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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT UNITS 3 & 4

COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

+ + + + +

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

+ + + + +

Auditorium

Bay City Civic Center

201 7th Street

Bay City, Texas

1:30 p.m.

PANEL MEMBERS:

FRANCIS X. "CHIP" CAMERON, Facilitator

JIM BIGGINS, Office of General Counsel

NILESH CHOKSHI, Deputy Director, NRC

GEORGE WUNDER, Sr. Project Manager

PAUL KALLAN, Environmental Project Manager

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. My name is Chip
3 Cameron. I work for the Nuclear Regulatory
4 Commission, the NRC. And I just wanted to welcome all
5 of you to the meeting today.

6 And the topic of today's meeting is the
7 NRC's environmental review process for evaluating a
8 license application, such as the one that we received
9 from the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company
10 to construct and operate two new reactors at the South
11 Texas Project Site.

12 And it's my pleasure to serve as your
13 facilitator for today's meeting, and in that role I'll
14 try to help all of you have a productive meeting
15 today.

16 Before we get into the substance of
17 today's discussions, I just wanted to say a few words
18 about the meeting process so that you understand
19 what's going to happen here this afternoon. And I'd
20 like to talk about the format for the meeting, some
21 simple ground rules to follow, and the agenda for the
22 meeting.

23 In terms of the format for the meeting,
24 it's basically a two--part format. The first part of
25 it is for the NRC to give you some brief

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1 presentations, some information on what our review
2 process is for this type of license application.

3 And we'll then go on to you. We'll have
4 some time for questions. We have a lot of people
5 signed up to speak, and that's an important part of
6 the meeting, but I think we'll still have time for a
7 few questions after the NRC speakers get done. And I
8 would ask you to hold any questions for them until
9 they go through all of their presentations.

10 Now the second part of the meeting is an
11 opportunity for the NRC staff to listen to your advice
12 and recommendations. And I will ask you during that
13 part of the meeting, those of you who have signed up,
14 to come up to the podium to speak.

15 Now you're going to hear more about this
16 from the NRC staff, but this is called a scoping
17 meeting. And simply put, the NRC is seeking advice
18 today on what the scope of the environmental impact
19 statement should be that they're going to prepare.

20 But we realize that there may be broader
21 concerns than environmental issues, and we always want
22 to listen to those concerns, even though they may not
23 fall within the scope of the environmental review that
24 we're going to be doing.

25 Now during this second part of the

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1 meeting, we're here to listen. We're going to be
2 listening to you. We're not going to be responding,
3 except in those rare instances where there may be some
4 new information that the NRC has on a particular
5 subject that we'll want to let you know about.

6 In terms of ground rules, if you have
7 questions after the NRC presentations, just raise your
8 hand and I'll bring you this cordless mike, and if you
9 could please introduce yourself to us, ask your
10 question, and then we'll go to the NRC staff for
11 answers.

12 And I would just ask you, during the
13 question part of the meeting to focus on questions.
14 Sometimes questions have a tendency to warp into
15 comments. If you have a comment, then give it during
16 the comment period. And if you haven't signed up yet,
17 just let me know and I'll put you on the list.

18 I would ask that only one person speak at
19 a time for two very important reasons. One, so that
20 we can get what I call a clean transcript so that we
21 know who is speaking. We are transcribing the meeting
22 tonight, and we have Leslie Berridge who is our
23 stenographer today. And all of that will be captured,
24 and that transcript will be available to anybody who
25 wants to see it. But more importantly, let's give our

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1 full attention to whoever has the floor at the moment.

2 I would ask you to try to be concise in
3 your questions so that we can give everybody who wants
4 to talk an opportunity to participate today. And
5 during the formal comment period, I'm going to ask you
6 to try to hold your comments to three to five minutes
7 to make sure that we can finish up on time, and we do
8 have another meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m.

9 I think that three to five minutes is
10 enough time to summarize what you have to say. It
11 also alerts the NRC staff to issues that we should
12 start working on immediately. And as the NRC staff is
13 going to tell you, there is an opportunity to submit
14 written comments on these issues so that if you have
15 to amplify on what you said today, you can do it in
16 your written comment.

17 Finally, I would just ask you to extend
18 courtesy to all. You may hear opinions today that you
19 don't -- just don't agree with, and so I would just
20 ask you to respect the person who's giving the
21 particular comment. And I hear those cell phone
22 chimes.

23 Let me introduce the NRC speakers. First
24 of all, we're going to go to Nilesh Chokshi -- and you
25 can correct me on the pronunciation of your name --

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1 but Nilesh is the top NRC manager here today.

2 He's from the Office of New Reactors, and
3 he's Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental
4 Review, I believe. And he's going to tell you about
5 the NRC and our purpose here today in doing scoping.

6 After Nilesh we're going to go to Mr.
7 Paul -- no, we're going to go to Mr. George Wunder,
8 who is the Project Manager for the Review of the
9 safety aspects of the application, and he's going to
10 tell you about what the NRC does in safety review.

11 And finally we're going to go to Mr. Paul
12 Kallan, who is going to address the instant subject of
13 this meeting, which is the environment review and
14 scoping, and Paul is the Project Manager for the
15 review of the environment aspects of the South Texas
16 application for the new plant.

17 And with that, let me just thank you all
18 for being here. And I just want to emphasize one
19 thing, which is continuity. This meeting is just one
20 point on the way of perhaps a long process. I believe
21 the NRC staff is going to give you their contact
22 information. If you have questions or concerns,
23 please call us, get in touch with us so that we can
24 stay in touch over the life of this particular
25 project.

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1 And with that I'm going to ask Nilesch to
2 come up.

3 MR. CHOKSHI: Thank you, Chip.

4 Good afternoon.

5 MALE VOICE: I don't think your microphone
6 is on.

7 MR. CHOKSHI: It's not on?

8 (Pause.)

9 MR. CHOKSHI: All right. Let me start
10 again. Thank you, Chip.

11 Good afternoon. My name is Nilesch
12 Chokshi -- and you pronounced correctly. I'm the
13 Deputy Director in the Division of Site Environmental
14 Review in the NRC's Office of New Reactors.

15 Let me begin by welcoming you and thanking
16 all of you for taking time to really help us fulfill
17 our important responsibilities regarding the
18 environmental reviews under the National Environmental
19 Policy Act. NRC has specific responsibilities under
20 this Act.

21 We realize that you are taking time out of
22 your personal schedule to meet with us and share your
23 views with us about the South Texas Project. I hope
24 that during the open house some of you had a chance to
25 meet with a number of NRC staff members here who have

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1 a better understanding of why we are here.

2 But that's what I want to talk about, and
3 then we'll -- the purpose of this meetings. We're
4 going to be presenting information today on the
5 application of two new reactors to be constructed and
6 operated at the South Texas Project Site. But we're
7 going to particularly focus on the environmental
8 review aspects of the application.

9 And it is my staff who is responsible for
10 managing the environmental review. And several
11 members of our environmental review team are here, and
12 so I think that it will be very good to get feedback
13 on that to include in that process.

14 We have to conduct an environmental review
15 before we can make any decision -- and issue an
16 environmental impact statement before we can make
17 decision regarding the application.

18 Of course, in the course of our
19 environmental review, we work very closely with our
20 safety counterparts in our Division of New Reactor
21 Licensing, which they manage the overall review, as
22 well as the overall schedule for the NRC. It's quite
23 an interactive process.

24 Now let me go to the next slide -- let's
25 talk about the purpose and expand on this. I think

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1 many of you are familiar with the proposal,
2 application which is in front of the NRC. I also want
3 to put this meeting in context of the meeting we had
4 last June, our public outreach meeting which took
5 place before the application came to us.

6 In that meeting we wanted to share the
7 steps involved in the licensing process. In that
8 meeting we informed you about the opportunities that
9 you will have to observe and participate in the work
10 of NRC if we were to receive an application to
11 construct and operate nuclear reactors.

12 During that meeting we identified several
13 major tracks of review, which include the safety
14 review, inspection activities, formal hearings, as
15 well as the environmental reviews. So there are
16 several major areas of review.

17 In June I think we really also wanted to
18 explain what is the combined construction permit and
19 operating license. So you will hear the words, often
20 COL, combined operating license, and during this
21 discussion people will say COL or COLA, that's all
22 combined operating license application.

23 And at the outreach meeting we also I
24 think stressed, and I think you're going to hear this
25 during the entire meeting, -- in all of our NRC

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1 presentations, the importance of your participation in
2 this process, because, you know, ultimately this is
3 your home, your community, and if the proposed project
4 comes to fruition out of all of the applications and
5 number of agencies involved grant approvals, you will
6 be impacted more than anybody else, living close to
7 the plant.

8 And now, I think, as you know, that since
9 that outreach meeting last June, we did receive an
10 application to construct and operate two --
11 two nuclear plants at South Texas in September 2007.
12 And, after completing our acceptance review process,
13 now that application has been docketed, and now we are
14 in the very initial stages of beginning the review of
15 the application.

16 We are in the very early stages, and much
17 of our focus is now focused on information gathering.

18 We're getting ourselves ready for the review. And
19 that's why this meeting is particularly important.

20 So what you're going -- as you see in this
21 chart, in the first three bullets -- basically we're
22 going to repeat ourselves somewhat and tell you,
23 again, about some of the licensing process, so to put
24 in proper context.

25 But what I want to really stress,

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1 the purpose, and put into context, is the fourth
2 bullet. That's why we are here. And Mr. Cameron
3 mentioned, this is scoping process for the
4 environmental review.

5 So the primary purpose is to give you an
6 opportunity to share with us your thoughts, your
7 comments on what you think we should consider in the
8 environmental review when we develop the NRC's
9 environmental impact statement on the South Texas
10 Project.

11 As I said, this is a scoping meeting.
12 It's a part of the formal scoping process. And the
13 scoping process is to help us understand what matters
14 and what we need to consider. Many of you live close
15 to the proposed plants, and have a useful or better
16 understanding of your local environment. We need to
17 better appreciate those environmental values and
18 insights that you have. And today we really want to
19 hear about those issues.

20 During the presentation you will hear that
21 we -- already have a very well structured
22 environmental review process, and our review will
23 start with nationally and internationally recognized
24 experts in all of the environmental disciplines.

25 In fact, in the audience there are members

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1 from NRC's experts in environmental, as also from the
2 Pacific Northwest National Lab, and they're all ears.
3 So I hope that they get to hear some of your concerns.

4 Now I want to make sure that you
5 understand that this is not the last opportunity to
6 interact with us on this matter. There will be other
7 opportunities as we conduct our review and as we
8 further progress toward preparing our environmental
9 impact statement, and you will hear about those
10 opportunities in the later part of the presentation.

11 Now, before I hand this over -- meeting to
12 the two project managers, I think it will be
13 worthwhile to talk about -- a little bit about who we
14 are, what we do, and whom we interact with. I know
15 you -- probably many of you were at the June meeting
16 and you heard, but I think it's very, very important
17 to go over that again.

18 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was
19 created in 1974 to regulate, among other things, the
20 civilian use of nuclear power to ensure the health and
21 safety of the public, to promote the common defense
22 and security, and to protect the environment.

23 I would like to emphasize that we are not
24 part of the Department of Energy, or any other agency.

25 We are an independent agency, and we are not here to

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1 promote nuclear power. We are an independent
2 regulatory agency headed by five commissioners, all
3 appointed by the President and confirmed by the
4 Senate.

5 Unlike cabinet secretaries and other
6 political appointees, the NRC commissioners do not
7 change when a new president is elected. We have a
8 tremendous continuity in that regard.

9 The commissioners serve five year terms,
10 and there is always a mix of both Republicans and
11 Democrats. And then the Commission is supported by a
12 staff of technical and regulatory experts, something
13 in the order of 3,000.

14 And as an agency -- after becoming a
15 nuclear regulatory commission-- breaking off from the
16 Atomic Energy Commission, we have over 30 years of
17 experience in regulatory and licensing nuclear power
18 plants and other uses of nuclear material.

19 In -- let me -- a few talks on the -- our
20 process of licensing, of the construction and
21 operation of a nuclear power plant. One of the, I
22 think, major emphasis for us is to the -- that the
23 process be open to the public to the greatest extent
24 possible. I think that's -- and I think this -- from
25 the highest level of the agency, you hear this thing

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1 repeatedly.

2 The process is also designed so that the
3 people who have a stake in the proposed action are
4 given a chance to participate and to be heard.

5 On this line, I have listed the parties
6 participating in the licensing process into three
7 categories. I only mentioned the commissioners and
8 the staff, but if you look under the heading of NRC,
9 you will also notice that I also have listed hearing
10 boards and the Advisory Committee on Reactor
11 Safeguards. These are, again, the opportunities for
12 participation, as well as independent reviews.

13 Other parties involved in the process is,
14 of course, the company that wants to build the plant.

15 And the final group of participants in the process is
16 that group of people we call stakeholders, which is
17 comprised of people with all different interests, and
18 that includes you, the residents and business
19 operators of the community.

20 Also included under this group are various
21 public interest groups, as well as the state
22 government, local, and your own county and city
23 governments. I think at a later part of the
24 presentation you will see in the environmental review
25 how many agencies and parties we interact with

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1 regularly.

2 So I think with this sort of a background,
3 and with my efforts to set the stage for this meeting,
4 I want to thank you again for allowing us to come into
5 your community and for you taking this effort to meet
6 with us and share your views.

7 We have a long way to go before the NRC
8 completes its review of the application, and is ready
9 to make a decision on the proposal. So this will be
10 an ongoing interaction, and I think it will be
11 important that we continue to interact with you.

12 Let me now introduce you to, Mr. George
13 Wunder. He is the NRC Safety Project Manager for the
14 South Texas Project, and he will provide more detail
15 on the application and all aspects of review. And
16 then we'll go to the -- really the heart of the
17 meeting, the environmental review, which will be
18 presented by Mr. Paul Kallan. He's our Environmental
19 Project Review Manager.

20 And then we'll open the floor to you. And
21 I think we are here to listen. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. WUNDER: Thank you, Niles.

24 I'm George Wunder. I'm the -- oh, thank
25 you all for coming -- I'm George Wunder and I am the

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1 safety Project Manager for the Office of New Reactors.

2 I've just got a few slides I'd like to go through by
3 way of background. And I promise to be mercifully
4 short.

5 So what is a combined license, and what do
6 they want, why do they want one? Well, a combined
7 license is essentially permission from the NRC to
8 build and operate a reactor plant with a specific
9 design at a specific location, subject to applicable
10 codes and standards. In the case of South Texas, the
11 application is for two General Electric advanced
12 boiling water reactors to be built at their facility
13 in Wadsworth.

14 As far as who can get a combined license,
15 it has to be an entity that is qualified both
16 technically and financially. In this case, South
17 Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company. And as far
18 as when the application came in, at the end of
19 September, and we officially docketed and accepted it
20 at the end of November of last year.

21 NRC has a pretty big job to do when it
22 comes to reviewing a combined license application.
23 Nilesh mentioned earlier that our primary focus is on
24 safety, and one of the ways that we ensure safety is
25 by making sure that the things that are being -- that

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1 everything is being done in accordance with the
2 appropriate laws and regulations.

3 In this case the law is the Atomic Energy
4 Act, and the regulations are those contained in Title
5 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations. So these are
6 the standards which we will evaluate the -- by which
7 we will evaluate the application that South Texas has
8 submitted. We're also tasked with performing an
9 environmental review under the National Environmental
10 Policy Act, and Paul Kallan will say more about that
11 in a bit.

12 Throughout our review, our effort is
13 always to make the best and most informed decision as
14 we can at all times, and to document these in as clear
15 and unambiguous way as possible. And this goes toward
16 meeting our goal of ensuring that the entire process
17 is as open as possible, and that anyone, any citizen
18 who is interested can understand not only what
19 decisions we have made, but why we are making them.

20 Okay. Let's talk briefly here about the
21 scope of our review, what are the things that we're
22 going to be looking at. First we're going to look at
23 the design of the plant, and actually a lot of this
24 work has already been done, it was done 10 years ago.

25 The advanced boiling water reactor is what's called a

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1 certified design, and that is our staff has already
2 reviewed it and written a safety evaluation on the
3 basic plant.

4 There's going to be some differences
5 between the design that we certified 10 years ago, and
6 the plant that South Texas is eventually going to
7 build, and these differences can be the result of
8 various things, such as improvements in technology.

9 For example, South Texas may want to use
10 equipment that wasn't available when we did our
11 certification. Or they can be due to certain unique
12 individual needs of South Texas. Any deviations from
13 the certified design will be reviewed and approved by
14 the NRC staff.

15 We're also going to look at the
16 suitability of the site itself. This includes things
17 like determining the suitability of the soil to
18 support the structures that will be built there;
19 taking a look at the seismic history of the area;
20 taking a look at the potentials for things like
21 flooding, or tornados and hurricanes. All of these
22 things are taken into account in our chapter on site
23 characteristics.

24 We're going to look at the environmental
25 impact of the project, and Paul's going to tell you

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1 more about that in a minute. We're going to look at
2 things like the way they want to build the plant, the
3 way they want to put it together, what kind of
4 materials they want to use, and how the components are
5 going to be arranged. We have standards on quality
6 assurance, and we're going to review and inspect to
7 ensure that those are upheld.

8 There's going to be an army of
9 construction workers descending, and so obviously
10 we're going to have to think about things like
11 physical security, both for the new plants and for the
12 plants that are operating already.

13 We're going to look -- in coordination
14 with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, we're
15 going to look at the emergency preparedness plans, and
16 we've got an emergency preparedness expert with us
17 this evening -- or this afternoon, in case you have
18 any questions in that area.

19 And finally, of course, we're going to
20 look at personnel training and make sure that
21 everybody who is doing a job associated with these
22 plants is qualified to do so.

23 We said we wanted you to have a good idea
24 how you can participate in the review process, and
25 where you can have access to information. Well, one

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1 of the -- ah, yes -- okay, sorry -- yes, one of the
2 places that you can find all sorts of information is
3 at our electronic public reading room, public document
4 room.

5 Also, virtually all of the meetings that
6 we're going to be having with South Texas on the
7 subject of this plant are going to be open to
8 public -- to -- open for public -- not participation,
9 excuse me, open for public attendance.

10 We post meeting notices on our website,
11 and we get those posted about 10 days before the
12 meeting.

13 I understand that it's not often convenient for you
14 to come to one of our meetings, so we also publish
15 meeting summaries and post those on the website as
16 well.

17 And then, another opportunity for you to
18 comment is going to come later on in the review
19 process. It's called the meeting of the Advisory
20 Committee on Reactor Safeguards. When we're -- when
21 the staff has got its safety evaluation to a point
22 where it's in pretty good shape, we meet with the
23 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and we
24 present our findings and our review of the
25 application.

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1 The Advisory Committee is an independent
2 body that reports directly to the Commission. We
3 have -- the meeting is open to the public and members
4 of the public can register to talk at that meeting and
5 present any questions or concerns you have directly to
6 the Advisory Committee.

7 And finally, there is the hearing process.

8 On December 27 we published in the *Federal Register* a
9 notice for opportunity for a hearing, which offers an
10 opportunity for the public to participate in the
11 hearing as a party, and this is called intervention.
12 A request -- if you want to intervene, a request has
13 to be filed within 60 days of the original *Federal*
14 *Register* notice. And in this case, that period is
15 going to expire on February 25.

16 I'm not going to go into any more detail
17 about the hearing process. We've got some very fine
18 attorneys here this evening, and when we get to the
19 question and answer period, if you have any questions
20 regarding that, they will be more than happy to field
21 those.

22 Okay. This is just kind of an overall
23 flow chart. It shows where we are. We've received
24 the application, and as you can see, there are two
25 branches of review that go on in parallel. There's

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1 the safety review and the environmental review. And
2 this is the way it's supposed to work, but nothing
3 ever works the way it's supposed to.

4 We received, as I said, the application,
5 and docketed it on November 29, 2007. By a letter
6 dated January 10, 2008, South Texas informed us that
7 they were having some challenges in arranging for some
8 design support that would be necessary to further push
9 this project forward, and they asked us to place some
10 of the safety review on hold, which we did. And we
11 documented that in a letter on January 30, 2008.

12 The environmental review will continue,
13 and with that, I'd like to turn it over to Paul.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. KALLAN: Thank you, George.

16 I thank you for coming out this afternoon
17 to understand our process.

18 My name is Paul Kallan, and I'm with the
19 Office of New Reactors. I'm also the Environmental
20 Project Manager for this project.

21 And you may be wondering why there are two
22 project managers, one is the safety and the other
23 environmental. The answer is simple. It's because
24 the NRC's mission is to ensure the safety of the
25 facility, as well as to protect the environment.

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1 These are equally important tasks. In recognition of
2 that, the NRC has two project managers to oversee the
3 process.

4 So I'm here to talk to you a little bit
5 about the National Environmental Policy Act. The goal
6 of the National Environmental Policy Act is to create
7 conditions under which man and the environment can
8 exist in productive harmony.

9 The National Environmental Policy Act
10 requires the NRC to do an independent evaluation. So
11 we use a systematic approach to doing environmental
12 reviews. An environmental impact statement is
13 required for major federal actions that may
14 significantly affect the quality of the human
15 environment. Issuing a combined license, such as for
16 this project, would be considered a major federal
17 action.

18 This slide illustrates the environmental
19 review process. There are many steps to this process,
20 and there are many ways for the public to participate.

21 We would like the public to participate, and
22 therefore we have the public scoping meeting, such as
23 this afternoon, where we try to give information on
24 our process, and receive your concerns. There's a
25 large contingency of technical teams from the NRC to

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1 cover all these areas.

2 We accepted the application in September
3 2007. Our next step is to do the site audit, which we
4 are conducting this week. We look at the application
5 to see what is in -- what was given to us. We try to
6 do our independent evaluation ourselves, by looking
7 for issues that we try to cover in our reviews.

8 Also, we schedule at this time a public
9 scoping meeting, such as the one this afternoon, so
10 you can give us your comments. Along with the public
11 participation we get comments from the federal, state,
12 tribal and local governments.

13 We take all this information and draft an
14 EIS, an environmental impact statement, that we will
15 issue for comments. After the document is available,
16 we'll make -- we will have another meeting to comment
17 on the document and get your concerns.

18 Finally, we draft -- or we write the final
19 impact statement, which is based on the draft
20 environmental impact statement, and we incorporate the
21 additional comments. The NRC has a public hearing,
22 and after the hearing is completed, the agency makes a
23 decision.

24 So you may be wondering what is scoping.
25 Scoping is participation of diverse groups. This is

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1 necessary for full understanding and consideration of
2 all the potential environmental impacts of a proposed
3 agency action and it's alternatives.

4 But discussing and informing the public of
5 the emerging issues related to the proposed action,
6 agencies may reduce misunderstandings, between the NRC
7 and the public, build cooperative working
8 relationships, educate the public and the decision
9 makers, and avoid potential conflicts.

10 For example, I just wanted to give you an
11 example with a past scoping meeting we had with VOGTLE
12 where a member of the public had mentioned how the
13 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was managing the flow of
14 the Savannah River. Based on that comment, the NRC
15 held a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers to
16 discuss issues on drought levels in the Savannah
17 River.

18 So the information identified in this
19 scoping process, such as this meeting, is evaluated
20 and considered in our environmental report. The
21 public has the opportunity to make comments until
22 February 18, 2008.

23 So how does the NRC make an independent
24 evaluation of the environmental impacts? We don't
25 only look at the application that the applicant has

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1 given us, we also have our own site audit that we do
2 ourselves.

3 Also, we receive public comments, such as
4 at these meetings. The reason for this is because
5 public comments are important to us because you live
6 here, you know best of what's important, and you can
7 give us good information with regards to the
8 environmental impacts of the project.

9 We talk to social services and other
10 areas, such as socio-economics and environmental
11 justice. We also talk to federal agencies, such as
12 EPA, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, and Fish and
13 Wildlife to name a few. We also have a long list of
14 agencies that we contact to get their expertise. We
15 also look at the state, local, and federal, tribal
16 agencies to get their input on local conditions.

17 On this slide we look at the environmental
18 review areas. I just wanted to give you another
19 example. We have a large team of experts that look in
20 different areas. We look at socio-economics,
21 environmental justice, aquatic and terrestrial
22 ecology, water quality, hydrology, land use, radiation
23 protection, atmospheric science. We also look at
24 transportation of radioactive material and
25 decommissioning.

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1 The staff has begun its environmental
2 review. A schedule helps the staff organize its
3 review and use its resources efficiently. Normally
4 staff would expect to issue a draft environmental
5 impact statement in 18 months. However, as part of
6 this review, the staff has identified additional
7 information necessary to determine a detailed
8 schedule.

9 While the schedule is uncertain, we'll be
10 posting updates on the NRC website.

11 Here are some milestones on the
12 environmental review. Scoping comments will be
13 accepted February 18, 2008. The public can petition
14 to intervene till February 25, 2008. Also, we have
15 still to determine the draft EIS, also the public
16 meeting to the draft environmental impact statement,
17 and the final impact statement.

18 As the review progresses, we'll give you
19 updates on these dates. The review schedule will be
20 available on the NRC website. And the NRC website is
21 listed below on the slide.

22 We encourage public involvement in the
23 review process. It's important in our process. The
24 public can make comments during the comment period for
25 the scoping meeting, as well as the draft

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1 environmental impact comment period.

2 Throughout our environmental process we
3 hold public meetings to give information to the public
4 and to explain our process. The next public meeting
5 will be the draft environmental impact statement
6 meeting. The NRC hearing is another way for the
7 public to participate. The public can file petition
8 to intervene February 25, 2008.

9 I'd like to point out that the Commission
10 recently passed a rule for e-filing which requires a
11 digital certificate. The digital certificate will --
12 usually takes about a day, so interested parties can
13 review the instructions on the notice of hearing on
14 the NRC website. The hearing covers both safety and
15 environmental issues.

16 We welcome your written comments and we do
17 hope you have comments today. Other ways that you can
18 provide comments is by mail at Chief Rules and
19 Directives Branch, Division of Administration
20 Services, Mail Stop T6059, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
21 Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; or by e-mail,
22 stp_col@nrc.gov; or in person at 11545 Rockville Pike,
23 Rockville, Maryland 208532.

24 Here's a list of contacts. Please contact
25 George Wunder, who's the Safety Project Manager, or my

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1 self, for environmental issues. And here's a list of
2 acronyms that we thought would be helpful in your
3 environmental review.

4 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
5 you, Paul --

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. CAMERON: -- Nilesh, and George.

8 And by the way, the William Burton who was
9 mentioned on the slides is the William Burton right
10 here, Chief of the Environmental Branch.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: We have a few moments for
13 questions before we get to the speakers. Are there
14 questions about the basic process that the NRC is
15 going to follow? And we'll come back down -- let's go
16 to this gentleman here.

17 Please just introduce yourself to us, sir.

18 MR. CAMPBELL: My name is Steven Campbell.
19 I'm a resident of San Antonio. My question is for
20 Mr. Wunder.

21 In the information that CPS Energy has
22 posted on their websites, it speaks to a Toshiba
23 reactor and infers that perhaps it's going to be
24 manufactured by Toshiba in Japan. You mentioned
25 General Electric.

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1 Could you clarify that for me, and
2 particularly who's going to be the designer of record,
3 and responsible for meeting 10 C.F.R. 21 and 10 C.F.R.
4 1555?

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
6 you, sir.

7 George?

8 MR. WUNDER: Well, the information that we
9 have -- the application that we have is for the
10 General Electric reactor. We do not have anything in-
11 house currently regarding that, and we've got people
12 here from South Texas, and I think it's more
13 appropriate that they address that.

14 MR. CAMERON: And do you want to do it for
15 us?

16 MR. RICHARDS: Yes, currently Toshiba is
17 in the plans to design an build the GE-certified
18 reactor, and Toshiba will be the designer of record
19 for the plant.

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And your name, sir,
21 is?

22 MR. RICHARDS: My name is Kevin Richards.

23 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And I'm going to ask,
24 when we -- I think that there'll be some other
25 speakers from South Texas later who may amplify on

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1 that for you. Okay. So we'll come back to that one.

2 Sharon?

3 FEMALE VOICE: Hi. There was a reference
4 made to a safety expert who is here, and I'm wondering
5 two things: who that person is, and what agency they
6 represent; and if there's someone here today, since
7 the agencies should be working together, from Homeland
8 Security or from FEMA?

9 MR. CAMERON: When you talk about a safety
10 expert, do you mean an emergency planning expert?

11 FEMALE VOICE: Well, the speakers earlier
12 referenced someone who is here.

13 MR. WUNDER: I think it must have been me.
14 And it must have been -- you're probably referring to
15 me. And, yes, it's one of our own people here. His
16 name is Dan Barss [phonetic], and he's an expert in
17 emergency preparedness.

18 MR. CAMERON: And Dan is right back here.

19 FEMALE VOICE: And is he NRC?

20 MR. WUNDER: He is NRC, yes.

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Yes, sir?

22 MR. STINER: Eric Stiner of Bay City. How
23 many licenses have you all approved that have been
24 through the full process in America?

25 MR. CHOKSHI: There are currently 104

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1 operating plants, in which are -- but in terms of the
2 new applications, we have in-house several combined
3 operating license and early site permit applications.

4 We granted I believe three or four early site permits
5 already, but we are reviewing the other ones.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Yes, sir?

7 MR. HERMAN: Greg Herman, San Antonio. I
8 also was curious about the operating company. My
9 understanding is that the containment vessels have
10 already been ordered from Japan. Is that the case?

11 MR. CAMERON: Can we just have a quick
12 answer to that? And the company will be here after
13 the meeting for any extended discussion.

14 But, Mark, can you --

15 MR. MCBURNETT: Mark McBurnett. I'm Vice
16 President, Oversight and Regulatory Affairs of the
17 South Texas Project.

18 Yes, we have orders in place for the
19 forging slots for the reactor pressure vessels with
20 Japan Steelworks in Japan. They are the only source
21 in the world that has the capability of fabricating
22 these ultra-large forgings, and the demand on that
23 facility is high. In order to get into there, you
24 have to get in early and get your order in, and that's
25 what we've done. Thank you.

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1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mark.

2 Let's go to this gentleman here, and then
3 we'll go back to you, sir.

4 MR. REED: Cyrus Reed, Austin, Texas. I
5 had two quick questions. One, it was mentioned, I
6 believe by the second speaker, about a letter to the
7 company indicating that there wasn't enough
8 information to proceed on some parts of the
9 application.

10 Can you just verify that and respond? In
11 other words, my question is, why has the application
12 been accepted and docketed if there's information out
13 there that has yet to be obtained?

14 MR. WUNDER: No, and thank you very much
15 for asking that question. I should have probably
16 amplified that, and in tonight's presentation I will.

17 The fact that they are not currently ready
18 to support a full NRC review shouldn't -- does not
19 reflect on the adequacy, the completeness, or the
20 acceptability of the application. All it means is
21 that, as we go forward with the review -- we have to
22 ask a lot of technical questions, and it's a very give
23 and take, very active, aggressive process, and they
24 simply aren't ready to support a review in full right
25 now.

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1 MR. REED: And my second question, which
2 is somewhat similar to the last speaker, he mentioned
3 that in terms of the environmental review, they were
4 going to need additional information from the
5 applicant.

6 And, again, my question would be, if the
7 environmental review isn't really ready for us, the
8 public, to provide comments on, then why are we here
9 today, or what sort of additional information are you
10 talking about?

11 MR. KALLAN: Well --

12 MR. CAMERON: And, Paul, you're going to
13 answer that. You may want to talk a little bit also
14 about the process that the NRC typically goes through
15 with an application of this kind too.

16 MR. KALLAN: Well, the idea is that
17 usually we have -- we ask the applicant for additional
18 information, and which is what we're doing right now
19 in the site audit. And with that we'll be better
20 prepared to have a schedule.

21 I mean at this present time we felt that
22 it had sufficient information to docket, and we're
23 continuing with our review. We will -- you know, as
24 to -- for the -- as we continue we will ask for
25 further information if we need it. But at this

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1 present time, you know, that's --

2 MR. CAMERON: And, Paul, are those
3 requests that we make to the applicant and their
4 answers -- they're all part of the public record if
5 the public wants to look at that?

6 MR. KALLAN: Yes.

7 MR. CAMERON: Is that correct?

8 MR. KALLAN: That's correct.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Yes, sir?

10 MR. SIMON: Pascal Simon from Bay City. I
11 just need clarification. You referred to the Advisory
12 Committee on Reactor Safeguards meetings. Where are
13 those meetings, who are those people, will -- you do
14 say the public's invited, but what opportunities will
15 there be for that?

16 And the second question is, on the
17 environmental review schedule slide you referred to
18 the draft EIS-TBD. What is TBD?

19 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

20 MR. KALLAN: The EIS is the environmental
21 impact statement, and to be determined.

22 MR. CAMERON: TBD is to be determined. We
23 don't know --

24 MR. KALLAN: We don't have --

25 MR. CAMERON: -- exactly when --

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1 MR. KALLAN: -- as of yet we don't have a
2 schedule since we --

3 MALE VOICE: [inaudible]

4 MR. KALLAN: Oh, getting information from
5 the applicant.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. In terms of the
7 Advisory Committee, can you explain who they are, what
8 their function is, where they hold meetings, Nilesh?

9 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes, the Advisory Committee
10 on Reactor Safeguards is, by statute, a committee.
11 The 10 C.F.R. requires that we have this independent
12 advisory board which provides advice to the
13 commissioners.

14 And so it's an -- within the NRC it's an
15 independent group of people. These are technically --
16 nationally known technical experts in different areas
17 of reactor safety, science, and nuclear engineering.

18 And all of the safety reviews,
19 particularly the major safety reviews, the staff makes
20 its findings, goes and presents it to the ACRS, and
21 ACRS conducts its reviews and then provides
22 independent opinion to the commissioners.

23 And normally it's a couple of rounds of
24 meetings, then a draft safety evaluation report, and
25 also the final evaluation report. In many important

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1 actions, the Advisory Committee will come down to the
2 local community also, particularly when it -- things
3 more like licensing a nuclear facility.

4 Now we haven't done any licensing
5 recently, but my anticipation will be that, if you get
6 to that stage, then you will see ACRS meetings -- at
7 least one of the meetings will be held here, but
8 normally the meetings are held in the first week of
9 the month in Washington at the NRC offices. But their
10 meeting notices are regularly posted on the website,
11 and you can go and look at their schedule.

12 MR. CAMERON: And are those -- those ACRS
13 meetings are transcribed so that people can view --

14 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes.

15 MR. CAMERON: -- the transcript?

16 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes, the transcripts are
17 also available. Good point. Yes.

18 MR. CAMERON: Yes. And we talk about a
19 number of meetings, including ACRS, is it -- can we
20 tell people, if they want to know when we're having
21 meetings with the applicant, the staff, when the ACRS,
22 is there an easy way for them to find out when those
23 meetings are happening?

24 MR. WUNDER: It's on our website.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. So you go to

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1 www.nrc.gov, and then you would go to the public
2 meetings --

3 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes.

4 MR. CAMERON: -- click on the public
5 meetings banner and that will tell you all the
6 meetings.

7 Yes?

8 MS. DANCER: My name's Susan Dancer from
9 Blessing, Texas, and my question is -- I have two
10 questions somewhat related. One, if I understand
11 correctly, the EIS, the clock is ticking, so to speak,
12 and the 25th of this month, 20 days from now, is the
13 last chance the public has to file any kind of
14 official contingent. How do you justify that with us
15 having to file contentions against an incomplete EIS?

16 And the second part of that question is,
17 is there -- I hear, you know, much money's been spent
18 already, major equipment is on order for the plant.
19 Is there any chance at all that the application will
20 be denied?

21 MR. CAMERON: Okay. The first part of the
22 question I'm going to -- I think I'm going to ask our
23 representative, Jim Biggins, from the Office of
24 General Counsel to clarify what the different
25 deadlines are, and answer that question. And then

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1 we'll go to Nilesh for the second part.

2 Jim?

3 MR. BIGGINS: Thank you. Jim Biggins with
4 the Office of General Counsel at the NRC.

5 As far as the information in the
6 application, the application was complete in order for
7 us to docket it. And an intervention period from the
8 date of docketing has already begun, and the
9 information is available and has been available in
10 order for those interested to intervene to review the
11 information and determine whether they are going to
12 intervene in the case or not.

13 That is separate from the comment period
14 for the scoping process, which does end on the 15th.
15 However, we do allow comment after the draft EIS is
16 issued.

17 So I want to be sure, does that answer the
18 first part of your question?

19 MR. CAMERON: And let's just make sure
20 that people know the two dates. The date for comments
21 on scoping is February --

22 MR. BIGGINS: Fifteenth.

23 MR. KALLAN: Eighteenth.

24 MR. BIGGINS: Oh, pardon me, 18th.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay. And the day that

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1 intervention petitions have to be filed is February --

2 MR. BIGGINS: Twenty-fifth.

3 MR. CAMERON: -- 25. All right. Now the
4 second part of the question I think is -- are you
5 done -- are you done here? Go ahead.

6 MR. BIGGINS: I'm done. I just want to
7 make sure we remembered that second part. It's if
8 they already ordered components, or started that
9 process, whether the -- there's a possibility that the
10 application could be denied. Is that correct?

11 MR. CAMERON: That sounded like the
12 question.

13 Okay. Nileshe?

14 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes, can we clarify what was
15 the question? What -- is there --

16 MR. CAMERON: I think the question is is
17 that we've heard that the company is obviously
18 investing in time and effort and everything, ordering,
19 or at least getting in line for the reactor vessel.
20 Does that still mean that there is a possibility that
21 the application would be denied?

22 And I think that you know the answer to
23 that one.

24 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes. I mean, we have very
25 specific requirements and regulations and we have to

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1 make sure that the application is in compliance with
2 all of our regulation requirements before we can pass
3 a judgment. But the fact that they have ordered a
4 component doesn't have a bearing on our review at this
5 point.

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

7 Let's -- I think we have time for one more
8 question. I think Tom Smith has it, and then we'll go
9 to comment.

10 MR. SMITH: Tom Smith, public citizen.
11 Let me go back and clarify your answer. On the 30th
12 of January you all sent a letter NRG basically saying
13 there were so many deficiencies in their application
14 that you were suspending review of components of that
15 application because there simply wasn't enough
16 information for you all to make an informed judgment
17 about the quality of those particular sections of the
18 application. I'm paraphrasing your language.

19 How can we in the community have a fair
20 and adequate opportunity to review the adequacy of the
21 application, make an informed judgment about whether
22 we might want to intervene, or whether or not there
23 might be contentions that should be raised in those of
24 the application that you have acknowledged to the --
25 or indicated to the applicant that you don't feel are

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1 adequately complete?

2 MR. CAMERON: That's a good question.

3 Jim Biggins again.

4 MR. BIGGINS: Yes, Jim Biggins with NRC.

5 It's not that we believe the application
6 is incomplete. We believe the application is complete
7 and we docketed it as a complete application. Our
8 letter indicates our response to STP in regards to
9 their request that we hold off on the review process
10 on the safety side of the application, on portions of
11 it.

12 And we agreed to hold off on our review
13 process. That is in response to their explanation
14 that they have difficulty currently lining up the
15 support to answer the questions that the staff would
16 raise during our normal review process.

17 During our review process for any COLA
18 application, we are, of course, going to ask
19 questions, ask for additional information. This is
20 part of our normal process. We submit requests for
21 additional information to them, we conduct audit
22 activities. And during this process we get
23 clarification on things that the staff believes need
24 clarification in the application.

25 Many applications go through a revision

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1 process, and the applicants submit revisions to their
2 application with additional information. The initial
3 intervention period is based on docketing of the
4 application, which we believe is complete.

5 When new information does arise, our rules
6 provide a process to ask to intervene in a late file
7 contention. And that process does allow the public to
8 intervene in the case beyond the initial period,
9 according to the requirements in the regulation.

10 MR. CAMERON: So, in other words, you
11 would recommend to someone who was interested in
12 intervening is to take a look at the environmental
13 report and what's in the safety analysis and decide on
14 that whether they wanted to intervene and to form a
15 contention, but if that there's information that has
16 not been detailed yet, that they would have an
17 opportunity to raise a contention later on?

18 MR. BIGGINS: That is correct regarding
19 our process, yes.

20 MR. SMITH: And may I ask for the same
21 courtesy that you're offering the company, because the
22 application, as I understand your regulations, is
23 woven as a whole and needs to be judged as a whole.
24 And I believe your answer is just as incomplete as
25 their application.

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1 And I would like to ask for the same
2 opportunity to say, Geez, we're not ready yet to have
3 all of our contentions and to have the opportunity, as
4 time goes on, for a free pass, just as you've given
5 the company, to modify our contentions.

6 And yet from my understanding of your
7 records, that is not a likely granted favor for
8 contestants, people who would want to, but it seems to
9 be a likely granted favor to the applicant. Will you
10 guarantee us a free pass on any contentions we might
11 want to raise on documents that might later come to
12 your -- across your desk from the company?

13 MR. BIGGINS: We're not in a position to,
14 as you say, grant a free pass. We have the open
15 period for contentions currently, and a contention can
16 be filed during this period. And as I said, we have a
17 process to allow contentions to be filed later.

18 MR. CAMERON: And, Tom, and for all of you
19 who have the same concerns, this issue will be taken
20 back to the NRC staff and commissioners, but to leave
21 nothing to chance, if this is a concern, I think we
22 would all recommend that you send a formal letter into
23 the Commission and the licensing board, and state the
24 reason why either it should be postponed in terms of
25 filing for intervention, or that your request later

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1 on, on information that isn't there, should be held to
2 a lesser standard than the late file contention.

3 MR. CHOKSHI: Yes. I think I want to
4 emphasize that we heard the concern, and, you know, we
5 cannot give an answer because this is a very formal
6 process, but I think, as Chip said, noticed and we can
7 do -- you know, inform the right people. So I think
8 follow Mr. Cameron's, suggestion.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay. We have one small
10 question.

11 MS. HADDEN: Yes, it promises to be short.
12 In the process of working on COL plant issues, we
13 learned that many of the supplies needed for a large
14 construction project are in short supply, not very
15 available, costs have gone up. In some cases some
16 companies wanted to import steel from abroad that did
17 not meet U.S. standards for tensile strength.

18 What are you doing and what can you
19 guarantee in terms of the metals that are imported?
20 Will they have to meet U.S. standards for all steel
21 used in the reactors and on the site?

22 MR. CAMERON: And this -- you may want to
23 address this when we get to the -- you want to address
24 this when we get to your -- you want to do it? Okay.

25 MR. McBURNETT: Mark McBurnett from South

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1 Texas Project again. Yes, under nuclear plant
2 operation and construction, we operate under a quality
3 assurance program, it's 10 C.F.R. 50, Appendix B.
4 It's a program approved by NRC.

5 Our components are required to meet ASME,
6 American Society of Mechanical Engineers, codes.
7 That's all the metal in the plant and that are in
8 safety related applications. That has extensive
9 testing requirements and verification requirements in
10 all the steps of the process from original work in the
11 foundry all the way through to delivery to the plant,
12 the final verification that the material is what it
13 was sold as.

14 MR. CAMERON: And I would just add also
15 the NRC has requirements that -- in terms of quality
16 assurance and other things, that the equipment that
17 is -- I hate to say important to safety, use that
18 phrase, but has to meet certain standards. And if
19 someone during -- after the meeting can talk to Karen,
20 or online?

21 But, listen, thank you all for those
22 questions. And we're going to go to the part of the
23 meeting where we listen to all of you. And I'm just
24 going to ask you to come up here, and we have
25 Representative Mike O'Day with us, State

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1 Representative, and I'm going to ask him to come up
2 here and address us first.

3 (Applause.)

4 REPRESENTATIVE O'DAY: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman.

6 First I'd like to send a message from
7 Judge McDonald, he's in Washington, D.C. today taking
8 care of issues for the county, and he apologizes for
9 the fact that he wouldn't be here today. And to yours
10 and his demise, I'm going to take his position on
11 this. Okay. But I'm also going to say what I have to
12 say doesn't necessarily -- or is not the words of
13 Judge McDonald.

14 First, I would like to say I'm Mike O'Day.

15 I'm the State Representative from District 29, which
16 has all of Matagorda County and the western portion of
17 Brazoria County. And I am a resident, or I have a
18 home in Matagorda County, which I can see the lights
19 of the nuclear plant from my house.

20 I have never felt endangered from STP. As
21 a matter of fact, I have a lot of friends that work
22 over there. I have a boat, I fish, I spend a lot of
23 time in the Colorado River, both upstream and
24 downstream from the nuclear plant.

25 I am a water contractor by career. I

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1 spent 35 years in the water industry. I served on the
2 Brazoria County Ground Water Conservation District; I
3 sit on the Natural Resources Committee in the House of
4 Representatives, and I sit on the Culture, Recreation,
5 and Tourism, which also takes care of fish and game,
6 and the parks in the state of Texas.

7 I say that to you because I want you to
8 know, I'm not somebody that just came down here to
9 talk to you because it's something I felt about. I'm
10 a resident of the county -- I say a resident -- I
11 spend a lot of time in the county. My pleasure home
12 is here in the county. And I love Matagorda County.
13 A lot of my work is done here in the county.

14 I support, personally, clean and safe
15 nuclear energy. I've had a lot of chances --
16 fortunate enough I've traveled around the world a lot.
17 There's a lot of nuclear plants around the world. We
18 quit making nuclear plants in the United States for
19 the last 29 years, I believe.

20 I think we're falling behind in the world
21 market. We talk about what the cost of energy is.
22 Nuclear energy is, in my opinion, our best alternative
23 to replace natural gas for making our power needs. I
24 want to say that obviously nuclear energy is low cost
25 power generation, clean energy, and zero gas

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1 emissions. Not anywhere like a coal or a gas power
2 plant.

3 I would like to let you know that the
4 State of House -- the House of Representatives, we had
5 two major issues this year in support of nuclear power
6 in the Texas. One of those passed unanimously, 139 to
7 0, and the other passed 135 to 4.

8 I'd just like -- I say that to let you
9 know that the representatives, the people's
10 representatives in the House of Representatives in the
11 State of Texas obviously feel that nuclear energy is
12 important for the State of Texas.

13 So I am here as an advocate for nuclear
14 energy, and for the South Texas nuclear plant. I
15 believe they've been good stewards of the community, I
16 think they're important, education is important to our
17 community, they've worked hard to influence education
18 and promote education in the community.

19 And I'm available for any questions that
20 anybody would like to give, or ask me at a later time.

21 And thank you for the time to speak.

22 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,
23 Representative O'Day.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. CAMERON: We do have a letter from

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1 Judge McDonald that we're going to accept as a formal
2 written comment, and attach it to the record.

3 And since I'm on that subject, we also
4 have a statement from Polly Hearn, Kay Lawson, Roberta
5 Ripkey, Debbie Morris, who are residents, and we're
6 also going to put that on the record.

7 We're going to go next to Sheriff James
8 Mitchell.

9 Sheriff Mitchell?

10 (Applause.)

11 SHERIFF MITCHELL: Thank you. Good
12 evening.

13 My name is James Mitchell, and I'm your
14 County Sheriff. I've served in that capacity here for
15 the past 12 years. I'm currently serving my 26th year
16 in law enforcement here in Matagorda County.

17 Again, I tell you these things for
18 important reasons. I've lived my entire life in
19 Matagorda County, most of it in Bay City. There were
20 two generations of Mitchells before me, and there has
21 been two generations of Mitchells since me, being my
22 children and my grandchildren, who I intend to raise
23 here and be happy with.

24 My concern as sheriff in this whole
25 project is obviously security. The goal of the

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1 security program at STP being protecting the health
2 and safety of the public. My response to that is,
3 yes, they can. They've been doing it for over 20
4 years. I work very closely with the officers out at
5 the nuclear plant, my officers actually train with
6 their security officers.

7 I share a SWAT team with the Bay City
8 Police Department, a 15-man SWAT team. Most of those
9 officers on that SWAT team got their basic,
10 intermediate, and advanced SWAT certification at that
11 nuclear plant.

12 My officers on the SWAT team, and even
13 many of them on the street, carry compatible weapons
14 so that in an event we can exchange ammunition clips,
15 magazines, the whole thing. We've always been there
16 to back the plant up in any way that we can, and we
17 will continue to do that.

18 As I said, I have, you know, 26 years in
19 law enforcement, and most of that has been working
20 with the nuclear plant in one capacity or another. At
21 the present time my wife is the senior security
22 coordinator for the nuclear plant. And that's only
23 been going on since last April, so that's to what's
24 motivated me to speak here today.

25 As -- both as a citizen of Matagorda

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1 County, and as your sheriff, I not only welcome the
2 addition of Units 3 and 4, I look forward to it.
3 There's never been an incident, a security based
4 incident at our nuclear plant that has not been
5 handled properly and professionally. And there's no
6 doubt in my mind that that will continue with the
7 additions of these two new plants.

8 So I would encourage this, and I hope the
9 citizens of Matagorda County will also. And as
10 Representative O'Day, I'll leave some cards out on the
11 back table, and if anybody has questions, I'll be glad
12 to take those later. Thank you all.

13 (Applause

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Sheriff.

15 Next we're going to go to Mayor Richard
16 Knapik, Bay City mayor.

17 (Applause.)

18 MAYOR KNAPIK: Thank you, Chip.

19 To the NRC staff, those seated here and
20 those in the audience, all of my fellow citizens, and
21 visitors from far away, I want to say welcome to Bay
22 City.

23 I'm glad you all left the acronym sheet up
24 there. As you're all aware of, there's an acronym
25 called NIMBY, not in my backyard. Commissioners, I'm

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1 here to tell you, I stand for PIMBY, please in my
2 backyard.

3 We are strong supporters of STP. What
4 community would not welcome a \$6.4 billion investment
5 in their community? I mean, this is great. We're
6 talking about 8,000 construction jobs during peak,
7 800 -- I mean 4,000 jobs, 800 permanent jobs.

8 I want to tell you about STP. I want to
9 put a human face on the corporate citizens of STP.
10 Mr. Shepherd and his crew have created a culture of
11 excellence and community involvement. The American
12 Red Cross, they're always there to help them, the
13 American Cancer Society, the Relay for Life. They've
14 grossed over \$100,000 in the past three or four years
15 thanks to the involvement of STP.

16 Their employees care. They serve on our
17 city councils, they serve on our school boards,
18 they're involved in economic development, they're
19 involved in all aspects of our community life. I'm
20 here to say -- I want to say thank you for that
21 involvement.

22 And if we can get 800 more citizens like
23 that, what a great community Bay City and Matagorda
24 County will be. So I urge you --

25 (Applause.)

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1 MAYOR KNAPIK: I urge you to grant the
2 license for 3 and 4. Thank you, and once again, enjoy
3 your stay in Bay City.

4 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much,
5 Mayor.

6 We're going to hear from Mayor Joe Morton
7 of Palacios, Texas.

8 MAYOR MORTON: A little too heavy there.
9 (Laughter.)

10 MAYOR MORTON: Hello. My name is Joe
11 Morton. I am mayor of the City of Palacios. And
12 welcome to our area and our community.

13 But I'm here today as a citizen, a native
14 Texan, born and raised in Marshall, Texas, and I'm
15 here today to talk about why I am for STP as a person,
16 not as an elected official.

17 I feel like that my qualifications to make
18 that statement comes from many years of experience. I
19 came to Houston in 1967, worked in the construction of
20 civil infrastructure for 40 years, the last 19 being
21 executive vice president of a construction company in
22 Rosenberg, Texas.

23 I've installed many miles of pipe, poured
24 many thousand yards of concrete, and also had the
25 pleasure of working with Mr. O'Day in years past in

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1 water projects and building waste water treatment
2 plants.

3 I came to Palacios seven years ago because
4 I wanted to live close to the water. And I have four
5 grandchildren -- three children, four grandchildren.
6 And I've worked the last seven years to get them to
7 live in Palacios. At this time they all do. And if I
8 thought there was any danger whatsoever at that
9 nuclear treatment plant, I would not put my
10 descendants in that danger.

11 It's good for us, it's a good place,
12 they've been great neighbors. There's a lot more
13 opportunity for danger in other types of process
14 plants in our area besides STP, especially when it
15 comes to terrorists.

16 But all of them, including STP, and all
17 the process plants have been great neighbors and
18 partners in our community, especially in the
19 environmental section. So I don't believe there's any
20 reason why that we should go against this type of
21 investment for our community. And I look forward
22 to -- for my descendants to live here.

23 And I want to praise the NRC for their
24 educated people. And, Bob, they've got a fantastic
25 track record. No other agency in the government has

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1 had the challenges that NRC has, other than maybe the
2 Department of Defense, or NASA, in the last 40 years.

3 And the reason being is because of the
4 educated and highly bright people that they have on
5 staff. They have not made a mistake since they've
6 been incepted. Not one. Other agencies have had
7 mistakes. That's because of the people involved and
8 how much they care and can work.

9 So I put my descendants' future in their
10 hands, and I believe they'll do a good job. Thank
11 you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mayor
14 Morton.

15 We're next going to go to Tom Smith, and
16 then Karen Hadden, and then Bobby Head.

17 Tom?

18 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Tom Smith, and most everybody calls me Smitty. I'm
20 Director of Public Citizen's Texas office.

21 And I would like to thank the NRC for
22 holding this hearing, and the people in particular,
23 the workers at the plant who have worked to make this
24 plant a safe plant. And we wish you continued success
25 in this.

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1 I'm here today to raise a number of issues
2 that I think are of concern in this scoping hearing,
3 and we have submitted a greater length -- more lengthy
4 documents, and we'll submit more additional comments
5 in writing.

6 But let me highlight a number of them for
7 you quickly, others will speak to you about these in
8 greater depth, and then I'll speak to the issue of the
9 need for the plant in much greater depth in just a
10 second.

11 I think the first question that you all,
12 in this community, may want to ask is, is this going
13 to be a benefit to you, or will your taxes have to go
14 up to pay for the infrastructure to support the growth
15 of the plant, the additional hospitals and security
16 systems, roads, schools and other issues.

17 What will the impact of cancer be on this
18 community? And if you look at data you see that the
19 cancer rates have gone from below average to above
20 average since this plant's been in operation.

21 What about water use? With the droughts
22 we've been having and with the increasing belief that
23 global warming is a significant issue in this part of
24 the country, will there be significant decreases in
25 the amount of available water, and what will that mean

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1 to the operations of this plant?

2 And, will the temperatures of the
3 operating water in the plant get to a level that the
4 plant has to be shut down, like it has been in France,
5 Germany, and some places in the Southeast?

6 What about hurricanes? If sea level rises
7 occur at the rate that are projected by many of the
8 people who are looking at global warming, will this
9 plant be vulnerable to hurricanes? And in this
10 particular community, will you be able to get out in
11 time?

12 And for those of you who were here in Rita
13 and in other hurricanes, you know how clogged the
14 roads became. That was with three days notice. If
15 you had a couple of hours worth of notice, would you
16 be able to evacuate in time? Are the evacuations
17 plans adequate? Do you have adequate notice, and will
18 you be able to evacuate in time?

19 What about endangered species? There are
20 kemp ridley turtles, whooping cranes, and others that
21 are on the threatened and endangered species list in
22 this community. Many of them we are beginning to
23 understand how significant they are since they last
24 time this plant was permitted in this community.

25 What about wastes? The whole community

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1 of -- the whole question about the plant being
2 permitted is dependant upon your ability to dispose of
3 wastes. The high-level radioactive waste site in
4 Yucca Mountain has yet to be completed, and just
5 recently they have announced they are laying off staff
6 because of the impossibility of getting that site
7 permitted and operating.

8 And we do not yet have a licensed and
9 operating low-level radioactive waste disposal site,
10 which means that the disposal, up until we get those
11 things permitted, if we ever do, is here in this
12 community.

13 Subsidence, no. What happens if we over-
14 use the ground water in this community, and will there
15 be a decrease in the level of the plant?
16 Transportation, how will the materials and the waste
17 come in and out of this community? Environmental
18 justice, what will the net impact be on your taxes and
19 the community, the low-income communities of color?

20 And then the source of uranium. We all
21 think that the uranium will probably come from
22 someplace else, and most of it will, but here in Texas
23 we have a number of communities, particularly those
24 around Karnes City and Kingsville where we have
25 significant impact already to ground water as a result

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1 of uranium mining.

2 We're about ready to get into another
3 round of uranium mining in Goliad and Duval Counties.

4 And the impact of the uranium extraction on those
5 communities typically means that ground water is no
6 longer safe.

7 But the fundamental question is, do we
8 need this plant, and will it be completed on time.
9 And this history of this has not been clear. The last
10 time we tried to build a plant in this community, it
11 took eight years longer than necessary.

12 And what we're seeing here in this
13 particular analysis that has been presented to you
14 all, is that the applicant says, We need the plant for
15 base load. And it is impossible to really utilize
16 other resources like energy efficiency and renewable
17 energy as base load.

18 Yet there are three studies not referenced
19 in this most recent submission by NRG to you all that
20 have been done in the last several years. One on San
21 Antonio in particular that said we could save more
22 than 1200 megawatts, far more than CPS's share of this
23 plant, if we did energy efficiency at costs less than
24 building this plant.

25 Another by Optimal Energy that said that

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1 the state could save 80 percent of the energy -- the
2 growth in demand for energy that this plant is
3 designed to meet.

4 And yet another most recently by AC Triple
5 E indicating that we could save between 75 percent of
6 the growth in demand for energy, and 101 percent of
7 the growth in demand for energy in either the Houston
8 or Dallas areas respectively, by using energy
9 efficiency as our first resource, along with other
10 resources like combined heating and power, and
11 renewable energies.

12 None of those data are analyzed
13 appropriately in this document. And those are the
14 bread and butter. If we can do energy efficiency less
15 expensively than building this plant, and put Texans
16 to work as opposed to people in Japan or in Russia or
17 in Africa that will be mining this uranium. Wouldn't
18 it be better to have the jobs and money stay here in
19 the United States?

20 Thank you all very much for you time. And
21 good luck with your review.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
24 Smitty.

25 And Karen?

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1 MS. HADDEN: Good afternoon. My name is
2 Karen Hadden, and I'm the Director of the Sustainable
3 Energy and Economic Development, or SEED Coalition.
4 We work statewide around Texas for clean air and clean
5 energy.

6 We do not believe that nuclear reactors
7 are the right path to take at this point in time. For
8 one reason, they do not solve the global warming
9 problem. That's been discussed a lot of times as a
10 rationale for building nuclear power plants.

11 But instead they would divert huge
12 resources that right now are desperately needed to go
13 into technologies that are safe, clean, that exist
14 today. Wind power on the coast can be developed much
15 further providing jobs. Solar power can be developed
16 on the coast. Texas has an incredible wealth of wind
17 and sun. Those types of technologies are life-giving
18 and sustainable.

19 With a nuclear power plant, the waste
20 issue has not been solved. Yucca Mountain has been
21 cutting back the workers to 15 now. And to bring more
22 of this into the community is putting the community at
23 risk. When you consider that this plant would be --
24 if it goes through -- having construction right next
25 door to an operating nuclear plant, you're introducing

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1 circumstances that haven't been seen before.

2 And, again, workers will probably be
3 coming from around the world. Security is going to be
4 a very serious concern. And I am dismayed to find
5 that there is no one here from the Department of
6 Homeland Security, or from FEMA, because these
7 agencies, after 9/11 have vowed to work closely
8 together to prevent catastrophes.

9 And I think it's a huge lack that they are
10 not here today working with the NRC. I am wondering
11 when you will have a public meeting that does have
12 those representatives present, and asking for you to
13 do that.

14 I would also ask that you hold scoping
15 meetings in Houston, which is down wind, as is
16 Dallas/Ft. Worth, from any potential accident, in
17 Austin and San Antonio, where the cities could
18 potentially be partners, and to let more people speak
19 up and be part of this process.

20 Since 1992 there has been a consistent
21 effort to constrain citizen input, not to expand it.
22 Right now we've seen -- and this is all too familiar
23 in Texas -- what we're seeing is fast tracking of
24 these permits, and it's unacceptable.

25 We've gone from what should be four and a

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1 half years down to three. We've gone from shortened
2 input -- and to be honest, this is -- if this permit
3 moves forward, it is actually illegal. And I'd like
4 to explain why.

5 I'd also like to mention that these
6 reactors have never been built before in the United
7 States. NRG has never built a nuclear reactor. In
8 Japan the reactor history has not been a good one.
9 We've provided a sheet to you about some of the many
10 incidents that have occurred there. Of course, one is
11 hopefully one we won't have here, which included an
12 earthquake, and now they've got stuck control rods
13 they can't get out.

14 In the meantime, they've had to buy spot
15 power on the market for LNG. It's costing them huge
16 amounts of money. For the first time TEPCO in Japan
17 is running at a deficit, and not meeting their global
18 warming commitments.

19 To come back to the reasons why this
20 process should not go forward as it is right now, the
21 draft environmental impact statement will not be
22 ready, the draft, for at least 18 months, according to
23 what we've been told her today. That is supposed to
24 be finished, by law, before a license can move
25 forward.

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1 This is under the National Environmental
2 Policy Act, or NEPA. There's two main components to
3 it. It says that those who propose a project have to
4 take a hard look at environmental impacts, and, part
5 two, that the process is meant to provide meaningful
6 public participation in identifying the potential
7 environmental impacts and responding to the analysis.

8 In the case of a nuclear power plant, the
9 NEPA process is interrelated with the licensing,
10 public participation is through filing petitions to
11 intervene. A key document that could provide
12 information upon which intervenors could build
13 contentions, is the final environmental impact
14 statement.

15 Yet the 60 day clock has started on
16 intervention petitions as soon as the NRC accepted the
17 application for docketing, so we now have a deadline
18 of February 25, with no date even set for a draft
19 environmental impact statement. The EIS will not even
20 begin before the final deadline for intervenors to
21 file.

22 The NEPA law prohibits irreversible or
23 irretrievable commitments of resources prior to the
24 completion of the EIS. That involves the work that
25 the NRC does on the permit. So basically what's going

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1 on is that we have docketing of a license application
2 for two nuclear reactors that is grossly incomplete,
3 forcing potential intervenors to decide on whether to
4 pursue intervention, and to decide on what issue or
5 issues to pursue without a complete application
6 available.

7 We have a licencing process moving forward
8 with an EIS not even begun. These are both violations
9 of the statutes and regulations that apply to this
10 process, and I would urge you to halt all further
11 proceedings on the license application until the
12 environmental impact statement is finalized as is
13 required by federal law. Thank you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Karen.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CAMERON: Usually we don't respond to
17 what we're listening to here, but just to make sure
18 that -- because this is important for all of you --
19 just to make sure that our process is clear, I've
20 asked Jim from our Office of General Counsel to just
21 clarify a little on how the contentions and draft
22 environmental impact statement are treated.

23 Jim?

24 MR. BIGGINS: Thank you, Chip.

25 The draft environmental impact statement

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1 is essentially a complete environmental impact
2 statement. It's called draft because we accept public
3 comments after it comes out. And then the process of
4 our application review continues while we incorporate
5 those comments and the concerns from those comments
6 into the final environmental impact statement.

7 In addition, our rules do allow for
8 intervention after the draft impact statement, or
9 after the final environmental impact statement, as
10 long as those who seek to intervene meet the
11 requirements for late intervention.

12 And I really just wanted to comment on the
13 process, and there we go.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay.

15 MR. BIGGINS: Thank you, Chip.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Jim.

17 And we're going to go to Bobby. Bobby
18 had -- Bobby, are you here?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay. He may be coming
21 tonight. I want to ask Mitch Thames, and then Cyrus
22 Reed, and then Robert Alvarado to come up.

23 Mitch?

24 MR. THAMES: Yes, sir.

25 MR. CAMERON: And Mitch is the head of the

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1 Bay City Chamber of Commerce. Correct?

2 MR. THAMES: Absolutely. We appreciate
3 you all. Thank you so much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. THAMES: My name is Mitch Thames. And
6 I probably have one of the luckiest jobs her in
7 Matagorda County, and that is being a part of the Bay
8 City Chamber of Commerce and agriculture.

9 It's a great honor to have a lot of my
10 neighbors here. I see you. Thank you so much for
11 your attendance. We've got some visitors. Be sure
12 and pick up a visitors guide and make sure you come
13 back to this great county.

14 You know, we talk a little bit about in
15 the environment. Let's talk a little bit about
16 Matagorda County. I'm going to tell you right now,
17 North American Audubon Christmas Bird count winners 10
18 years out of nine [sic], they stole it from us one
19 year, 236 species of birds identified in a 12-hour
20 period right here in Matagorda County in a 15-mile
21 circle. We are the birding capital of the nation, if
22 not the world.

23 But I want to tell you, it means a lot to
24 us. Our environment is everything. We've got a river
25 flowing down with fresh water, we've got two bays and

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1 estuaries, we've got the Gulf of Mexico. What a
2 sensitive environmental location.

3 We have got some of the best fishing in
4 both bays. I'll tell you right now, great, great
5 economic benefit. Deep sea fishing, you know it's
6 tremendous, as well as fishing in the river. Our
7 water fowl hunting is absolutely tremendous. It has
8 been that way for many, many years. I used to say we
9 were the undiscovered Gulf Coast. We were a gem.

10 Well, we've been discovered because a lot
11 of you live here because of that. I know I do. I
12 chose to move to Matagorda County because of its
13 location in Bay City, it's quality of life, the
14 opportunities that we had for you and I to work
15 together to grow this community. And grow it we have.

16 From an economic development standpoint,
17 let us go back, those of us that lived here, and those
18 that are visiting, let me tell you, living here four
19 and five years ago with a 14 to 17 percent
20 unemployment rate was not fun. And our economy flat,
21 if not declining. We, the citizens right here,
22 decided that that was not acceptable, and that we
23 weren't going to live like that. And we went out and
24 aggressively are seeking investment opportunities both
25 jobs.

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1 I'll tell you this, for a young person,
2 looking for a high paying job in Bay City, Texas, in
3 Matagorda County years ago, the prospects were not
4 well. They would go off to -- there was not any
5 higher education. Once they graduated high school, we
6 could probably offer them a service job for under \$10
7 an hour. You can't make a living wage, you can't buy
8 a house, you can't raise a family on that.

9 So the job right now, and the job that I'd
10 signed up for, and the leaders here in this community,
11 is to grow this economy. To get the high paying jobs
12 so we can grow those roof tops so my kids get an
13 opportunity to come here and make a living, and my
14 grandkids get to grow up here. Matagorda County,
15 absolutely something.

16 Let me tell you something about the
17 environment. The nuclear plant has been here through
18 every bit of it. A very sensitive environmental
19 location that exists side by side with STP's 1 and 2,
20 and we certainly hope 3 and 4.

21 I want to extend a very, very warm welcome
22 on behalf of Matagorda County. Thank you so much for
23 your attendance. Thank you for the process. Thank
24 you for leaving your homes and coming down here and
25 spending some time with us. So we certainly do

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1 appreciate you. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. CAMERON: And while Cyrus is coming
4 up, this would be an appropriate time to -- for the
5 NRC to express our appreciation to Bay City and the
6 Chamber of Commerce, and especially to Mitch for the
7 hospitality and the meeting room and all that help.
8 Thank you.

9 And this is Cyrus Reed of the Sierra Club.

10 MR. REED: Hello. Good afternoon. My
11 name is Cyrus Reed. I'm here on behalf of the Sierra
12 Club. I'm not a native Texan. I did come here in
13 about 1990. I'm very proud of Texas, I'm glad that I
14 live here.

15 I don't come here in any way to disparage
16 the hard work that the folks of Matagorda County are
17 doing, or the workers at STP, or those investing. I
18 do come here, however, to raise some concerns about
19 the environmental assessment, the environmental
20 report.

21 And the first concern I would raise is one
22 that's already been mentioned, which is the time
23 factor, that there is a feeling among anyone who
24 analyzes the application and analyzes the
25 environmental report that 60 days simply is not enough

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1 time to have a logical and reasonable assessment,
2 particularly when there's new information coming in.
3 I do take note of the issue you raised earlier, which
4 is one can raise contentions later on if new
5 information comes in.

6 Let me start by talking about demand. And
7 it's something that was mentioned earlier about how we
8 get our power in the future. A number of studies have
9 been suggested -- a number of studies have been
10 mentioned that suggest that Texas could be getting
11 more of our energy from energy efficiency, from
12 renewables, as we have been.

13 And I wanted to make sure that the NRC is
14 aware that legislation was passed last legislative
15 session, and I'm pretty sure Mr. O'Day voted for it,
16 that expands the amount of energy that investor-owned
17 utilities, like NRG, are required to get from energy
18 efficiency programs that all of us, frankly, pay for.

19 And so I wanted to make sure that when you
20 do the analysis of whether this power is needed, that
21 we look at those new requirements on energy
22 efficiency, because I think everyone agrees we can
23 save money for our consumers, and generate more power
24 simply by saving energy.

25 And I also think that if we're going to

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1 really analyze the power demands of -- that may be
2 needed by these new plants, we've also got to look at
3 the cities like San Antonio, like Austin, that may be
4 investing in the plant and see -- look at how they
5 meet their energy demands and whether they could be
6 getting their energy in a cheaper, cleaner and faster
7 manner.

8 And so I would urge you to expand that
9 part of your environmental analysis to look at that.
10 And we will be providing comments.

11 I also wanted to say -- and I hope that I
12 get an opportunity in the near future to visit here
13 the Matagorda Bay and the river. One of the issues
14 that's come up in terms of what scientists are telling
15 us is that climate is changing. Yes, it always has
16 changed, but it's changing more rapidly than in the
17 past.

18 And so, again, I would urge you, in the
19 environmental analysis to look at how climate change
20 might impact river flow, because I know that STP has
21 an existing water right, and it appears on paper that
22 you've got the water to operate your -- you know, the
23 present plants and the plants in the future.

24 But I guess our concern would be, if what
25 this scientists tell us is correct, and if we're

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1 likely to have more droughts, more hurricanes, how is
2 that going to impact the operation of this plant. Is
3 it really a good investment if in 30 years our flows
4 are going to be that much less, will the water really
5 be available and be there? Because if the plant is
6 built and then doesn't operate, it doesn't make
7 economic sense for anybody.

8 So, again, I would urge you to -- and we
9 can provide some information on some of those analyses
10 in Texas for reduced water flows. A similar situation
11 would be the temperature of that water. We've had
12 issues -- and I say we -- I mean the United States has
13 had issues recently on nuclear plant where because the
14 temperatures have gone up, the water temperature has
15 gone up, which has made it difficult for those
16 operators to be able to use the water and then
17 discharge the water back in the rivers. And I'm
18 speaking about some -- a nuclear plant in Tennessee.
19 And some of the nuclear plants in Europe had a similar
20 situation last summer.

21 So, again, we need to be analyzing the
22 water temperature of the river, and I know that in
23 your case it's -- you know, there's a recycling of the
24 water through the cooling reservoir, but at some
25 point, some of it still goes back into the river. And

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1 the question would be -- not correct?

2 MALE VOICE: Not correct.

3 MR. REED: My understanding was when you
4 reach certain amounts of -- when the water quality is
5 of a certain type, in other words, if there's a lot of
6 sediment in the water, you do have to discharge some
7 back into the river.

8 MALE VOICE: That's theoretical. We've
9 never had to do it.

10 MR. REED: Okay. Well, the question would
11 be, do we need to analyze that for the future, if the
12 climate changes. Similarly, hurricanes, if hurricanes
13 are to increase, if the sea is to rise, if there's the
14 potential for storm surges, if there's the potential
15 that more saline water goes further upstream,
16 particularly in low flow conditions.

17 It seems to me an environmental assessment
18 before we grant this license should look at those
19 factors, and I would urge you to do that in writing.

20 A third issue is radioactive waste. It's
21 the big bugaboo in the room, nobody likes to talk
22 about it. But the fact is, you know, for 50 years
23 we've been talking about how we're going to deal with
24 radioactive waste. We still haven't dealt with it.
25 We still don't have a final repository for radioactive

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1 waste.

2 When I read the environmental assessment,
3 which frankly I did rather quickly, I saw some
4 discussion about, you know, the transportation of the
5 spent fuel rods to a final repository, and about the
6 amount of space you would have at STP 3 and 4 to have
7 these spent fuel rods. But I didn't see the
8 contingency.

9 What happens if we never -- you know, what
10 happens if we are never able to locate a place to put
11 all this waste? Does it just sit there forever? Do
12 you have the capacity? Do you have the security in
13 place to make sure that it's never the subject of
14 terrorist sabotage and airplane attack, whatever? I
15 just didn't see that in the environment assessment. I
16 think it should be there, and we'll provide comments.

17 Similarly with low-level rad waste, you
18 know, there are currently only three sites that are
19 taking it, one of the which, Barnwell, has now said
20 they're not going to take it. We haven't yet had the
21 Andrews County site open up. Where is the contingency
22 in here for what to do with that waste?

23 It's mentioned in the application that you
24 currently send it to several locations. It seems like
25 more detail would be needed so that we, the public,

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1 can be sure that this rad waste, both low-level and
2 high waste, is taken care of.

3 I had a question -- this is more of a
4 question, but my understanding is that you folks
5 certified the design for this, and my question is
6 really, have we made sure that this design is capable
7 of withstanding something like a terrorist attack.
8 You know, I hope I would never have to think about
9 this, but I'm originally from New York, and 9/11
10 affected me and the people I grew up with, and so we
11 never thought we'd have these kind of attacks, but now
12 we have to think about those things. So is it being
13 designed to withstand that kind of attack would be the
14 question.

15 And then just in summing up -- and this
16 was already mentioned, but where is that uranium going
17 to come from? We have at the Railroad Commission now
18 19 new exploratory permits for a uranium mine. To
19 make the nuclear power plant you need uranium, uranium
20 mining can have some environmental impacts here in
21 Texas. So how are we going to make that if -- where
22 that uranium's coming from, and what the total fuel
23 cycle impacts are going to be.

24 And then I would just say, sort of in
25 summing up, really the first point I made, if the

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1 choice -- let's make sure we look at all the choices.

2 If the choice is this new nuclear plant, or
3 concentrated solar power and efficiency, which really
4 makes the most sense. And I hope, frankly, that NRG
5 and the other investors are looking at all the options
6 that are out there on the table, some of which I think
7 could be used in Matagorda County.

8 And I'll just sum it up, I'm not here as
9 the enemy, but we do have serious concerns with some
10 of these issues and we'll be raising them through the
11 comment. And we think ultimately that the future is
12 not more nuclear plants, it's concentrated solar
13 plants, efficiency, more wind. And that's the Sierra
14 Club's position. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Cyrus,
18 for those comments.

19 Robert Alvarado?

20 (Pause.)

21 MR. ALVARADO: Hello. My name is Robert
22 Alvarado. I'm from San Antonio, Texas. I was born
23 and raised in San Antonio, and I'm with the Committee
24 to Bring Environment Justice Action in San Antonio.

25 And my case that I bring is because of the

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1 contamination that we have with our military, there
2 was Kelly Air Force Base that left a few years ago,
3 the year 2001, and left a lot of chemicals, plumes of
4 chemicals under our homes. We have rivers of
5 chemicals that are running under our homes that have
6 affected not only me, but our community, our children.

7 And mostly my family has cancer of the
8 throat, my daughter, my wife, myself. I lost my
9 vision because of radiation, by the Leon Creek. And
10 I -- my kidneys have failed. I'm waiting for a
11 kidney. And not only me, but down the street where I
12 live there's like people just dying, mostly once a
13 month, or whenever they're passing away.

14 And I'm just bringing this for the concern
15 of the citizens of this town, that you might not see
16 it, but the chemicals are there underground. And you
17 see all these vapors come up, and you can't see it,
18 but they're killing you. They're killing you day by
19 day. And it's like you're the living dead. You're
20 just getting sick, which I had no knowledge of cancer.

21 The next one, the next generation is your
22 grandchildren.

23 But there's nothing we can do, because I
24 bought that house in 1970 from the government, and I
25 can't go nowhere, at my age, because it's too late for

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1 me to move out from that area. And it's a triangle,
2 it's east Kelly and main Kelly, and all the chemicals
3 are running like about 25 feet under our homes.

4 And we can't sell our homes because we
5 have contaminated underground, and we can't sell the
6 house. We have to mention to whoever wants to buy our
7 house that we have these chemicals under our home.
8 And we've lost our value of our house.

9 And it's going to happen to you all if you
10 don't stop and think what you're doing at this time.
11 You may just because you have a reactor, sure, but
12 wait 20 years from now and it'll be too late to
13 reverse this life of yours. And this is all I have to
14 say, but look before you sign the dotted line. Thank
15 you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you
18 very much, Mr. Alvarado.

19 And next we're going to go to Genaro
20 Rendon.

21 And thank you, Mr. Alvarado.

22 Then to D.C. Dunham and then to Owen
23 Bludau. And this is Genaro Rendon.

24 MR. RENDON: Hello, everyone. Good
25 afternoon. My name is Genaro Rendon, and I'm a

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1 resident of San Antonio, Texas, and a member of the
2 Southwest Workers Union. We're a 20-year-old
3 organization based in San Antonio focused on fighting
4 for community rights.

5 First, you know, I would like to share the
6 process that we've been through in San Antonio in
7 dealing with this nuclear reactor, or the proposed
8 nuclear reactors that NRG, in conjunction with CPS,
9 City Public Service, who's our energy provider in San
10 Antonio, are investing in.

11 First of all, when they submitted the
12 letter to NRC, the letter of intent to apply for a
13 license, they specifically told NRC to keep it a
14 secret. So it was kept a secret, not only from folks
15 here, but it was kept as a secret from folks in San
16 Antonio; these gentlemen may not even know, but that
17 was the situation that we've been dealing with.

18 Now, in September of last year, in '07,
19 then they officially apply for the licensing of the
20 two new nuclear reactors. In less than a month, City
21 Public Service is making a decision to invest \$206
22 million into this project. With that investment also
23 saying that they need to increase rates for the City
24 of San Antonio rate payers between 5- to \$7 per month.

25 Now we move into this year where the mayor

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1 of San Antonio is saying that he wants to develop an
2 energy sufficiency plan. So if you look at the
3 process on how this has been developing in our city,
4 there hasn't been a space for folks from San Antonio
5 to participate, which is why it was important to be
6 here and share our concerns from the City of San
7 Antonio about what has and has not been happening.

8 So I applaud everybody here for really
9 coming out and participating in this process, for NRC
10 providing a space for folks to participate on this
11 process, for the local paper informing people that
12 this is happening so that they can come and
13 participate, all of which has not happened in San
14 Antonio.

15 City Public Service has had two what they
16 call public open houses in the outskirts of the city
17 with no advertisement, with no mobilizing and trying
18 to get people to those places. And so I'm making that
19 as a point on how we have been left in the dark in
20 this whole process of the development of the nuclear
21 reactors in the City of San Antonio.

22 And when CPS had their board meeting at
23 the end of October, we had to petition the board in
24 order to have citizens go in there and make comment to
25 CPS and to the Board of Directors around this decision

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1 that they were going to make.

2 And once we got there, then we had to --
3 you know, then they locked on the doors on the
4 community folks that were coming in. And they were
5 finally opened so that we could in and make comment.
6 You know, so it hasn't been an easy process, an open
7 process, a process that has been inclusive of the
8 concerns of the residents of San Antonio.

9 And very important when we're looking and
10 talking about the environmental impact statement, is
11 that we also take into effect, into consideration, the
12 cumulative impacts that folks have to deal with when
13 we talk about pollution, when we talk about
14 environmental contamination.

15 Many times, you know, when they're doing
16 the impact statement, they're just specifically
17 looking at the nuclear reactor. But as a community,
18 we have to deal with the multitude of environmental
19 problems and concerns. You know, I just saw a
20 chemical plant driving over towards the STP site, and
21 whatever else exists here.

22 And if you look at the Gulf Coast of
23 Texas, it's littered with chemical plants, it's
24 littered as well with refineries and ports, and huge
25 inland ports as well that are situated for ships to be

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1 able to come in. So if we're looking at ourselves
2 here and in San Antonio, what is the whole of the
3 impact that we've being exposed to?

4 And I think another important stat is that
5 if we look at the State of Texas, we rank number seven
6 amongst countries in pollution. As one state, we're
7 surpassing what countries are producing in pollution.

8 So we have to be looking at reducing that
9 amount of pollution here within the State of Texas,
10 reducing the impacts that communities are feeling by
11 living around these polluting industries.

12 And really if we look at the State of
13 Texas as well and we look at this like the death of
14 nuclear power, then like Smitty was saying, in South
15 Texas there's communities that have already been
16 impacted by uranium mining, where their water supply
17 is not good anymore, where now uranium companies and
18 mining companies are moving back in because of the
19 increase of uranium prices that we've seen over these
20 last couple of years.

21 And, you know, for us in San Antonio, this
22 also raises other dangers. In 2004 we had 21
23 derailments in our city, 21 derailments that killed
24 five people; one of them spilling chlorine gas in the
25 community killing four people instantly.

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1 So how is this being transported? Is it
2 going to be coming through our backyards, of which --
3 you know, we want to make a clear statement that we
4 would not, and do not, want this type of deadly waste
5 passing through people's backyards. And it's
6 literally passing through people's backyards when you
7 look at the train system in the City of San Antonio.

8 And as well, within every step of this
9 process it's producing waste. So when somebody tells
10 you that nuclear power is clean, don't believe them,
11 because if you go ask the people in South Texas that
12 are being mined for uranium, they would definitely
13 tell you that uranium and nuclear power is not clean.

14 If you're looking at the enriching of
15 uranium, you have to do -- and you have to do that at
16 coal burning power plants as well. You know, so, one,
17 maybe when it gets to the nuclear reactor here the
18 pollution is not being produced, but every step of
19 that process there's pollution that's impacting
20 people, and once it arrives here at the South Texas
21 Nuclear Project, then there's a huge question of
22 radioactive waste which we have nowhere to put.

23 So, you know, what is the solutions that
24 we're pushing for, and how should we be investing in
25 these, you know, I think that, you know, folks have

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1 touched on solar power and wind power, and the
2 argument is out there, is always out there that, well,
3 you can't produce enough.

4 Well, you can't produce enough if you're
5 investing \$6 million compared to \$6 billion that are
6 being invested into nuclear power. If we had an
7 investment of \$6 billion to \$10 billion focusing on
8 alternative energies like sun and wind power, then
9 maybe we could advance, you know.

10 So, you know, when the argument is put out
11 there, we also have to look at, you know, why is being
12 put there, and how are they not investing and making
13 these things very real here for us in the State of
14 Texas. And as well for us in San Antonio then, how do
15 we use this alternative energy, this green economy, to
16 build and uplift workers and communities within the
17 City of San Antonio?

18 Mr. Alvarado was talking about his home.
19 In the City of San Antonio homes lose over 30 percent
20 of their energy due to the lack of weatherization, due
21 to the lack of making those homes energy efficient.
22 So if the City of San Antonio focused on providing
23 jobs, green jobs, and producing and fixing homes of
24 the residents in San Antonio, then, you know, we
25 wouldn't have to invest in this type of nuclear power.

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1
2 So, you know, I really thank each and
3 every one of you for being here. And from San
4 Antonio, you know, we really bring these concerns to
5 the community here, and, again, raising them to the
6 Nuclear Commission, as well as City Public Service,
7 which I hope that there's at least one representative
8 here from CPS. Thank you.

9 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. CAMERON: D.C.? How are you doing?

12 MS. DUNHAM: Good afternoon. I'm D.C.
13 Dunham. I'm the Executive Director for Bay City
14 Community Development Corporation. And as an economic
15 developer, many of us only get to experience this kind
16 of expansion once in a life time.

17 So it's real important that we take
18 advantage of the opportunities that have been put in
19 front of us. And just to kind of name a few of the
20 opportunities that we've been working on already,
21 since the first announcement that we were going to do
22 this expansion several years ago, but we've turned an
23 eye sore into a great asset.

24 We've begun developing subdivisions, we've
25 got new spec houses going, we've recruited retail

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1 sales into our community, sales taxes are definitely
2 on the rise. We've developed a new associate degree
3 program. We've formed an alliance with our educators
4 and industry, we've had career fairs and job fairs,
5 we've increased our scholarships and our on-the-job
6 training programs.

7 But let me digress just a moment about
8 that eye sore, my pride and joy, and education, my
9 passion. That eye sore that I'm talking about is the
10 old K-Mart building down on Highway 60. If you're not
11 familiar with it, then you don't live in Matagorda
12 County, I can assure you, because that's been an eye
13 sore in our community, a dilapidated building, for
14 over 15 years.

15 But we took the opportunity with the
16 expansion, and working with the management team of
17 STP, to put the headquarters for Units 3 and 4 in that
18 dilapidated building, and we created the Center for
19 Energy Development.

20 And on the other side we have our training
21 center where we house Wharton County Junior College,
22 and some of our other trainers. We have a park
23 environment in the center that's a 6,000 foot atrium
24 that students can mingle with our industry partners
25 and share ideas. We presently have 162 students in

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1 our Bay City campus that I'm real, real excited about.

2 They're preparing for the jobs that are being created
3 across the hall.

4 This new workforce development is a huge
5 strength for our community, which brings me to my
6 passion, education. With the announcement of
7 expansion to Units 3 and 4, we have the opportunity to
8 bring industry, education, and government together to
9 solve a huge problem, but it was a good problem.

10 It was especially a good problem for a
11 community, as Mitch talked about, that had
12 traditionally had double digit unemployment. The
13 problem was, how are we going to work to create the
14 workforce that's needed by our industry, the huge
15 increase in new jobs that are coming to Matagorda
16 County?

17 We formed this alliance that includes all
18 of our regional industry partners, we included
19 community colleges throughout the region, we had all
20 four of ISDs, we have four ISDs in Matagorda County,
21 we had government from the federal government all the
22 way down to our local officials meet together in one
23 room to discuss these issues and how we were going to
24 solve this problem.

25 In just a matter of months we came up with

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1 a degree program, associate degree program called
2 Power Technology, which we have students enrolled in
3 already today, and the Mid-Coast Education and
4 Industry Alliance still meets quarterly.

5 We are continuing to address the issues to
6 see how we can improve our education systems and make
7 this a great place to raise our young adults and have
8 our young adults come back and raise their families
9 for many, many years to come, creating another huge
10 strength for our community.

11 So please join me in taking advantage of
12 this opportunity that's before us and whatever your
13 interests or your passion might be, I'm sure, between
14 Mitch and I, we have a committee that you can serve
15 on. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

18 And this is Owen Bludau.

19 MR. BLUDAU: Good afternoon. I am Owen
20 Bludau. I'm the Executive Director of the Matagorda
21 County Economic Development Corporation.

22 My corporation is composed of nine
23 organizations, five of which are funding -- public
24 funding entities, including the Matagorda County, the
25 Navigation District in Palacios, the Port of Bay City

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1 Authority, the Bay City Community Development
2 Corporation, and the Palacios -- City of Palacios
3 Economic Development Corporation. In addition, on the
4 board are representatives of the four Chambers of
5 Commerce in our county.

6 My job, and the focus on the Matagorda
7 County EDC is to bring new industry to the county, to
8 increase our job base, and to increase our tax base.
9 And the expansion of 3 and 4 is good economic
10 development.

11 I appreciate the opportunity to be here
12 this afternoon to address you, and I want to speak
13 about a couple of the things that approval of 3 and 4
14 would do to the county, and this is based upon the
15 experiences we've had with Units 1 and 2 being in the
16 county for over 20 years.

17 STP has been an outstanding corporate
18 citizen that has brought amazing economic strength to
19 Matagorda County. It has been a good industrial
20 citizen. It has been so good that we wanted a second
21 one. We aggressively recruited Exelon Nuclear to come
22 to the county because we thought if STP was good, have
23 two would be even better.

24 But we were successful in getting them to
25 select our county because we were nuclear friendly,

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1 and we welcomed them here. Unfortunately, the site
2 conditions were not such that the site was
3 economically feasible for them. They've gone to their
4 second back up site in Victoria County, and we welcome
5 them being there also.

6 The STP 3 and 4 expansion, as has been
7 mentioned earlier, would bring about 800 new jobs to
8 the county. It's been stated that we need jobs, and
9 we do because our high school students need
10 opportunities that are not here now, our college-age
11 students are going away from the county after they
12 graduate because there's nothing here to bring them
13 back, what limited job we have.

14 Also, we have a number of under-skilled,
15 or under-employed people here who are looking for new
16 opportunities to increase the career potential that
17 they have, and that they could stay in the county as
18 well.

19 The percentage of new employees living
20 here is important to us. Right now we have about 60
21 percent of the 1200 employees that STP has living in
22 the county, and we would like to have an equal
23 percentage or higher of the new hires coming with 3
24 and 4 that would be here.

25 They would be able to purchase homes and

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1 cars here, groceries, retail activities, they would
2 use the services of our banks, our medical facilities,
3 insurance, utility service providers. And if we could
4 get 600 of those 800 living here, that would generate
5 another 1,000 secondary support jobs. Those new
6 employees' salaries will circulate in the community
7 and that will expand it economically.

8 It's been mentioned that there's going to
9 be construction workers associated with the new
10 construction project, and that's true. STP is looking
11 at about 5,000 construction -- temporary construction
12 workers here over a six year period. They'll not all
13 be here at one time. They will ramp up over time. At
14 maximum construction period they're looking at about
15 4,000 workers for two years, but then they would ramp
16 down.

17 We would like to have a lot of them live
18 here. We know that not all of them will, and that's
19 fine. A lot of them are going to commute in, a lot of
20 them may be brought in from Houston who have skills
21 that are not available in our community.

22 But those living here are going to spend
23 most of their money here. Those commuting in are
24 going to spend some of their money here buying gas and
25 refreshments as they go in and out of the county.

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1 That's going to create a strong financial benefit to
2 our local businesses and attract some new businesses.

3 As has been mentioned earlier, we're
4 beginning to see the impacts already of the
5 anticipation of Units 3 and 4. We saw new retailers
6 open up in Bay City in 2007. We had new retailers who
7 have purchased properties in Palacios and in Bay City,
8 and there's new construction in Palacios and Bay City
9 in anticipation of this larger customer base that is
10 going to be here. So these businesses are coming, and
11 they're expanding our tax base and our employee base.

12 I would like to say something about STP as
13 a major financial supporter of the community. They
14 have supported many of the community events, our
15 organizations, and our civic activities. Without
16 their support, many of these activities and events
17 would not have happened. A larger and a stronger STP
18 will enable them to continue their support, and
19 hopefully to increase it.

20 But equally, or even more important, is
21 participation of their employees in the community.
22 Individually they provide strong support within our
23 churches, our civic organizations, our youth and
24 environmental activities, school districts, and in our
25 governmental units.

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1 They're our neighbors, they are part of
2 our community. Two of the STP employees serve on my
3 board, but they're not there as STP employees, they're
4 there as elected officials representing other
5 organizations.

6 We expect that the new people coming in
7 that would work at 3 and 4 will also be part of the
8 community, and take part in it. But we welcome them
9 because we need new blood, new ideas, and new
10 activities. We're an aging community and our
11 organizations are suffering for the lack of new blood
12 coming into them. So these provide economic benefits
13 to the community.

14 The Sheriff mentioned a little bit of the
15 emergency management planning benefit. You say, How
16 is that an economic development factor. And it is.
17 I'm talking to a lot of industries and when we tell
18 them about the emergency management services and the
19 coordination between our local industries and the
20 public sector, that is important to them, because they
21 know they're going to have the same types of concerns.

22 STP and the emergency planning of the
23 county has been good for the county. We are well-
24 prepared, well-equipped to respond to nuclear
25 incidents, but we're equally as well-prepared and

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1 well-equipped to respond to hurricanes, tornadoes,
2 floods, and industrial fires.

3 Most of you sitting in this room
4 benefitted from that planning two years ago when Rita
5 was aimed directly at the county and we had mandatory
6 evacuation. It went smoothly, it went quietly
7 compared to what happened in Houston. And this was
8 because we had good evacuation plans and we had good
9 people trained to implement those plans.

10 In summary, I want you to know that
11 Matagorda County is a stronger and a better community
12 because STP is here. We support the additions of
13 Units 3 and 4, they're going to add significantly to
14 the economic vitality and strength of Matagorda
15 County. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much for that
18 information.

19 We're going to go to Jennifer Walker next,
20 and then to Diana Lopez, and then to, I think it's
21 Lara Cushing.

22 Is Jennifer -- Jennifer's not here I
23 guess. Diana, would you like to come up and talk to
24 us? And then we'll go to Lara. And I guess we might
25 as well to Sandra on -- or, not Sandra-- okay.

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1 MS. LOPEZ: Hi. Good afternoon. My name
2 is Diana Lopez. I'm a 19 year old college student in
3 San Antonio, Texas. And we've traveled more than
4 three hours here to Bay City to oppose the nuclear
5 power plants that are proposed.

6 So I'm here to tell about global warming
7 and how it affects it. With the growth of global
8 warming you have to include how will this contribute
9 the nuclear power plants, and how it will affect them.

10 So the plant requires water to cool it down, and it
11 requires cold water. So with global warming, there's
12 going to be less water and it's going to be warmer, so
13 you have to consider what the nuclear reactors will be
14 in situations like that.

15 Also with the sea level rising and the
16 storms in the area, how would that impact the nuclear
17 reactors, and you see what happened with Katrina. And
18 the people who were most affected were the low income
19 people who had no Medicare or nothing, and they lost
20 everything, and they were the ones most affected by
21 this environmental justice.

22 Also -- it is also a myth that nuclear
23 energy will save us from global warming. We hear that
24 a lot and it is not. It is not the truth, it is a
25 myth. A nuclear power plant also creates global

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1 warming.

2 So you have uranium in South Texas, so you
3 need to get it enriched, and there are only two coal
4 power plants that do that, and they're not in Texas.
5 So you have to transport the uranium to these coal
6 power plants and you have to enrich it, and it
7 causes -- it's one of the primary sources of a potent
8 greenhouse gas that causes global warming.

9 So -- and then you have to transport it
10 back to the nuclear reactor, so that causes CO2
11 emissions, so you have all these accumulating effects
12 just for that source of energy.

13 And then also you have -- once you have
14 high-level -- high-grade and low-grade uranium, so
15 once you finish with the high-grade, when you enrich
16 it you have to use energy to do that. So when you use
17 low -- the one -- the low-level one, you have to use
18 more energy just to get it for it could be used at the
19 nuclear reactor plants.

20 So as a younger person -- I'm sure none of
21 you all will see in 20 years, 30, 40 years, you all
22 won't see the impacts of climate change, but I will,
23 and I don't think you all should be the ones deciding
24 on the future of my generation.

25 You know, as a young person I wonder why

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1 we are putting so many money and energy into this when
2 in the last 50 years the nuclear problems have not
3 even been solved. Thank you for listening, and thank
4 you for being here, everybody.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
7 Diana.

8 Our next three speakers, we're going to go
9 to Geoffrey Castro and Lara Cushing, and then Sandra
10 Garcia.

11 MR. CASTRO: Good afternoon, everyone. My
12 name is Geoffrey Castro. I'm the Executive Director
13 for Citizens League for Environmental Action Now.

14 We are greatly concerned about the permits
15 to invest in more nuclear plant in South Texas. While
16 nuclear plant is being touted as a alternative to
17 coal-fired power plants, nuclear power plant continue
18 to have serious problems regarding risk associated
19 with waste and uranium mining.

20 While it's true that nuclear power plants
21 don't emit carbon dioxide, one of the principle
22 ingredients fueling global warming, the mining of
23 uranium to fuel these plants is anything but clean.
24 I'd ask all of you to consider the indirect costs
25 associated with uranium mining. It's a nasty business

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1 that can pollute aquifers, and taint drinking water
2 and irrigation for nearby residents.

3 People living in Goliad County here in
4 Texas notice this first-hand. They also know the lack
5 of protection the government offers to residents when
6 making -- when mining companies decide to mine near
7 their homes. I know all of you have heard a lot about
8 this already today. In addition to that, it offers
9 serious health risks, including cancers associated
10 with the lungs, and bones, and even kidney damage.

11 Now I understand that our energy needs
12 here in Texas are growing. However, there are
13 alternatives to nuclear power here in Texas, which are
14 cleaner, more affordable, and more sustainable ways of
15 powering our needs for the future.

16 Alternatives include energy efficiency,
17 solar power, wind, combined heat and power, and more.

18 In addition, just not too long ago Optimal Energy
19 discovered that 80 percent of our energy needs could
20 be met by these technologies.

21 The concerns over the safety of nuclear
22 waste that were realized with Chernobyl and Three Mile
23 Island are still reasons for caution today.
24 Ultimately, the resources and ingenuity we have today
25 lead us to believe that nuclear power is not the

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1 energy solution as it fails to meet a sustainable
2 future to meet our energy needs and the growth of our
3 energy demand. Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
6 you, Geoffrey.

7 And we have Lara Cushing.

8 MS. CUSHING: Good afternoon, everyone.
9 My name is Lara Cushing. I came here from San
10 Antonio. I'm a rate payer of CPS Energy. I'm also an
11 organizer with the Southwest Workers Union.

12 In trying to look through the thousands of
13 pages of this permit application, I realize that the
14 entire scope of the environmental review was based on,
15 and this is a quote, "that the purpose of the project
16 is to sell base-load power on the wholesale market."

17 And the only alternatives to this project
18 that were looked at were alternatives for meeting that
19 mission. But the fact is that that is not CPS
20 Energy's mission. CPS Energy's mission, as a public
21 utility, is to provide for the energy needs of San
22 Antonio, and the other small areas that it covers and
23 serves.

24 CPS has classified, and I'll reiterate
25 we're -- at this point we're the 50 percent investor

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1 in the South Texas Project, so we have as big of a
2 stake as NRG Energy. And CPS has classified
3 efficiency and conservation measures as a source of
4 generating power. And since it's done that, those
5 need to be given over best analysis in the
6 environmental report.

7 A CPS commissioned study, this was
8 mentioned before, the CIMA report, concluded that 1200
9 megawatts of energy could be saved through stronger
10 building codes and retrofitting programs. That's 80
11 percent of the half of STP reactors 3 and 4 energy
12 that we are going to be supposedly getting.

13 And that report is nowhere mentioned in
14 this environmental report. So this STP application
15 needs to include a real analysis of alternatives, and
16 all the alternatives for meeting San Antonio's energy
17 needs.

18 It also needs to incorporate the true
19 costs of nuclear power. And if it did, there's no way
20 that nuclear power would come out on top. There's
21 reasons why no nuclear reactors -- the construction of
22 nuclear reactors has not been permitted in 29 years,
23 despite that fact that it's the most government
24 subsidized energy source of all.

25 And one of the reasons why the true costs

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1 of nuclear are never evaluated is because NRC only
2 looks at a small piece. The fact is that the
3 construction of new generators is -- and the
4 speculation about the construction of new generators,
5 is already driving up the price of uranium, which
6 means communities are fighting tooth and nail right
7 now to prevent new uranium mining permits from being
8 issued in South Texas. That is an environmental
9 impact of the South Texas Project.

10 The enrichment takes place at coal-fired
11 facilities that pollute the air and contribute to
12 global warming. This is an environmental impact of
13 the South Texas Project.

14 The transportation of fuel, how is the
15 fuel going to be transported into this community? How
16 is waste -- if they ever find a place to put the
17 waste, how is going to be transported out of this
18 community?

19 What we found out in San Antonio after 21
20 derailments, major derailments, occurred in 2004 is
21 that you can't get any of that information. You can't
22 find out the routes that they're taking. They won't
23 tell you what's on those trains, and there's no way to
24 know that. So how can we possibly evaluation the risk
25 to our communities when we don't even know where this

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1 stuff is going to be transported through, and how to
2 protect it?

3 Finally, in the 50 years of the nuclear
4 industry we have yet to identify a safe way to dispose
5 of the waste. And that is an environmental impact of
6 the South Texas Project. High-level radioactive waste
7 stays deadly for tens of thousands of years.

8 And it's a real engineering challenge to
9 think of how to contain such a thing on such a
10 geological time scale. So I think that the NRC needs
11 to consider all of those impacts in the environmental
12 scope of their review.

13 And I respect the desire for jobs here
14 locally. I do respect that. As an organization that
15 organizes and represents low-income families and low-
16 income workers in San Antonio, we want the same thing
17 for our community. That's why we're pushing for
18 energy conservation programs, weatherization programs
19 that will provide local jobs in our community.

20 And I do think that Bay City is being
21 presented with a false choice, either two new nuclear
22 reactors, or you're not going to have any jobs, when,
23 in fact, there are alternatives to that, to those two
24 options.

25 In the same way, San Antonio is being

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1 presented with a false choice. New nuclear reactors,
2 or all your lights are going to be shut off, when we
3 know that there are alternatives to that.

4 So while I'm not going to presume to tell
5 you what's best for your community, I am going to talk
6 in solidarity with the communities that are facing the
7 impacts of uranium mining. Eighty percent comes from
8 overseas. Most of those places don't even have
9 environmental or worker protections.

10 I am going to talk in solidarity with the
11 communities where it's transported through, and I am
12 going to talk thinking of the hundreds of generations
13 that are going to come after me that are going to be
14 struggling with trying to contain the deadly
15 radioactive waste that will be coming out of these
16 plants, and struggling with trying to understand why
17 we chose this path when other paths were available to
18 us.

19 So we all know that the South Texas
20 Project would not move forward without the captive
21 rate pairs of San Antonio to serve as the financial
22 risk insurance. The board of CPS has voted that they
23 can pass on all unforeseen costs of the projects to us
24 in the form of rate increases.

25 And I and my organization, the Southwest

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1 Workers Union, we came here to tell you that we don't
2 want our rates to go towards nuclear energy here, or
3 in any other community. So we deserve a full
4 environmental impact statement that gives efficiency,
5 combined heat and power, renewable energy sources like
6 solar, wind, geothermal, just as much investment in
7 terms of money, in terms of time, in terms of
8 expertise that this nuclear proposal has gotten.

9 And though it was a little bit lost on me
10 when I was looking through the materials presented
11 by -- or offered up there by the Nuclear Regulatory
12 Commission, your mission is not to actual champion the
13 nuclear industry, and I'm glad that you put up on the
14 slide that your mission is to champion public health,
15 safety, and the environment.

16 And I think it's irresponsible to be
17 considering permitting new reactors when we have yet
18 to permit or identify a viable site to dispose of the
19 waste. I think that's an irresponsible thing to do.

20 And I think that in your role as a
21 champion of public health and the environment, we do
22 deserve an environmental review that really looks at
23 all the alternative options. Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Lara.
25 Thank you very much.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. CAMERON: And this is Sandra Garcia.
3 And next we're going to go to Susan Dancer, Cameron
4 Payne, Charles Stillman and Venice Scheurich. I'm
5 sure I didn't pronounce that correctly.

6 But, Sandra?

7 MS. GARCIA: Hi. My name is Sandra
8 Garcia. I'm from San Antonio, Texas, and I'm a youth
9 organizer at Southwest Workers Union. When the youth
10 found out -- the youth that I work with are from
11 middle school and high school age, when I told them
12 about CPS and the nuclear power plants, and the
13 decision making they've been from the start, they
14 disagree with the nuclear power plants. They -- let's
15 see -- they wanted -- they've gone to the open houses
16 that CPS has provided. We went there, they wanted to
17 get their input, and yet CPS didn't let us. The youth
18 are concerned on how CPS is making their decisions.
19 They believe that not -- they're thinking about their
20 future, even though they won't be here in the future.

21 They would like to see CPS educating the
22 communities on how to save energy, educating the
23 communities with which light bulbs will save energy,
24 to unplugging the cords of your house and other energy
25 saving measures. CPS should invest their money in

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1 lower income families' homes which are probably the
2 highest energy wasters because they're like not energy
3 efficient.

4 I believe CPS should be smarter than
5 nuclear power plants, and they believe that we should
6 be the green generation that think about the future
7 and our health, but also the future generations to
8 come. That is why CPS should invest in solar and wind
9 energy.

10 And so these alternatives should be
11 like -- should be fully evaluated for the future of
12 San Antonio and other communities.

13 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
14 you, Sandra.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. CAMERON: Is Susan -- Susan Dancer
17 here? And then, Cameron, we'll go to you. And then
18 Charles Stillman, if Charles is still here.

19 And this is Susan Dancer.

20 MS. DANCER: I'm Susan Dancer. I'm a life
21 long resident of Matagorda County, a founding
22 chairperson for the Matagorda County Coalition for
23 Nuclear Industry Accountability. It's kind of a
24 mouthful, MCCNIA we're known as.

25 And if you all will bear with me stumbling

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1 so much in my presentation, I will try to not bore you
2 like watching drying paint with -- and by belittling
3 and berating points that have already been made.

4 The MCCNIA is a grassroots organizations
5 that formed in 2005 in an attempt to give voice to
6 issues created by STP that had negative implications
7 to our community, and to support the STP employee base
8 as they struggle with an uncertain future and
9 financial and emotional consequences of destruction of
10 the career paths.

11 As I said earlier, I don't want to go into
12 great detail about issues that have been raised over
13 and over again. I know you all have heard enough of
14 it, but I do want to go on record and say that I am
15 concerned about increased cancer rates, and I am
16 concerned about the waste issues, and I am concerned
17 about Matagorda County being essentially set up as a
18 permanent radioactive waste site because there doesn't
19 seem to be a solution for that one. That's been, you
20 know, a big problem I guess all along.

21 And I am concerned about the design of the
22 new units, but there are certainly people here who can
23 speak in much -- with much more intelligence and
24 greater detail about those issues, so I'll just leave
25 it said that I'm concerned.

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1 The issues that I want to address in a
2 little detail are those relating to the security of
3 the workforce and the implication to local business
4 and economy in general. And let me preface the points
5 that I have to make today with the assumption that the
6 best way to judge what future behavior might be is to
7 base it on what past behavior has been.

8 When I was high school -- I'll give my age
9 away, but I can't claim 29 forever, I guess -- Units 1
10 and 2 were under construction. And on a fairly
11 regular basis, STP sent representatives into our
12 classrooms with promises of jobs, good jobs, and jobs
13 that if we would go into particular supportive fields
14 for the industry, we would be assured that we could
15 work and live and retire right here in our home
16 community.

17 And as Owen and D.C. referred to earlier,
18 that hadn't been an option for my generation. We
19 didn't have really good jobs here. You were pretty
20 much a farmer, or you left and went to school and
21 didn't come back.

22 So we were encouraged by that. And many
23 of my friends and classmates and family members did go
24 into those paths, and many of them did find careers
25 with STP, just as STP is recruiting in the high school

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1 classrooms today and promising jobs to my kids and
2 their generation. The same thing, history is
3 repeating itself very much.

4 Other than extreme reductions in work --
5 reductions in force and some difficult work loads,
6 tough jobs, and dedicated hard-working employees, many
7 of our classmates, as I said, did find a career there.

8 But things have changed since 1978, 1980, 1982 in
9 that the economy has become much, much more
10 globalized.

11 So where initially you had a workforce
12 that by default had to be based in the local economy,
13 that paradigm has changed. So as the economy became
14 more global, in part due to advances in the internet
15 and electronics communication age, STP began to court
16 workforces elsewhere, workforces without roots in
17 Matagorda County. And suddenly, all of those jobs,
18 all of those careers that we had been promised, and
19 that had largely come to fruition, suddenly lost their
20 stability.

21 If there is any doubt that STP's ownership
22 didn't have loyalty to their workforce, or their
23 location, pre-announcements of Units 3 and 4, Frank
24 Mallen ended that with a comment spoken to a group --
25 a senior manager, with a comment spoken to a group of

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1 recently outsourced employees when he said, It's all
2 about the money. That's the most poignant and honest
3 thing that STP management has presented to this
4 community so far.

5 STP management talks a lot about safety.
6 They regularly run credit checks on employees to be
7 sure they're financially stable, I guess to lessen the
8 risk of a pay-off type situation should a terrorist
9 try to contact an employee to gain access to the
10 plant, secure parts of the plant.

11 But when an employee has to worry not
12 about just their financial -- their credit, and, you
13 know, their finances up to that point, when their
14 entire career is constantly hanging in the balance,
15 when they're constantly having to train companies that
16 might come in an outsource their jobs, or alliances
17 that might combine their job with others, how secure
18 can that workforce be?

19 I think it's ludicrous to expect a little
20 community like ours with, I think, a \$3.3 billion tax
21 base is equipped to deal with a multibillion dollar
22 industry to protect itself from being totally hapless,
23 and our destruction as new units are built and
24 operated here.

25 It's ridiculous to think that we have the

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1 infrastructure to support such temporary growth. In
2 2005, when I was much more versed in what the
3 management team of STP was made up, who made it up and
4 so forth, five of the six senior managers of STP, the
5 top six guys out there, who had decades invested in
6 their career working near Wadsworth, were still
7 driving 90-plus miles round trip from Lake Jackson.
8 They weren't living in Matagorda County, they weren't
9 promoting jobs in Matagorda County on that level.

10 When they started bringing executives in
11 to prepare for 3 and 4, guess where they relocated
12 those executives to? Lake Jackson. All the -- and
13 these are the same people who tell you they have great
14 love and loyalty for Matagorda County and that we have
15 the infrastructure to support the plant growth and to
16 support all the new employees here.

17 None of us can know what changes the
18 worldwide economy will hold in the next 50 years or
19 so. No one building Units 1 and 2 30 years ago could
20 have predicted things like deregulation and the birth
21 of the information age, and the worldwide economy that
22 followed. And more certainly, no one, not me, and
23 not any of you, know what changes we're headed for as
24 a county, as a country, or worldwide during the time
25 frame we're discussing for construction and operation.

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1 No one knows the future. If we did, those
2 who sat without protection at Compania Hill and
3 watched behind sun glasses while atomic bombs were
4 exploded wouldn't have done so. They would have known
5 it was unsafe. But unfortunately hindsight is the
6 only thing that's 20/20.

7 Fortunately for us, we have hindsight and
8 we can see what building two new nuclear reactors
9 could bring us. We can see now because we're 30 years
10 later from the same thing happening before. Our
11 unemployment rate is still well above the state
12 average, our school districts are still extremely
13 poor, and the owners and operators of the plants still
14 don't live here or show loyalty to our community.

15 An NRG representative told me in 2005 that
16 his -- their loyalty is to their shareholders, which
17 is business. But basically if Matagorda County's
18 demise makes their stocks more valuable, so be it.

19 I don't claim to have all the answers, and
20 I don't know how much of the workforce should be
21 required to live locally, or what tax abatement should
22 or shouldn't be given, or what financial benefit we
23 should offer NRG and STP as they seek to expand here.

24 But I do believe, if we all sit down at
25 the same table, and if all sides to the issue are

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1 allowed equal time to air their concerns, that we will
2 find that we have much more common ground than we have
3 things that we disagree on. We can argue many of the
4 aspects of pro- or anti-nuclear until we're all blue
5 in the face and not have answers.

6 What we can do as a community is sit down
7 at the table with the builders, and ensure that there
8 is some kind of an agreement in writing, set in stone,
9 guaranteeing this community will develop. Just
10 because you're handed a glossy magazine saying, This
11 is going to be wonderful, jobs are going to be here,
12 blah, blah, blah, whatever, if you don't have a
13 legally binding written agreement that will transfer
14 ownership when and if NRG sells their portion of the
15 plant out to another investment company, there's no
16 guarantee that any of the jobs will be here. We hope
17 they will, we think they will, but what's set in stone
18 for this community?

19 So in closing, I'd like to say to my
20 elected officials, I'm greatly concerned by your
21 apparent willingness to turn a blind eye to all sides
22 of this issue, except those sides that are spun by
23 STP's massive public relations machine. Before you
24 grant tax abatements and surrender the key to the
25 city, remember back to what kind of neighbor they were

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1 immediately before these expansion plans came about.
2 Remember how far they were willing to stray from the
3 original promises made when Units 1 and 2 were built,
4 when it benefitted their bottom line.

5 Too much is at stake here to refuse to
6 look beyond the rhetoric. Way too much. Have an open
7 mind, educate yourself, use your conscience to make
8 decisions that are well-thought out and that benefit
9 your constituents.

10 To STP owners and managers I'd like to
11 say, no matter what kind of retain -- attract and
12 retain policy you adopt, nothing quite says, Job well
13 done, and creates a loyal, safe, dedicated workforce
14 like job stability, which none of your employees
15 currently have, with the possible exception of your
16 upper management.

17 And to the NRC I'd like to say, I don't
18 believe our time spent here today is a whole lot more
19 than free therapy. Your public has lost faith in your
20 ability and desire to control the nuclear industry and
21 the safety and sanctity for our community.

22 And so with the information presented to
23 you here today, you can accomplish two things. You
24 can not only provide a vent for the community to feel
25 as if they've had some say about their community and

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1 environment before they're steam rolled over by big
2 business, you can show the citizenry that you are an
3 agency with integrity and the desire and ability to do
4 what's right by thoroughly and fairly considering all
5 the information presented to you. Thank you.

6 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Cameron? Cameron Payne, and
9 then Charles Stillman.

10 Cameron Payne.

11 MR. PAYNE: Thank you.

12 Can you hear me in the back, back there
13 all right?

14 MALE VOICE: Get closer.

15 MR. PAYNE: Raise your hand if you can
16 hear me.

17 MALE VOICE: Get closer to the --

18 MR. PAYNE: Okay.

19 MALE VOICE: -- mike.

20 MR. PAYNE: Thank you. I beg your pardon?

21 MALE VOICE: Get closer to the mike.

22 MR. PAYNE: Okay. My name is Cameron
23 Payne, and I don't belong to any organization. I'm
24 just a private citizen. I live 65 miles from here.
25 I've been here in Texas for 35 years, and I -- my

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1 first job when I got out of college was working as a
2 designer for nuclear fallout shelters, calculating the
3 contaminated plains.

4 I did that for six months full-time, and
5 then later in my career, when I was working for Gulf
6 Oil, I worked for a small group that monitored our
7 subsidiary, General Atomics, which designed and
8 manufactured about -- more than 50 nuclear reactors.
9 These were research reactors, not power reactors.

10 I just wanted to let you know I had a
11 little experience in this, but not anything aside from
12 that and my personal interest in this field. I'm not
13 an expert in nuclear power.

14 But there's several things that concern
15 me. One, I read a story on the front page of the *New*
16 *York Times* two days ago, and it was about a man in
17 Illinois, and he discovered, I'm not quite sure how,
18 that when he went to his drinking water well, he
19 discovered that his drinking water was contaminated
20 with radioactive tritium. That's ionizing radiation,
21 not the kind of radiation you get from the sun.

22 And he was naturally upset about that, and
23 went to Exelon, the largest nuclear reactor
24 manufacturer in the country, and he asked them about
25 it, and to make a long story short, they confessed

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1 that they knew about this.

2 In fact, just to make sure there was no
3 misunderstanding, I'm going to read you just the one
4 sentence in the paper two days ago. Exelon believed
5 that the tritium found in the drinking water well near
6 the plant in Braidwood, Illinois came from millions of
7 gallons of water that had leaked from the plant years
8 earlier, but went unreported at the time.

9 That could be happening right here. That
10 concerns me. That bothers me.

11 Now talking about another issue is the
12 fact that NRC has approved over 100 nuclear reactors
13 in this country that are now operating, but we don't
14 have any so-called advanced boiling water reactors,
15 ABWR, which are proposed. These are, you might say,
16 since we don't have any, that they're somewhat
17 experimental, they're coming in -- that's the possible
18 reactors 3 and 4.

19 And the ones that had been built were
20 designed by Hitachi and General Electric, and they're
21 mostly in other countries, they're mostly in Japan.
22 And there are two -- two of the biggest nuclear
23 reactors in Japan are these ABWR reactors. And
24 they've had to have been operating for a number of
25 years now, and they've had to be shut down several

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1 times for safety problems, and started back up again.

2 And when they did the environmental impact
3 statement over there, they said that there's no -- you
4 know, there are lots of earthquakes in Japan, but they
5 picked an area that they said is pretty earthquake-
6 proof. I'd say this area is probably pretty
7 earthquake-proof.

8 Well, they were wrong. An earthquake, a
9 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit last year. All of the
10 reactors at that location are shut down. Both of the
11 ABWR reactors were damaged, two of them, I think, and
12 I'm getting this from -- the operator is Tokyo Power,
13 and you can go to their website, and they specify what
14 the problems are.

15 The control rods that -- the primary
16 safety feature in a reactor is the control rods that
17 moderate the reaction, lifting them up and out, in
18 both of these ABWR reactors there were control rods
19 that were stuck. If I'm wrong about that, I'd like
20 somebody here to correct me.

21 There were at least two rods that were
22 stuck, and maybe many more. The liner, the metal
23 liner was damaged and leaked radioactive water into
24 the -- leaked it out of the core. I'm not quite sure
25 where it went. That concerns me.

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1 Another thing that concerns me is that
2 this so-called GE design was -- that was certified by
3 the NRC 10 years ago, and that's the one that they're
4 using now. And yet South Texas nuclear operating has
5 recently filed with the NRC more than 100 pages of
6 detailed changes that they're making, exclusions,
7 exemptions, modifications.

8 I'm not sure that we're talking about a design now,
9 that they're planning on building now that was really
10 actually approved 10 years ago. This bothers me.

11 And then I learned today that this -- you
12 know, I'm just going to say that Hitachi and General
13 Electric have decided to form a strategic alliance.
14 They announced this and joined together in building
15 nuclear power plants around the world.

16 It's 80 percent in Japan, it's 80 percent
17 owned by Hitachi, 20 percent by General Electric, and
18 it's the reverse here in the United States. So how
19 come we learned today that the design of record is by
20 Toshiba? I think there's a big mess going on here
21 that we don't know about.

22 And then I read in the *Houston Chronicle*
23 this morning that five days ago the regulators said
24 that they have suspended the review of parts of the
25 application, the final safety analysis report and the

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1 security plan, until the plant management resolves
2 "vendor support issues".

3 I suspect that there are a lot of these
4 executives sitting right here that are being left in
5 the dark as to what's going on at the higher levels.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
8 Cameron.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. CAMERON: Is Charles Stillman here? I
11 just want to say that we do -- I'm going to enter
12 another statement in the record from Venice Scheurich.

13 And I don't know if Venice is still here
14 to address us, but this is going into the record, her
15 statement. And I also have another statement from the
16 Sierra Club Coastal Bend group signed by Mina Williams
17 that I'm also going to enter into the record. And
18 these will also be considered as formal written
19 comments by the NRC.

20 Dr. Hefner? This is Dr. James Hefner
21 who's going to speak to us. And then we're going to
22 go to Robert Singleton, I guess it's Pat Suger, I'm
23 not sure I have that correct. But this is Dr. Hefner.

24 DR. HEFNER: Thank you. I'm the site
25 doctor out at STP. I've been coming out here for 16

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1 years. It's been a great experience, and I've enjoyed
2 working with the folks out there. Their safety and
3 welfare, of course, is my focus.

4 There was a comment earlier regarding
5 cancer and radiation in the populations living near
6 nuclear facilities. It's interesting because that
7 question's been around a long time. In the 16 years
8 I've been at STP, the evolution of the answer has been
9 ongoing. And I think it's time, finally, to put that
10 question to bed, because it's been studied massively,
11 and internationally.

12 Ed has put together this handout that I
13 wish you'd grab on the way out. It's a fact sheet by
14 the NEI, and these are multiple studies, many studies.

15 National Academy of Sciences, National Cancer
16 Institute, long-term big-time studies, quality
17 research that have concluded, unequivocally, that
18 living in the shadow of a nuclear plant will not give
19 you cancer.

20 So we need to put this to bed. These are
21 American studies, British studies, Canadian studies,
22 and, again, it's good reading. So take it home.
23 There's some real issues to deal with here. This is a
24 non-issue. It's been studied exhaustively. I'm
25 convinced in my heart and soul that we can relax on

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1 this point.

2 As far as locally, less than a year ago,
3 right here in Matagorda County, two Rice professors
4 wanted to address his particular question, germane
5 specifically to the county. Can the folks here in
6 Matagorda County -- is there more cancer death rate
7 right here than other counties in Texas?

8 The answer is no. Two Rice professors,
9 eminently qualified, studied this question and
10 concluded that out of 230 counties studied, Matagorda
11 County ranked 108 out of 230 counties as far as cancer
12 death rates. And for sure 206 of those counties don't
13 have a nuclear facility. So we can't connect the dots
14 on this. I just hope I contributed to finally putting
15 this to bed.

16 You can ask me questions later if you
17 wish. Thank you. These two handouts are available to
18 you on the way out. Thanks.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Dr.
21 Hefner.

22 And this is Mr. Singleton?

23 MR. SINGLETON: Yes, sir.

24 Hello. My name is Robert Singleton. And
25 I just want to give you a website to start out with,

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1 to counter what the doctor just said. If you go to
2 www.radiation.org, that's the website of the radiation
3 and public health project, you'll find some statistics
4 that are directly, directly in conflict with what he
5 told you.

6 I live in Austin now, but I'm not
7 unfamiliar with this part of Texas. My mother's
8 family is all from Edna, and I spent many summers and
9 Christmas vacations in Southeast Texas, and spent a
10 lot of time fishing. So I know how to bait a hook,
11 and more important, I know why to bait the -- why you
12 bait a hook.

13 And I just imagine somewhere under the sea
14 right now there's a meeting going on discussing a new
15 fishing project where little fish in three-piece suits
16 are flapping their fins and say, We'll bring hundreds
17 of new worms to the area. It's the same above as
18 below I guess.

19 There's a reason why there haven't been
20 any new nuclear licenses approved for 29 years. What
21 changed is not the nuclear plants, not their
22 reliability, not their safety record. What's changed,
23 this is 2005 Energy Policy Act, threw a whole boat
24 load of money buying the nukes.

25 So we're seeing applications that didn't

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1 happen, and there is all of a sudden a spate of them.

2 So we're in a unique spot here. If we can stop this
3 first one, maybe we can keep other people from jumping
4 onboard the boat and putting in new applications.

5 I just want to introduce myself so the NRC
6 people -- I'm the guy who visits your event report
7 site every day. That's me.

8 I heard a comment from behind me when we
9 first came in saying, These protesters against nukes,
10 they're never in favor of anything. What are they in
11 favor of? Well, let me just say it once again, so
12 it's absolutely clear what we're in favor of.
13 Conservation, renewables and energy efficiency. Let
14 me say it again, conservation, renewables and energy
15 efficiency.

16 You can argue about whether or not these
17 work, but you can't say that the anti-nuke people
18 don't have answers. This is our answer. We're not
19 just saying, No nukes. We're saying, Conservation,
20 renewables and efficiency.

21 We feel there are cleaner, safer and
22 quicker ways of achieving global warming goals. For
23 example, nuclear power plants take a long time to
24 build, and they're not going to really do anything in
25 terms of the carbon footprint. When you look at the

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1 carbon footprint for a nuclear power plant, you also
2 have to consider the fact that mining and
3 manufacturing -- mining of uranium and enrichment of
4 uranium add carbon to the air, and the lower grade
5 that uranium is, the harder it is to mine, the further
6 you have to go to get it, all of those things add to
7 the footprint.

8 Also, transportation and storing of
9 nuclear waste have to be added to that. This is not a
10 zero carbon footprint industry. It's only a zero
11 carbon footprint industry is you look just at plant
12 operation. And I'm not even sure that's true. But if
13 you look beyond plant operation to how they get the
14 uranium, and what they do with the waste, it's to a
15 zero carbon footprint industry.

16 The main focus of this is supposed to be
17 the environmental report, the environmental review.
18 And what I noticed in looking at it, in my first
19 cursory pass through it, is it's dealing with the
20 nuclear industry at its best, which is not surprising
21 since this section is probably the result of work by
22 the STNP.

23 Incidentally, I insist on calling it the
24 STNP instead of the STP. It was originally the STNP,
25 and then they took the N out of the name to make it

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1 sound a little more benign. I insist on putting it
2 back in and calling it the South Texas Nuclear Project
3 so no one confuses it with, for example, the Allan
4 Parsons Project. It's the South Texas Nuclear
5 Project. This is a nuclear plant and taking the word
6 nuclear out of the title doesn't change that.

7 The things I want to see more concern with
8 in the environmental review, in the -- and since this
9 is a scoping hearing, let me say this, you have to
10 consider the worst case scenario. What if something
11 like Three Mile Island happens? What will the effects
12 on this area of Texas be?

13 And that's not even the worst accident
14 that's been known to happen. What if something like
15 Chernobyl happens? I want to see the environmental
16 review include the worst case scenario, the absolute
17 worst that could happen. You'll not find one word
18 about that in the current environmental report.

19 There is something that is -- I think it's
20 in direct contradiction with what the plant physician
21 said -- the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is required
22 by an act of Congress, the public law 107.188, the
23 Public Health Security in Bioterrorism Preparedness
24 and Response Act of 2002, to stockpile and provide
25 potassium iodide to keep you from getting thyroid

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1 cancer in the event of a nuclear leak.

2 It's there, the government acknowledges
3 it. They don't want you to think about this. Has
4 anybody been offered potassium iodide? It's supposed
5 to be available in a 10 or 20 mile radius around the
6 plant. Anybody had anybody from the government come
7 up to them and say, Here's your potassium iodide?
8 It's required by law, the law is there because the
9 plants are dangerous.

10 And I insist on seeing in the
11 environmental review the worst case, because this also
12 has to include terrorism. There is a very real chance
13 that one nut with a rocket launcher could change the
14 fate of Texas, could change this area for thousands of
15 years to come.

16 Even assuming that that worst case doesn't
17 happen, you still have one non -- one problem that
18 there is no good solution for. And that is what
19 you're going to do with nuclear waste. I don't
20 believe the time frame. I think it should be longer.

21 But the federal government says we're going to have
22 to store high-level waste for 10,000 years, that we're
23 going to have to protect for 10,000 years.

24 Think about what happens in 10,000 years.
25 There's no government, no culture, no language

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1 currently spoken on earth that's lasted 10,000 years.

2 And yet we're supposed to believe that the Department
3 of Energy is going to last that long, that they're
4 going to be able to take the nuclear waste that we've
5 already produced and keep it safe for 10,000 years.

6 Agriculture and the domestication of
7 livestock hasn't been around for 10,000 years. And
8 yet the government has the hubris to say, We can keep
9 you and your grandchildren and your great-
10 grandchildren safe for the next 10,000 years from the
11 waste that we produce, in what is, after all, only a
12 stop gap measure.

13 The most radical nuclear people will admit
14 that something is going to come along that's going to
15 be cleaner and safer and better, and that
16 eventually -- well, we're still going to be storing
17 the waste from this 50 years or 100 years of nuclear
18 power and have to safeguard it.

19 What language are we going to put on the
20 warnings to people from the nuclear waste and have any
21 guarantee that it's going to be spoken 10,000 years
22 from now?

23 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Singleton, can I ask you
24 to --

25 MR. SINGLETON: All right.

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1 MR. CAMERON: -- wrap up?

2 MR. SINGLETON: I'll wrap up here then.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much for
4 those comments.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Mr. Sooger?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. CAMERON: Mina Williams?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. CAMERON: A.C. Conrad? Mr. Conrad.

11 MR. CONRAD: All right. Today my bona
12 fides are I was born in Uvalde, I grew up in San
13 Antonio, I live in Houston, I have a place in Marfa,
14 my wife has a place in Egypt, Texas, and that's
15 probably why I'm here today. She couldn't come today.
16 I'll talk a little bit on her behalf.

17 She's a direct competitor for the water
18 that's already allocated to the make up water I guess
19 for that cooling lake. And so she's concerned on a --
20 just a on a practical matter. She's a rice farmer,
21 cattle rancher and a low crop farmer in Egypt, Texas.

22 If you look at this map, it's an
23 interesting map. I've been through a lot of maps in
24 the last few days. This is Matagorda County here,
25 there's the Colorado, and she's right up here

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1 someplace. So we're upstream of the water -- of your
2 water, and we're downwind of any kind of problems.

3 And Wharton County does have a lot of
4 cancer. Now is it because of you all? Probably not.

5 But it has a lot of cancer. People from M.D.
6 Anderson say, You got cancer. I'm from Wharton. Oh,
7 you know, okay, we know why, yes, all right. But they
8 don't say why, but they just say that.

9 So I think it's a bad idea. We're talking
10 about the design of this plant going back maybe to
11 '85, '98, somewhere in there, and the plants that in
12 Japan maybe the only examples of these operating.

13 If you're against this -- I think it's
14 idea, so if you're against it and think about it, you
15 can win, because 10 years ago, in Sierra Blanca,
16 Texas, there was a fight that culminated in some state
17 administrative law hearings where people worked for
18 probably 10 or 15 years to not have a nuclear low-
19 level radiation waste depository in Sierra Blanca,
20 Texas.

21 So you can win if you think it's a bad
22 idea. That was a bad idea, so it was pretty easy to
23 beat it. All -- it took them 15 years, took them half
24 a million dollars, the state spent \$5 million, they
25 won. So if you think this is a bad idea, don't be

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1 shy, don't be embarrassed. I mean, if it's a bad
2 idea, it's a bad idea. Just go after it. I guess
3 don't give up.

4 And also, I heard earlier today all this
5 enthusiasm for the STPS -- STNP -- when I was in
6 Houston growing up in graduate school 20 years ago, it
7 was STNP then. If you look at maps, very few maps
8 actually have the cooling lake on it. You should ask
9 that -- it's a little hard to find the cooling lake.

10 I mean everybody knows where it is, you
11 can look on Google, so ask why all the maps that you
12 buy, except for really expensive, fancy maps, don't
13 have your pride and joy on it? Because it ought to be
14 there because it's a big deal. So thanks.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Mr.
16 Conrad.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CAMERON: Is Zu Duc here?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. CAMERON: How about Georgia Rice-
21 Herreth? Georgia? And then we're going to go to Ron
22 Paris, Eleanor Schwank, and Maria Hamilton. And this
23 is Georgia Rice-Harris coming up to join us.

24 You okay?

25 MS. RICE-HERRETH: Got it.

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1 MR. CAMERON: All right.

2 MS. RICE-HERRETH: Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: There you are. Let's just
4 make sure people can hear you.

5 MS. RICE-HERRETH: Okay. Can you hear
6 me? Okay.

7 I want to thank all of you that came here
8 today to help inform us. I'll try to be real brief,
9 but I think that Matagorda County and Bay City are so
10 much better prepared for two more units than we were
11 for the first two units.

12 I happen to have been on the city council
13 at that time, and let me tell you, I believe at that
14 time there were 13,000-plus construction workers here,
15 which at that time it was the largest construction
16 project in the United States at that time, or up to
17 that time, or going on then.

18 And we came through it, there was lots of
19 controversy then, as there is now. And I think that's
20 good because it does bring out things that may not
21 have been addressed at that time.

22 In the *Tribune* December 30, last month,
23 there was -- they have a little history thing in the
24 Sunday paper, and it showed a picture of the Colorado
25 River and some people -- some peers had been washed

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1 out.

2 And what happened was in March of '54 -- I
3 have it my purse but I think that's right -- there was
4 an earthquake, and eight point something, in Alaska,
5 and it came all the way down to Matagorda. And this
6 was brought to the attention of the NRC at that time
7 before that project we have now was built, and that
8 there is a fault line that goes all the way through
9 Matagorda.

10 And one of you a while ago, I don't
11 remember which one, mentioned seismic impact. And
12 from what we were told, that there were extra
13 reinforcements, the gentleman a while ago that was
14 talking about the rods coming up and down, that there
15 was extra attention given to the plant we have now
16 because of that instability.

17 We're also -- like I said, Matagorda
18 County and Bay City are much better prepared and I
19 think we can handle it. I have confidence that
20 they're going to do the best job. I don't know any
21 industry that is absolutely safe. How many people
22 have been killed in refineries blowing up? I mean,
23 something happens somewhere all the time. Thank you.

24 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Georgia.
25 Thank you very much.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. CAMERON: Is Ron Paris here?

3 MALE VOICE: No.

4 FEMALE VOICE: He left.

5 MR. CAMERON: Okay. How about Eleanor --
6 Eleanor Schwank? Oh, great. Hi, Eleanor. And then
7 we have Maria Hamilton.

8 MS. SCHWANK: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Eleanor Schwank, and I am a private citizen. I am a
10 registered nurse with a baccalaureate degree. I
11 graduated in 1978, and I've been practicing emergency
12 medicine ever since.

13 I moved to Matagorda County in 1997 and I
14 have lived very peacefully with STP down the road, and
15 I have felt very safe. But my problem is, is that I
16 do have a concern about building more nuclear power
17 plants, as opposed to looking for alternative choices,
18 other green choices. Of course, we have this huge
19 yellow ball in the sky that burns us to death every
20 summer, actually from March until like November, which
21 is an endless source of power.

22 I have a concern that our monies are being
23 directed into something that is seducing our
24 citizenry. I don't know if any of you know anything
25 about Maslow's hierarchy of needs, but for humans to

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1 survive, Maslow developed a hierarchy of needs, which
2 is a pyramid.

3 The base of the pyramid is our most basic
4 need, and that is water, air, warmth, and sex. Sex is
5 one of our most basic needs. If we can't breathe,
6 obviously we're not going to live. If we can't
7 maintain our body temperature we'll die. If we don't
8 have water we're not going to live. And sex because
9 it ensures the propagation of the species.

10 My issue here today is water. If we're
11 going to be taking water from the Colorado River, and
12 giving 3,935 gallons per minute to cool a new nuclear
13 reactor, we're also going to be compromising our need
14 for water to San Antonio where humans need water to
15 drink, because San Antonio, with the SAWS project,
16 which is San Antonio Water System, the LCRA is going
17 to be draining water off the Colorado River to provide
18 for San Antonio.

19 We have our rice farmers who absolutely
20 need our water. We have our cattlemen who absolutely
21 need our water. And let's not forget our aquaculture,
22 or bays and our estuaries. Everybody's coming to
23 Matagorda because they all love our fishing, but we're
24 not going to have fish, we're not going to have
25 oysters, we're not going to have shrimp, we're not

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1 going to have anything if we're not protecting our
2 water.

3 So I think that it's important for all of
4 us to consider the environmental impact of building
5 and constructing new nuclear power plants. As I said,
6 I live very peacefully with our existing -- my
7 existing neighbor. I think it's time for our
8 direction to change, and to make kind of like a 180
9 because we have to develop alternative sources of
10 energy. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Eleanor.

13 We have Maria Hamilton and Mark McBurnett,
14 and Joe Shepherd as our last speakers. Is --

15 Thank you very much, Eleanor.

16 MS. SCHWANK: You're welcome.

17 MR. CAMERON: Maria?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. CAMERON: Let's go to Mark, Mark
20 McBurnett and then to Joe Sheppard.

21 MR. McBURNETT: All right. Thank you.
22 It's a pleasure to be here this afternoon and have a
23 chance to talk about the new units at the South Texas
24 Project.

25 I'm Mark McBurnett. I'm Vice President of

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1 Oversight and Regulatory Affairs at the South Texas
2 Project. And I'm directly responsible for submittal
3 of the application to the NRC, as well as oversight of
4 the project, ensuring that things are done absolutely
5 correctly.

6 There's a couple of things I'd like to
7 talk about this afternoon. There were many, many
8 topics brought up, more than what we have time here to
9 go through the rest of the afternoon. I'd like to go
10 through every one of them point by point extensively,
11 however, in the interest of where we're at in time,
12 I'll stop with that.

13 I do want to tell the ABWR story. There's
14 been a lot of questions about the
15 Toshiba/GE/Hitachi/Japanese. The advance boiling
16 water reactor in Japan, there's four of them in
17 operation in Japan, was developed as a joint venture
18 between General Electric, Hitachi and Toshiba. They
19 all jointly own that design in Japan.

20 GE took that design and got it certified
21 in the United States. Where did that design come
22 from, you asked about the safety, what is this, what
23 is the safety record. We've been operating boiling
24 water reactors in the United States since 1960. The
25 boil water reactors, through each generation, have

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1 evolved into -- further and further involved into a
2 more advanced design.

3 When GE and Hitachi and Toshiba went to
4 develop the advanced boiling water reactors, they
5 started with the BWR-6, the latest design that's
6 currently in operation in the United States.

7 They took that design and they looked at
8 the rules under Part 52, what they needed to address,
9 and they looked at the things that were bothering them
10 about the BWR-6 that didn't work as well as they
11 wanted it to, things they could make it safer, things
12 that make it more reliable, they addressed those
13 issues and developed the advanced boiling water
14 reactor.

15 It's very similar in operation and design
16 to the BWR-6. We have many, many, many years of
17 experience operating those plants.

18 The plants in Japan -- now there were two
19 of those units, advanced boiling water reactor units
20 that are currently shut down because of the earthquake
21 that was mentioned earlier. The plants are certified,
22 it's actually to a .3 RG earthquake. That's a
23 significant earthquake and basically it's very far
24 beyond what's going to be -- or could ever be
25 experienced at South Texas.

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1 But the really important thing about the
2 Japanese experience that it told us, is those plants
3 felt that earthquake, felt an earthquake actually
4 bigger than that, no safety issues. Yes, they've got
5 some stuck control rods -- by the way, they're stuck
6 in, which is where they're supposed to be, they went
7 in and then stuck as it should.

8 They had some sloshing of water out of the
9 spent fuel pool that got off into the sea and very,
10 very small quantities of radioactive material got
11 loose, well, within their regulatory limits. Safety-
12 wise there was no issue from those plants. They
13 survived it.

14 Now, yes, Japan is in the process and
15 Tokyo Electric Power is in the process of addressing
16 those units in great detail to make sure they're safe
17 to put back in operation. That's a whole another
18 story. But the point of the matter is, those plants
19 safely responded to the earthquake as designed.

20 I do want to talk a little about need to
21 power. We've had a lot of discussion on need for
22 power. And by the way, I'm an engineer, my training
23 is engineering, I'm a professional engineer, I've been
24 in the electric power business for 30-plus years now.

25 Our assessment, and along with the Energy

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1 Reliability Council of Texas basically says we need
2 power, we need generation, we need new generation on
3 line and we need to retire old units that are in
4 operation, we need new power generation in Texas, we
5 need new base load generation in Texas.

6 As a matter of fact, yes, we need solar,
7 we need wind, we need conservation, we need nuclear,
8 and we need clean coal. We need all of those to meet
9 our energy demands. Energy is what drives the economy
10 of Texas, it's what drives the economy of the world.
11 It's important, we need to plan for that energy. If
12 we don't, we'll go, as an economy, down the hill.

13 There is -- let's see, just a couple of
14 things -- waste, nuclear waste, I assure you we have
15 the capability at South Texas to store nuclear waste.

16 We have the capability to store all the waste, the
17 high-level waste out of Units 1 and 2 through 2028.

18 We have the capability for 10 years of
19 storage in the new advanced boiling water reactor
20 design, and there are technologies to allow us to
21 develop storage that goes much beyond that, and
22 basically we can store it as long as we need to, until
23 the federal government fulfills their contract and
24 takes possession of that spent fuel and ultimately
25 disposes of it.

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1 Ten thousand years? Not 10,000 years.
2 That fuel becomes less radioactive than what we dug
3 out of the ground originally in a few hundred years.
4 But, yes.

5 And I think -- oh, yes, water, I want to
6 talk about water real quick. And this is just to
7 explain cooling reservoirs. Our cooling reservoir's a
8 closed cycle system. We do take make-up water out of
9 the river to keep that reservoir filled. We take
10 make-up water out of the river most of the times
11 during high-flow conditions when it's, you know, a lot
12 of water flowing through it, to keep it filled.

13 The water actually cools in the reservoir,
14 it goes around its little loop and cools to the air,
15 it doesn't -- the hot water does not go back to the
16 river. So it's closed cycle. We use it for make-up,
17 and just to clarify the operating points, because I
18 think that was confused earlier.

19 That's all the statements I have. I
20 wanted to introduce Mr. Sheppard.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SHEPPARD: I want to thank those of
23 you who've made it to this point. I appreciate you
24 being here.

25 I'm Joe Sheppard. I'm the President and

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1 Chief Executive Officer of STP, Nuclear Operating
2 Company. I'm not afraid to say that word. That's the
3 name of our company.

4 I would like first thank the NRC for
5 conducting this meeting. I'd like to also thank all
6 the other speakers, our neighbors, or local officials,
7 and our visitors for their comments. We welcome the
8 dialogue. We think that that's important in this
9 whole process.

10 We really are not looking for secrets.
11 Our letter of intent in June was published on the NRC
12 website, was available in the public document room.
13 There were no secrets about our announcement of the
14 new units.

15 I am a native Texan. I grew up within
16 spitting distance of the chemical plants in Texas
17 City, Texas. I think that has given me a unique
18 perspective on the environment, and what I feel is
19 important in protecting the environment.

20 You know, we're granted a license to
21 operate the two units that we have in operation now by
22 the laws that are passed by Congress, and the licenses
23 that are granted by the NRC. But we understand that
24 the granting of those licenses brings a special trust,
25 and that we're responsible to the citizens of Texas

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1 and of Matagorda County.

2 And our first responsibility is the safe
3 operation of those units. I think our record
4 demonstrates that our commitment is to safety. And
5 when I say our, I mean the management and the
6 employees of South Texas Project, who also are your
7 friends and neighbors who live in this community.

8 Units 1 and 2 provide safe, reliable power
9 to millions of Texans. As Mark said, that drives that
10 economy of Texas. And it brings millions of dollars
11 of benefits to Matagorda County and the surrounding
12 area. And we understand implicitly that safe,
13 reliable operation of Units 1 and 2 are the enablers
14 for any new plant construction. And that redoubles
15 our focus on safety.

16 I'd just like to amplify one thing that Mark
17 said. We are not against renewables, solar, wind,
18 conservation, efficiency. We teach our people to look
19 carefully at decisions, and to make a decision that is
20 either this or that is often what we call a sucker's
21 choice.

22 I think that the studies that you look at
23 on global warming, on greenhouse gases all tell you
24 that you need all of that, including nuclear power, to
25 be able to make any kind impact on reducing the

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1 emission of greenhouse gases and reversing the trends
2 that we see in our global climate.

3 There's been a lot of talk about
4 efficiency. We believe in efficiency as well. In
5 19 -- well, in 2006 and -7, we replaced our low
6 pressure turbines in Units 1 and 2. Without changing
7 the reactor power, we added 140 megawatts onto the
8 grid. That's the equivalent of a combined cycle
9 plant. So we believe in all this. We think that it's
10 all necessary to be able to have an impact going
11 forward.

12 Mark talked about the ABWRs. Their
13 lineage is over 60 years of operation in the United
14 States and around the world. And the plans that we're
15 looking at are an evolutionary design that's based
16 upon the best that was in the United States. The
17 design's certified by the NRC, and meets all U.S.
18 standards.

19 There were some concerns about the seismic
20 event that occurred in Japan. I have personally
21 toured those plants after the earthquake. I've
22 crawled under the reactor vessel, I've been through
23 the spent fuel pool, et cetera. I'll be glad to talk
24 to anybody about how those plants did in the seismic
25 events that occurred in Japan.

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1 Besides the good operating record that we
2 saw with the advanced boiling water reactors in Japan,
3 we choose them also because of their record associated
4 with on-time construction, on-budget cost, and on
5 schedule. And that performance, we believe we can
6 replicate in the United States.

7 There were a lot of discussions previously
8 about STP and the community. We strive to be a good
9 corporate citizen in Matagorda County, and we're
10 pleased with the support and the partnership that we
11 have with the county and the surrounding areas. We
12 believe that the benefits to Matagorda County will be
13 significant, not only just the jobs that will be
14 created, we've talked about the 800 permanent jobs,
15 the 4,000 construction jobs, but we believe it'll have
16 a significant positive affect on the quality of life
17 in Matagorda County.

18 Already, as D.C. Dunham talked about,
19 advanced education has come to the city due to our
20 partnership with the local community colleges and with
21 Texas A&M. There's now a satellite campus at Wharton
22 Junior College in Bay City, we're teaching courses and
23 there are students there today, and that did not exist
24 a year ago. And that's all because of Units 3 and 4.

25 Ms. Dancer talked about the security of

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1 the workforce. I'm sorry if, as we went through our
2 deliberations on how we should best manager our costs,
3 that that caused anxiety within any of employees. But
4 the truth is, we outsourced not one job. Not one.
5 And we have changed our outlook. We've gone from an
6 outlook of constriction to one of expansion, and
7 that's the bright future for STP Nuclear Operating
8 Company, and that's the bright future for Matagorda
9 County.

10 We prefer local talent, and the onsite
11 campus in Bay City is part of our commitment to try
12 and attract and retain that local talent. And we have
13 many other activities that'll go forth in the future
14 to bring that workforce to Matagorda County.

15 Kind of in summary, our vision at South
16 Texas is that we improve lives through excellence and
17 energy generation. We feel that we improve the lives
18 of Texans by providing safe, reliable, efficient
19 electricity to power the Texas economy.

20 We believe we improve the lives of the
21 local community through our involvement with the
22 community, through the tax base we provide, through
23 the investment we provide in the community. And we
24 feel that we improve the lives of our employees by
25 providing an outstanding place to work with good wages

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1 and good benefits.

2 We intend to be here for the next 60
3 years, and we look forward to the construction of
4 Units 3 and 4. Thank your for this opportunity.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much.

7 Someone gave us a card late to speak,
8 Stephen Kale, or Kall? I can give you a couple of
9 minutes, Stephen.

10 MR. KALE: I can wait till tonight if you
11 prefer.

12 MR. CAMERON: Oh, you're coming tonight?

13 MR. KALE: Yes.

14 MR. CAMERON: Oh, good. Well, then let's
15 hear you tonight. We heard -- you had a great
16 question earlier today. So we'll hear you tonight.
17 Thank you, Stephen.

18 I just would like to thank you for many
19 great comments, for following the ground rules. And
20 I'm going to turn it over to Nilesh to just close the
21 meeting out for us.

22 MR. CHOKSHI: Well, I think we started
23 this meeting in asking for you input, and I'd really
24 like to say that we heard a number of topics on those
25 issues, and we have written comments as well as your

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1 verbal comments, and we will do our best to consider
2 all of these comments. And thanks once again. And I
3 anticipate that the evening we'll have similar
4 participation. Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, at 4:51 p.m., the meeting was
6 concluded.)

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