been a school teacher, a college
4 professor, and I have lived here in Florida, down on
5 Hutchinson Island, three miles away from the plant, on
6 the ocean, since 1987. I've been here fifteen years
7 or more.

8 And I'm out in the community and I talk to
9 a lot of people. And most of the people realize that
10 nuclear energy is clean. And you know, I hate you,
11 Don, and I hate you, Tom, because you said everything
12 I was going to say about the turtle walk, about the
13 environmentally sound, and the programs that you have.
14 They do build houses for habitat for low income
15 families.

16 And I want to say a special hello to
17 Rachel Scott, who got me involved and came very
18 sweetly to one of our AAUW, University Women meeting,
19 to explain some of the things that are going on with
20 energy.

21 You know, I was going to say my God, who
22 doesn't have a computer, who doesn't have air
23 conditioning, what would Florida be without air
24 conditioning, and all of things and the reasons for
25 electricity I want for myself, and I want for my

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1 family, and want for the community. But unless it's
2 provided in a safe way and that the environment's
3 protected, I kind of, you know, would still want it,
4 but I'd have to have some reservations.

5 But I have always felt that the clean air
6 has been tested by the national people, by the state
7 people. I have found them to be a very good neighbor,
8 three miles away. They are involved in the community.

9 They do -- they have contributed to our
10 Martin County Schools, too, computers and school
11 supplies. I don't if anybody knows that, but they do.

12 And I really feel that if you can get the
13 -- you can provide the energy for the people -- and
14 you know, Florida's energy needs are growing at two
15 percent annually, and I think as Tom or Don said, that
16 over a half a million homes could be supplied with
17 electricity, but it's got to be done safely. And I
18 feel that they have a good safety record for 25 years,
19 and I think they're going to go on for another 20
20 years, so I tell you I do support that they get their
21 license renewal.

22 Thank-you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you very much,
24 Dr. O'Keefe.

25 DR. O'KEEFE: Now I'm going to the

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1 airport.

2 MR. CAMERON: All right.

3 We're going to go next to Mr. Paul Hiott.
4 And Mr. Hiott's with the St. Lucie County Council of
5 Social Agencies, but also a member -- or with the
6 United States Navy Retired Submariners.

7 MR. HIOTT: Yes, thank-you, Chip.

8 I just wanted to make known to -- we had
9 a presentation made to us by the power plant at the
10 Council of Social Agencies, very well received by
11 them, to be able to support the renewal through the
12 process that they're going through now. And I wanted
13 to just get -- briefly go into the background of
14 myself, being in the Navy for twenty-and-a-half years,
15 on several nuclear submarines, and sleeping
16 approximately 80 feet away from a reactor. I spent
17 eight years under water while a reactor was running,
18 and approximately, like I said before, 80 feet away
19 was where my bunk was.

20 I feel so safe around them. I felt safe
21 because they produced the power for the submarines.
22 And they're also regulated so much by the -- in the
23 Navy, it was naval reactors that was -- it seemed like
24 they were there constantly, doing inspections and
25 everything else, to make sure that they were safe and

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1 properly run.

2 And these plants that we have here in St.
3 Lucie and various other ones around this nation are
4 monitored on a, almost daily basis, by somebody
5 walking around and doing something.

6 So safety is their concern. It's for our
7 well being. And I feel like it's a very positive note
8 that we have this energy available to us and it's
9 produced at a clean level, and also that the process
10 here continues on, and to renew the plant's license
11 when it comes due.

12 Thanks, Chip.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Paul.

14 Let's go next to Jane Rowley from Coral
15 Communities.

16 MS. ROWLEY: Good evening everyone.

17 I have to take my glasses off. I reached
18 that point in life where I can't see up close, I can't
19 see far away. It's like no-man's land.

20 Good evening, my name is Jane Rowley and,
21 as a resident of Port St. Lucie for 23 years -- there
22 were 9,000 people here when we first moved here. I'm
23 a former elected official with the City of Port St.
24 Lucie, past president of the Chamber of Commerce, and
25 a trustee for Indian River Community College.

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1 We need electricity, as the good doctor
2 said before she left. As we have seen in other parts
3 of great country, there have been power shortages.
4 This means we need power from St. Lucie Nuclear Plant.

5 Planning for the future means renewing the
6 St. Lucie license. There is no need to reinvent the
7 wheel, we have it. We have a very important community
8 partner in St. Lucie Power Plant. Let's do the right
9 thing and use an existing source to meet our needs.

10 I support the renewal of the St. Lucie
11 license for clean, affordable electricity. They're
12 good neighbors. Good neighbors always contribute the
13 economy. St. Lucie Plant means clean energy. Let us
14 keep the plant that provides safe, clean, reliable
15 electricity.

16 In closing, I have not talked to anyone in
17 this community and, believe me, I'm on a lot of
18 committees. My job is being out in the community, and
19 talking with people, and meeting with people. I have
20 not met one person who feels that the plant is not
21 environmentally concerned or friendly. So I think
22 they should get their license renewal.

23 Thank-you very much.

24 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Jane.

25 Let's hear next from Mr. Vince Barry of

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1 Wonderful Wednesday.

2 MR. BARRY: Good evening.

3 My name is Vincent Barry. My wife and I
4 live at 181 Northeast Fatima Terrace, here in Port St.
5 Lucie. We would like to voice our support for the St.
6 Lucie Plant license renewal.

7 My wife and I have lived in Port St. Lucie
8 for the past 14 years and during that time, we have
9 come to depend on Florida Power and Light, and the St.
10 Lucie Nuclear Power Plant to provide a safe, clean and
11 economical electricity, in a dependable manner.

12 The St. Lucie Power Plant has never failed
13 us in that regard. In an uncertain world, it is very
14 comforting to know that when you need electricity or
15 the services that are associated with it, they are
16 there.

17 It is also comforting to know that the
18 electricity that is being generated, is being
19 generated using the cleanest, the safest fuel on
20 earth, nuclear power. It is my understanding that
21 nuclear power poses no air pollution problems and
22 minimal ecological impact during its use. I certainly
23 would like to see the vital connections that link the
24 St. Lucie Plant to our economy, to a cleaner
25 environment and, most importantly, to the entire

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1 community, continue for the next twenty years.

2 In addition to being an excellent supplier
3 of low cost electrical power, the St. Lucie Power
4 Plant is a good neighbor, that participates or
5 sponsors a number of educational, environmental and
6 civic activities.

7 The Energy Encounter, with its hands on
8 electrical exhibits, is a must see attraction each and
9 every time our children and our grandchildren pay us
10 a visit.

11 For sometime now, my wife and I have
12 attended the Wonderful Wednesdays programs, which the
13 St. Lucie Plant puts on. These highly educational and
14 entertaining programs have given us many hours of
15 enjoyment, as well as enlightenment.

16 It was here that we became aware of the
17 ongoing training and testing that all operators and
18 plant personnel are subjected to, of the written
19 procedures that are in place for every operation, of
20 the continuous preventative maintenance programs that
21 are stringently applied, and of the quality control
22 surveillance activities that confirm that all these
23 safeguards are in place, working as planned, and
24 documented. All of these efforts are directed to the
25 assurance of an absolutely fail-safe operation.

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1 We were also made aware of the vital role
2 that you folks of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
3 play, to make sure that safety is at the forefront of
4 all plant operations. And for this, we thank you.

5 The St. Lucie Power Plant is not only a
6 place that produces clean, safe, low cost electricity,
7 it also is an environmentally friendly facility, that
8 provides a home to dozens of rare, threatened or
9 endangered birds and animals.

10 The Turtle Beach nature trail mentioned
11 here earlier, is open to the public to enjoy Florida's
12 natural beauty. The plant's beaches provide one of
13 the best nesting sites for threatened or endangered
14 sea turtles, and the overall facility itself is a
15 place of quiet beauty.

16 Finally, my wife and I fully support
17 renewing the license of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power
18 Plant and we would like to see that it continues
19 building on its record of excellence and its culture,
20 that puts community health and safety above all else.
21 We would like to see it continue for twenty years or
22 more and far beyond.

23 I am reminded of the football coach on a
24 TV commercial when he says, "When you find something
25 that works, you keep using it."

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1 The St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant is
2 something that works. Let's keep using it.

3 Thank-you for letting me express my views
4 and to lend my support for the renewing of the St.
5 Lucie Nuclear Plant's license. Thank-you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much, Mr.
7 Barry.

8 And next we're going to go to Mr. Jim
9 Vojcsik. And Mr. Vojcsik is the Director of the St.
10 Lucie County Veteran's Services.

11 MR. VOJCSIK: Director of the United Way
12 of Martin County.

13 MR. CAMERON: Let's change that to
14 Director of the United Way of Martin County. Sorry.
15 I was really proud, I got your name correct.

16 MR. VOJCSIK: You did get my name
17 correctly. Thank-you, I appreciate that.

18 My name is Jim Vojcsik, and my wife Donna
19 and I have lived in the area for three years, since
20 1999. And along with our two children, we care very,
21 very deeply about the safety of the community. And I
22 do want to commend you all for having this process of
23 reviewing this plant and the license renewal.

24 I am the Executive Director of the United
25 Way of Martin County and I'm speaking tonight on

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1 behalf of our organization in support of the license
2 renewal for Florida Power and Light St. Lucie Nuclear
3 Plant.

4 The power plant is an important source of
5 energy for our community. Demands for energy in
6 communities in the Treasure Coast of Florida are
7 growing annually, and we need the power from the St.
8 Lucie Plant to meet our needs for electricity. The
9 plant supplies us with an available source of low cost
10 electricity and the plant's already here, and we can
11 use it as a resource to meet our community's energy
12 needs.

13 The St. Lucie Plant is a good neighbor.
14 Speaking on behalf of the United Way of Martin County,
15 I personally know many of the employees at the St.
16 Lucie Plant and I know how they're involved in the
17 community. And I know personally that they are
18 involved with many organizations that are making a
19 difference in our quality of life in the community.

20 The employees at the plant give very
21 generously to local United Way campaigns here on the
22 Treasure Coast. They contribute hundreds of thousands
23 of dollars each year to local charitable organizations
24 through their participation.

25 The plant annually conducts one of the

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1 most successful and spirited employee fund-raising
2 efforts on the Treasure Coast. And recently the
3 United Way of Martin County recognized an employee at
4 the power plant as one of our most outstanding
5 volunteers of the year.

6 The plant is also one of the largest
7 employers in our area, and it's very important to our
8 local economy. A business of this size would be very
9 difficult to replace. The plant's payroll, purchases
10 and property taxes supply our local governments with
11 revenue which we need to provide services on which we
12 depend.

13 In conclusion, because the power plant is
14 important to our community, it's a good neighbor, it
15 has a good environmental track record and produces a
16 viable source of low cost electricity, cleanly and
17 safely, we should keep this plant in operation for
18 twenty more years, and we support the license renewals
19 for the St. Lucie Power Plant. [Attachment 3c]

20 Thank-you.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Mr. Vojcsik.

22 Next, let's go to Patricia Baldwin of the
23 Soroptimists International of St. Lucie County.

24 MS. BALDWIN: Thank-you, and I'm surprised
25 you could say it. Was that your first attempt at

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1 saying soroptimist?

2 MR. CAMERON: I am surprised I could say
3 it.

4 MS. BALDWIN: That's very good, very good.

5 My name is Pat Baldwin. I'm actually an
6 attorney here in Port St. Lucie. I've been here for
7 four years, enjoy the environment, and have never
8 heard any concerns about the power plant.

9 I'm here on behalf of Soroptimists
10 International. And the women in Soroptimists are
11 women, they're professional women, and they work in
12 the community. They live in the community. Their
13 children go to school in the community. And they
14 asked me to come here and speak on behalf of them.

15 Something Mr. Dudley said that kind of
16 concerned me, if the application is not renewed. If
17 the application is not renewed, he said it would take
18 ten years to create an alternate source of energy.
19 And think about that. We'd have to take ten years to
20 find alternate sources of energy. What is the cost
21 going to be? Where is it going to come from? Is it
22 going to be available? And now we have a plant we
23 have to shut down. What's the cost of shutting the
24 plant down? What's the cost going to be for jobs in
25 the community if we have to shut the plant down? And

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1 what are the other environmental costs that it's going
2 to take to get sources that probably aren't going to
3 be in our own community? Our community will suffer.

4 I haven't heard anything from anybody
5 that's caused me any concern on the renewal. The
6 environment seems to be considered. FP&L seems to be
7 doing a great job in trying to protect the
8 environment, doing programs for the community that
9 help support the socioeconomic and also the ecological
10 environment.

11 In light of the, you know, the
12 alternatives to the renewal, I think we need to
13 support the renewal. Again, I haven't heard any
14 opposition to the renewal from colleagues or from
15 members of Soroptimists, and I think if we start
16 looking at the detriments if we don't renew, we have
17 a real problem on our hands.

18 I think it's in the best interest of the
19 community to renew the application.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you very much.

21 Douglas Davis, the St. Lucie County
22 Chamber of Commerce.

23 MR. DAVIS: Thank-you.

24 Firstly, I am Doug Davis. I reside at
25 2201 Atlantic Beach Boulevard in Ft. Pierce, which is

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1 on North Beach, and I'm a 45 year resident, having
2 moved down here in '57, so I've been here longer than
3 the plant.

4 What I wanted to say is when the plant did
5 first come up and was planned to be built, I had
6 certain reservations because it was an unknown to me.
7 I had certain concerns about health and safety,
8 environmental issues.

9 And I do live within the ten mile radius,
10 where I live. And I do surf, and I surf right off the
11 beaches where the plant is, so I've had a 25 year
12 experience that has proven to me that this particular
13 energy source is something that I have nothing to be
14 concerned about.

15 I think that anybody that can be here and
16 to do the job that they do, and do it in a manner --
17 that I've lived through
18 the process and I've seen it work. I highly recommend
19 it and I fully recommend that the operational license
20 be renewed, on a personal basis.

21 Also, the power plant here is something
22 that has dramatically affected my life, as it has with
23 many lives in our community, in the way that I have a
24 beautiful family due to the power plant. My father-
25 in-law is an electrical engineer that moved here from

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1 Pennsylvania 27 years ago, and I got to marry his
2 daughter, and I have three beautiful children.

3 So that's something that just proves that
4 there's a community fabric that's interwoven, that's
5 taken place with FP&L, they're just a part of the
6 community, and a very valuable part of the community
7 and something that's more than just a business here.
8 It's something that's a -- it's a life.

9 And my brother-in-law and his whole family
10 are part of the electrical union out there. Many of
11 my good friends are all employed out there, so there's
12 a real tie with the community there, just in the way
13 that they've established themselves, and they're part
14 of -- they are us.

15 On a professional level, I own my own
16 business. I'm the president of Richard Davis
17 Construction Corporation and I also have served for
18 the first six years of the St. Lucie County Chamber of
19 Commerce as president. I have another six -- excuse
20 me, six months, not six years -- six months and I have
21 six months to go. But I'm here also to represent the
22 professional community to say that we recognize that
23 FP&L is our, one of our major employers in this
24 community. They have excellent job opportunities in
25 the high tech, in the pay, and all the perks that they

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1 provide, so it's a great source for those that have
2 grown up here, to be able to come and find employment,
3 and provide for themselves and their families. Their
4 investments in property and facilities provide
5 extremely strong part of our tax base that drives our
6 community.

7 Of course, many people spoke about how
8 community-active they are. And I don't know as much
9 about that, but I do know Rachel Scott and I do know
10 her leadership for United Way here in St. Lucie County
11 has been phenomenal this past year.

12 And I heard the name of the electrical
13 union mentioned many times at their banquet and how
14 they step up to the plate, and they personally invest
15 in our community in charitable giving, so we applaud
16 them in that.

17 And we brought this to our own Chamber of
18 Commerce Board of Directors, and had the full
19 presentation, and had a unanimous support for the
20 license renewal. And I wanted to bring to that to the
21 attention, for consideration, that there was not one
22 single vote opposed to that. That's from the St.
23 Lucie County Chamber of Commerce. Professionally and
24 personally, I support the license renewal.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Mr. Davis.

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1 Let's go to Nick Theodore for some
2 comments. And Nick is with Carpenter's Local Union
3 130.

4 MR. THEODORE: My name is Nick Theodore.
5 I'm a resident of Port St. Lucie. I've lived here
6 since 1987.

7 Prior of being a business representative
8 for the Carpenter's Union, I was a journeyman
9 carpenter out of Western Pennsylvania. I've worked in
10 probably every type of power generating facility that
11 you could imagine, whether it be gas, coal, trash-
12 burners, I've worked them all.

13 And when I first came down here and I got
14 dispatched to go to work at St. Lucie, I thought I was
15 working in a hospital. The place is extremely clean.
16 You left there almost as clean as you went there, and
17 we do some heavy construction work.

18 There's people that, in my trade, have
19 died working at plants, building them, maintaining
20 them, but FPL has always stressed, from day one that
21 I was there, worker safety is paramount, public safety
22 is paramount.

23 On behalf of the carpenters and the
24 building trades, because FP&L does utilize the
25 building trades over there -- as a matter of fact,

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1 since 1997, I think we've set three world's records
2 for maintenance at that facility, and, Don, I think
3 I've seen about five, four or five site vice-
4 presidents prior to you coming on board -- and it's
5 all been stressed the same way.

6 But on behalf of the building trades and
7 Carpenter's Local 130, security is always taken care
8 of over there. The workers are taken care of. The
9 environment and the public is always taken care of,
10 and we endorse the extension of the
11 re-licensing.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank-you, Nick.

13 I think that covers all of the people who
14 signed up in advance.

15 I would want to give the opportunity to
16 anybody who does want to give us some brief comments
17 at this time, to step forward.

18 Anybody, anybody out there?

19 Mr. Doyle. Come on up.

20 MR. DOYLE: Thank-you, Chip, and again,
21 thank-you, everyone, for presenting this information.
22 This is a, basically information exchange for myself
23 tonight. I'm learning a lot, and I really appreciate
24 the input from the people of St. Lucie.

25 And I'd just like for them to consider

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1 that there's a bigger world out there also, it's a big
2 state. And even if a lot of megawatts are generated
3 that can benefit several hundred thousand homes,
4 there's a lot more people out there and a lot more
5 land, and, and animals that don't need to benefit from
6 that, and that could be affected if anything does go
7 wrong.

8 And that's my one concern. That's why I'm
9 here tonight.

10 And that's the only reason, because I love my fellow
11 humans. I had a great time out at the Olympics, and
12 I really felt international vibes out there. And,
13 but, so coming home, I just want to make sure
14 everybody is safe and that we think about what we're
15 doing in our communities. And I just don't want you
16 to make any mistakes that we can't correct.

17 You know, because President Eisenhower
18 said that we can afford to sacrifice a few thousand
19 people out there in the defense of national security.
20 I do believe that all industries, coal-fired plants,
21 oil burning plants, they all have their allowable
22 deaths per million ratio, but nuclear power, by the
23 very nature of it, it's acceptance and promulgation
24 among the very few governing and regulatory bodies, we
25 don't have a lot of people giving input on this, just

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1 the NRC and FP&L. We don't -- it's not mandatory that
2 our local communities and counties even comment on it.
3 We're just counting on one vote, that's from Governor
4 Jeb Bush, through the Congress. So, we -- as locals,
5 we have to keep an eye out for this.

6 But the nuclear industry presents a
7 catastrophic scenario never before imaginable, and,
8 besides the usual number of injuries and deaths in the
9 energy field. We must convince our leaders, but more
10 importantly, the people who work for NRC and FP&L,
11 that they are the ones who do all the work. Without
12 them things would be different.

13 That this unquantifiable resource called
14 life must be guaranteed as it is by our Constitution,
15 and that for the mere sake of modernization, we should
16 not surrender ourselves for them on what they ask me
17 to do, am I the one who should die? Who else in their
18 statistics could they be referring to? I know I'm
19 included in the population count. My death and the
20 possible death of countless peoples is acceptable to
21 NRC regulations and FP&L procedures. It's threatening
22 and it's not worth it.

23 There were black-outs in the Western U.S.,
24 remember those? Well, nuclear power plants need
25 electricity from outer sources. Could be a problem.

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1 It's only backed up in the house.

2 Charge people more percentage-wise, who
3 use more electricity. Let's raise the rates. Hey,
4 I'm all for it. I don't need nuclear power. I'll pay
5 a little more.

6 Nowhere here tonight did I hear that we
7 must conserve. I think this is one of our greatest
8 focuses that we must do. The electricity consumed per
9 customer has to decrease. I hear that's been on the
10 increase.

11 Parents, can you give up TV time and go
12 for a hike with your kid instead? Can't we all use
13 less electricity? Let's sacrifice the trivial things
14 in life so that we don't have to sacrifice the most
15 sacred.

16 By allowing NRC and FP&L to operate, we
17 accept and condone the possibility of a nuclear
18 catastrophe and I hate to use those words and I
19 apologize for it.

20 I'm not a gambler and I don't know whether
21 you can remember the last time someone seriously asked
22 you to bet your life on something.

23 Thank-you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank-you, Mr. Doyle.

25 And I guess I would just remind everybody

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1 here that these are personal opinions that are being
2 expressed by people on these issues.

3 And I don't think that we have anybody
4 else who wants to speak tonight, so I would just thank
5 you for all coming out and thank you for participating
6 tonight.

7 It's an important decision that the NRC is
8 faced with and the information you gave us tonight
9 will help us to make that decision.

10 So we're adjourned at this point.

11 (Whereupon, at 8:30 o'clock, p.m., the
12 public meeting was adjourned.)

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